

# 23



## JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

### Crucifixion and Sorrow

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

## 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** Matthew 27:27 - 65; Mark 15:16 - 47; Luke 23:26 - 56; John 19

**Objectives** To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He is the only one who was without sin, so he could take the penalty for our sin.
- The disciples were sad and confused. They expected Jesus to “set up His kingdom” here on earth. But instead, the Forever King had been hung on the cross and was dead. The disciples must have wondered whether Jesus really was the Forever King.
- Jesus’ perfect sacrifice means that we can have forgiveness of sin, and we can ask him to be the ruler of our lives, and have eternal life.
- When Jesus died, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. God did that to show that our sins are forgiven through Jesus and we can now enter God presence.

**Memory Verse** “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” (1 John 3:16a – NIV)

**ACNA** Today's story of the crucifixion is connected to the following Catechism questions:

**Catechism** Q 57 Why did Jesus suffer? ...Jesus suffered for our sins so that we could have peace with God...

**Connection**

Q 58 In what ways did Jesus suffer? In his agony and desolation on the cross, he suffered in my place for my sins...

Q 336 Is it possible for you to keep all God's commandments? ...no...

Q 337 Since you cannot keep God's commandments perfectly, what has Jesus done on your behalf? ...as the perfect human, Jesus suffered death for me upon the

cross, for the sins of the whole world...

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes**

**Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

**Lesson props:**

- Large wooden cross – approximately 6' high (can be made from two big planks nailed together or cardboard with a stand)
- Large tomb made of a cardboard box with an open section at the front representing the entrance to the tomb. Have a separate large cardboard shaped as a stone that can be rolled in front of the tomb.
- Small red hearts (for children to write their names on and tape to the cross)
- Blue sash that Jesus wore in previous lessons
- Felt pens and tape

**Costumes:** 2 disciples, 2 guards

**Memory Verse:** "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." (1 John 3:16a – NIV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

## 2 | Lesson Outline

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Poster Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss this week's poster.</li> <li>• Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></b></p>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>

### 3 | Poster Discussion

#### Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (a cross, someone on the cross, torn curtain)

Is there anything you wonder about? *(if any child wonders about the colourful swirling lines, point out that it is the artist's way of showing that something very important happened on this day)*

I wonder why we have a cross in this picture?

I wonder who the cross was for?

I wonder why there is a torn curtain in this picture? *(The temple curtain separating God's presence from the people was torn in two from top to bottom when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus paid the price for our sin and opened a way for us to come into God's presence).*

Let's find out more in our story...



## 4 | Story and Life Application

**CROWN:** *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the Gospel of John, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

**LESSON SUMMARY:** *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

*The greatest story ever told is the story of God's love for us when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus was the only person without sin. He was perfect and innocent because he was God the Son. Therefore, Jesus was the only one who could take the penalty for our sin. Jesus **chose** to suffer and die as the perfect sacrifice for ALL people for ALL times. Even though it was painful, Jesus chose to die on the cross. He would fulfill his Father's plan because he knew that it was the only way to overcome the power of sin and death in the world. To clearly show the importance of Jesus dying on the cross, God tore the temple curtain in two from the top to the bottom. The tearing of the curtain showed that through Jesus' death, our sins would be forgiven, and we could now enter the presence of God. The curtain, which separated us from God, was destroyed! We now had full access to God the Father, through Jesus. Jesus laid his life down so that our sins would be forgiven, and we could live with him, now, and forever. Jesus knew that new life, new hearts and a new kingdom would begin from His sacrifice. Now we can thank Jesus for his forgiveness of our sins and ask him to live in our hearts. Jesus can reign in our lives as King. Let's thank him for this wonderful love! Stretch out your arms as wide as you can to help you remember that God's love is wider than the ocean and higher than the heavens above.*

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** Let's try an exercise to see how much you love something. I am going to say a word and if you "love it a lot" then I want you to spread your arms apart, as wide as you can. If you "love something a little" then I want you to hold your arms/hands close together (*illustrate to the children*).

**ACTION:** *Say the following words and wait to see how the children show how much they love each of these items. Ice cream; swimming, school; vacation; broccoli; going to bed; singing; spaghetti.*

**TEACHER:** Remember in our last lesson (*point to last week's poster of the arrest*), while Jesus was praying in the garden, a group of people and soldiers came to the garden and arrested him and took him to Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus if he was a king. Jesus said that he was a king, but his kingdom was not of this world.

The people were telling Pilate to “crucify Jesus.”

Pilate listened to the people and ordered Jesus to be crucified. A heavy cross was put upon Jesus to carry, much bigger and heavier than the cross we have here.

**ACTION:** *Show the children a large wooden cross. Lay it on the ground and have the children touch it.*

**TEACHER:** The cross that Jesus had was so heavy and Jesus was so weak, he fell. Another man was made to carry the cross for him. When they reached the hill of Golgotha, the soldiers stretched out Jesus' arms on the cross, nailed him to the cross, and crucified him.

**ACTION:** *Teacher, stretch out your arms to symbolize Jesus being crucified. Also, drape the blue sash (that Jesus wore in previous plays) over the horizontal part of the cross to symbolize Jesus.*

**TEACHER:** Remember at the beginning of the class how we showed with our arms how much we loved something? Show me with your arms how much you think Jesus loved us to die on the cross.

**ACTION:** *Children will stretch out their arms.*

**TEACHER:** Yes, when I look at a cross, I think of Jesus stretching out his arms REALLY wide because he loves you and me so VERY, VERY much.

Do you know that when Jesus died on the cross, God tore the temple curtain in two from the top to the bottom? (**ACTION:** *Point to the curtain on the poster.*) God was saying that through the death of Jesus, our sins could be forgiven, and we could have a relationship with Him.

However, the disciples did not understand this, and they were very sad and confused to see Jesus dying on the cross. They expected Jesus to live until he became king here on earth. Instead, he had been hung on the cross and was dead. Some of his friends took his body down from the cross, wrapped it in linen and put his body in a tomb. They must have wondered whether Jesus really was the Forever King.

**ACTION:** *Have two disciples take the blue sash off the cross and wrap it inside the white linen cloth and place it in the tomb and walk away from the tomb.*

**TEACHER:** Pilate had the tomb sealed with a big rock. He also had soldiers guard the tomb so no one would take Jesus' body.

**ACTION:** *Have two guards roll the cardboard stone in front of the tomb. Then,*

*have the guards stand beside the tomb.*

**TEACHER:** The disciples must have wondered whether Jesus really was the Forever King.

But we know that Jesus is the Forever King! Jesus, who is God the Son, was without sin and was the perfect sacrifice for us. He had to die on the cross. He had to take OUR sin upon himself. Jesus had to shed his blood, so that people (you and I) could be forgiven of our sins and live with him forever in his Kingdom.

**TEACHER:** I'm going to give each of you a red paper heart. Let's write our name on the heart and then we will tape it to the cross. As we do this, let's say: "Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross for me, and forgiving my sins. I want you to be the King, the ruler of my life. I want to follow you."

**ACTION:** *Give each child a paper heart and a pen. Have the children write their name on the heart and tape it on the cross as they say the prayer above.*

### **SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He was innocent, without sin, but loves us so much that he was willing to die for us, would not be taken away from his Father's plan, was obedient, he felt weak, he felt all the pain, he trusted the Father)
- **How does this story change my life?** (it changes my life because now I can have forgiveness of sin, and can have new life in Jesus, eternal life)
- **How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus dying on the cross?** (sad, confused, they didn't know that he would rise from the dead)
- **Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross?** (to take away our sins, so that we could be at peace with God and each other, to show God's love for us, so that we could be forgiven and live with him in his Kingdom, he was obedient to the Father)
- **Why could only Jesus take away our sins?** (because he was God the Son who became a man and lived a perfect life without sin)
- **Why was the temple curtain torn in two when Jesus died on the cross?** (The temple curtain separated the sinful people from God's presence in the Holy of Holies (the innermost room in the temple). When Jesus died, God tore the curtain in two to show the people that Jesus had paid for their sins and they could now come into God's presence.)
- **How much does God love us?** (God's love is wider than the ocean and higher than the mountains above. God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for our sins.)

**Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):**

Ask the children if they or any of their friends could live their lives without EVER doing anything wrong or bad? (*Their answer will be no, sometimes we all do something wrong, everyone sins.*) Then say: You are right, we can't always be perfect, but Jesus was perfect, and we are very thankful to him for being the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Let's pray together. (*Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the sacrifice that Jesus made.*)

## 5 | Response Activities

### Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.
- Child's name on a heart and taped to a cross



Learning station: Exploring a pop-up book

"This is how we know  
what love is:  
Jesus Christ laid  
down his life for us."

I John 3:16a