

2-4

Bible Story: SUN STOPS SHINING

Story Location: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19

Memory Verse: "Jesus cried in a loud voice, 'It is FINISHED' and He gave up His last breath." John 19:30

Pre-Class Prep: Read the following "Story Summation"

- This week we are learning about Jesus' death on the cross.
- All 4 gospel accounts describe Jesus being mocked and severely beaten on His way to Calvary.
- In an effort to humiliate Him, the Roman soldiers twisted thorns into a crown and placed it on Jesus' head. And they made a sign that said "King of the Jews."
- Roman crucifixion wasn't a punishment that Jews should have been subject to, but Jesus, the ONLY SON of GOD walked up the hill with the large wooden beams on His back, just as Isaac, the only son of Abraham, walked up a hill many years before with the wood for sacrifice on *his* back.
- Jesus was treated as a criminal- though He never committed any sins or crimes.
- They nailed His hands/wrists, and feet to the cross.
- One criminal next to Him even mocked Him, saying "You've rescued others but You can't rescue Yourself?"
- But the nails, the mocking, the cross, the beating, the crown of thorns- they were all apart of the greatest RESCUE of all time.
- Jesus was fully God and had the power to leave the cross, the mockery, the beatings, all the pain and suffering could have been gone in an instant.
- Jesus endured the cross BECAUSE HE WANTED TO. Jesus wanted to rescue us from the punishment and death that WE DESERVED. And so He willing, freely, gave up His life to rescue you and I.

Weekly BIG IDEA: JESUS GAVE UP HIS LIFE TO RESCUE ME

9:30/11:00a: greet kids, give them play time on carpet

9:40/11:10a:

SAY: We are just a few weeks away from Easter! Today we are going to learn about the first of the two most important bible stories we'll ever learn!

Watch: Watch SUN STOPS SHINING

9:45/11:15: Bible story discussion- Ask as many as you choose too, and if there is something else you think they picked up on you may add it to the discussion.

- 1- What were the soldiers teasing Jesus about? (Being the king of the Jews)
- 2- What was the crown they gave Him made of? (Thorns)
- 3- What are some of the things they did to Jesus? (Hit Him, spit on Him, whipped Him, mocked Him)
- 4- What did the sign say that the soldiers put above His head? (Our King)
- 5- What did they nail Jesus on? (A big wooden cross)
- 6- Even when they were nailing Him to the cross, what did Jesus pray? (Father forgive them for what they are doing to me)
- 7- When Jesus took our sin, what did God have to do to Jesus (turn His back on Him, punish Him)

SAY: The bible says that Jesus had the power to leave the cross. No one forced Jesus to die- He gave up His life freely, so that He could take the punishment for OUR sins. Jesus loves us so much that He didn't want us to get punished for our sins. So He went to the cross to get our punishment. That's how He rescued us. Let's think about it like this: This is God (hold up GOD PILLOW) This is US (hold up US PILLOW) Before we sinned, we were this close together. (put the pillows next to each other on the ground.) I can get from me to God so easy because we aren't separated. But uh oh, I make some mistakes and I even sin. And now, I am waaaaaaaay over here. (Move pillows apart, the length of the cross) I want to come

back to God, but I'm so far away. Look! (Try to jump close enough but fall short)
Guys, we are separated from God and we need to be rescued! So Jesus comes and dies on the cross, (lay down the cross which is the perfect bridge) AND NOW- look!!!! (Walk across the cross back to God)

We were separated from God. We couldn't get to God, so God came to us! Jesus on the cross, made a bridge for us to come back to God. You try it- use the cross to get back to God!! (Help walk all the kids back to God)

Guys isn't it so wonderful that Jesus rescued us? Jesus gave up His life to rescue me!!

Weekly BIG IDEA: JESUS GAVE UP HIS LIFE TO RESCUE ME

Memory Verse REVIEW: "Jesus cried in a loud voice, 'It is FINISHED' and He gave up His last breath." John 19:30

10:05/11:40: Art activity Group 1/Free Play Time Group 2

10:20/11:55: Art activity Group 2/Free Play Time Group 1

5-7

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- But the nails, the mocking, the cross, the beating, the crown of thorns- they were all apart of the greatest RESCUE of all time.
- Jesus was fully God and had the power to leave the cross, the mockery, the beatings, all the pain and suffering could have been gone in an instant.
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Weekly BIG IDEA: JESUS GAVE UP HIS LIFE TO RESCUE ME

9:30/11:00a: greet kids, give them play time on carpet

9:45/11:15a:

SAY: We are just a few weeks away from Easter! Today we are going to learn about the first of the two most important bible stories we'll ever learn- SO we won't have a game today but we will do something special after the story is over.

Watch: Watch SUN STOPS SHINING

9:50/11:20: Bible story discussion- Ask as many as you choose too, and if there is something else you think they picked up on you may add it to the discussion.

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- 7- When Jesus took our sin, what did God have to do to Jesus (turn His back on Him, punish Him)

SAY: The bible says that Jesus had the power to leave the cross. No one forced Jesus to die- He gave up His life freely, so that He could take the punishment for OUR sins. Have you guys ever really thought ABOUT why? Why is sin such a big deal to God? The bible says in Romans 3:23 that we all fall short of the standard God has created because of His perfection and holiness. God is a holy, clean, pure, and perfect God. Like this Vase of pure and clean Water. **HOLD UP VASE** Even when we do the teeniest, little bitty sins, we are separated from God because of His

perfection and holiness. When we sin, our soul, the part of us that thinks and feels and loves- that part dies because of sin. It's the consequences of our sin. Let's look at this cup of pure water.

(WATER in a clear, plastic cup says "me" BLEACH in clear cup says "JESUS" IODINE in a clear cup says "sin"

SAY : Imagine this is your soul. **HOLD UP CUP AND SHOW PERFECT WATER** And this vase is God and Heaven **HOLD UP VASE** . When we sin, even the littlest bit- we stop being holy and perfect like God. I lie, I cheat, I have hatred in my heart, I steal, I roll my eyes at my mom when she says to take out the garbage. **DROP IN IODINE FROM 'SIN' CUP**

Look at what happens to us when we sin- our holiness is compromised. We're not clean and pure and holy, are we? And if I poured this filthy cup of water into God, in Heaven- what would happen? (Try to redirect them if their answers get off track)

SAY : God knew that we needed to be rescued and clean from our sin. The last few weeks we have learned that Jesus was always obedient to God, and never sinned. And We learned that Jesus makes us clean. Look at perfect and holy Jesus. **HOLD UP JESUS CUP** Perfect and pure like God. And since HE HAD never sinned- He took all our sin, and gave us HIS perfection. **DROP IN BLEACH FROM 'JESUS' CUP**

He completely washes us clean and takes all of our sin on Him. Jesus gave up His life to rescue us!

Weekly BIG IDEA : JESUS GAVE UP HIS LIFE TO RESCUE ME

Memory Verse REVIEW: "Jesus cried in a loud voice, 'It is FINISHED' and He gave up His last breath." John 19:30

10:05/11:40: Art activity Group 1/Free Play Time Group 2

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8-11

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9:30/11:00a: greet kids, give them play time with the board games.

9:40/11:10: Bible story introduction

SAY: We are just a few weeks away from Easter! Today we are going to learn about the first of the two most important bible stories we'll ever learn- SO we won't have a game today but we will do something special after the story is over.

SAY: This week's story comes from Matthew 27, Luke 23, Mark 15, or John 19, so if you want to follow along in your own bibles you can, but we're going to watch it now.

9:45/11:15: Watch SUN STOPS SHINING

9:50/11:20: Bible story discussion- Ask as many as you choose, and if there is something else you think they picked up on you may add it to the discussion.

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- 4- What did the sign say that the soldiers put above His head? (Our King)
- 5- What did they nail Jesus on? (A big wooden cross)
- 6- What kind of people were put on a cross? (The worst criminals)
- 7- Even when they were nailing Him to the cross, what did Jesus pray? (Father forgive them for what they are doing to me)
- 8- People teased Jesus that He couldn't rescue Himself from the cross. Do you think Jesus could have gotten off the cross if He had wanted to get off?
- 9- When Jesus took our sin, what did God have to do to Jesus (turn His back on Him, punish Him)
- 10- Why do you think Jesus gave up His life to rescue us?

SAY: The bible says that Jesus had the power to leave the cross. No one forced Jesus to die- He gave up His life freely, so that He could take the punishment for OUR sins. Have you guys ever really thought ABOUT why? Why is sin such a big deal to God? The bible says in Romans 3:23 that we all fall short of the standard God has created because of His perfection and holiness. God is a holy, clean, pure, and perfect God. Like this Vase of pure and clean Water. **HOLD UP VASE** Even when we do the teeniest, little bitty sins, we are separated from God because of His perfection and holiness. When we sin, our soul, the part of us that thinks and feels and loves- that part dies because of sin. It's the consequences of our sin. Let's look at this cup of pure water.

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