



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus took our place and died for our sins.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to articulate why Jesus died.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 27:45-54, The Death of Jesus

MEMORY VERSE:

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

Play popcorn with the memory verse. Have everyone sit in a circle facing each other. After reviewing the verse a couple of times, go around the circle and assign each person one word or a few words from the verse. Everyone must each say their own word in the correct order, and "pop" up when it's their turn.

SUMMARY:

We interrupt your regular program for this breaking news. Jesus did the unthinkable, suffering the death that we deserved, so that we could be forgiven of our sins.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for dying for our sins.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A bowl of macaroni and cheese

A bowl of broccoli

Which of these two things would be just unthinkable: eating a bowl of warm, creamy, macaroni and cheese? Or eating a bowl of raw broccoli?

I think it's a given most kids - probably 99.999% of you - would choose the mac and cheese. Even the adults in here would agree, macaroni and cheese tastes way, way better than broccoli! But can anyone think of any good reasons to do the unthinkable and choose the broccoli?

Broccoli has more vitamins and minerals. It has way less fat than that cheesy mac. It's gluten free, something that matters to many people, and all in all, broccoli is a healthier choice. It may seem unthinkable, but there's a good reason to consider the broccoli over the mac and cheese.

Jesus did the unthinkable when he went to the cross, but Jesus had a very good reason. He did it for us. Jesus died so that we would not have to die and be separated from him. Anyone who believes in Jesus will go to Heaven and live forever with their Savior.

Jesus didn't see dying as unthinkable; he saw living eternity without us unthinkable. What an amazing loving God we have.



FAMILY GAME TIME

VEGGIE EGGS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Plastic Easter eggs

Broccoli, cauliflower, asparagus, carrot, and a few more raw veggies or fruits

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cut the veggies into small bites, and stuff one bite each into some plastic Easter eggs.

Players will take turns shaking one egg at a time to see if they can guess the vegetable or fruit that is inside.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The veggies remind us of our object lesson and how Jesus did the unthinkable when he died on the cross.



FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus took our place and died for our sins.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to articulate why Jesus died.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 27:45-54, The Death of Jesus

INTRO:

The news is no kid's favorite show, but at least you know when the news is on. If you know when it's on, you know when not to be near the TV. You can stay away and play during the early morning, noon, and evening hours when the local and national news comes on, and you never have to hear about the terrible world we live in. Right?

Not so fast, my friends!

The local news comes on at regular intervals through the day, and so does the national news. But what happens if something BIG happens during your favorite show? What if there's a major world event, or a big storm, or an emergency speech from the President of the United States? What happens to your favorite TV program when news breaks?

All of a sudden, your favorite TV show is gone, replaced with urgent, in your face coverage of the breaking news. "We interrupt this broadcast to bring you this special announcement!"

I don't know about you, but if the TV news is going to interrupt my favorite program, it better be important. The sky better be falling, you know what I mean?

Today's Bible story is about one of those big, earth-shattering moments. It's an event in history that changed the world forever. This moment in time had a greater impact than any news story you've ever seen or will ever see because this event opened the doors to Heaven.

This is the moment when Jesus did the unthinkable. This is when Jesus died for us.

READ MATTHEW 27:45-54

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

MAIN POINT:

Jesus was sentenced to die by men who were jealous of him. They accused him of blasphemy - the crime of claiming that you are God - and they convinced the Romans that Jesus was a threat to them. It was all a lie intended to get rid of Jesus for good.

But what happened the moment Jesus died? The earth shook! The clouds went dark! And did you catch that part about the dead rising from the grave? Any one of those events alone would be news worthy. If there had been television news in Jesus' time, they would have broken in on every channel. The evidence was enough that the Roman soldier standing near Jesus believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus didn't deserve to die. He's the only human who ever lived that never sinned. But Jesus did the unthinkable. He died for the people who killed him, and he died for you and me. He died for us because it was the only way to save us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Imagine with me for a moment that you got in trouble in school. Maybe you were caught passing notes. Maybe you were talking in class. Maybe you did something really wrong - something that calls for a severe punishment. The teacher sends you down to the principal's office. She listens to what you did. She hears from the teacher and then from you. The teacher tells you that you must be punished. You get a one-hour detention for five days.

Then all of a sudden, the unthinkable happens. One of your classmates, a boy you don't know very well at all, comes running in. He tells the principal that you are guilty and you deserve to be punished, but the student says, "Don't punish him. Punish me!"

The principal is confused, but the next thing you know, you're going home from school while your classmate stays at detention in your place. It's not fair! That student did nothing wrong! But he chose to take your place in detention so you could go home.

That's what happened the day that Jesus died for us. Jesus took the sins of the whole world, every man, woman, and child who ever lived, and he paid the price for them. He took our punishment so that we did not have to be punished. Instead, Jesus gave us eternal life.

There were no television crews on the hill when Jesus died, but I can imagine that the news of his death and other events of the day spread quickly. It was a breaking news moment, made all the more important when Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus died for your sins and mine. He took our punishment so that we could have eternal life. No matter how many years you may live, you'll never hear a more important news story than this!

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for dying for our sins.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

Have you heard any exciting news from family or friends lately?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 27:45-54

How long was Jesus on the cross?

What did Jesus ask for as he was dying?

What happened right after Jesus died?

What did the Roman soldier say who saw Jesus die?

Why did Jesus die?

Why do you think all those things happened after Jesus died?

What do we need to do so that we can receive eternal life?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us remember why you died so that we will live for you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



LESSON REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE.

Jesus was on the cross for 3 days.

FALSE

Jesus drank some vinegar from a sponge.

TRUE

After Jesus died, the dead rose from the grave.

TRUE

After witnessing Jesus' death, the Roman soldiers still didn't believe that Jesus was the Christ.

FALSE

Jesus died so that he could take the punishment for our sins.

TRUE



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Use craft materials for the kids to be able to make or draw a microphone or megaphone, as a reminder that they should share the good news that Jesus died for our sins.