



# JESUS' CRUCIFIXION & RESURRECTION



MATTHEW 26-28

## **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

## **Tell the Bible Story**

Jesus and His disciples went to a garden called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). Jesus prayed, "Father! If it is possible, take this suffering from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan." Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd. Judas betrayed Jesus by kissing Him so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The crowd grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. Jesus 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 to them.

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, 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 guards 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.”

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

*The death and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we can joyfully obey Him.*

## Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 26. Explain that today's Bible story comes from Matthew 26–28. Challenge kids to identify which Bible division the Book of Matthew is in. (Gospels) Have someone read aloud Matthew 27:41-42. The events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection took place in and around the city of Jerusalem. Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Jesus give up in order to save us?

*Lead kids to discuss not only Jesus' giving up His life, but His humbling in coming from a position of honor in heaven to earth as a baby.*

2. Where is Jesus today?

*Guide kids to recognize that Jesus is alive! He is in heaven at the right hand of God, and one day He will return to set up His kingdom and make everything right.*

3. What does it look like to "lay down your life" for someone else?

*Prompt kids to think of situations in which they can put others' needs before their own. Point out that kids can lay down their lives even while they live, reflecting the servant attitude of Jesus.*

## SAY:

*The religious leaders mocked Jesus. They thought He didn't have the power to save Himself from the cross. Jesus holds everything together! He could have stopped everything, but Jesus wanted to follow God's plan to rescue sinners.*

## Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find the Book of Matthew, chapters 26–28. Explain that Matthew is the first book of the New Testament, and part of the Gospels division. Clarify that the Gospels tell about Jesus' life on earth—who Jesus is, what He did, and what He said while He was on earth, including His death and resurrection.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Jesus pray in the garden?

*He asked God to take the suffering away but agreed to do God's plan no matter what, Matt. 26:39*

2. How did Jesus die?

*He was hung on a cross, or crucified; Matt. 27:33-50*

3. What did the women find on the third day?

*An empty tomb, an angel who said that Jesus rose again; Matt. 28:5-6*

4. Why is it important that Jesus perfectly obeyed God?

*Guide the kids to understand that Jesus could only be the perfect sacrifice for our sin if He was not a sinner. His perfect obedience is amazing and true, and it's the reason His death was enough to pay for sin.*

5. Why is it important that Jesus really died?

*Guide kids to understand that God demands a sacrifice for sin. Because we are sinners, we deserve death. If there were no sacrifice, God would not be perfectly just. Jesus had to die for us to be forgiven. (See Heb. 9:22; Rom.6:23; and 2 Cor. 5:21.)*

6. Why is it important that Jesus rose to life?

*Help kids see that Jesus' rising again was proof that His sacrifice was enough. He rose again to prove that sin and death were totally defeated. We have victory in Christ. (See 1 Cor. 15:12-22.)*

## SAY:

*Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to God. Then, Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death. Only Jesus is the way to live forever with God. Through Him, we have victory and can live courageously for God's glory by loving and obeying Him. We have nothing to fear because Jesus is always with us when we have faith in Him.*

**Reminder:** Don't forget to download the Easter Scavenger Hunt at [paulann.org/pak](http://paulann.org/pak)