

2-3 Year Olds

Bible Story: "Jesus Died for Us," pp. 376-383

Topic: Jesus Died on the Cross

Memory Verse: "Christ died and rose again!" 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4

Group Activity: 1) **Easter Color Stones:** Hide colored stones; have children find them all and then sit in circle and explain what each color means

2) **Jesus Has Risen!** Children sit squatting in a circle. Leader walks around singing "Jesus has Risen!" When the Leader touches a child, he/she jumps up and shouts "He is Alive!"

** Learn hand motions to the bible verse (illustrative poster provided)

Songs: "There was a Man from Galilee" pg. 37; "Hallelujah" pg. 40;

"Easter Sunday" pg. 38; "Where Is Jesus?" pg. 38; "Clap Your Hands" pg. 38

Special Snack Idea : NONE

Art: White construction paper 1-2 marbles or golf balls Box lid or soft drink box 2 colors of paint Paint smocks	Marble painting: Put paper in bottom of box. Squeeze a few drops of paint on the paper and roll marble around by tilting box
Blocks: Poster board tomb 3 "stones" (newspaper wadded up with masking tape rolled around it)	Children try to toss or roll a stone onto the poster board tomb opening
Home living: Plastic eggs filled with 2 starburst candies and bible verse Easter/Christian stickers	Children decorate eggs using stickers (Egg = empty tomb; Jesus is Alive!)
Puzzles/Games: 1. Poster board Cross puzzle 2. Scene of 3 crosses puzzles 3. Happy/Sad/Angry Sorting game 4. Resurrection Wheel 5. Roll away the Stone game	Leader helps children play with puzzles and games
Nature/Science: Play dough Rollers Religious cookie cutter shapes	Children cut out shapes in the play dough
Books: Assorted Easter Books	Teacher and children read the story books

PICK UP: POSTER BOARD AND BOX FOR TOMB

Jesus Died for Us

Children's Discovery Bible
pp. 376-379

The Bible tells us Jesus, the only son of God, came to tell others about His Father. But not everyone wanted to hear what He had to say. Some people even hated Jesus. They had Him arrested and brought before Pilate, the governor. "Are You a king?" Pilate asked Jesus.

Jesus said, "Yes, what you say is true."

This made Jesus' enemies very angry. They told lies and said bad things about Him, but Jesus was quiet. Pilate knew Jesus had done nothing wrong. Pilate said to the people, "This is a special holiday. I can let one prisoner out of jail. Shall I let Jesus go? Or shall I let Barabbas go?" Barabbas was a killer.

"Let Barabbas go! Kill Jesus!" the people yelled. "What has Jesus done?" asked Pilate. The people just yelled louder, "Kill Jesus! Put Him on a cross!" Pilate wasn't happy about what the people wanted, but he had his soldiers take Jesus away. They nailed Jesus to a wooden cross. The people stood around and watched and laughed. "Come down if You are so great," the people yelled.

Jesus could have come down. He could have called an angel army to help, but He stayed on the cross until He died. That was what God, His Father, had asked Him to do. God asked Jesus to die and take the punishment for everyone's sins. Because Jesus died on the cross, God promises to forgive people's sins and let them be in His special family.

When Jesus died on the cross, a soldier said, "Jesus really was the Son of God!"

Bible story from Mark 15: 1-39; I Corinthians 15:3