**TODDLER TIME**

**April 2, 2023**

**THE CRUCIFIXION**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Showed His Love by Dying for Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 27

**GOD’S BIG STORY:** Jesus is crucified on a cross to save all people from their sins, allowing everyone to have a personal relationship with God.

**ACTIVITY: Love Sensory Bag**

**ACTIVITY: Showing Love to Others**

**God’s Big Story**

**The Crucifixion** Script

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Love Sensory Bag**

**SUPPLIES:** resealable, plastic bags (gallon size, 1 per kid), clear hair gel (1 cup per kid), heart and cross-shaped plastic beads, glitter (optional), clear packing tape

Before you begin, create sensory bags. Add about a cup of clear hair gel and 10–15 heart-shaped plastic beads. Close the bag across the top and seal with clear packing tape.

Encourage the kids to use their fingers to push the beads around the bag. As the kids explore and play with the sensory bags, tell them that Jesus loves them so much.

**Leader Tip:** Add glitter to the sensory bag for an added element of visual stimulation.

You’re playing with sensory bags that remind us of love! Who loves you? Today, we’re talking about how Jesus showed us love in a big way! Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves me!

**Activity: Showing Love to Others**

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Showing Love Pictures

In God’s big story today, we’ll see how Jesus showed His love for us. Let’s take a look at a few ways we or our family and friends might show love and get curious!

Display the Showing Love Pictures. Ask the kids what is in each picture. Ask if they have ever seen anything like what’s in the pictures.

The kids will see:

* Helping a hurt friend
* Hugs or High Fives
* Giving a gift
* Reading a book to someone
* Playing with someone
* Cooking a meal for someone
* Tucking in a child at night
* Praying with someone

After you’ve looked through all the pictures and discussed them, tell the kids, **“Jesus showed His love by dying on the cross for us.”**

Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS SHOWED HIS LOVE BY DYING FOR US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**JESUS SHOWED—***Point up.*

**HIS LOVE—***Hands over heart.*

**BY DYING—***Hold arms out like on the cross.*

**FOR US.—***Point to yourself.*

**God’s Big Story**

**God’s big story today is a story from the Bible about Jesus and His love.** Encourage the kids to say “Jesus.” **Let’s find out from the Bible how Jesus showed His love to us!**

Show the kids the God’s Big Story Video or, read the story from the Bible, or use the Script provided.

**The Crucifixion** Script

**We’ve all done things we shouldn’t do—this is called sin. Because of that, we need to be rescued and forgiven. God sent Jesus to die for our sin, even though Jesus didn’t do anything wrong! God had a great plan to save us all. That’s happy. Can you show me a happy face?** Pause for responses. It’s OK if kids don’t know how to respond or feel at this point.

**After Jesus had a meal with his disciples, Judas the disciple and Jesus’ friend, made a bad choice. He led the religious leaders to Jesus, and they arrested Him. That’s sad. Show me a sad face.** Pause for responses. It’s OK if the kids don’t know how to respond or feel.

Jesus was put on trial, which means a judge tried to figure out what He had done wrong, but they couldn’t find anything He had done wrong. That didn’t matter, because the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, handed Jesus over to be punished by dying on a cross. That makes me feel sad.

**Show me another sad face.** Pauses for responses. It’s OK if the kids don’t grasp the emotions involved. **Jesus knew the only way people could be forgiven of their sins and be with God was for Him to die. Jesus loved you and me and all people so much He died so that we can be with God forever.**

**That’s an amazing love! You can clap and cheer to say, “Thank You, God!”** Invite children to respond.

This isn’t the end of this story! We’ll hear more next week about the amazing love and power of Jesus!

**Blessing and Prayer**

Let’s pray and talk to God to tell Him “Thank You” for Jesus.

God, thank You for loving us and sending Jesus. Thank You for forgiving us of our sins. Please help us to live as new creations. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Blessing: Because of Jesus, your sins are forgiven, and you can be a friend with God! May you always remember that Jesus loves you, and nothing can change that! Jesus showed His love by dying for you!