

March 24

9:00am & 11:00am

Three and Four Year Olds

## Jesus Was Crucified

(Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23–24; John 19–20)

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and sent Jesus—who never did anything wrong—to die in our place. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.

**KEY PASSAGE:** I heard every creature ... say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! Revelation 5:13

**Key Passage Phrase:** Everyone will worship God forever. Revelation 5:13

## LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

### 1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Print and display the “[Crown of Thorns](#)” printable. Ask them what they think it would feel like to wear a crown made of thorns.

**SAY** *Would you want to wear a crown of thorns like this. I would not. I think it would hurt. In today’s story, we will hear the soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus’ head. Listen to hear more about what they did to Jesus.*

### 2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

\*9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.\*

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today’s date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

*If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.*

### 3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** *Our big picture question and answer is **How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.** Jesus is God’s Son, and He rules over all. Even though He is King, He let others make fun of, hurt, and kill Him so that we could be saved from our sin.*

### 4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Revelation 5:13. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Practice the key passage phrase as you pass a rock the size of a child’s fist around the group.

**SAY** *This rock we passed around reminds me of the stone that was rolled in front of the tomb. Our key passage phrase reminds us that all creatures will worship God forever and ever. The soldiers made fun of Jesus instead of worshiping Him. How would it feel to be made fun of like Jesus was?*

### 5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Review today’s Bible story by asking the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers’ answers will vary.*)
2. What did the soldiers do to Jesus? (*The soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head, put a purple robe on Him, pretended to bow down to Him, and put a sign over His head that said He was the King of the Jews.*)
3. What was rolled in front of the tomb where Jesus was buried? (*a large stone*)
4. Who did God send—who never did anything wrong—to die in our place? (*Jesus*)
5. ***How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.***

**SAY** *The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They did not believe He was really King. The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head and a purple robe on His back. They pretended to bow down to Him. Then Jesus was put on a cross. The sky turned dark during the day. Jesus died. A soldier and those who were nearby saw what was happening and said, 'This man really was God's Son!' Jesus was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb. We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and sent Jesus—who never did anything wrong—to die in our place. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.*

## 6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

**SAY** *Jesus, You are our King. Thank You that You died in our place for our sin and rose from the dead. We praise You that when we trust in You, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever. Amen.*

## ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE AS FEW AS ONE ACTIVITY OR USE ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES)

### NOTICE THE DARKNESS

Tell preschoolers that they may move or dance while the lights are on bright, but must stand still and not move when the lights are dimmed. Make sure to not turn off the lights at any time in the activity. Continue the activity by making the lights shine brightly and then making them dim over and over as long as preschoolers are interested.

**SAY** *You did a good job noticing when the lights were on brightly and when they were dim. On the day Jesus died, it became dark outside, even though it was during the day! Then Jesus died. We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and sent Jesus—who never did anything wrong—to die in our place. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.*

### DECORATE STONES

Place a **plastic tablecloth** on a table. Gather a **fist-sized stone** for each preschooler. Invite a few preschoolers at a time to decorate stones. Help preschoolers put on smocks over their clothes. Guide preschoolers to use **permanent markers** to color and decorate their rocks. Set aside the stones to dry.

**SAY** *I like how you decorated your stone. If your stone was as big as a doorway, would it be easy to move? How would you try to move it? In today's story, Jesus died and was placed in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of it, and that stone would have been hard to move! Thankfully, that isn't the end of Jesus' story. The stone was moved from the entrance of the tomb and on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.*

### COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, emphasize the The Christ Connection.

**SAY** *We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died for us and rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.*

## OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23–24; John 19–20. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

### JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

*Lower the lights: Set a somber mood in the room by lowering the lights prior to telling the story.*

*Show props: At appropriate points in the story, display a crown of thorns, purple cloth, a small cross, and a stone. Consider dimming the lights when “the day turned dark” and tearing a cloth when “the curtain in the temple tore” or add any other dramatic elements desired.*

After Jesus was arrested and put on trial, **soldiers took Jesus away. They made fun of Him because He said He was a King. The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus’ head and a purple robe on His back. They pretended to bow down to Him.**

**Then Jesus was put on a cross. They put a sign above Jesus’ head that said: This Is Jesus, the King of the Jews.** Two criminals were crucified next to Jesus, one on His right and one on His left.

**The day turned dark. In the afternoon, Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You left Me all alone?” Jesus cried out again and said, “It is finished!” Then Jesus died.** Suddenly, the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake.

A Roman soldier and those who were nearby saw what was happening and said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

**Jesus was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate’s soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus’ body.**

Christ Connection: We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and sent Jesus—who never did anything wrong—to die in our place. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.

## **DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS**

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child’s sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today’s activity page to reinforce today’s Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

**March 24**  
**9:00am & 11:00am**  
*Two Year Olds*

## **Jesus Was Crucified**

(Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23–24; John 19–20)

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We deserve to die because of sin, but Jesus died for us.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus rules over everything.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Everyone will worship God forever. Revelation 5:13

## **LEARN**

*(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)*

### **1. INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY: SPOT THE THREES**

Invite the toddlers to hold up three fingers. Point out how Jesus came back to life on the third day. Lead the toddlers in forming groups of three classroom items from around the room. Review the story.

**SAY** *Jesus died on the cross for our sins because He loves us. It was God's plan for Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life on the third day.*

### **2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.**

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

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### **3. LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Create motions to go along with the key passage phrase. Motions include "Jesus" (*point up*), "never" (*cross your arms in front of your body and swing them out to your side*), and "sinned" (*make an X in front of your chest*). Introduce the motions and encourage toddlers to do the motions with you while you say the words. Once toddlers catch on, ask them to say the words with you, either fast, slow, loud, soft, or with silly voices to keep them engaged.

**SAY** *Sin brings death, but Jesus gives us life. Our key passage phrase says 'Jesus never sinned.' He came to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Jesus wants us to trust in Him and live with Him forever. Jesus is the perfect Priest who gave His life for us.*

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **BUILD A TOMB**

Cut circles from brown and white construction paper. Shape the brown circles to be slightly smaller than the white circles. Glue the brown circle on top of the white to make a tomb. Write *God made Jesus alive again!* on each child's tomb. Retell the story.

**SAY** *What was Jesus buried in? Yes! Jesus was buried in a tomb! A big stone was rolled against the doorway of the tomb. Soldiers guarded the tomb so no one could take Jesus' body.*

### **SAY A CHRIST CONNECTION CHANT**

Lead the toddlers to march around the classroom and repeat the following chant: "Jesus died for us. / Yes, He died for you and me. / Jesus loves us. / Yes, He came to set us free!" Challenge the toddlers to see who is the loudest and softest. Read the Christ connection.

**SAY** *Jesus died for us because He loves us. This was a part of God's plan.*

### **COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE** *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the main points below:

Soldiers took Jesus away.  
Jesus died on the cross to do God's plan.  
God made Jesus alive again.

### **OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:**

Open the Bible to Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22 and tell the following Bible story.

#### **JESUS WAS ARRESTED**

Soldiers took Jesus away. They made fun of Jesus because He said He was a King. They put a purple robe on His back, a crown of thorns on His head, and a sign above His head that said: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Jesus died on the cross because He loves us. Jesus was buried in a tomb. A big stone was rolled against the doorway of the tomb. Soldiers guarded the tomb so no one could take Jesus' body. It was God's plan for Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life on the third day.

**Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.**