



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God sent Jesus to die for us.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to state why Jesus came to Earth.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 26:36-56, Jesus Arrested

MEMORY VERSE:

“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15 (NIV)

Give all the kids a Bible and help them locate the verse. As you read the verse aloud, encourage the kids to follow along with their finger or let the kids race to see who can find the verse first.

SUMMARY:

Our top story tonight. It seems strange that Jesus would allow himself to be arrested, but that was part of God’s plan. God loves us so much that he sent his son to die for us.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you sending Jesus to die for us.

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen*



EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

An acorn

A pot with soil

Have any of you ever gone out and gathered acorns? Acorns are awfully cute, and while they make a nice treat for squirrels, they also make some cute decorations. But what happens when we collect a bunch of acorns to decorate our homes? They stay acorns. They stay nice for a long while, but they never become anything more.

If you plant an acorn, something amazing happens. The acorn is a seed that grows into a giant tree. But if the acorn never falls to the ground and “dies,” it won’t grow into anything big.

It seems crazy that God’s Son would allow himself to be arrested and put to death, but Jesus knew there was only one way to save us from our sin. He loved us so much, he was willing to die for us.

Jesus died so we could have new life. Let’s remember that as Easter approaches, and let’s thank God that he loves us so much!



FAMILY GAME TIME

EGG SHUFFLE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Twelve plastic Easter eggs of various sizes

INSTRUCTIONS:

Take all the eggs and split them in half. Mix up the egg halves and spread them on a table. Choose one player and give him sixty seconds to match up all the eggs.

VARIATION:

Use more eggs for older kids but fewer eggs for younger kids.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Jesus died so he could be reunited with us, like two halves of an Easter egg.



FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God sent Jesus to die for us.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to state why Jesus came to Earth.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 26:36-56, Jesus Arrested

INTRO:

Every day, kids head home from school. You do your homework, you play for a bit, you enjoy dinner, and then they get ready for the best part of the day. You put on your favorite pajamas. You grab a teddy bear or a blanket. You cuddle up on the couch with your Mom or Dad, and you settle in to watch the nightly news. Wait, that's not right is it? How many of you think that's the very best part of the day?

Not many kids would say that the news is the best part of the day. There may be a few who enjoy it, particularly older kids who are concerned about their world, but the news is mostly for adults.

The news tells us all the top stories of the day. Some of them can be fun, like the entertainment news or the sports news. And some is actually useful for kids. Don't you want to know the forecast before you get dressed for school in the morning?

But most of the news is kind of a downer. Every day you hear mostly bad things on the news. A company did something bad and released a bad product. Someone was robbed or killed, and police are baffled. Politicians are fighting with each other. Countries are going to war with one another. Terrorists. Earthquakes. Tornadoes. Hurricanes. Black Friday shopping riots. Why would anyone want to watch the news?

The news reminds us every day that we live in a broken, fallen world. It reminds us that there's sin, and with sin comes death and suffering. But remembering how broken and fallen our world is can also remind us that God did something to save us from sin. It's not news, what Jesus did for us at Easter, but it's a story that's just as important today as it was when it first broke.

When the news begins, they always start with the top story of the day.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Even though the Easter story is nearly 2000 years old, it's still the top story any of us will ever hear.

READ MATTHEW 26:36-56

MAIN POINT:

Wait a minute! Did I just say this was good news? Wasn't I just saying that God did something good to save us from the pain of this world of sin?

Yes, I did, but before we can get to the best part of the story, we have to start with the saddest. The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is death, and the only way Jesus could save us from our sins was to die for us.

The Easter story doesn't start out happy. It's sad, and it's troubling. Why would God's Son allow anyone to harm him? Jesus knew it had to happen. It was all part of the plan. Jesus died so that he could save us from our sins.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It's fitting that we celebrate Easter in the springtime. Several months ago, in the fall, we saw nature "die" when the leaves fell from the trees and the flowers withered into the ground. It's sad to see the green turn to brown, but if it didn't die back in the fall, it would not be raised to new life in the spring.

Jesus died so that he could give us new life. That's the greatest news ever spoken, and the greatest news any of us will ever hear. That's why every year at this time, we break in to our regular routine to remember what Jesus has done for us.

Whether you're hearing the Easter story for the first time, or whether you've heard it many times before, I hope you'll take some time to think about what it means. Jesus, the Son of God, left Heaven behind so he could save us. He did what we could never do for ourselves because he loves us so much.

After you reflect on the story, I want you to do one more thing. I want you to share the news with a friend. Tell others that Easter is coming, and tell them what Easter means to you. Invite them to church (or to watch a service online), or share the story with them yourself. This is the most important story you can ever share with your friends. Don't keep it to yourself.

The nightly news isn't going to spread the Easter story for us, so let's break the news to the entire world that Jesus died for our sins.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you sending Jesus to die for us. In Jesus' name, Amen



LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

What's the most exciting news you've ever heard?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 26:36-56

Where did Jesus go to pray?

What was Jesus praying about?

What did the disciples do while Jesus prayed?

How was Jesus arrested?

Why did Jesus come to earth?

What is the good news of Easter?

How can we help to share that good news with others?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to spread the good news that Jesus died for us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



LESSON REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANKS.

Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to _____.

PRAY

Jesus prayed that _____ will would be done.

GOD'S

The disciples _____ while Jesus prayed.

FELL ASLEEP

_____ betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

JUDAS

Jesus came to Earth so he could _____ for us.

DIE



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give each child a small container such as a Dixie cup. Instruct the kids to fill their cup with soil, and then plant a seed in the soil. This will serve as a reminder that a seed that falls to the ground (“dies”) can then grow into a tree or other plant. Similarly, Jesus died to give us new life.