

# Jesus' Crucifixion & Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26:36-28:10; John 18:1-20:18

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus is alive!

**GOSPEL GEMS:**

- Jesus is God's Son.
- God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.
- People praised Jesus as their King.

## FREE PLAY

Have Bible Story coloring pages and crayons out as an option during free play.

## LESSON

### INTRODUCE THE STORY

#### Gathering Song

Invite toddlers from free play to join you on the puzzle mats with the song. To the tune of "Are You Sleeping"

*To the rug, to the rug  
Right now, right now,  
It's time for our story,  
It's time for our story,  
Right now, right now.*

*To the rug, to the rug  
Right now, right now,  
[name] to the rug,  
[name] to the rug, (repeat as necessary to invite all toddlers)  
Right now, right now.*

#### Welcome Song

Invite toddlers to join you in our weekly welcome song. To the tune of the "Farmer in the Dell".

*I like to come to church* [arms over head in triangle]  
*I like to come to church* [arms over head in triangle]  
*With all the other boys and girls* [point to all the children]  
*I like to come to church*

*I like to come to church* [arms over head in triangle]  
*I like to come to church* [arms over head in triangle]

*I learn about how Jesus loves me* [hug yourself]  
*I like to come to church.* [arms over head in triangle]

## Transition to Bible study

Pass out laminated Bible Story picture cards and set out Bible story picture. Have the page with the Bible story you read inside a Bible.

## TEACH THE STORY

Introduce the Bible story

**SAY • Today is a special day! Ask if they know what special Sunday this is? [invite responses]. Today we are going to practice greeting each other the way believers have greeted each other for many, many, many, MANY years, especially on Easter morning. When I say “He is risen!” you say “He is risen indeed!”**

Practice a few times, starting in a whisper and getting louder until the toddlers can shout, “He is Risen Indeed”

**Today’s Bible story is the most important story in the Bible. The Bible is true. Everything in the Bible really happened!**

## Read Bible Story

Have story nestled inside Bible as you read.

**People make wrong choices, but God made a very good plan. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Not everyone loved Jesus, though. Some people wanted to hurt Jesus. Jesus went to a garden with His friends to pray. Jesus was very sad. He prayed to God, “Father, I will do Your plan.” Then men came to take Jesus to jail. Jesus’ friends ran away. The leaders of the people said things about Jesus that were not true, and they punished Jesus by putting Him on a cross. Jesus died, but three days later, God made Jesus alive again! Jesus showed His friends that He is alive, and Jesus is still alive today.**

Collect Story Cards (this will be sent home on a ring with all the stories at the end of the quarter)

## Sing a Song

Invite toddlers to join you singing Jesus loves me.

*Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so,  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus love me,  
He who died,  
Heaven's gates to open wide,  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let His little child come in.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.*

**SAY God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. Jesus is alive!**

## Pray

Let the toddlers know that we are going to pray before we play with something fun! Invite them to reach their hands up high over their head, shake their arms out, clap their hands together and bring them down into their laps to rest nice and quiet.

**SAY • God, thank you for listening to us when we pray. Thank you Thank you for sending your Only Son, Jesus to earth to rescue us from sin. Help us to know how much to love us! Be with us this week. Amen!**

## EXPERIENCE THE STORY

### Make Pom-Poms

Provide strips of streamers in various colors. Invite toddlers to grab a handful and then use tape to wrap around the paper to make a pom-pom. Invite toddlers to shake their pom-poms to celebrate Jesus is Alive! (Play Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed from Getty Family Hymnal CD)

**SAY • Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. Jesus is Alive!**

### Serve Snack (Gorilla Munch & Water)

#### Look in the tomb

Drape a blanket over three sides of a table. Place a folded white cloth inside the “tomb”. Invite toddlers to take turns crawling into the “tomb” to look inside. (Provide toddler Bibles for them to look through in the “tomb”).

**SAY • Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. Jesus’ friends did not find Him in the tomb! Jesus is alive!**

#### Free Play Until Pick-up

Be sure every child goes home with a coloring page even if they did not color one.