



LESSON 70

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Jesus dies on the cross and restores man and God. He is resurrected and triumphs over death.

Bible Character(s): Jesus Christ, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene, and Mary

Scripture Reference: Mark 15:33-47; Matthew 28:1-10



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through the above scripture references. Jesus was crucified, taking on the sin of the world, to pay the punishment for our sin. On the third day, He was resurrected to show His power over death. Jesus gave His life so that we could have life.

As you prepare, spend time praying for the hearts of the children to be open and for the lesson to come alive for them. The desire and purpose of this lesson is to teach the events of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, but also to focus on the reason for them and how they apply to each of us personally. Focus on the fact that we are all sinners and in need of a Savior. We have a choice to believe this or to not believe this. Additional verses are listed at the end of the lesson to assist in answering questions or directing conversations with the campers.

****** If any campers have questions about sin, salvation, etc., please take time to partner with parents by letting them know. You can ask your coach or GCK staff member for parent contact information.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Remembrance Mural

Supplies:

Large piece of butcher paper (3'-4' long)

Jesus lived a perfect life. He loved. He served. He had a supernatural birth. He showed his power to heal and power to forgive. He preformed miracles. Why, then, did people want Him to die?

Give your campers an opportunity to create a remembrance mural of Jesus' life. Lay a large piece of butcher paper on the floor/table and encourage them to write or draw anything from Jesus' life – birth, miracles, healing, teaching etc. When they are done, hang the mural on the wall so everyone can see. Invite a few campers to share what they wrote or drew and why it is important to them.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will read through the scriptures of the crucifixion and resurrection. After completing the scripture reading, work through the activities created to help campers understand why Jesus endured the cross and how that impacts us personally.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What happened to Jesus? (He was crucified on the cross, buried in a tomb, and rose on the third day.) **What does this mean for us?** (Jesus did everything He said He would do; our sin has been paid for; we can live forever with Him if we put our faith and trust in Him as our Savior.)

Did Jesus deserve to die? (No. He was innocent, but He hung on the cross and experienced unbearable suffering.) **It was our sin that Jesus died for so that we don't have to. We have the choice to believe that Jesus is the Son of God or to believe that he is not.** Today we will read more about Jesus' death. We will examine what His death means for us, and what happened after He was crucified.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Mark 15 [NLT]

Mark 15:33

³³ At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

Can you imagine it being dark at lunchtime? Would you think it was weird to look outside and see darkness while you were eating your lunch? (Allow responses.) This is what happened on the day Jesus died and it says it lasted for three hours.

Mark 15:34

³⁴ Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

At this point Jesus was hanging on the cross with nails like these (show nail) through his hands and feet. He was in horrible pain, but this physical pain is not as bad as the spiritual pain He was feeling.

As he hung on the cross, He took our sin on Himself and was separated from God. This is why He cried out, asking why God deserted Him. This pain of being separated from God because of *our* sin was greater than the physical pain He was experiencing.

Mark 15:35-36

³⁵ *Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah.*

³⁶ *One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"*

Could Jesus have saved Himself? (Allow responses.) Yes, Jesus could have taken Himself off the cross; He did not need Elijah to do that. With one word, He could have stopped everything that was happening. Jesus chose to remain on the cross, take our sin upon Himself, and die so that we would not be separated from God. He did this because He loves us.

Mark 15:37-39

³⁷ *Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last.* ³⁸ *And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*

³⁹ *When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"*

This Roman officer had seen the darkness come over the land; he had watched Jesus die. He realized that this was all very important. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He put all the pieces together and believed, even though He did not understand the whole story.

Mark 15:40-41

⁴⁰ *Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome.* ⁴¹ *They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there.*

How do you think these women felt? (Allow responses.) They loved Jesus and had taken care of Him. They must have been so sad and upset as they watched Him die.

After Jesus died, Joseph took His body and placed Him in a tomb. There were many people who agreed that Jesus was dead; Joseph, the Roman Commander, Pilate, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus. No one could say that Jesus was not dead.

Act It Out



The purpose is for the campers to have a better understanding of the resurrection.

Supplies:

Bible from which to read Matthew 28:1-10

Ask for volunteers to act out the story as you read Matthew 28:1-10. Characters: Mary Magdalene,

Mary, Angel of the Lord, Guards, Jesus.

Tie It Together



Both Mary Magdalene and Mary loved Jesus. They must have been extremely sad that Jesus was dead. Can you imagine how shocking and surprising it was when the angel came to them? Both women knew Jesus had died and here is an angel telling them He has risen. The women believed that Jesus had risen and they were filled with joy! Their next response was worship. When they saw Jesus, they were so excited that they fell before Him and worshiped Him.

How do you respond to this story? Do you believe it? Are you excited by it? Do you have a desire to worship God when you hear it? (Allow responses.)

Jesus told them not to be afraid and to tell others that He has risen. He tells us the same thing. We don't have to be afraid, and we can tell others this amazing story.

So why did Jesus die? Why did He go through suffering and death? Why is all of this so important? How do these events change our life? The answer involves two things – God's love and our sin.

Let's put all of the pieces together.

But Why?



The purpose is to understand why Jesus had to die and for us to see the big picture.

Supplies:

Worksheet (1 per camper)

Teacher's Guide (2 per bin)

Word cutouts (1 set per camper)

Glue

Give each camper a copy of the "Jesus Is Our Bridge to God" worksheet. Read through the following scripture passages to explain why Jesus is our bridge. As you read, have the campers cut out the words, then glue them in the correct places to show why Jesus died for us.

Tie It Together



Jesus' death on the cross is the bridge for us between sin and a right relationship with God. The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." We are all sinners. We all choose to disobey God. Because we are all sinners, we all fall short of God's standard.

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death...". We deserve death for our sin. Living in sin is like living in death and darkness.

Prior to Jesus' death on the cross, God's law required an animal sacrifice – the shedding of blood – to cover our sins. Hebrews 9:22 says, "For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." Perfect blood is required to pay for our sin. We are not perfect. We cannot save ourselves. We need a Savior!

Ephesians 1:7 tells us that **God's love** is "so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our **freedom** with the blood of his Son (**Jesus**) and **forgave** our sins." Jesus came into our broken, dark world to be the light of the world. He lived a perfect, sinless life. He died on the cross (shedding his blood) to take on all the sin of the world and to pay the penalty for our sin.

Jesus didn't stay dead though – three days later he rose from the dead, defeating death once and for all! 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, "Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said."

Romans 6:23 goes on to say, "...but the free gift of God is eternal **life** through Christ Jesus our Lord." It is only through Jesus that we can be saved from our sin, restored into relationship with God, and have eternal life. Jesus' death and resurrection allows us to talk to God, to know Him, and to worship Him. We do not have to be separated from Him anymore. All we need to do is believe and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Wrapping Up

We see the big picture, but do we all believe it and see how it changes our lives? When we believe that Jesus died for us and rose again, we can also die and become alive again.

When we believe and trust that Jesus died and rose again for our sins, we become a new creation. God changes our hearts. Jesus forgives our sins and we are made alive in Christ. It changes our whole life! We can experience God's power and love now. We have someone to turn to when we're sad or angry; we know God loves us and cares for us, even more than our parents do.

Does anyone have questions about any of this? You can ask me or talk to your parents if you have questions.

Read through the following verses to finish small group time:

John 1:12

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 3:16-17

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Romans 5:8

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Ephesians 2:8-9

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help each of us recognize the sin in

our lives and ask Him for forgiveness. Pray that each camper will accept the free gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus.



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