



Holy – Lesson 4

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is holy

Heart Response: Repent

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. Jesus is God’s Son.
2. Jesus is perfect and holy, but we are sinners.
3. Sin separates us from God.
4. Jesus came to save us from our sins.
5. We need to be sorry for our sin.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

It’s the greatest story ever told. The entire Bible points to this moment—when Christ would come and restore the relationship between God and his people. And so often we forget that this is what it’s all about! Jesus was born to die, to take on our sin and shame, so that we could be reconciled back to our Heavenly Father. It’s the best news of our lives!

As you prepare to share the incredible news of our holy and redeeming Savior with your class, take some time to reflect on what this news means in your own life. Do you share in the joy of the crowd on Palm Sunday—welcoming Jesus with shouts of praise? Do you lift him up as your Savior and King—the answer to the sin and brokenness in your life? Or are you like Peter—hesitant to admit that you are a Christ follower and conforming to those around you? Pray and seek God’s wisdom and guidance. Repent to the one and only Holy God—the One who loves you so much that he came to earth to redeem your whole life and make it brand new. We were meant to live a life in a perfectly beautiful relationship with our Creator, one where we worship our worthy and Holy King with all of our lives. And because of his sacrifice, we can do just that.

You have an incredible opportunity now to participate in God’s amazing love story and share with his children how he came to rescue and redeem us. He loves us so much that even though he does not need us, he wants us. He treasures our relationship and loves us so much that he died so that we may have life with him.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Cross

Supplies:

Piece of plain white paper (one per child)
Crayons

Give each child a sheet of plain white paper. Talk about how God is perfectly holy. Jesus is God’s Son and came to earth and lived his life without sin. The white paper is like God—perfectly clean, holy, and without sin. Give them crayons and explain that we all sin. Have them color the paper

to represent the sin that we all have. Talk about some of the sinful choices we make (trying to have your own way, disobeying parents, being unkind to others with our words or actions, putting yourself first, not sharing, and leaving people out).

Our sin separates us from God and causes us so much trouble and pain. Have them tear their paper in half to show how our sin separates us from God. Then, explain the great news that Jesus sacrificed himself for us by dying on a cross. He chose to do this because he loves us so much. He wanted to turn us away from our sin that separates us from him and bring us back to himself. He is our creator and wants to share himself with us. (They will complete this project during craft time. Write their names on their paper halves.)

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Set of Resurrection Eggs (one per bin)

Let's go over our memory verse. Does anyone remember it? (If anyone does, let him/her say it.) **It is Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."** Let's say it again together. **Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."** Great!

(Teachers, open the Bible in your classroom to John 18.) **Remember last week when the soldiers and enemies of Jesus came to the garden to arrest him? The soldiers first take Jesus to a**

man named Caiaphas (KAY-uh-fuhs), the high priest. Can you say, "Caiaphas?" (Say Caiaphas with the children.) **People are brought in to make claims against Jesus, but none of their stories are the same. Then Caiaphas asks Jesus, "Are you then the Son of God?" and Jesus answers, "You rightly say that I am." This makes all the Jewish leaders very mad.**

In the morning, they take Jesus to a man named Pilate, the Roman governor, who has the power to put criminals to death. Can you say, "Pilate?" (Say "Pilate" with the children.) **Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king. Jesus replies that he is, but "not of this world." Although Pilate knows Jesus has done nothing wrong, Pilate sends Jesus to a man named Herod, another Roman ruler, who makes fun of Jesus and says mean things to him. Then Herod returns Jesus to Pilate's court.**

To make the Jews happy, Pilate places a purple robe on Jesus' shoulders and puts a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. (Open the Resurrection Eggs and show them the crown of thorns and pass it around.) **Here you see a crown of thorns. The crown of thorns shows what Pilate puts on Jesus' head when they are hurting Jesus and making fun of him.**

The Jews still say they want Jesus to die. The Bible tells us Jesus is hung on a cross along with two criminals—one on his left and one on his right. As Jesus looks down from the cross at the soldiers and the Jewish leaders who have put him there, He asks God to forgive them.

We might think, "Oh, No! This is wrong! This should not have happened to Jesus!" But all of this was God's plan. God sent Jesus to live a perfect, holy life, and then to die in our place to pay for our sins. God sent Jesus to be our Savior! If this had not been God's plan, it would not have happened, because God is all-powerful and he could have stopped it.

In the end, Jesus cries out, "It is finished!" and dies on the cross, taking the punishment for all our sin forever. Jesus has broken down the wall between God and us so we can have a relationship with him. God wants us to be sorry

for our sin—not just sorry we got punished or sorry we got caught. God wants us to be sorry because we hurt his heart when we sin and sin hurts us.

Joseph of Arimathea (ehr-uh-muh-THEE-uh), a follower of Jesus, gets permission to take Jesus' body to bury it. He puts it in a tomb that has never been used. Pilate seals the tomb and places a guard outside. Next week, we are going to hear the end of the story. It is very exciting, and you will not want to miss it!

Jesus does not stay dead. Remember how he showed his power over death? Well, next week, we will learn about how he overcomes his own death and comes back to life!

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Lord, we thank you that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, and died to pay the penalty for our sin. We know that this was your plan to give us the opportunity to know you and have a relationship with you. Help us to see our need for you as our Savior. Remind us that we should always be sorry and ask forgiveness when we sin. Amen.

“It Is Finished”

Supplies:

Cross worksheet (one per child)
White piece of paper from opening activity
Glue sticks

Explain to the kids that our sin separates us from God because he is Holy. Give each child their white sheet of paper that was torn in half. Have them turn one half of the paper over so the blank side is facing up and ask, “Who is perfectly holy like the white side of the paper?” (God.) Then have them face the other half with the coloring side up

and ask, “Who sins and is not perfectly holy like this paper?” (You and me; all of us.)

Give each child a purple cross. Remind them that Jesus came to rescue us from our sin and turn us back to God. We need a savior. Jesus died on the cross to show us how much he loves us and to take our punishment for our sins away. Our sins can be forgiven and covered by the work Jesus did on the cross. Have them glue their cross on top of the two halves of paper to bring them back together. This shows how Jesus dying on the cross can put our relationship with God back together and covers all our sin. Read the phrase on the cross to them and have them “act it out” as they say the verse a few times. (Point up for “God,” hug themselves for “loves,” point to themselves for “me,” open arms wide for “this much!”) As time allows, they can use crayons to color the cross to look like stained glass.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn't matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children's hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

1. **Where did the soldiers take Jesus when they arrested him?** (They took him to Caiaphas, the high priest.)
2. **Caiaphas had the soldiers take Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. Did Pilate think Jesus was guilty of any crime?** (No.)
3. **What did Pilate put on Jesus to make fun of him for saying he was a king, but not a king of this world?** (He put a purple robe and a crown of thorns on Jesus.)
4. **Who demanded that Jesus be hung on the cross?** (The Jewish leaders and people.)
5. **Where was Jesus' body put after he was crucified?** (Joseph of Arimathea put Jesus' body in a tomb.)

The Way Back to God

Supplies

Roll of painters tape (one per bin)
Large vinyl cross banner (one per bin)
"God" sign (one per bin)

Have children remove their shoes to protect the cross banner from getting dirty. Use the tape to create two parallel lines six feet apart. Have the children line up shoulder-to-shoulder behind one of the lines. Then place the God sign on the other side of the opposite line. (The lines will represent the edges of a deep valley.) Have the children all line up behind the line and then say:

Sometimes we do things we should not do. We disobey and that is called sin. Can anyone give me an example of disobeying? (Allow for answers and provide help if needed.)

When we make wrong choices, no matter how small, it is called sin. Sin separates us from God. Let's pretend that these two lines are the edges of a deep valley or hole in the ground. We are on one side and God is on the other side. Sin separates us from God and we cannot get across. (Hold up the God sign on the other side.) But there is good news!

Today, we talked about how Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. (Unfold and lay the big cross down to bridge the gap.) **When we tell Jesus we are sorry for disobeying and ask him to be in charge of our lives, Jesus forgives our sins. He loves us so much, he made a way for us to be in a relationship with him. The cross is like a bridge. Because of Jesus taking the punishment of our sin on the cross, we have a way to get back to a relationship with God.** (Let the children walk across the cross to be with God on the other side.) **That is GOOD NEWS!**

Please gently roll the banner back up for the next session/storage.

Resurrection Eggs

Supplies

Set of Resurrection Eggs (one per bin)

There should be a set of Resurrection Eggs in your room. Please feel free to use these to go over the Easter story. There is an information booklet in the box, but you can just summarize each part. Please be careful to return the items to the correct eggs so that they can be used again and again throughout the unit.

