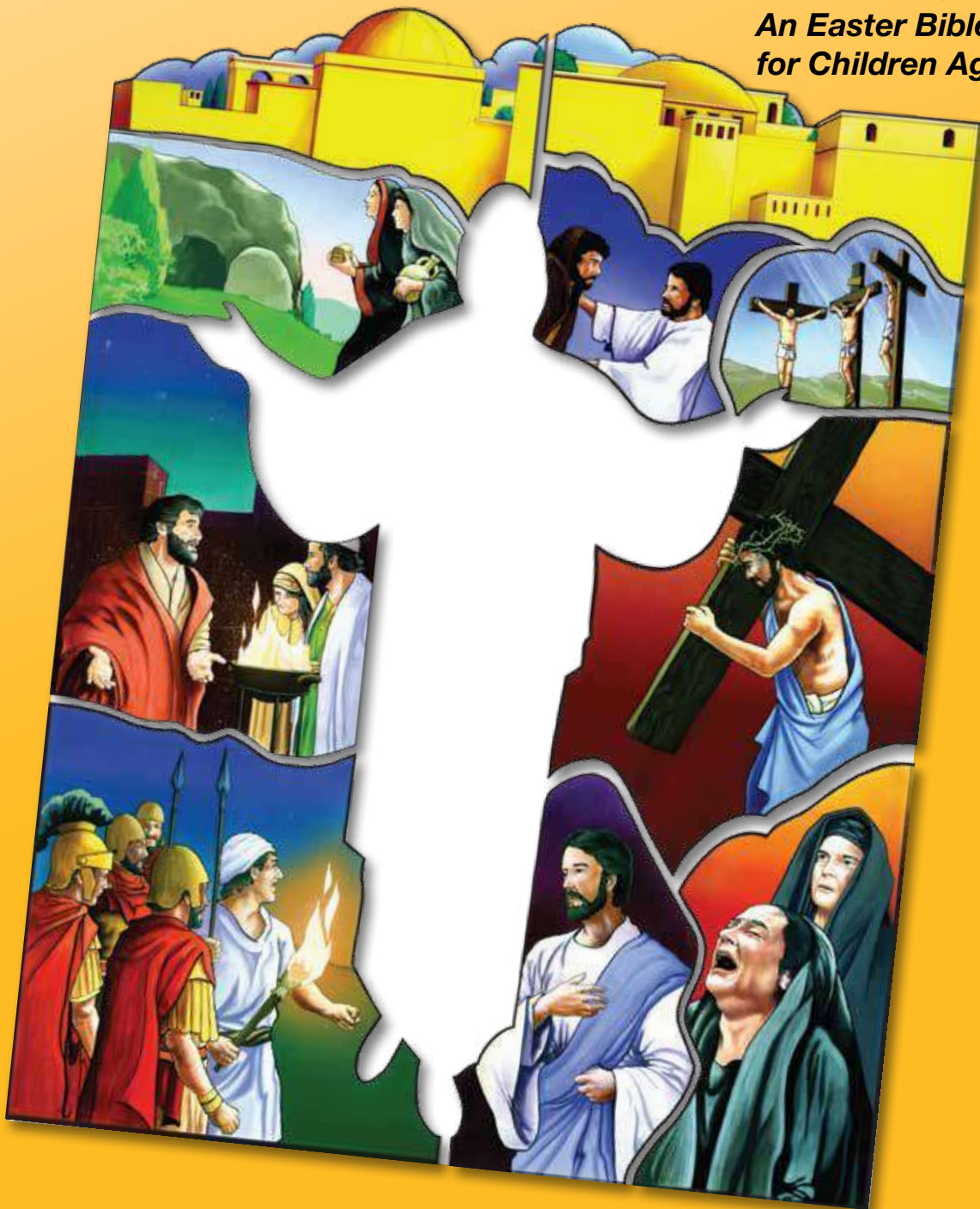


The **GREATEST** *Story*

*An Easter Bible Lesson
for Children Ages 5-12*



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An Easter Bible Lesson for Children Ages 5-12

Author: Roy Harrison

Artist: Tim Shirey

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this lesson can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops.

For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".



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Reach out to children of your neighbourhood with an Easter party! Party Clubs are used to introduce thousands of boys and girls to the Gospel each year and many trust Christ as Saviour.

Helpers

Be sure to enlist prayer partners and several assistants for your party. These same helpers may join you in follow-up visits to the children. (Be sure to comply with the Child Protection Policy of your country.)

Invitations

Attractive invitations will help build excitement for your party. Photocopy the invitations provided on pastel coloured card stock.

Decorations

Hang pastel coloured streamers and balloons from the ceiling.

Greet children

Photocopy the name badges provided and write the names on them. If it is appropriate in your country record names, addresses, ages and church affiliations for follow-up.

Welcome

Introduce adult helpers and explain the party schedule.

Suggested party programme

Greet children

Welcome

Games—Choose one or two of the games

Prayer

Memory verse—1 John 5:11

Song—Choose a suitable song

Lesson—*The Greatest Story*

Review game

Song—Choose a suitable song

Prayer

Snacks

Craft

Take-home items

Visual aids and other teaching tools

Visualised songs, tracts, devotional books and other materials may be purchased from your CEF® national office. If you need an address, contact CEF of Europe, Kilchzimmer, 4438 Langenbruck, Switzerland (www.cefurope.com).

Cut out the figures and place them on the flannelboard one at a time as you teach, following the pattern on the cover. You may wish to cover your flannelboard with a piece of white flannel on which you have marked where to place the first piece. Be sure to practise the placement of each piece.

Write the words of the central truth on a large piece of pastel coloured card stock and attach to the top or side of the flannelboard with reusable adhesive.

Have a large calendar to show at the beginning and at two other places in the lesson.

Easter party games

Scrambled eggs

Cut large eggs out of yellow construction paper, one for every two children. Cut each egg in half with a different style line (wavy, jagged, diagonal, with different styles of scrapbooking scissors, etc) and give each child a half. At a given signal, children race to find the person with the other half of their egg then hand the two halves to you and return to their chairs. Praise each team as they sit down.

Bunny hop relay

Divide the group into teams and line up along one side of the room. At a given signal the first person on each team hops to the other side and back. Then the second person hops and so on. The first team to finish wins. (Variations: Do a “frog jump relay,” a “turtle crawl relay,” etc. Or place obstacles in the path and children must hop around them.)

Easter egg hunt

Before the club starts hide plastic eggs filled with sweets in another room. Divide the number of eggs available by the number of children at the party to determine how many eggs each child may find.

Memory verse teaching

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son” (1 John 5:11).

(You may want to photocopy the memory verse visuals and mount them on card.)

Introduction

(Hold up a ball of string or wool.) Would anyone like to show me where the start of the string is? *(Allow a child to find it.)* Now can you show me where the end of the string is? *(Allow the child to begin to unravel the ball of string, but stop them after a short while.)* It would take a very long time to find the end, but you would find it eventually. Our Bible verse today talks about something which has a beginning but does not have an end. It goes on for ever and ever and ever. Can you tell me what it is as I read the verse?

Presentation

(Read 1 John 5:11 directly from your Bible and then again from the verse visual.) Eternal life is life, brilliant life, joyful life, for ever and ever and ever. Let's read the verse together.

Explanation

(Intersperse the explanation, application and repetition.) God who made the whole universe wants you to be with Him in Heaven for ever after you die. Eternal life begins the moment you trust Christ to save you from your sin. It is not an easy life, but it is an exciting life, learning about God and living to please Him.

“His Son” is God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus made it possible for you to have eternal life. He died and rose again for all the wrong things you have done.

“The testimony” is a record; it's what God has said in His Word, the Bible. He says that the only way to have eternal life is in His Son. Without the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you must face the consequences of your sin yourself. If you trust Jesus as your Saviour you will not be punished but will enjoy God's home with Him for ever.

Application

Unsaved: Pray to Jesus today. Tell Him that you know you have disobeyed God and thank Him for dying and rising again for you. Trust Him to rescue you from the punishment you deserve for your sin. He will save you and you can be sure that after you die you will go to Heaven. You will begin an amazing life with Jesus as your Saviour.

Repetition

What does the word mean? After a number of straightforward repetitions (eg boys/girls, louder/softer, stand up/sit down) you may wish to try the following:

Before class write “testimony”, “God”, “eternal life” and “His Son” on slips of paper and place each word/phrase in a separate plastic egg in a basket. Call on volunteers to choose an egg, open it and read the word and tell its meaning. After each explanation, repeat the verse together and do an action when that particular word is said in the verse.

Testimony—hold hands together, palms up like an open Bible.

God—point upwards.

Eternal life/Life—two hands in the air or star jump.

His Son—make the shape of a cross with your arms.

Songs

To reinforce the Gospel message choose a couple of songs to sing with the children.

Snacks

Easter cupcakes

Place shredded coconut and a few drops of green food colouring in a resealable plastic bag; shake to colour the coconut green. Frost cupcakes with white frosting, sprinkle with green coconut and press three jelly beans into the centre of each cupcake.

Pretzels

Serve soft or crisp pretzels and tell the children the traditional story about a young monk in the early 600s—possibly even the 300s—in Italy who was making bread. He rolled the bread dough in strips then shaped each strip in the form of crossed arms to look like the prayer position of

folding one's arms over each other on the chest. The bread was then baked as a soft bread, just like the big soft pretzels one can find today.

Hot cross buns

Serve hot cross buns and tell the children that an Anglican monk in the 12th century was said to have placed the sign of the cross on the buns to honour Good Friday, known at that time as the "Day of the Cross." In 1361 another monk was said to have made small spiced cakes stamped with the sign of the cross to give to the poor visiting the monastery on Good Friday.

Craft

"Jesus is alive!"—Stained glass suncatchers

Make copies of the template provided, one for each child. Have the children use black crayons to draw straight or curved lines from the cross to the edges of the paper to look like a stained glass window. Have them use crayons to fill in the resulting shapes with bright colours, leaving the cross and message at the bottom uncoloured. Turn the picture face down on newspaper and with a cotton ball rub vegetable oil into the back of the picture. Glue a small yarn loop to the top. Have the children carry their pictures home between sheets of newspaper and hang in a window.

Take-home items/follow-up

Memory verse tokens—Photocopy the memory verse tokens provided.

"I Spy Spring" take-home sheet—Photocopy the sheet provided, one for each child.

Wondersurf—Give the children a free bookmark (available from your CEF national office) encouraging them to log on to Wondersurf.com for fun and adventure!

Scripture for teachers

Matthew 26:20—28:20

Mark 14:17—16:20

Luke 22:14—24:53

John 18—20

Central truth

Christ died and rose again for sinners.

Application for unsaved

Trust Christ to save you from your sin.

Lesson outline

Introduction

Special days on the calendar - Easter

Progression of events

1. Jesus tells the disciples that they will be scattered and Peter will deny Him
2. He prays and Peter, James and John fall asleep
3. A crowd of men take the Lord Jesus to the house of the High Priest
4. Peter says three times that he does not know the Lord Jesus
5. The soldiers hurt Jesus
6. Jesus speaks to the women who are crying
7. Simon forced to carry the cross
8. Jesus is nailed to the cross
9. Jesus gives His life for us and a soldier pierces His side
10. God the Father raises Jesus from the dead
11. The women see the empty tomb and an angel speaks to them
12. Peter meets the risen Saviour

Climax

Jesus Christ goes back to Heaven

Conclusion

Are you ready to meet Him?

Lesson

(Show calendar.)

When we look at a calendar, there are some special days marked on it. One of these special times is Easter. At that time of the year we remember how the Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again for us. Easter is not just a time to receive Easter eggs and to have school holidays.



Piece 1—The Lord Jesus

One evening the Lord Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him. The disciples were sad and one after another they said, “Is it I? Is it I?” (from Matthew 26:22).

That same night the Lord led the disciples out to a garden called Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives.

He said to them, “All of you shall be scattered because of Me. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee” (from Matthew 26:31-32).

Peter spoke up and said, “Although all the others will leave You, I will not. Lord, I am ready to die for You” (from Matthew 26:33,35).

Peter thought he was brave but the Lord Jesus said, “Peter, before the rooster crows twice in the morning, you will have said three times that you do not know Me” (from Matthew 26:34, Mark 14:30).

Peter said, “Never Lord, never!” (from Matthew 26:35 and Mark 14:31).

And the other disciples said the same thing.

After that, the Lord Jesus asked Peter, James and John to stay awake and pray, while He went to pray alone. The three of them fell asleep instead of keeping alert. The Lord Jesus came back and woke them up.

He said to Peter, “Could you not stay awake with Me one hour?” (from Matthew 26:40).

The Lord knew what was going to happen and He wanted Peter and the others to be ready and to pray with Him, but He had to pray without them.

As the Lord Jesus prayed, He saw again the great suffering He would have to go through on the cross. In agony of heart He prayed, “Father, Your will be done” (from Matthew 26:42).

As He prayed, there came great sweat-drops of blood. The Lord Jesus knew He was going to die and rise again for sinners.

(Place card with words of central truth - “Christ died and rose again for sinners”.)

He was going to die for the sins of Peter, James and John - even though they couldn’t stay awake and pray with Him, even though they would soon run away and leave Him, even though Peter would deny Him three times. What a wonderful Saviour He is!

Three times the Lord Jesus went away and prayed, and three times He came back and found Peter, James and John sleeping.

Suddenly the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, “Look, I am about to be betrayed” (from Matthew 26:45).



Piece 2—Temple guard

A crowd of men were coming towards them with swords and spears. The religious leaders had sent them to capture the Lord Jesus. Judas made sure that they got the right man. The Lord Jesus didn’t try to escape. He knew it was God’s will that He should be captured.

But Peter wanted to fight. He hadn’t prayed like the Lord Jesus, “Father, Your will be done.” Instead, Peter drew his sword and took a swipe at one of those who had come to capture the Lord Jesus. He nearly killed the man because his sword chopped off the man’s right ear.

The Lord Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword away! Don’t you think I could pray and My Father would send thousands of angels to help Me?” (from Matthew 26:52-53).

Then the Lord did another miracle. He put the man’s ear back on again and he was completely healed. Isn’t that amazing!

The men took hold of the Lord Jesus and led Him away.

What did Peter and the others do? They were so scared that they all ran off. Not one of them had the courage to stay and go along with the Lord Jesus. Peter finally sneaked back and followed Him from a long way off.

They took the Lord Jesus first to the house of the High Priest, to appear before the whole council of religious leaders. These men hated the Lord Jesus. They were jealous of Him. They had made up their minds that the Lord Jesus should be put to death. They tried to get false witnesses to tell lies about Jesus.

It sounds like us, doesn't it! God tells us in the Bible how we should live, but we disobey Him. We are jealous of others, who have better things than we have. We have hatred in our hearts and want to hurt them, we tell lies and, worse than that, we do not want the Lord Jesus to rule in our hearts and lives. Yet the Lord Jesus was going to die on the cross for sinners like us.

Inside the house of the High Priest some of the men began to spit on the Lord Jesus. They covered His eyes with a cloth and slapped His face saying, "Tell us who hit You!" (from Matthew 26:68).



Piece 3—Peter warming his hands at the fire

What was Peter doing all this time? He had slipped into the courtyard and was sitting with those who had gone to capture the Lord. Peter was warming his hands at their fire. He was afraid of being arrested too.

A servant girl came along. She saw Peter warming himself at the fire and said, "You were also with Jesus of Nazareth" (from Mark 14:67).

Peter replied, "I don't know what you are talking about," and he got up from the fire to go over and stand at the entrance (from Mark 14:68). Right then the rooster crowed.

A little later someone said, "You are one of His disciples, aren't you?" (from Mark 14:70).

Peter said, "I am not! I do not know the man."

About an hour later someone else said, "You must be one of them. Didn't I see you in the garden with this man? You're from Galilee - your accent shows that" (from Mark 14:70).

Peter, for the third time, said, "I don't know what you are talking about." He began to curse

and swear saying, "I don't know this man" (from Mark 14:71).

Right away the rooster crowed again. The Lord Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what the Lord had said, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will have said three times that you do not know Me" (from Mark 14:72). Peter's heart was broken. Why had he done such a terrible thing? He went outside and wept and wept. Could the Lord ever forgive him for such a sin? Yet the wonderful thing is that the Lord Jesus came to die and pay even for sins like that.

Perhaps somebody asked you about Jesus Christ and you didn't say anything. You pretended you didn't know. Have you ever used the Lord's name as a swear word? That is sin, because the Bible says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" (Exodus 20:7a). The Lord Jesus Christ came to Earth to die for that as well.

After turning to look at Peter, the Lord Jesus was led away to the palace of the governor, Pontius Pilate. Even though He had never done anything wrong, or said anything wrong, or even thought anything wrong, Pilate gave in to the crowd and handed over the Lord Jesus to be crucified. The soldiers made fun of Him. They put a crown of thorns on His head. They hit Him with a cane. They spat on Him. They whipped Him. They struck Him with their hands.

Oh, how evil people can become when they don't want the Lord Jesus. Jesus didn't fight back. He didn't hate these people. He loved them, even though they were hurting Him so much. He loves us too, in spite of our sin. He was ready to die for us. They led the Lord Jesus away to be put to death. A big crowd of people followed.



Piece 4—Women crying

Some of the women cried loudly, when they saw the Lord Jesus so beaten and bruised.

The Lord Jesus said to them, "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for Me, cry for yourselves

and for your children. Terrible times are coming when you will wish you were dead” (from Luke 23:28-31).

These women were crying because Jesus was going to be put to death. But it is not enough to be sad about how Jesus suffered. You need to see that your sin is hurting Him. It is very serious. It deserves to be punished. Unless you turn from your sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will have to take the punishment for your sin yourself. You need to ask the Lord Jesus to save you from your sin. He came to die and rise again to save sinners.

(Show calendar.)

There is a special day which is not marked in this calendar. It is today, for the Bible says, “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Hebrews 4:7) and “Now is the accepted time ... now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2b). Perhaps there will not be a tomorrow. Do not put off coming to Christ! Today will be the most important day in your life, if you trust in Jesus Christ. Will today be the day of your salvation?



Piece 5—Jesus carrying His cross

As they led Jesus away, they gave Him a heavy wooden cross to carry. He had to carry the cross on which He was going to die. What terrible shame He had to bear for you and me! We deserved to be condemned but He took our place.

They also led away two other men, robbers, to put them to death with the Lord Jesus. They were going to die for the wrong things they had done. The Lord Jesus had never done anything wrong. He should never have died, because He was the only One Who lived a perfect life.

The soldiers and the crowds were all around the Lord Jesus. The cross was heavy and the Lord Jesus was weak after all the beatings He had received. He stumbled and fell under the weight of the cross. Where were the disciples then? Why couldn't Peter or one of the others have helped

Jesus to carry the cross? They were afraid. They had run away. Peter had even denied the Lord Jesus three times.

A man called Simon was passing by just then. He came from Cyrene in North Africa. The soldiers took hold of Him and told Him to carry the cross for the Lord Jesus, while the soldiers led Him on. Simon didn't know it then, but the Lord Jesus was going to die on that cross to take the punishment for all his sin. Simon was going to learn about that later. If he had known earlier, I am sure the soldiers would not have needed to force him to carry the cross.



Piece 6—Three crosses

They arrived at a place called Golgotha or Calvary.

It was nine o'clock in the morning. At the top of the hill Simon put the cross down. The cruel soldiers took the Lord Jesus and laid Him on top of the wooden cross. They hammered big nails through His feet and His left hand and His right hand. Those hands had healed the blind man and the leper. Those hands had blessed the children. Those hands had only ever done good.

When the soldiers nailed the Lord Jesus to the cross, He prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (from Luke 23:34).

The soldiers had prepared a hole in the ground for the cross to stand up. They lifted up the cross with Christ nailed to it. With a thud, it thumped down into the socket. Oh, what pain that must have been for the Lord Jesus! We are the ones who deserved to be punished, but Jesus was taking the punishment for our sin in our place. The punishment for sin is to be cut off from God for ever. There on the cross, the Lord Jesus was cut off from God for us. The pain in His hands and feet and the wounds in His back and head were nothing compared to the pain He felt in His heart,

for He was bearing our sins in His own body on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). Listen to what the Bible says. (Read Isaiah 53:4-6 from your Bible.)

“He was wounded for our transgressions” - He was taking the punishment for all the times we had disobeyed God.

“He was bruised for our iniquities” - He suffered on that cross for all the times we have not done what is right.

The Bible says that God laid on Him the sin of us all. It was for our sin that He was “smitten by God and afflicted”. Someone died for us - the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, how He loves you and me!

At twelve o'clock in the middle of the day darkness came down. God shut out the light for three hours. The Lord Jesus was carrying our sins on the cross and God the Father had turned His back on Him.

The Lord Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (from Matthew 27:46).

He had been made to be sin for us. God turned His back on Him, because He had become a curse. Because Jesus was man, He could die in our place and because He was God, He could take the punishment for us all.

Finally at three o'clock in the afternoon, the Lord Jesus cried out, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). He had paid for all our sin.

Then He spoke to His heavenly Father, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit” (from Luke 23:46).

The Lord Jesus had given His life for us. The darkness lifted. After Jesus died, a soldier pierced His side with a spear and blood and water poured out. When the water appears with the blood like that, it means that the person has been through very deep sorrow. The Lord Jesus died of a broken heart. His heart was broken, because He was taking our sin.

The body of the Lord Jesus was taken down from the cross and laid in a new tomb - a cave which had been cut out of the rock. Then Joseph and Nicodemus rolled a huge stone across the opening, to close the entrance to the tomb.

But that tomb and that big stone could not hold the body of the Lord Jesus prisoner. The third day after His death God did a great miracle. God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He

brought back to life that body which had been beaten and bruised, which had been nailed to the cross.



Piece 7—Women going to the tomb

Early on the Sunday morning several women set out to go to the tomb where the body of the Lord Jesus had been laid. They wanted to put some sweet-smelling spices on His body. On the way they wondered who would roll away the huge stone from the front of the tomb. But God had sent an angel to roll away the stone - to show that the tomb was empty. When someone is sent to prison for a crime, after he has paid in full for the wrong he has done, he is set free. God wanted to show that the Lord Jesus had paid in full for our sin and so He set Jesus free. He showed that Jesus is the Son of God Who paid for all our sin.

The women saw that the tomb was empty. Mary Magdalene didn't wait with the others, but ran to tell the disciples that the body of the Lord Jesus was gone. She didn't hear the angel tell the other women, “You are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen. Go tell the disciples and Peter, that He will meet you in Galilee.” (from Mark 16:6-7).

The angel said to tell Peter too. Later when the women told that message to Peter, it probably encouraged him. Peter had failed the Lord Jesus, but Jesus still loved him and was ready to forgive him.

If you are a Christian, you may be thinking of something you did wrong in the Christian life. Perhaps your teacher asked the class if anyone really believed all that the Bible says, and you were afraid to say that you believed it. You were ashamed to stand up for the Lord Jesus and His Word. Remember, He still loves you and is ready to forgive you. He died for all your sins, even those in the Christian life. Tell the Lord Jesus what you have done and that you are sorry. He will forgive

you. The Bible says, “Whoever confesses and forsakes [his sins] will have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13). And the Lord keeps all His promises.



Piece 8—Peter meeting the Lord Jesus

The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus, after His resurrection, met Peter (Luke 24:34 and 1 Corinthians 15:5). Peter saw Him and spoke with Him. His Saviour was alive. He still had the marks of the nails in His hands and feet. His side was still pierced, where the soldier had stuck in the spear. But this was a wonderful resurrection body, which the Lord Jesus was going to take back to Heaven. That body was able to leave the tomb, before the stone was rolled away. That body was able to enter the upper room where the disciples were gathered, even when the doors were locked. Through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we who believe in Him will have bodies like His one day, when He comes back. What a great miracle when God raised Jesus from the dead!

The Bible says that because the Lord Jesus is alive, “He is also able to save to the uttermost [completely] those who come to God through Him” (Hebrews 7:25). If you want to, you can come to the Lord today. You can say to Him, “Lord Jesus, I have sinned. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. I ask You to save me from my sin. Take control of my life.”

If you want me to explain more how to come to Christ to be saved, after the meeting you can come and sit in the front row. If I see you sitting there after the meeting, I will explain to you from the Bible how to be saved. You only have to come and sit there if you want help with this important question. *(Be sure to comply with the Child Protection Policy of your country.)*

The Lord Jesus met the disciples a number of times in Jerusalem and in Galilee. Forty days after God had raised Him from the dead, the Lord Jesus

met with the disciples for the last time. It was on the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem. He told them that they were to go and tell others the good news. He raised His hands to bless them and at that moment He was carried up into Heaven.



Pieces 9-10—Heaven

(Place piece 9 to right-hand side of board.)

Our risen Saviour is there now in all His glory. He is praying for all who have trusted Him as their Lord and Saviour. He has gone to prepare a place for us.

(Place piece 10 on left side of board.)

We have talked today about Peter and what happened to him before and after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, but most of all we have thought about the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Point to silhouette.)

He is the One Who died and rose again for sinners like Peter, and sinners like you and me. He is the One Who has promised to come again to take to Heaven all who put their trust in Him.

Are you ready to meet Him?

If He came again today, are you sure that you would go to be with Him in Heaven? You can put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and ask Him to save you today. We do not know which day the Lord will come again. The Bible says, “Of that day and hour no one knows” (Matthew 24:36). But one day this year or another year (show calendar) He will come back again.

You can ask Him to save you while there is still time. The Bible says, “He is also able to save to the uttermost [completely] those who come to God through Him” (Hebrews 7:25).

Trust Christ to save you from sin and to make you what He wants you to be.

Review questions

Choose which questions to ask your group of children.

1. When Jesus was with His disciples in the garden of Gethsamene, which one said, "I am ready to die for You"? (Peter.)
2. Why did Jesus want Peter, James and John to stay awake? (So that they could pray with Him.)
3. How many times did Jesus go off on His own to pray to His Father? (Three times.)
4. Why did Jesus not try to escape when the men came to capture Him? (He knew it was God's will that He should be captured.)
5. What miracle did Jesus do? (He healed the man whose ear Peter cut off.)
6. Tell me some ways mentioned in the lesson, in which we disobey God. (We are jealous; we hate people; we tell lies; we do not want the Lord Jesus to rule in our lives.)
7. What did Peter do when the three people asked him if he knew Jesus? (He said he didn't know Him.)
8. How do we know that Peter felt sorry afterwards? (He went outside and wept.)
9. Why did Jesus not fight back when the soldiers hit Him and made fun of Him? (Because He loved them. He was willing to die for them and us.)
10. Why was Jesus the only One Who could die for all our sins? (He is the only One Who ever lived a perfect life. He never sinned.)
11. What did Jesus call out from the cross to show that He had paid for all our sin? ("It is finished!")
12. What great miracle did God do the third day after Jesus' death? (He brought Jesus back to life again.)
13. Before Jesus went back to Heaven, He met the disciples a number of times. What task did He give them to do? (Tell others the good news.)
14. When Jesus comes back to Earth, who will He take with Him to Heaven? (Those who have put their trust in Him as Saviour.)

Review game

Before class write a number in pencil on the back of each figure. That is the number of points a child will get for his team when he answers a question correctly. Remove the pieces from the flannelboard after you tell the story. Place them face up on a table. Divide the group into two teams. When a child answers a question correctly for his team, he can choose a puzzle piece and put it on the board. Give his team the points on the back. The game is over when all the puzzle pieces are in place to make up the complete picture. The team with the most points wins.

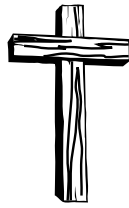


Come to
An Easter Party
(for children ages 5-12)

When: _____

Where: _____

Phone: _____



Come to
An Easter Party
(for children ages 5-12)

When: _____

Where: _____

Phone: _____



**Treat • Games • Songs •
Special Story • FREE!**



**Treat • Games • Songs •
Special Story • FREE!**



Come to
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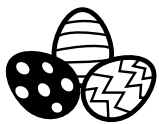


Come to
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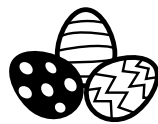
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**Treat • Games • Songs •
Special Story • FREE!**



**Treat • Games • Songs •
Special Story • FREE!**



Come to
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When: _____

Where: _____

Phone: _____

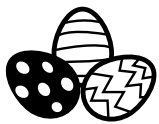


Come to
An Easter Party
(for children ages 5-12)

When: _____

Where: _____

Phone: _____



**Treat • Games • Songs •
Special Story • FREE!**



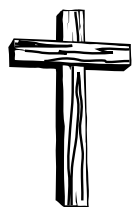
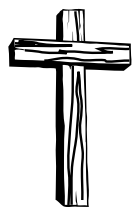
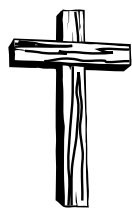
**Treat • Games • Songs •
Special Story • FREE!**

The Greatest Story

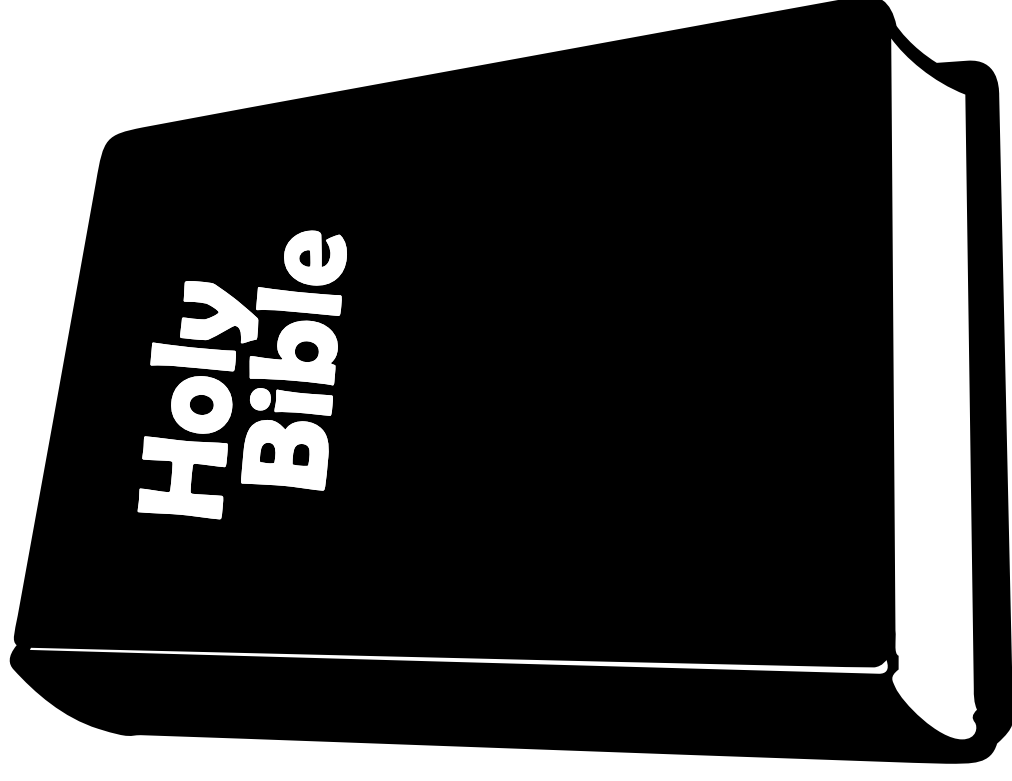
Name badges



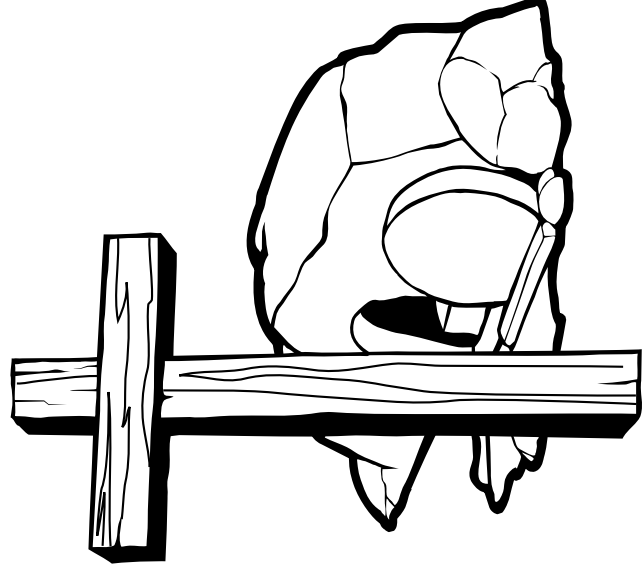
CEF
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**And this
is the
testimony:**



**that Good
has given us
eternal life,
and this life
is in His Son.**



1 John 5:11

The Greatest Story

Memory verse tokens

And this is the testimony:
that God has given us
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and this life
is in His Son.



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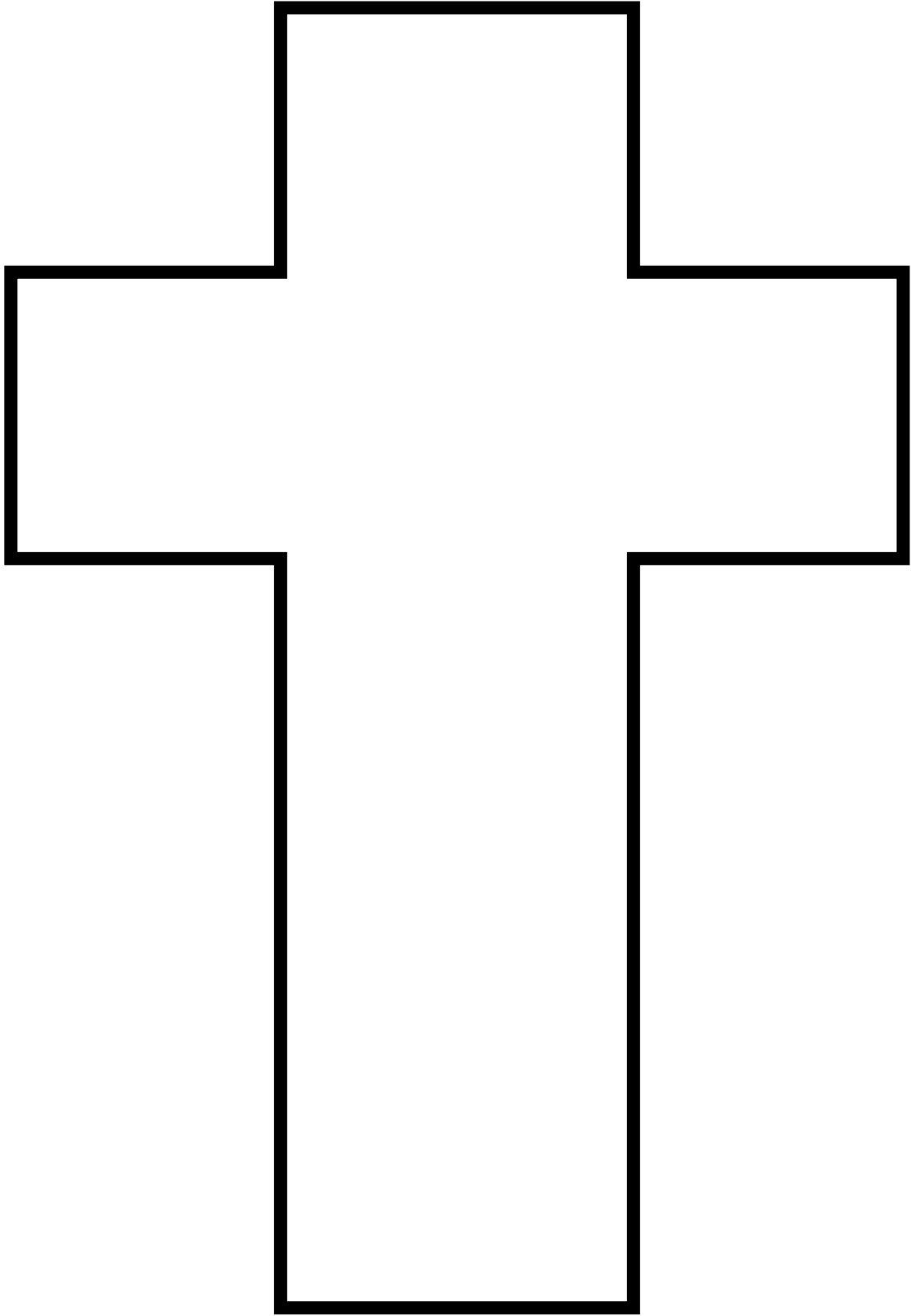


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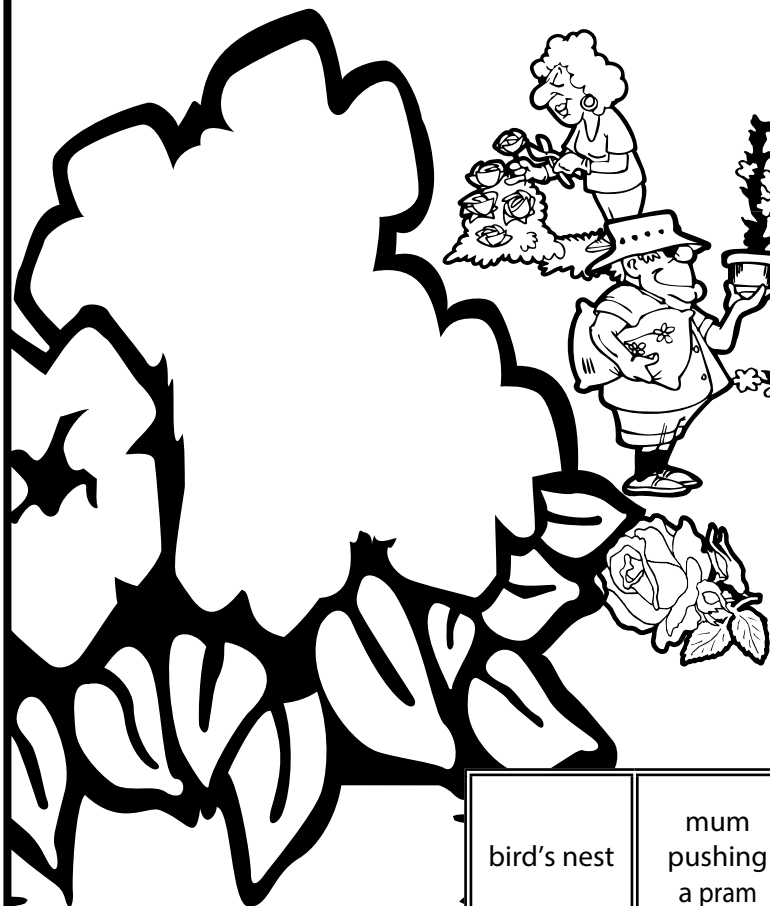
1 John 5:11



Jesus is alive!

I Spy Spring

Spring is on the way—can you see it all around? Try some of these activities to help your family spy out the season!



Thank God together for Spring—
that all the plants and flowers
that seemed dead all winter
now show signs of life.



SPRING-O

Directions for Spring-O (Spring Bingo!)

How to play:

Take a walk together in your garden and neighbourhood.

When you spy any of the signs of spring on the Bingo card, write a "x" on it. See if you can get five in a row.

bird's nest	mum pushing a pram	bee on a flower	butterfly	new leaves on trees
bird singing	someone planting flowers	children riding bikes	tulips in bloom	patch of ground with no snow
thermometer at 18°C or warmer	squirrels playing	FREE	rain clouds in the sky	someone cleaning a garage
dog walking	someone using a watering hose	green grass	crawling bugs	children without jackets
someone washing a car	a baby animal	someone watering flowers	sunshine	water puddle

How to lead a child to Christ

Make sure the child understands about:

God

- Who is God?
- God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
- God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

- What is sin?
- Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
- Speak about specific sins.
- The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
- Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

- Who alone can take away your sin?
- God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
- The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
- He is Lord of all.

Explain how the child can be saved

- Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse. (*John 1:12, John 3:16, John 6:37, Acts 16:31, Romans 6:23 or Romans 10:13.*)
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
- Warn about difficulties.
- Ask, "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait and think about it?"
- Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

- Go back to the Bible verse you used.
- Speak about a changed life.
- Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give the child (later) some advice about the Christian life

- Read and obey your Bible.
- Talk to God, your Heavenly Father.
- Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
- Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
- Meet with other Christians.
- Remember the Lord promises, "I will never leave you" (*Hebrews 13:5*).

How to help a saved child have assurance of salvation

The importance of having assurance of salvation

There are many reasons why a child may lack assurance of his salvation. He may be wondering, "Did I believe enough? Did I pray enough? Was I sincere enough?"

Salvation is a gift from God and is based on what Jesus did, not on what the child did. It is therefore important to help him focus on what God has said and done, and to help him see that both salvation and assurance of salvation are based on the promises given in God's Word, not on feelings (*Romans 10:17*).

Speak about assurance of salvation

- Question the child about his salvation, giving him opportunity to confess Christ to you. If he does not show clarity, go over the steps given for leading a child to Christ.
- Read a Bible verse together. (*1 John 5:12, 1 John 5:13, John 10:29, John 10:28, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:13 or John 1:12.*)
- Help him to see that the person who truly trusts in Christ can **know** that he is saved.
- Remind him that God **always** keeps His promises.
- Ask questions, such as, "Have you repented of your sins? Do you believe that Jesus died to take the punishment for your sins and that He rose again? Have you already trusted Him for salvation?" Encourage him to tell you about when he was saved and help him to see that if he can answer "yes" to these questions he is saved.
- Speak about a changed life. A saved child should display changes in behaviour and attitude, even if the changes happen gradually. It may help the child if he can identify a change which has already happened in his own life.
- Help him to see that Christians do sin and that when he does he should ask God to forgive him. Point out that he does not need to be saved again.

Give the child some advice about the Christian life

- Read and obey your Bible.
- Talk to God, your Heavenly Father.
- Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
- Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
- Meet with other Christians.
- Remember the Lord promises, "I will never leave you" (*Hebrews 13:5*).



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