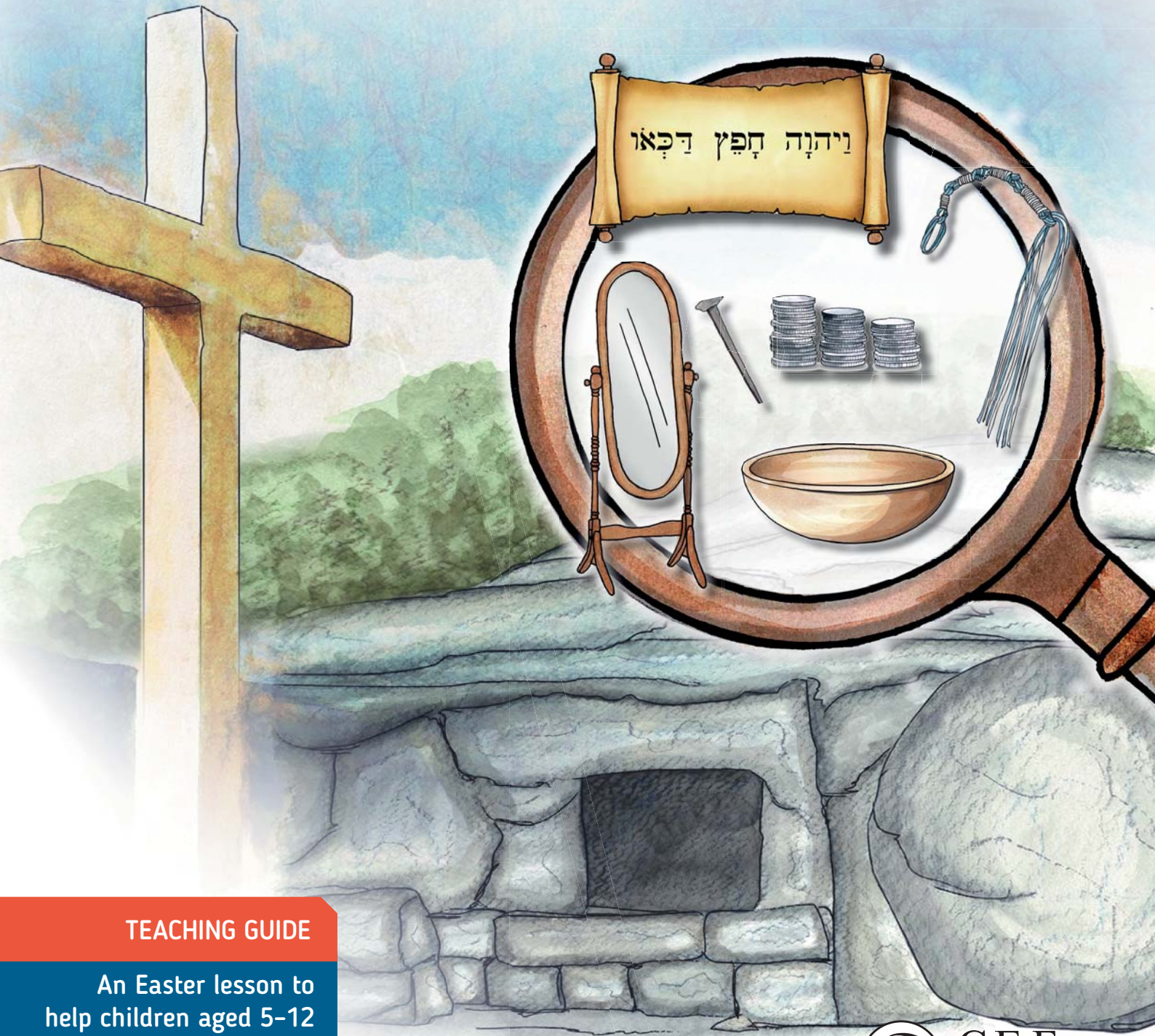


Who Did It?

Teaching guide



TEACHING GUIDE

An Easter lesson to help children aged 5-12 understand God's plan of salvation



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Who Did It?

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Helpers

Be sure to enlist prayer partners and several assistants for your Easter Club. (Be sure to comply with the Child Protection Policy.)

Invitations

Attractive invitations will help build excitement for your Easter Club (*see page 3 of the Resource CD Pack for printable invitations*). Be sure to seek the appropriate parental/guardian consent if a child is attending the club for the first time.

Decorations

You could decorate the room with a detective theme—magnifying glasses, large envelopes marked “top secret” or “confidential”, etc.

Suggested programme

Greet children

Welcome

Warm Up Game—The best detective

Prayer

Memory verse—2 Corinthians 5:21

Song—Choose a suitable song

Lesson—*Who Did It?*

Review game—Egg carton shuffle

Song—Choose a suitable song

Prayer

Craft activity—Stained glass cross

Snack

Activity Pages

Memory verse tokens—Give each child a memory verse token to take home

Greet children

You could make name badges using the template provided (*page 4 of the Resource CD Pack*). Write each child's name on one.

Make the children feel welcome to the Easter Club. Interact with them and spend time getting to know them.

Welcome

Introduce adult helpers and explain the Easter Club schedule.

Warm Up Game

The best detective (*see page 5 of the Resource CD Pack for 'clue sheet' visual*). Before the club begins hide an object in an egg carton and place the carton somewhere in the room/hall. Repeat this with a glasses case. When you are ready to begin, give each child the first 'Clue Sheet' which can be printed from the Resource CD. The clues will help guide the children to find the egg carton and discover the object inside. The person who finds it is 'the best detective'. Play the game again using 'Clue Sheet 2', which will guide the children to the glasses case.

You may play the game several times and develop clues/objects which suit your situation.

Songs

To reinforce the Gospel message choose a couple of songs to sing with the children. For example, 'Have you heard the wonderful news?' available from cefresources.com.

Snacks

Choose suitable snacks. Be aware of food allergies among the children in your group. You could pack the snacks in a paper bag or an envelope with the words “top secret” or “confidential” written on the outside.

Craft

Stained glass cross (see pages 21&22 of the *Resource CD Pack for craft templates*). (Tip: prepare one beforehand as an example for the children. You may make this craft in A4 or A5 size.) For each child you will need:

- Two A4 (or A5) sheets of clear contact paper. (Wax paper and PVA glue will also work, but this is more messy!)
- One cross-shaped frame cut from the templates provided.
- Tissue paper in various colours, cut into small squares.
- Scissors.

Place one sheet of clear contact paper in front of each child and place the cross frame on top. The children work carefully sticking squares, one at a time, inside the frame. They should leave no gaps and may overlap squares. When they have finished, a teacher or helper then places a sheet of contact paper, sticky side down, on top to seal the tissue paper and covering the cross frame. The children then cut around the cross frame.

Take-home items/follow-up

Memory verse tokens—Photocopy the memory verse tokens provided (pages 11-13 of the *Resource CD Pack*).

Gospel booklet—You may wish to give each child a Gospel booklet, such as *Meet the King!* (available from your CEF national office or from cefresources.com).

Activity Pages— (pages 23-26 of the *Resource CD Pack*).

Visual aids and other teaching tools

Lesson—You will need six boxes containing the objects below, each is sealed with strips of paper marked “evidence” (see page 14 of the *Resource CD Pack for 'Evidence' labels*). When the evidence is opened leave it on display—these are your visuals. If you are teaching in a large club, you could use the pictures provided instead (pages 15-20 of the *Resource CD Pack*).

- Box 1: A long tassel.
- Box 2: 30 silver coins—or a few silver coins.
- Box 3: A large bowl. (This may be wrapped if you do not have a box large enough.)
- Box 4: A large nail.
- Box 5: Hebrew writing. (Photocopy the template provided (page 19 of the *Resource CD Pack*).
- Box 6: A mirror.
- If you wish, you and the children who help you may wear gloves so that the evidence is not compromised!
- A helper to be the “thoughtful investigator”. (If you do not have a helper available to help with this role, omit the reference to the “thoughtful investigator” and teach the whole lesson yourself.)

Memory verse—You will need the memory verse visual (pages 6-8 of the *Resource CD Pack*), a white and a dark piece of fabric, a copy of the egg shapes (page 9 of the *Resource CD Pack*) and the picture of an open tomb (page 10 of the *Resource CD Pack*).

Other items—Visualised songs, tracts, devotional books and other materials may be purchased from your CEF national office or from cefresources.com.

Memory verse

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

(Print out the required version of the Memory Verse found on pages 6-8 of the Resource CD Pack.)

Introduction

Let's play opposites! I will say a word and you say a word which means the opposite—eg clean (dirty); crooked (straight); noisy (quiet); open (closed); big (small).

Presentation

Now I am going to read a verse from the Bible and I want you to listen for two words that are opposites. *(Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 from your Bible.)*

Perhaps you didn't get it, so I will show you the words. *(Display memory verse visual and ask for answers.)*

Let's say the verse together as we think about the opposites. *(Repeat the verse with the children.)*

Explanation

(Intersperse the explanation, application and repetition.) The two words are “sin” and “righteousness”. Sin is anything we think, say or do which is against what God says is right. He says, “You shall not steal”—so stealing is sin. He says, “Children, obey your parents”—so disobeying your mum or dad is sin. God says, “Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself”—so when you are selfish it is sin. (Based on Exodus 20:15, Ephesians 6:1 and Matthew 22:39.)

Righteousness is the opposite, so what is it? It is thinking, saying and doing right.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us”—let's work out who this verse is about. “For He [God] made Him who knew no sin [Jesus] to be sin for us.” What does this tell us about the Lord Jesus? *(Allow the children to answer.)* Jesus had no sin, He never once had even one wrong thought! God made Him sin—that means God treated Him as He treats sin. He punished Jesus for our sin. Otherwise nobody—not one of us—could ever be right with God.

“...that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”—Just as God treated Jesus as sin, so He treats everyone who trusts in Jesus as righteous, as

if they are as perfect as Jesus!

I have two pieces of cloth here, one white and one dark. *(Place the dark cloth on one hand.)* This is you and me, we are sinners and deserve God's punishment. *(Place the white cloth on a helper's hand.)* This stands for Jesus who was perfect. God made Jesus to be sin for us. *(Place the dark cloth over the white.)* When a person trusts the Lord Jesus, God then sees that person as if he were as good as Jesus. *(Place white cloth on your hand.)* That is the only way for things to be put right between you and God.

Application

Unsaved: There are just two kinds of people in the world—those who stay as they are, in their sin, and so can never live with God *(show the dark cloth)* and there are those who trust the Lord Jesus to make them right for ever. *(Show the white cloth.)* Which are you?

Perhaps today you really want to be right with God. If you are sorry for your sin, tell God. Thank the Lord Jesus for being made sin for you. Tell Him you want to be right with Him. You will not live a perfect life from now on, but when God looks at you He will see the perfection of Jesus.

Repetition

I'm going to cover part of the visual and we'll all stand when we say that part of the verse. *(Use the egg shape with the letter “E” to cover part of the verse (see page 9 of the Resource CD Pack for the egg shapes). Say the verse together, standing for the hidden part. Use the egg with the letter “a” to cover the next part of the verse, standing for all the hidden parts as you say the verse together. Continue by adding the other eggs with letters—“s”, “t”, “e” and “r”. Then ask what word is written on the eggs. Point out that easter is about Jesus and what He has done so that we can be made right with God.)*

Of course, the Lord Jesus did not stay dead. This is a picture of a tomb or grave **(See page 10 of the Resource CD Pack for tomb visual)** like the one where He was buried. The stone is rolled away so people could go in and see He was alive. I will hide some of the words with this picture and see if you can repeat the verse. *(Do this several times.)*

Lesson

Visual Aids

You will need six boxes containing the objects (clues 1-6) mentioned in the lesson. Each box is sealed with strips of paper marked “evidence” (see page 14 of the Resource CD Pack for 'Evidence' labels). When the evidence is opened leave it on display—these are your visuals. If you are teaching in a large club, you could use the pictures provided instead (pages 15-20 of the Resource CD Pack).

Scripture

Matthew 26:14-16, Matthew 26:47-27:66, Luke 23:47, Matthew 23:5, Isaiah 53:10, 1 Peter 1:19-20, John 10:17-18, Galatians 2:20 and Isaiah 53:6.

Memory verse

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Central truth

No central truth is included but, by answering the “Who did it?” question, the lesson builds up to the fact that the death of Jesus, God’s perfect Son, was part of God’s plan.

Application for unsaved

Believe Jesus died for you and trust Him as your Saviour.

Application for saved

There is no application for the saved child in this lesson.

Today we are going to do some detective work. When there is a robbery, a mugging or a murder, detectives get on to the job to find out who did it. They are the ones who look at the evidence and try to find out the truth. They want to discover what really happened, for things are not always as they seem.

Easter is an event in the Christian calendar when we remember the death of the Lord Jesus Christ

which happened about 2,000 years ago. He was nailed to a cross as if He was a criminal. A Roman officer, who was watching it happen, said, “This was an innocent man” (from Luke 23:47). Jesus was an innocent man. He was more innocent than the best person you know, for He never thought, said or did a bad thing. Yet He was nailed to a cross like a criminal. Who did it? It is our job, detectives, to find out. We need to look at the evidence and think hard. I have a very good and thoughtful investigator to help us—and, believe me, he will make us use our brains! (Introduce the helper who will have this role.)

We have some boxes marked “evidence” and inside are important clues. As well as that we will use an account of what happened, written soon after it happened. It is 100% accurate—it has **no** mistakes—and very useful for detectives. It is the Bible and we will mainly use the part called “Matthew”. Can someone find “Matthew 26” in my Bible (allow time for a child to do this) and we will leave it open there?

Clue 1-Tassel



I need a detective to open box 1. (A child does so and shows the tassel.) What an unusual clue! Any ideas how it helps? Jewish men wore prayer shawls which had tassels on the corners. The Jewish religious leaders had long, showy tassels on their prayer shawls. (Based on Matthew 23:5.) They wanted to show off how much they prayed. But would religious people who prayed so much be against Jesus? Listen to what we read in the Bible.

(Read Matthew 26:59 from your Bible.) “Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death.”

They put Jesus on trial, with themselves as the judges. Do you think that was a fair trial? No! They found Jesus “deserving of death” (Matthew 26:66) and then “they spat in His face and beat Him” (Matthew 26:67). Why were they so against Jesus? When He said He was God’s Son and one

with God the Father they were furious and filled with hatred. They could not believe that Jesus was who He said He was. They did not believe He was God.

(Thoughtful investigator:) You must also remember that there was a limit to what the religious leaders could do. On their own they could neither arrest nor kill Jesus.

(Main teacher:) What do you think, detectives? Did they have a part in the death of Jesus? *(Listen to the children's conclusions and, if you wish, you could have a vote—yes or no.)*

Religious people can be wrong. They are wrong when they do not believe what God says in the Bible.



Clue 2—Thirty silver coins

Now—box 2. *(A child opens the box. If you included 30 coins he should count them as he takes them out of the*

box.) Does anyone know what this clue is about? There are 30 coins here and in the Bible we read about something with that exact number of coins. *(If you only included a few coins you will need to reword this accordingly—“There are some coins here and in the Bible we read about 30 silver coins.”)* Let's read from the Bible.

(Read Matthew 26:14-16.) “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”

Who got the money? How much? Who gave it to him? *(Give time for the children to answer.)* Oh, this is good evidence! Judas was paid the money so that he would tell Jesus' enemies where to find Him. He even had arranged a special code so they would know exactly who to arrest—it would be the one he kissed. Judas had been with Jesus for three years. He saw how Jesus lived a perfect life every day. He was one of Jesus' 12 disciples, yet he betrayed his master. He loved money more than he loved Jesus.

(Thoughtful investigator:) Afterwards he felt so bad

about what he did that he tried to give back the money to the religious leaders. They refused to take it, so Judas threw it away.

(Main teacher:) Detectives, what do you think? By doing that did he throw away his guilt?

Judas and the religious leaders could not sentence the Lord Jesus to death—they were not the government. It was the Romans who ruled the country.



Clue 3—Basin

Let's open our next piece of evidence. *(A child opens box 3.)* A basin! Now what could that mean? I'm

going to read some words from the Bible and they will help us to work it out—remember the Bible is the most reliable evidence of all.

(Read Matthew 27:11,22-24.) “Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ Jesus said to him, ‘It is as you say.’ ... Pilate said to them, ‘What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said to him, ‘Let Him be crucified!’ Then the governor said, ‘Why, what evil has He done?’ But they cried out all the more, saying, ‘Let Him be crucified!’ When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.’”

(Ask the following questions and take time to discuss the answers.)

- Who was the governor? *(Pontius Pilate.)*
- What did he find Jesus guilty of? *(Nothing! Point out that the Lord Jesus had never, ever done anything wrong. He is unlike us, for we all do wrong—we think wrong thoughts, we do bad things because we are sinners. Jesus was not a sinner.)*
- Why did he hand Jesus over to be killed? *(The Jews started a riot, demanding Jesus be put to death.)*
- Why is the basin such a good clue? *(Pilate washed his hands, saying he was innocent of Jesus' death.)*
- Who put the Lord Jesus to death? *(Pilate handed Him over. Even though he washed his hands and said he was innocent, he was not innocent. He was too scared to do the right thing.)*

(Thoughtful investigator:) Think of the pressure on Pilate. If he had freed Jesus there would have been

big trouble in Jerusalem. The emperor would have been very unhappy about that; Pilate could have lost his job.

(Main teacher:) So, detectives, look at the evidence. Did Pilate have a part in the death of the Lord Jesus? (Children discuss and vote as before.)



Clue 4-Nail

Who would like to open the next piece of evidence? (Choose a volunteer to open box 4.) What have we here? It is an old nail. What do nails have to do with the death of the Lord Jesus? (It may be that some children will know.) Let's check it out in the Bible where we find the most reliable evidence. Listen carefully for what the Roman soldiers did.

(Read Matthew 27:29-31.) "When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified."

(Discuss with the children what the Roman soldiers did, pointing out that they used nails to crucify Him.)

Oh yes! There is plenty of evidence that Roman soldiers killed Jesus.

(Thoughtful investigator:) But they were only acting on orders.

(Main teacher:) The officer in charge of the soldiers, a Roman centurion, supervised his men and watched everything that happened. He saw how Jesus was so unlike any other person he had seen nailed to a cross. There was no cursing or swearing. Jesus accepted everything that happened to Him. The centurion felt the earthquake that happened when Jesus died. In Matthew 27 we read what he thought.

(Read Matthew 27:54.) "So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"

He too had looked at evidence and reached the

right conclusion. That is who the Lord Jesus Christ is—the Son of God. But did this Roman officer and his men have a part in the death of Jesus? Detectives, what do you think? (Briefly discuss and vote.)



Clue 5-Hebrew writing

(Thoughtful investigator:)

Good detectives always search for more evidence,

because often solving a case is not as simple as it seems. There are questions in my mind. Couldn't Someone as powerful as Jesus, the Son of God, have escaped? God the Father loved His one and only Son, so why did He not stop all this cruelty?

(Main teacher:) Perhaps the next box of evidence can help us. (A child opens box 5.) This is very strange. Is there any detective here who knows what language this is? (A leader or helper says, "It is Hebrew.") That is the language in which the Old Testament was written. So perhaps this is something from the Old Testament. (The same leader/helper says, "It was written about 700 years before Jesus came to Earth. It is from Isaiah 53:10—'It pleased the Lord to bruise Him.'")

God loved His one and only Son—He even said so in a loud voice when the Lord Jesus was baptised (Matthew 3:16-17). God also loved the people Jesus would save; the only way for their sins to be forgiven was to punish Jesus for all their sins. When the Lord Jesus was nailed to the cross the very worst pain He suffered was God's punishment for sin. Have you ever thought how much God loves you? And that you were in His thoughts as He punished His dear Son for your sin?

Yes, the religious leaders, Judas, Pilate, the Roman soldiers all had a part in the death of the Lord Jesus—but they could not have done anything if it had not been God's plan. The Bible tells us that this plan was in place even before God created the world! (Based on 1 Peter 1:19-20.)

Jesus agreed with His Father's plan. He said that He had the power to give His life and to come back to life. (Based on John 10:17-18.) So, detectives, it is clear that the death of Jesus was God's plan.

Detectives, I don't think we need to vote on this for God has given evidence that is very plain. Has anyone any questions?

Clue 6–Mirror



We have one last piece of evidence to examine. (*Choose a child to open box 6, then you examine the mirror carefully and say, “All I can see is myself.” Ask a few children to look and see what they see then look again at yourself in the mirror and comment that you just see yourself.*) But, of course, that is the clue! I had something to do with the death of Jesus. He was dying for **my** sin—my selfishness, my bad temper, my lies, my disobedience,

my ugly words. If there had been no sin in the world Jesus Christ would not have died. If He had not been without sin—sinless—He could not have taken the place of others. He died for our sin. Nobody else could or would do that. Nobody else loved us so much. Do you understand and believe that the Son of God loved you and gave Himself for you? (Based on Galatians 2:20.)

(*Thoughtful investigator:*) It is not only about looking into a mirror—it is about looking into your life. So often you and I choose to go our own way rather than God’s. We know it is wrong to be selfish, to tell lies, to cheat or pout. Yet we do those things very often. God says we have all turned to our own way (Isaiah 53:6).

Application for unsaved:

(*Main teacher:*) The Lord Jesus Christ died to bring people back to God. When you truly believe that Jesus the Son of God died for your sin, you trust Him to forgive you and to be your Lord and Saviour.

We have been busy detectives today! Can you remember what was in each box? (*Allow time for a brief review.*)

Application for unsaved:

Won’t you be more than a detective? You could become a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ if you understand and believe that He died for your sin. Thank Him for dying for you because He loved you. Tell Him you want to belong to Him. Then God will no longer see your sin but, as we learned in our Bible verse, you will be made “the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Review game

You will need an egg carton for six eggs and 6 small buttons or jelly beans. Write numbers e.g 10, 50, 100, 200, 500 on the inside of the carton—one number on each of the spaces where an egg would be placed. If you find it difficult to write on the inside of the egg carton, you could write the numbers on pieces of paper and glue them in place. Put the buttons or jelly beans in the egg carton.

When a child answers correctly he gently shakes the egg carton and opens it. Wherever a button or bean lands he gets the total of the corresponding points for his team (if two buttons or more land in the same space simply add these points together). The team with the highest score at the end of the review time wins.

Review questions

1. Where—as well as in the boxes—did we get evidence about the death of Jesus? (In the Bible.)
2. Why did a tassel remind us of the religious leaders? (They wore prayer shawls with tassels.)
3. Why were the religious leaders so against Jesus? (They refused to believe Him when He said He was God.)
4. How much money did Judas get for leading Jesus’ enemies to Him? (Thirty pieces of silver.)
5. Who was Pontius Pilate? (The governor who sentenced Jesus to death.)
6. Who said, “Surely this was the Son of God”? (A Roman centurion/officer.)
7. How do we know that God planned the death of His Son? (We read it in the Bible.)
8. For what did God punish His Son? (Our sin.)
9. Why didn’t Jesus escape? (He agreed with God’s plan and He loved sinners.)
10. What are the two opposites in 2 Corinthians 5:21? (Sin and righteousness.)

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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