



The Cross: An Unfair Trial

Lesson Aim: To know the events leading up to the crucifixion and to understand Jesus died for us on purpose.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Loves

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 19:1-3, 6-11, 16, 19, 30

What He has done: Jesus chose to suffer and die to save us from our sins.

Key Verse: John 19:30

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 53:5, 11

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

Unit 3: The King Who Loves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
12	Jesus is Anointed, John 12:2-11	Jesus received and delighted in Mary's sacrificial worship.	To give our treasures to Jesus as an act of worship as Mary did.
13	The Triumphal Entry, Luke 19:30-32, 35-36; John 12:13; Luke 19:41-42	Jesus rode into Jerusalem as the humble King.	To see the noble choice Jesus made by entering Jerusalem as a humble King facing death to save us.
14	Jesus Washes The Disciples' Feet, John 13:1, 4-5, 12-17	Jesus washed His disciples' feet.	To love others through serving as Jesus did.
15	Jesus and the Last Supper, Luke 22:7-20	Jesus gave His disciples a way to remember Him.	To see communion as a declaration of the new covenant between God and sinners.
16	Jesus in the Garden, Matthew 26:36-41, 47-54; Luke 22:51	After praying, Jesus was betrayed and arrested.	To know we should pray for God's will to be done and then obey His will as Jesus did.
17	The Cross: An Unfair Trial, John 19:1-3, 6-11, 16, 19, 30	Jesus chose to suffer and die to save us from our sins.	To know the events leading up to the crucifixion and to understand Jesus died for us on purpose.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 2 Timothy 2:11-13. Please join us in praying, "Thank you for choosing to die on the cross to save us. Help the children understand this choice was to save them! Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Cross Puzzle	Poster board or large paper (about 22 inches x 28 inches), marker, scissors, tape for each team
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Search Me, O God" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "Neither Death Nor Life" "Praise The Lord, O My Soul" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" "I Love You, Lord" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids Cedarhurst Worship for Kids: Volume 2
		Worship Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:2-3	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 17 Kingdom Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: John 19:1-3, 6-11, 16, 19, 30	Map—Jerusalem, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 53:5, 11	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—"What Happened Next?" activity page, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Search Me, O God," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Choices Snack	Two snack options
	Up to 10	Game: The Final Hours	Actual items or pictures of: cup, plant, sword, rope, rooster, gavel, purple cloth (or crown of thorns), cross, white cloth, stone
	Up to 20	Craft: Reflection Poster	Large poster board sheets or banner paper, markers or crayons, assorted craft supplies (colored paper, yarn, buttons, sequins, scissors, glue or tape)
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Circle Tag	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Heart Toss	Heart-shaped pillow, beanbag, or inflatable ball with heart drawn on it; Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is the best choice you have ever made?

GAME: CROSS PUZZLE

Purpose: Children will assemble a puzzle to introduce the idea that Jesus knew He would suffer and chose to do so to show His love for us.

Supplies: Poster board or large paper (about 22 inches x 28 inches), marker, scissors, tape for each team

Prepare: For each team, create a cross puzzle by cutting a cross shape from an entire piece of poster board. In large letters to cover most of the cross, write the phrase: **Jesus chose to suffer to show He loves you.** Cut the cross into puzzle pieces. Base the level of difficulty and the number of pieces you cut on the age and ability level of your class. Create one additional cross to display as an example.

Directions:

1. Form teams of four or five players. Give a set of cross puzzle pieces to each team.
2. On your signal, the teams race to be the first to put their puzzle together, tape the pieces, and hold up the completed puzzle.
3. **Great job! What message did you find on the front of your puzzles?** Choose a volunteer on the winning team to read the message. **Today, we are going to discover how Jesus chose to let others hurt Him to show us how much He loves us.**



Jesus as the King who loves

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

The Seven Stars of Lent

If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org under Children - Other Resources. Choose one star for each week of the Lent season.

Jesus showed His love when He chose to give His life on the cross for us. When we choose to show Jesus we love Him, that's worship. On the cross, Jesus paid for our sins so we would be forgiven. Thanking Him for His forgiveness is worship, too. Whenever you see a cross, think about the King who loves you so much He chose to go to the cross for you.



Read Hebrews 12:2-3.



Sing Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Search Me, O God." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the love of Jesus and the forgiveness He bought for us with His life.



Perform Kingdom Adventures script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 3, Lesson 17.



Jesus finished God's plan

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Jesus went to the garden after the last supper with His disciples. What did He do in the garden? (Pray.) After Jesus prayed, Judas led the soldiers to the garden. When they arrested Jesus, they took Him into Jerusalem for an unfair trial. If a map is available, show Jerusalem. Peter followed, but denied knowing Jesus.

In Jerusalem, Jesus was tried by Caiaphas, the high priest. Then the Jews led Jesus from the high priest to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Let's see what happened next in God's plan.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: John 19:1-3, 6-11, 16, 19, 30. **Let's start with John 19:1-3 and see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: John 19:30.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read John 19:1-3, 6-11, 16, 19, 30.



What happened next?

THE WAY

What did the soldiers make Jesus wear? (A crown of thorns and a purple robe.) **What did they call Him?** (King of the Jews.)

Did Pilate find a reason to charge Jesus with a crime? (No.) **Was Jesus innocent?** (Yes.) **It is against Jewish law to falsely claim to be the Son of God. The punishment for breaking that law is death. What did the chief priests want Pilate to do?** (Crucify Jesus.) **Why was it unfair for Jesus to be punished for saying He was the Son of God?** (Jesus truly is the Son of God.)

When we see how much Jesus suffered and how unfair it was for Him to be crucified, we can see more clearly how great a sacrifice Jesus made to give His life. There are many ways Jesus could have stopped the soldiers, the chief priests, and Pilate. Jesus said He could have called an army of angels to rescue Him. Why didn't He stop them? (He knew they were going to crucify Him and His death was God's plan to pay for the sins of the world.) **How does His choice to not save Himself show His love for us?** (He cared more about saving us than saving Himself.)

On the day He died, Jesus finished what He came to do on earth. Why did Jesus come to earth? (To save us from our sins so we could have life forever with God.) **Why do you think Jesus said, "It is finished," just before He died?** (By dying, Jesus finished paying for our sins, so the plan for buying our forgiveness was finished.)

Jesus suffered and died for us, but that is not the end of the story. Who knows what happened on the third day after His death? (Children respond.) **God raised Jesus from the dead and He lives and reigns over heaven and earth forever.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

The details of Jesus' death were predicted in the Old Testament. These predictions are called prophecies. They help God's people recognize Jesus as the Savior who was promised throughout the Scriptures. Let's read two of those prophecies now.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 53:5, 11. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.**

Isaiah refers to our sins as "iniquities" and "transgressions." **Which phrase points to the fact that Jesus paid for our sins?** ("He was pierced for our transgressions," "He was crushed for our iniquities," "the punishment that brought us peace was on Him," "by His wounds we are healed.") **Which phrase points to the fact that God would raise Him from the dead?** ("He will see the light of life and be satisfied.")

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a "What Happened Next?" activity page. Invite your family to join you in the activities or you can do them by yourself. This can help your heart be ready to celebrate Easter.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 17 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of a cross or a crown of thorns. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Search Me, O God," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: CHOICES SNACK

Purpose: To remind children that Jesus chose to suffer for us.

Snack Suggestion: Two snack options

In our Bible Story today, Jesus made some difficult choices. He knew all about the painful things that would happen to Him, but He chose to face them and follow God's plan.

Sometimes choices are easy and sometimes they are hard. Right now, you get an easy choice; you get to choose your snack.

Directions:

1. Let each child choose one of the snack options.
2. Pour a drink for each child.
3. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
4. As you eat, ask children to answer the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is the most difficult choice you have ever made?"**

GAME: THE FINAL HOURS

Purpose: To understand the sequence of events leading up to the death of Jesus.

Supplies: You may use actual items or pictures of the following items: cup, plant, sword, rope, rooster, gavel, purple cloth (or crown of thorns), cross, white cloth, stone

Show children the ten symbols. **These ten symbols can be used to tell today's Bible story.** Explain what each symbol means, in order. **Now that you know what each symbol stands for, let's work together to see how quickly we can put them in order.**

Directions:

1. Choose ten children to stand in front of the class.
2. Mix up the symbols and give one to each child. For groups of less than ten, children may hold more than one symbol.
3. Remaining children help place them in the correct order.
4. Choose a volunteer to use the symbols to tell the story.

Correct order for symbols:

1. CUP: Jesus gave His followers the bread and cup to remember Him at the last supper.
2. PLANT: Jesus prayed in the garden. Judas led the soldiers there to arrest Jesus.
3. SWORD: During the arrest, Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.
4. ROPE: Soldiers tied Jesus' hands when they arrested Him.
5. ROOSTER: The rooster crowed after Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.
6. GAVEL: Pilate gave in to the angry crowd and sentenced Jesus to death on the cross.
7. PURPLE CLOTH OR CROWN OF THORNS: Soldiers made Jesus wear a crown of thorns and a purple robe.
8. CROSS: Jesus died on the cross.
9. WHITE CLOTH: Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in cloth, laid it in a tomb, and rolled a stone across the entrance.
10. STONE: The stone was rolled away. God raised Jesus from the dead!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: REFLECTION POSTER

Purpose: For children to create posters to reflect on how Jesus chose to die on the cross for us.

Supplies: Large poster board sheets or banner paper, markers or crayons, assorted craft supplies (colored paper, yarn, buttons, sequins, scissors, glue or tape, etc.)

Because He is God's Son, Jesus could have refused to suffer and die. However, He knew His death would save us from our sins. Let's spend some time thinking about how Jesus chose to die for us. Let's form teams. Each team will work together to think about how Jesus chose to die for you. Make a poster to tell Jesus what you think and feel about what He has done for you.

Directions:

1. Form teams of four or five. Give each team a poster board and craft supplies.
2. Provide time for the teams to work on their posters.
3. Ask teams to share and explain their posters to the rest of the class.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24

GAME: CIRCLE TAG

Purpose: Children play an alternate version of the traditional game, “Duck, Duck, Goose,” to learn the words of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Our Bible Memory Verse uses many action words such as “Search me,” “test me,” and “lead me.” In this fast action game, the leader will say the verse word for word as he or she taps the shoulder of everyone in the circle. The player tapped on the last word (“everlasting”) is to race the leader around the circle to see who can reach the seat first.

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle and say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Choose one child to be the leader.
3. The leader walks around the outside of the circle. Each time the leader gently taps a child on the shoulder, the leader say the next word in the Bible Memory Verse.
4. If the leader cannot remember the next word, then the child tapped or the teacher says it.
5. The child tapped on the last word of the verse (“everlasting”) jumps up and chases the leader.
6. If the leader reaches the seat before being tagged by the child he or she tapped, that child becomes the leader. If the leader is tagged, he or she is the leader again or may choose a new child to be the leader.
7. Repeat as time allows.

GAME: HEART TOSS

Purpose: To help children engage and memorize the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 139:23-24.

Supplies: One heart-shaped pillow, beanbag, or inflatable ball with heart drawn on it; Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. The first child says the first word of the Bible Memory Verse and quickly tosses the heart (pillow, beanbag, or ball) to another child.
3. The catcher says the next word in the verse and quickly tosses the heart to another child.
4. Continue tossing until the verse is completed and all children have had a turn.
5. See how quickly the verse can be recited.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus (Circa 0-33 A.D.) beginning with the only story of His childhood and then focusing on His relationships, His ministry, His teachings, and the events surrounding His death, resurrection, and ascension. It concludes with a study of His kingdom parables. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Jesus and the Last Supper (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What two symbols did Jesus choose to help His disciples remember Him? (The bread and the cup.) What does the bread stand for? (The bread stands for the body of Jesus given for the forgiveness of our sins.) What does the cup stand for? (The cup stands for His blood given for our new life.)

Jesus in the Garden (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Jesus knew that the soldiers were about to arrest Him and take Him away to die on the cross. Where did He go to pray about this? (the garden of Gethsemane). Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but Yours be done." What does that mean to you? (Children respond.)

Jesus and the Cross (Circa 30-33 A.D.) When Jesus was arrested, which disciple denied knowing Him? (Peter.) After an unfair trial by the high priest, the Jews led Jesus to the Roman governor. What was his name? (Pontius Pilate.) What did Jesus mean on the cross when He said, "It is finished"? (By dying, He finished God's plan to pay for our sins.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Life of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Life of Jesus: Jesus and His Father's House > Jesus Is Baptized > Jesus Is Tempted > Jesus Calls His Disciples > Jesus Clears the Temple > Jesus Is Transfigured > Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes > Jesus and Nicodemus > Jesus and the Woman at the Well > Jesus with Mary and Martha > Jesus and Zacchaeus > Jesus Is Anointed > The Triumphal Entry > Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet > Jesus and the Last Supper > Jesus in the Garden > Jesus and the Cross > Jesus Is Risen > The Road to Emmaus > Jesus Talks with Peter > The Great Commission > The King Ascends

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan