

# Apply THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 27:11-66

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was crucified on the cross.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Ephesians 2:8-9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and came back to life to show we are forgiven.

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## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- paper
- marker
- gift bag

Before class, write a word or phrase of the key passage on separate slips of paper. Place the slips of paper in a gift bag. One at a time, kids will pull out a strip of paper with a portion of the key passage written on it. Invite the kids to work together to put the passage in the correct order.

**SAY** • God saves us through faith in Jesus. There is nothing that we can do to earn our salvation. The Bible tells us it is a gift from God. Let's work on memorizing our key passage this week!

## Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 27:11-66. Briefly review the points of the story with the class. Divide the room into groups of kids representing various aspects of the story (the trial, Jesus being mocked, Jesus being crucified between two criminals, and Jesus' death). Then retell the story in more detail, inviting the groups to freeze into a scene that represents their assigned portion of the story.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

You may also ask the following review questions.

1. Who was the governor whom they brought Jesus to

- face? (*Pilate, Matthew 27:11-13*)
2. Which prisoner did the people want Pilate to release? (*Barabbas, Matthew 27:20-21*)
  3. What did the people shout for Pilate to do to Jesus? (*Crucify Him, Matthew 27:22-23*)
  4. What incredible things happened as soon as Jesus died? (*There was an earthquake, and the temple curtain tore in two from top to bottom. People who had died came out of their tombs and appeared to many in the city; Matthew 27:51-53*)
  5. Where was Jesus buried? (*in a tomb cut into a rock with a stone rolled in front of the entrance, Matthew 27:59-60*)

**SAY** • *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and came back to life to show we are forgiven.*

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Jesus took our place

Divide the class into two teams and challenge each team to line up in order of birthday. The team to complete the task first wins. Explain that the losing team will have to serve the winning team a special snack. When it is time to serve snack, however, leaders will step in a serve instead of the losing team.

**SAY** • The losing team should have been responsible for serving snack today, but someone else took their place. In our story we learned that **Jesus was crucified on the cross**. Even though we deserved to die and be separated from God, Jesus took our place and died instead of us.



- Allergy Alert download
- special snack

- sheet, large sheet of paper, or poster board
- scissors

**OPTION 2:** Curtain torn in two

Display a sheet, large sheet of paper, or poster board in the front of the classroom. An adult helper will stand behind the sheet so the kids can't see him.

**SAY** • In the temple, there was a large, thick curtain. Behind that curtain was the ark of the covenant, where God's Presence dwelt above the mercy seat. The curtain separated people from God because we are sinful and we can't stand in front of the holy God! When **Jesus was crucified on the cross**, something strange happened. The curtain separating us from God was torn in two from top to bottom!

Guide another leader or student to cut the sheet from top to bottom, and let it fall away so the kids can see the leader behind it.

**SAY** • Jesus' death makes it possible for us to be near to God. We aren't separated from Him by a curtain or anything else! We can come to Him freely because our sin is forgiven when we trust Jesus!

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.