



Our King's Sacrifice and Victory

SUPPLIES Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs*
(Optional: guitar or music to sing along with)
- Basket for offering*

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons*
(Found in the introduction section.)

*These items will be needed every week.

LEADER'S Review

Have you ever wondered why the saddest, bleakest day in human history is called Good Friday? What was good in Jesus's being tried, beaten and crucified? Even nature mourned as the sky turned dark and the earth quaked. By all indications, the man who claimed and many believed to be the Messiah was dead, and their hope was lost. The enemy had won.

Imagine how broken-hearted Jesus's disciples must have been as they now feared for their own lives and hid together behind locked doors.

But God wasn't defeated. We know that because we get to see the Crucifixion and Resurrection from this side of history. We know that Friday long ago to be "good" because we know God's people could only receive redemption by the sacrifice of God's perfect Lamb, Jesus Christ. We know the veil in the Temple was torn in two giving God's people access to Him forever. And we know what happened on Sunday!

Now imagine the amazement and profound joy those who had mourned so deeply felt when the risen Christ stood before them in the garden outside the tomb, in the house in Emmaus, and in the locked room on that Sunday, Resurrection Sunday.

Today, it is our responsibility and privilege to convey to our children the array of emotions felt by the disciples those three holy days. Those are the emotions of believers still. We acknowledge the depth of our sin with deep mourning and thanksgiving for Christ's sacrifice. We also rejoice with adoration and expectation for Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life with Him where there is no more sorrow or regret. As you read and discuss the scripture texts with the children, lead them in both mourning their part in Jesus's crucifixion and in celebrating their hope in the Lord's resurrection and His promise of eternal life.

Invite students to recite the following verse with you. (1 minute)

Sing worship songs with the children. (5 minutes)

- Sing the Doxology before passing around the offering basket. (2 minutes)***

Lead the children in confessing their faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed. (3 minutes)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.





Reading of the Word

Read scripture. (3-5 minutes)

Luke 23:33-53

³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” ⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” ⁴⁸And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things. ⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.

Luke 24:1-9, 36-42

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

Prayer

Have a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus’s sacrifice to save us. (1-2 minutes)

Dear Jesus, to be honest, it’s hard to understand why You would want to leave the glories of heaven to live on earth, and not even in a palace on earth, but in a carpenter’s home in a village called Nazareth. It’s even harder to understand why You would want to die a horrible death on a cross so our sins would be forgiven, but we thank You for coming. Thank You for teaching us about God and how to live, and most of all, thank You for taking our punishment for sin and dying on the cross and winning the victory over death so we may live with You forever. Thank You, King Jesus! Amen.

Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5–8 minutes for lesson; 7–15 minutes for activity)

Last week we talked about things Jesus did and said on the night before He died on the cross. Let’s see what you remember.

Review Questions:

- What very unusual thing did King Jesus do for His disciples during their last supper together? *He washed their dirty, stinky feet.*
- Did He wash every disciple’s feet? *Yes, even the feet of Judas, the man who would betray Him*
- Why did He do such a thing? *To give them (and us) an example: to be servants*
- After Judas left, what new commandment did Jesus give His disciples? *To love one another*
- Why does Jesus want His disciples to love one another? *So that people who don’t know Jesus can see His love in the actions of His disciples*
- Is it easy to be a servant of others and to love one another? *No!*
- What has Jesus done to help us? *He’s sent the Helper, His Holy Spirit, and Jesus Himself is always praying for us.*

During our lesson today, we are going to talk about the names of three special days. The first one is Maundy Thursday. Say that with me. Maundy Thursday. The night before Jesus died is often called Maundy Thursday. We know it was a Thursday because the Bible tells us



(Hearing the Word—Continued)

Jesus died just before the Jewish Sabbath began, and the Jewish Sabbath has always started on Friday evening. “Maundy” comes from a Latin word. Latin was the language of the Roman Empire which ruled in Israel during the time of Jesus. We believe the original Latin word meant “commandment.” And remember, on that Thursday Jesus gave us the new commandment: to love one another.

We’ll talk about the next special day in a minute, but first let me ask you a question about something else. What do bullies do? ***(Give the children a minute or two to give answers before you continue.)*** That’s right. Bullies are mean and do mean things. They tell lies about others. They make fun of others. They hurt feelings, and sometimes, they physically hurt people. We don’t want to be around bullies, and we don’t want to be bullies, because what did Jesus command? Love one another. Part of the story today is about when Jesus was bullied.

After Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas led soldiers to the garden to arrest Jesus. Had Jesus done something wrong? No. Then why was He arrested? ***(See if the children can answer, and then proceed.)*** Jesus was arrested because the leaders didn’t like what He taught about God and that He claimed to be the Messiah who would save God’s people. They were afraid too many people were following Him, and they liked for people to follow them. They didn’t want to lose their popularity to Jesus.

So, they arrested Him and put Him on trial. Just like the bullies we described earlier, they told lies about Jesus. They made fun of Jesus, and they hit Jesus. That all happened during the late night of Maundy Thursday and the early morning hours of the day we call Good Friday, the second special day in our lesson.

After the Jewish leaders lied, made fun of, and beat Jesus, they wanted to kill Him, so they took Him to the Roman governor and demanded Jesus be crucified. The big word “crucifixion” was used when people were hung on a cross to die; it was the worst punishment the Roman Empire had for criminals. After they whipped a prisoner, they then took the prisoner outside the city. There they stretched him out ***(Stretch out your arms.)*** and with giant nails hammered his wrists into a wooden beam. It was very painful. Then they lifted that beam with the prisoner attached onto a tall wooden stake and hammered the prisoner’s feet into the stake so he could not move. The prisoner had to hang there for hours and even days until he was dead. It was horrible—even for those who were criminals. And that’s what happened to God’s Son, our King Jesus, on the day we call Good Friday. It was about noontime when Jesus’s bruised and beaten body was raised onto the cross. The bullies stood below and made fun of Him, telling Him if He was King of the Jews to save Himself. One of the criminals crucified next to Jesus made fun of Him too, but the other criminal confessed his sins and asked Jesus to remember him in heaven. Even in His pain, Jesus promised the man salvation.

Jesus hung on the cross from about noon until three o’clock in the afternoon. All that time the sky was dark like night. Is it usually dark in the early afternoon? No, even the sun in the sky was sad that Jesus was suffering on the cross. Then about three o’clock Jesus cried out to God the Father, and He died. There was an earthquake, and all the earth seemed to mourn.

So, why would we call that horrible day good when the sky turned black and the earth quaked and the only sinless Person who has ever lived was killed in such a cruel way? It certainly didn’t

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

seem good to the disciples who had followed Him. They were heart-broken, their hope was gone, and they were afraid for their lives. They had forgotten what Jesus had told them for three years and even as they ate supper the night before.

We call the day Good Friday, because Jesus fulfilled His good purpose. It's good news that no sacrifice for sin is ever needed again. King Jesus paid the price for our sins Himself. God proved the sacrifice was accepted by tearing the great, tall curtain that hung in the Temple to represent man's separation from God. When Jesus died, God Himself tore that curtain from the top to show that man now had access to Him. We can have a personal relationship with the God of the universe, can call Him "Father," talk to Him about how we feel, what we need, and even what we want because Jesus died for those who love and follow Him. That's very good, isn't it? But there's one more special day.

What happened on the third day after Jesus died? *(Wait for answers.)* He rose from the dead! When Mary Magdalene and her two friends went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried, the enormous rock in front of it had been rolled away. Jesus was gone, and two angels stood there. What did they tell the women? He has risen. Jesus is alive! They could hardly believe their ears. What wonderful news! They ran to tell Jesus's disciples the good news. Meanwhile, Jesus appeared to at least two other followers as they traveled from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. When they finally realized they had been talking to the risen Lord, they too ran to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive.

Now, the disciples had been hiding in fear of their being arrested, tortured, and even killed. They were still hiding behind locked doors. So, did they believe it when Mary Magdalene and the others told them Jesus was alive? No! They were still scared. Then Jesus Himself appeared in the locked room with His disciples and followers. Was that enough to convince the disciples? No! They still couldn't believe it. This was too good to be true, they thought. So, Jesus encouraged them to touch Him and to watch Him eat. Ghosts don't have skin and bones. Ghosts can't eat food. He really was alive! Then what did those disciples do? They worshiped Him. King Jesus had triumphed over death, and because He rose from the dead and still lives, His followers have the promise of eternal life with God. When we die, we will go to heaven and live in God's presence forever. So, what do we call that third day? The Best Day There Ever Was on Earth? No, most people call it Easter Sunday, but I like to call it Resurrection Sunday, because "resurrection" means "to rise from the dead," and that's exactly what Jesus did. The Best Day Ever is still to come when Jesus returns forever.

Let's review. What are the names of the three special days in our lesson? Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. Why is it called Maundy Thursday? *(Because Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another)* Why is it called Good Friday? *(Because Jesus died for our sins)* His sacrifice covers our sins so we can be with God. And why is it called Resurrection Sunday? *(Because Jesus rose from the dead and is alive)*

That's right, and ever since Jesus rose, His followers have greeted each other on Resurrection Sunday by one person saying, "He is risen!" and the other person responding, "He is risen indeed!" Let's try that together. I say, "He is risen!" And you say, . . . "He is risen indeed!"

(Practice this greeting two or three more times. Then use it with each child later as they leave to go home.)



ACTIVITY #1: Divide the students into three groups, preferably with a teacher for each group. Have one group choose an event from Maundy Thursday to act out (e.g., washing the disciples' feet). Have a second group act out an event from Good Friday (e.g., people standing at the cross with half of them mocking Jesus and the other half mourning). Have the third group act out an event from Resurrection Sunday (e.g., the women and angels at the empty tomb). Let them have a few minutes to practice and then have each group perform their scene for the other two groups.

ACTIVITY #2: This is a variation on "red light, green light." Remind the children of the drastically different emotions the disciples felt during that holy weekend. On Friday, they were heart-broken, sad, without hope, and scared. On Sunday (night), they were amazed, joyous, and excited. When you call out "Friday!" the children are to act like the disciples felt on Friday. When you call out "Sunday!" they act like the disciples felt once they knew for themselves Jesus was alive. Play this for several rounds, and then end the game by calling out, "He is risen!" and let the children respond, "He is risen indeed!"

Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph.3:20–21).

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