

PRAY *Have a parent open up this lesson in prayer*

“Dear God, bless us in our time of Family Worship! Help us to understand the Bible more so that we can love You. Amen.”

OPENING ACTIVITY

Empty Tomb –*Make a Pillow Fort with chairs, pillows and blankets to represent the tomb. Set up a bed where the Jesus’ body should have been. Have each child go into the tomb to see if it is empty or full.*

Ask: Which holiday do you like better: Christmas or Easter?

Say: Most kids will say Christmas. When I was a kid, I liked Christmas better. I never really got excited about easter. But only because I didn’t really understand how amazing the good news of Jesus really is.

Say: Today we are going to learn about Jesus’ death and resurrection. Does anyone know what resurrection means? It means that Jesus came back from being dead and that He is alive!

Say: You see, Easter isn’t just a time to use bright colours to enjoy springtime weather. It is a time to remember and celebrate why Jesus came. Let’s read our story now to find out more.

READ Take turns having different family members read. Find some tips on the next page to make reading the Bible story for interactive.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26–28; 1 Corinthians 15

After Jesus was arrested, He was led to the high priest. The religious leaders were trying to find a reason to kill Jesus, but they could not. The high priest asked, "Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?" Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right."

The high priest said, "He has spoken against God! He deserves to die!" The religious leaders refused to believe that Jesus was God's Son.

In the morning, the religious leaders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. "Are You the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked.

"Yes, that's right," Jesus replied.

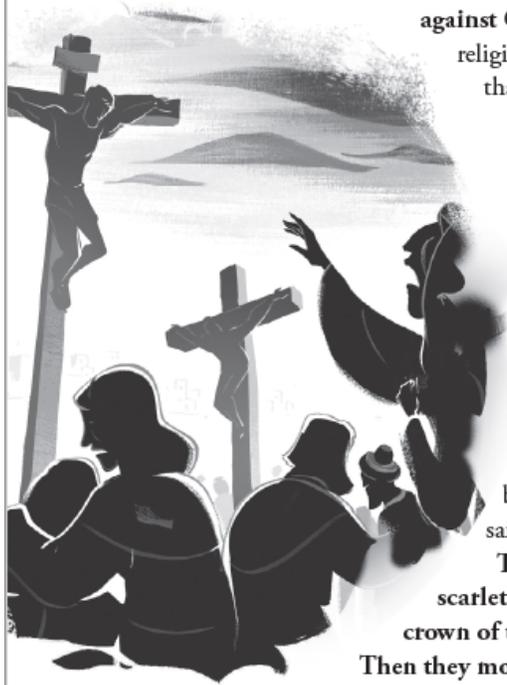
"What should I do with Jesus?" Pilate asked the crowd. "Crucify Him!" they answered. Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over and said, "Do whatever you want."

The governor's soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head.

Then they mocked Him: "Here is the King of the Jews!" They beat Jesus and led Him away to

be killed.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above His head that said THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two



criminals were crucified next to Him.

Darkness covered the land. **Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus shouted again and then He died.** Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus’ body said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

Jesus was buried in a tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus’ body.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake. **An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it.** The guards were so afraid that they fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen, just like He said He would.”

The women left the tomb quickly. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told them. “Tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there.”

Jesus appeared to Peter and then to the other disciples. Jesus also appeared to more than 500 people who followed Him. **Many people witnessed that Jesus is alive!**

Christ Connection: Jesus’ death and resurrection is the center of the gospel. In Adam, we were spiritually dead in sin, but Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus is alive! God gives new life to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Draw pictures:** Sketch symbols as you tell the story—a question mark for Jesus’ trial, a cross for His death, a rising sun for His resurrection, and so on.
- **Use lighting effects:** Begin the story with lights dimmed. Raise the lights when telling of Jesus’ resurrection.

Take to Heart

As a family, take time to memorize the Key Bible Passage over the next several weeks! Take it to heart and notice how God's Word becomes alive in you!

"He must become greater; I must become less."

— John 3:30

LEARN *as you read through the lesson, have everyone read a question and the*

Say: WOW! What an amazing story! The crucifixion of Jesus and His resurrection on the third day make up the center of the one big story of the Bible. Ever since Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God and eat the fruit He commanded them not too, all of creation has been broken. People could no longer live in a loving relationship with God. Jesus came to make a way for us to be able to live in this loving relationship with God forever!

Ask: Why did the people in charge want to kill Jesus?



Say: These people thought that when Jesus said He was God's Son, that He was "speaking against God." But Jesus wasn't lying. He really was God's Son.

Ask: Who was the first person to realize that Jesus was alive?

Say: It was Mary Magdalene (Mag-da-leen) and the other Mary who went to the tomb first. After they were told by the angel that Jesus was alive than ran and told the other followers of Jesus.

Ask: Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important?

Say: When Jesus died on the cross, he died in our place. Jesus did not sin, so He did not deserve to die. We did. But Jesus loved us so much, that He died for us, to take away our sin so that we can live in a loving relationship with God. If Jesus stayed dead, then sin would have won. But Jesus defeated sin. His resurrection is proof that Jesus is who He said He is. It is proof that our sins are forgiven. Just as Jesus is living forever, we too one day will get to live forever with God because we have been saved from our sin. What good news!

PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

Jesus changes lives! Help your family consider the cost and benefit of learning to love and obey God.

Ask: How can you know if you are saved?

A lot of the time, we base our relationship with God off of our emotions. When we “feel” close to God, we think we are saved. But there are times when God “feels far away.” At those times in life we can think that God is actually far away and that we are not saved. But that is not true. The Bible tells us that we are saved by God’s grace when we have faith and believe in Jesus (Eph. 2:8-9). That’s it! Nothing else changes that. God loves us so much, that when He saves us, He will make sure we are always saved.

PRAY

“God, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin. Thank you for dying on the cross and coming back to life. Help us to live the life you want us to live. May we always love you and trust you. In Jesus’ name, Amen