

STORY 73

Lost and Found

LUKE 15

September 2, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Read Luke 15.
- Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.
- Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan to answer the lawyer's questions. And while the lawyer may have gotten an answer to his big question about living forever, there were still many more people with many more questions. There were also more people trying to catch Jesus doing something wrong. People who didn't like what Jesus was saying and doing. Jesus didn't like that they grumbled about God's grace or about his spending time with people who were lost. And so Jesus told more stories to show them why he came to be with sinners. He told them a story about a man who went to rescue his lost sheep. He told them about a woman who scoured her house looking for a precious coin. After telling stories of a lost sheep and a lost coin, he told one about a lost son. He told them these parables because the Pharisees and scribes were complaining about how

really bad people (“tax collectors and sinners,” Luke 15:1) were coming to Jesus, eating with him, listening to him, and following him. His stories helped show why there is much joy when lost things are found—and why spending time looking for the lost is good. How will the Pharisees respond to the stories? Will their grumbling against Jesus turn to joy? Will they begin to seek the lost with hope that they will be found? Let’s find out!

TELL THE STORY

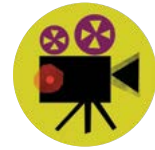
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
Jesus came
to rescue and
redeem lost
sinners.

This is the famous story of the prodigal son. Of course, most people don’t know what “prodigal” even means. It means wasteful or reckless. A prodigal is someone who recklessly wastes money. But there is more to the famous parable of the prodigal son than the story of a son who wastes money. He certainly does that! He spends all his father’s money. But he also has an amazing transformation.

The story goes like this. Once there was a rich man who had two sons. The younger son said, “Father, give me right now all the money I will receive when you die. My inheritance!” His father agreed. The boy then took the money and traveled far from home. Before long he spent every single dollar on selfish things with sinful people. Now he was poor and hungry and needed a job. The only job he could find was feeding pigs. Oink. Oink. Ugh. Ugh. He was so hungry he dreamed about eating the pig slop. Yuck. Yuck. Especially for Jews who want nothing to do with “unclean” pigs. Suddenly an idea came to him: “Why starve to death? Why not go home? Even your father’s hired servants have more than enough to eat.” As he walked home, he rehearsed what he would say to his father: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to



be called your son” (15:18–19). What an amazing transformation—from prodigal to humble and repentant. But how would his father respond? Before he reached the front door, his father noticed his son walking in the distance. Did he lock the door? No. Send out the guard dogs to sic ‘em? No. The father loved him and forgave him. He ran to his son, hugged and kissed him, and ordered his servants to give his son new shoes, clothe him with the best robe, and put a ring on his hand. Then he gave this order: “Let us eat the biggest and best cow and celebrate. Steaks for everyone! For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found” (see 15:23–24). The father had been longing for just such a transformation. He rejoiced to have his son back home.

How do you think the Pharisees reacted to this story? We’re told they responded by ridiculing Jesus (Luke 16:14). Instead of learning from Jesus, they remained upset with Jesus for seeking the lost. Their hearts toward the “sinners” remain unchanged. How sad.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Do you know that not everyone was excited when the prodigal son returned home? When the older brother heard the music and saw the dancing (and likely smelled the tasty steaks on the grill), he was angry and refused to join in the celebration. He complained just like the Pharisees and scribes did. He told his father, “What are you doing? Look, all these years I have faithfully served you and never disobeyed you, and you have never thrown even a little party for me. But you have thrown a big party for this sinful son of yours, who did terrible things and spent all the money you gave him. Why?” (see 15:29–30). He thought we earn the Father’s favor, so he begrudged when it was an undeserved gift. The father replied to the older son, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found” (15:31–32).

The older brother’s thinking is common even today. It’s easy to think we deserve God’s salvation because we’ve done enough good things. We’re not as bad as others (so we think). Jesus told the three “lost” parables to correct such thinking. All heaven rejoices when someone repents of their sins and returns to God. When the lost are found. That is why Jesus came and spent time with sinners—to seek and save the lost, like us. When we understand the true gospel, we rejoice that God came to rescue sinners of all kinds.

3

Engage

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

1. **QUESTION:** Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus? Whom did Jesus come to save?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus came to find lost sinners.

2. **QUESTION:** In the last parable, what was lost? What had he done to ruin his life? How did the son think his father would respond when he returned? How did his father respond when he returned to him? What does the story teach us about our Father in heaven?

TAKEAWAY: We are never too lost to return to our Father in heaven.

3. **QUESTION:** What are some of the things the father did when his son returned home? Why did he do them? What does this teach us about how God feels when a sinner repents and returns to him?

TAKEAWAY: God rejoices when someone repents of sins and returns to him.

4. **QUESTION:** How did the older brother feel when his brother returned home and his father rejoiced? Would you have felt the same way? What did his father encourage him to do? How should we feel if Jesus has found us?

TAKEAWAY: We should rejoice that we have been found by Jesus and rejoice when others are saved.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Gather My Sheep

Supply List: poster board, marker, tape, cups, cotton balls, glue sticks

Before Class: Gather supplies. Draw a large rectangular “sheep pen” on poster (one per team), and tape it to the wall opposite the starting line. Fill each cup with one hundred

Memory Verse

There is joy
before the
angels of God
over one sinner
who repents.

LUKE 15:10



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cotton balls (one cup per team), and place the cups along the starting line across from the sheep pens.

Divide children into teams of five or six, and have each team line up behind a cup. Give each team a glue stick. On “Go” the first person on each team must take the glue stick and one cotton ball out of his team’s cup, run to glue the cotton ball inside the sheep pen, and run back to hand the glue stick to the next player in line. Play continues with each player’s gluing one cotton ball at a time. The first team to glue all their cotton balls inside their “pen” wins. Remind children that Jesus will find all his sheep.

Option 2: Pass the Snort and Baa

Supply List: none

Have children sit in a circle. One child starts the game by looking at the child on her left and making a pig snort noise without laughing. That child must then pass the snort to the person on his left, and so on around the circle. If the person snorting or receiving the snort laughs, he is out. When the snort has been passed around the circle, continue play by passing a sheep’s baa around the circle without laughing. Continue play (alternating between snorts and baas) until one child remains or until time is up. Remind children that Jesus told a parable about a lost sheep and a parable about a lost son who was so hungry he dreamed about eating pig slop!

3rd–5th

Option 1: Coin Hunt

Supply List: paper plates, crayons, fifty to one hundred coins

Before Class: Gather supplies. Hide coins around the room.

Have each child write his or her name on a paper plate and place it in the center of the room. Tell children that there are coins hidden all around the room and that their goal is to find as many as possible. On “Go” have children begin looking for coins. When a child finds a coin, he must place it on his plate before finding another one. Play continues for a couple minutes or until all the coins have been found. The child with the most coins wins. Remind children that Jesus came to search for the lost.

Option 2: Lost and Found

Supply List: random objects, dry rice, large bucket

Before Class: Gather objects like buttons, bouncy balls, clothespins, and the like. Mix the objects with rice in a large bucket. Make note of the objects in the box.

Divide children into two teams, and have them line up facing each other with the bucket of objects in the middle. When you call out one of the objects, the first person on each team runs to the bucket to find the object named. The first person to find the object gets a point for her team. Continue calling objects until all children have had the opportunity to participate and all objects have been found. The team with the most points wins. Remind children that Jesus came to seek what was lost.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Party Hats

Supply List: paper, scissors, streamers, staplers, markers, glue sticks, sequins

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a large semicircle pattern with the words “Rejoice! The lost are found!” printed inside it (one per child). Cut streamers into 5-inch lengths. Make a sample craft.

Set copies, streamers, and remaining supplies on tables. Children first cut out a semicircle and decorate one side. Then they shape the semicircle into a cone, stapling along the seam to close. Have children glue streamers to the point of the hat.

Option 2: Paper Bag Pig

Supply List: paper, paper lunch bags, scissors, glue sticks, tape, crayons, pencils, pink pipe cleaners, googly eyes

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a pig nose and two pig ears (one set per child). Make a sample craft.



Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Children first color and cut out a pig nose and two ears. Then they glue the nose, ears, and two googly eyes to the bottom flap of the bag, creating a pig puppet. Have them add a tail by wrapping a pink pipe cleaner around a pencil and taping the tail to the back of the puppet. Remind children that the lost son was so hungry he dreamed of eating pig slop!

3rd–5th

Option 1: Coin Collage

Supply List: paper, variety of coins, crayons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of the words “I was lost, but now I am found,” with FOUND in block letters (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Set copies, coins, and crayons on tables. Have children place a coin under the found paper so the coin is inside one of the block letters. Gently color on top of the coin with a crayon. Have children continue this process with different coins and colors until the block letters are filled in.

Option 2: Lost Things Story Wheel

Supply List: paper, scissors, colored pencils, brass fasteners

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of an 8-inch-diameter circle divided into three equal sections (one per child). Make copies of another 8-inch-diameter circle with a one-third section marked (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Give each child one of each circle. Set remaining supplies on tables. Children first cut out the circles, then take the circle divided into three sections and label the sections “A Lost Sheep,” “A Lost Coin,” and “A Lost Son.” Have children draw pictures to go with each parable. Instruct children to cut out the one-third section on the other circle and fasten this circle on top of the first using a brass fastener. Have them write, “God rejoices when the lost are found” on the top circle. Children can rotate the top circle to remind them of each parable.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 74

Debts and Debtors

MATTHEW 18

September 9, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Matthew 18.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

A couple weeks ago we looked at Jesus's parable of the good Samaritan and learned that we should love our neighbor, especially when he is in great need. Then we looked at Jesus's parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. And we learned that, like God, we should rejoice when someone repents and receives God's forgiveness. Today we will look at the parable of the unforgiving servant. In the next lesson we will look at the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. That's a lot of parables, isn't it? Why did Jesus teach so often with these short stories? Thankfully, Jesus answers that question. He says that he taught in parables to reveal and conceal. To *reveal* means to make something known that was hidden; to *conceal* means to hide or cover something up. To those who want to be Jesus's disciples and to whom God gives ears to hear

and understand, Jesus's parables show us great truths about God's kingdom. To those who don't want to be disciples, parables fall on deaf ears. They cannot hear. They do not listen. God's truth is hidden. For today's parable let's ask God to open our ears and our eyes!

TELL THE STORY

Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
*The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook*



Play *The
Biggest Story*
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
We should
forgive others
just as God
forgave us.

What should you do if someone steals something from you or tells a lie that gets you in trouble? One day Jesus taught his disciples what to do if someone sins against them. If a person admits his fault and asks for forgiveness, Christians should forgive. When Peter heard this teaching, he had a follow up question: “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” (Matt. 18:21). Jesus replied, “Not seven times, but seventy-seven times” (see 18:22). In other words, “Stop counting how many times someone sins against you. You are to forgive them every single time!” Jesus told a story to explain why.

One day a rich king decided to require his servants to pay back money they owed him. One servant owed him ten billion dollars. Wow, that's a big debt. Astronomical! Because he obviously couldn't pay back that astronomical amount, he fell on his knees and begged the king to be patient. The king decided to be more than patient; he would be merciful. He forgave the whole debt!

That's shocking. But what happens next is even more shocking. Shockingly sad. The servant who was forgiven remembered that another servant owed him money—about fifteen thousand dollars. That's still a lot. (More than you get from your grandma on your birthday, right?) But that's not anywhere close



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to ten billion dollars! Now here's what the forgiven servant did. He grabbed his fellow servant and started to choke him. "Give me the money you owe me," he screamed. The man begged him to be patient: "Give me some time to repay you." "No way!" the first servant said. "Off you go to debtors' prison." When the king found out what happened, he called the forgiven servant and said, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (18:32–33). The king tossed the man into debtors' prison until he could pay every last penny (which might just take an eternity!).

The point of the parable is that because God (like the king) has forgiven our many sins (like the first servant's debts), we should forgive others (like the second servant's much-smaller debt) when they sin against us.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Do you know the Lord's Prayer? It starts, "Our Father in heaven" (Matt. 6:9). After we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," the very next thing we ask God to do for us is to "forgive us our debts" (or trespasses or sins). Just like we need daily bread to live, we need daily forgiveness too. Our trespasses or sins are like debts we owe God. Our debt is as massive as the first servant's debt in the parable. We owe God ten billion dollars. So what are we to do? *We can't do anything* to earn our salvation. But thankfully *God has done something* about our debt problem. He sent Jesus to pay it all. Jesus gave his "life as a ransom" (20:28), a full payment. We, through faith, can accept that good news. And forgiven people forgive others. That's how it works. In fact, after Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer, he taught that Christians are to "forgive others their trespasses" (6:14). Jesus even implied that if we haven't forgiven, we probably haven't truly been forgiven (see 6:12, 14). The forgiven must be forgiving! We are to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one other, as God in Christ forgave" us (Eph. 4:32).

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** What did Peter want to know about forgiveness? How many times did Jesus say Peter should forgive someone who sinned against him?

3

Engage

What did he mean by that? How many times will God forgive you for sinning against him?

TAKEAWAY: There is no limit to God's forgiveness of sins.

Memory Verse

Be kind to
one another,
tenderhearted,
forgiving one
another, as
God in Christ
forgave you.

EPHESIANS 4:32

2. **QUESTION:** How much money did the first servant owe the king? Could he ever pay that debt? Why did the king forgive the debt? How much money did the second servant owe the first? What should he have done when the second servant asked for time to pay his debt?

TAKEAWAY: Because God has forgiven us, we must forgive others.

3. **QUESTION:** What did the first servant do to the servant who couldn't pay him back? What was wrong with that? What did the king say and do to punish him? What lesson is God trying to teach us?

TAKEAWAY: If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us.

4. **QUESTION:** What do we ask God to forgive in the Lord's prayer? And what do we tell him we will do to others? What should we do when we struggle to forgive others?

TAKEAWAY: When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: String Search

Supply List: string, scissors

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut one extremely long length of string, and sixty different lengths of string, from a couple inches to a foot. Hide the sixty lengths of string around the room.

Show the long length of string, and explain that it represents Jesus's forgiveness of sins. Tell the class that you have hidden strings all around the room.



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On “Go” have children collect as many as they can. Once all the strings have been found, have each child line up the strings he or she found to form one long string. The child with the longest string wins. Show children the string that represents Jesus’s forgiveness. (This string should be much longer than any of theirs.) Remind children that we need to forgive like Jesus—way more than we think we should.

Option 2: Swat away Unforgiveness Game

Supply List: masking tape, paper

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place a piece of masking tape down the center of the play area to divide it into two sections.

Divide children into two teams and assign one team to each side of the tape. Distribute an equal number of pieces of paper to each team, and instruct children to crumple the paper into balls. Explain that the paper represents sins committed against us and that we don’t want to hold onto unforgiveness. We need to let go of hurts and trust God. On “Go” have teams try to keep crumpled paper balls off their side by continually tossing them to the other side. Continue play for 3 to 5 minutes. When the time is up, the team with the least number of paper balls on their side wins. Remind children that when we are unforgiving, we lose. Instead, we should keep on forgiving others, like Jesus forgives us.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Balloon Stomp

Supply List: balloons, string, scissors

Before Class: Gather supplies. Blow up balloons and tie a string to the knot of each balloon (one per child).

Tie a balloon around each child’s ankle. Have children spread out around the playing area. On “Go” have children try to stomp on and pop other children’s balloons while protecting their own from being popped. The last child with an unpopped balloon wins. Remind children that in the parable, the servant only looked out for himself.

Option 2: Ball Battle

Supply List: ball

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Have children stand in a circle with their feet slightly more than shoulder width apart and with the edges of their feet touching their neighbors'. The object of the game is for players to use their hands to hit the ball between other players' legs while blocking balls from coming through their own legs. If a ball passes through a child's leg, he gets a "one." If it passes through a second time, he gets a "two." This continues up to "seven." Once a child gets to seven, the game restarts. Jesus taught that we should forgive someone not seven times but seventy-seven times.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Heart Puzzle

Supply List: cardstock, scissors, crayons

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, make copies of a large heart pattern (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Set crayons on tables. Give children a heart pattern and scissors. Have them cut out the heart and then cut it into two pieces to make a broken heart. Children then write "Jesus forgives my sins" on one half, and "I can forgive others" on the other half. Remind children that sin breaks God's heart, but he still forgives us. Sometimes our hearts are hurt by the sins of others, but we should forgive like God has forgiven us.

Option 2: King's Crown

Supply List: construction paper, scissors, tape, markers, jewels, sequins, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Draw a zigzag line lengthwise down the center of a piece of construction paper (one per child). Make a sample craft.



Give each child one piece of construction paper. Place remaining supplies on tables. Have children cut along the zigzag line and then tape the pieces together to form one long piece. Have them write “Jesus is a forgiving and merciful King!” and then decorate it with markers, jewels, and sequins. Have children tape the two ends of the long piece to form a crown.

3rd–5th**Option 1: Keep on Forgiving Spiral**

Supply List: cardstock, scissors, markers, hole punch, string

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, make copies of a spiral template (one per child). Cut 6-inch lengths of string (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Give each child a spiral template. Set remaining supplies on tables. Have children write “Keep on forgiving” on their spiral and then color it with markers. Have children cut along the lines to make a long snakelike spiral. Have them punch a hole in the middle of the spiral, then thread and tie a piece of string through the hole for hanging. Remind children that forgiveness is not something we need just once but something we need again and again.

Option 2: Stained Glass

Supply List: cardstock, thin washi or masking tape, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups, water

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, make copies of a small square (centered on the cardstock) with the Memory Verse printed inside it (one per child). Fill cups one-fourth full with water. Make a sample craft.

Set copies, cups of water, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children use the washi or masking tape to divide the space surrounding the square into at least eight different sections. Using the watercolor paints, have children paint the sections different colors. Once all sections have been painted, have children remove the tape to display a stained-glass picture that highlights the Memory Verse.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 75

Grumbles and Grace

MATTHEW 20

September 16, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Matthew 20.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

The ballerina danced with *grace*. The sports star *graced* us with his presence. The teacher gave the class a *grace* period to finish the assignment. We use the word *grace* a lot and for a lot of things. The Bible uses the word a lot too, but it expresses a different idea than the examples above. Grace is God's kindness toward those who don't deserve his kindness. God's grace, then, is a generous gift. It is like getting an unexpected present for Christmas after you have been naughty from January to December!

So, let's think of some examples of grace throughout the Biggest Story. When God called a nobody named Abraham to come to the promised land and receive God's blessing, that's grace. When God forgave King David's awful sins, that's grace. When Jesus called the tax collector Matthew to follow him, that's grace.

When the father in Jesus's parable of the prodigal son welcomed his son home, forgave all his sins, and threw a big party to celebrate his son's return, that's grace. That's amazing grace! In today's lesson we learn more about God's amazing grace. It's another parable, one usually called the parable of the laborers (or workers) in the vineyard. By God's grace, let's listen!

TELL THE STORY

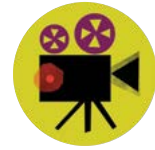
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
God is free to
bless anyone he
chooses in the
ways he knows
are best.

When it comes to seeing the world the way God wants us to, we need to put on grace glasses. This means we stop paying attention to everything in life that doesn't seem fair and start seeing all the good things God gives us every day.

Jesus told the parable of the laborers in the vineyard to teach this point. One morning a man who owned a vineyard needed help harvesting grapes. So he hired some workers. They agreed to work the whole day in order to provide a day's worth of food and shelter for their family (about a hundred dollars). Then a few hours later, the boss walked into town and saw some people who had nothing to do. Without work, their families would suffer. "Do you want some work? I'll pay you whatever is right." Off they went to the vineyard and started to work. The boss hired more workers later in the day—at noon, three, and five. It is strange that he would hire people so late in the day. Maybe his heart was more focused on helping them than on the help they could give him. When all the work was done, those who were hired last were paid first. They got a hundred dollars—enough to provide for their families! Those hired first thought to themselves, "If they got a hundred dollars for working just one hour, we should get a thousand." But no, they received a hundred too. "Wait a minute," they



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grumbled. “We worked all day, and they only worked an hour. It’s not fair that they should get the same as us.” Maybe not, but the boss seemed more focused on making sure everyone got the money they needed to care for their families. So the boss replied, “It is fair. You agreed to work for a hundred dollars. If I decide to give the same to the other workers, why does my generosity upset you?”

Jesus ended the parable saying, “So the last will be first, and the first last” (Matt. 20:16). The point is this: if we put on the grace glasses, we will be glad when people who really don’t deserve grace get it (which includes all of us). The people who think they’ve earned God’s blessing will begrudge when others receive it, but those who know they don’t deserve God’s blessing will rejoice the most.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Do you know what Jesus said right after he told this parable? He said, “Let us now journey to Jerusalem, for when we get there I will be delivered over to the Jewish religious leaders and they will condemn me to death. Then they will deliver me over to the Romans and they will mock me and whip me and crucify me. But, on the third day, I will rise from the dead” (see Matt. 20:18–19). By going to the cross for us, God gave us more than a hundred dollars. He gave us the most precious gift of eternal life through Jesus’s death and resurrection. God gave us grace upon grace. How could we possibly grumble? Instead, we put on grace glasses and rejoice anytime God chooses to bless anyone. Instead of comparing and trying to make sure it’s all even, we are free to trust God. He’s given us the greatest gift of all, so we can trust that he will be good however he blesses—even in itty-bitty things like who gets the best Christmas presents or which sibling got the biggest helping of dessert.

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** Do people normally want to be first in line or last? In the story that Jesus told about the workers, who got paid first—those who started last and did the least or those who started first and did the most? What point was Jesus making?

TAKEAWAY: In God’s kingdom the last will be first and the first last.

3

Engage

Memory Verse
**So the last will
be first, and
the first last.**
MATTHEW 20:16

2. **QUESTION:** Do you think you would have been upset like the first workers that you didn't get paid more for doing more work? Why? How does Jesus say those workers should have responded? Why?

TAKEAWAY: When you're tempted to compare your life to others, remember that God has given you everything he promised.

3. **QUESTION:** Who created you? Whom do you belong to? When you create something, does it get to tell you what you're allowed to do with it? Why not? Since we belong to God, who gets to decide what he can do with us?

TAKEAWAY: God has the right to bless anyone he chooses as he sees fit.

4. **QUESTION:** Did Jesus die on the cross for you because you were so obedient? Does God listen to your prayers because you're so good? Why doesn't it make sense to respond to God's grace by complaining when other people get more than you? How should we respond to God's amazing gift of salvation?

TAKEAWAY: When we remember we don't deserve God's blessing and salvation, we stop complaining and start rejoicing.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Grumble and Grace Tag

Supply List: none

Have children spread out in the room. Choose one child to be "Grumble Blob" and one to be "Grace Blob." Start a game of tag. The Blobs are "It." When a Blob tags someone, the tagged child links arms with the Blob. Continue play until everyone is part of one of the Blobs. Remind children that both grumbling and showing grace can be contagious. Let's be people of grace!



Story

75

Matthew

20

Option 2: Move on Back!

Supply List: masking tape, dice (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Use the masking tape to mark a finish line.

Divide children into teams of six, and give each team a die. Have teams line up single file at a starting line. On “Go” the first person on each team rolls the die. The whole team must move forward the number of steps shown on the die. The die is then passed to the next person in line, and the team again moves forward the number of steps rolled. If the number one is rolled, the team must return to the starting line and begin again. The first team to cross the finish line wins. Remind children that it can be easy to complain when something in life seems unfair (like when they rolled a one!), but God wants us to be thankful for all he has given us.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Payday Relay

Supply List: dice (one per team), play money, envelopes (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place dice across the room from the starting line.

Divide children into teams, give each team an envelope, and line each team up across from a die. Have the first person on each team bear walk to his team’s die and roll it. The number he rolls is his day’s wages. He then gathers wages from the leader (e.g., a 4 earns \$4), runs to add the money to his team’s envelope, and tags the next person to go. After 5 minutes, teams count their money. Surprise them by saying that the team with the least amount of money wins, because in God’s economy the first shall be last.

Option 2: You’re So Grape!

Supply List: packing tape (one roll per team), green or purple balloons, large bag

Before Class: Gather supplies. Inflate balloons and place in a large bag.

Divide children into groups of four. Give each team packing tape. Have teams choose one team member to be the “grape.” Before starting the relay, give teams time to wrap their grape in packing tape, sticky side facing out. On “Go” the

first person from each team runs to get a balloon from the bag, brings it back to stick on her team's grape, and tags the next person. After three minutes, the team with the most balloons stuck to their grape wins. Tell children the grapes remind us of the parable Jesus told about workers in a vineyard.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Cluster of Grace

Supply List: paper, purple and green construction paper, glue sticks, crayons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of an outline of a cluster of grapes with Matthew 20:15 printed underneath (one per child). Cut 1" x 4" purple and green strips of paper. Make a sample craft.

Place copies, strips, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children take a grape paper and color any leaves or stems. Next, children roll the strips of paper into cylinders and glue at the seam. Have them glue these “grapes” to their paper until the cluster is filled. Remind children that in the parable of the vineyard workers, we learn about God’s great generosity.

Option 2: Be Grapeful

Supply List: purple and green paint, paper plates, empty toilet paper rolls (one per child), paintbrushes

Before Class: Gather supplies. Put purple and green paint on paper plates (one color per plate). Make copies of Matthew 20:15 printed at the bottom of a paper (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Give each child an empty toilet paper roll and a verse paper. Place paint and paintbrushes on tables. Have children dip the end of the toilet paper roll in the paint and press onto their verse paper to make a circle. Have children form a cluster of grapes by continuing to make circles that touch one another, then

paint a stem and leaves using the paintbrush and green paint. Remind children that in the parable of the vineyard workers, we learn about God's great generosity.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Spread Grace

Supply List: construction paper, paper plates, washable paint (green, black, and white), paper towels

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place green, black, and white washable paint on paper plates (one plate per child). Make a sample craft.

Give each child a piece of construction paper, a plate with paint, and a paper towel. Have children dip a finger in the black paint and make a large dot that will be the center of a dandelion. Children should then dip a finger in the green paint to make a stem coming down from the black dot. Next, they dip a finger in the white paint and make lines coming out from the black dot like a firework, then make dots to the right of the dandelion to look like seeds blowing. Have them use paint on their fingers to write "Spread Grace" under the flower. Encourage children to wipe their fingers on the paper towel between new colors.

Option 2: "First Shall Be Last" Trophy

Supply List: paper, tape, glue, scissors, a variety of supplies (toilet paper rolls, cardstock, cardboard, pom-poms, aluminum foil, etc.)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print papers that say "First shall be last" (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children use the provided supplies to design a trophy that displays the "First shall be last" paper. Remind children that Jesus used a parable to teach us that the first shall be last.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



Story

75

Matthew

20



STORY 76

Little Man, Big Faith

LUKE 19

September 23, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Luke 19.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*



THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}



God is so generous! He gives his grace to people who don't deserve it—like us! We should always thank God for his generous grace. We should always wear our grace glasses. Remember them? Don't forget to wear them! And be sure to toss your glasses of grumbling into the garbage. We don't want to act like the first workers from the story we learned about last week. Remember how they grumbled when they learned the owner of the vineyard gave the same payment both to the workers who only worked one hour and to those who worked all day? They lost sight of the generous heart of the boss, just like we lose sight of God's generous heart. None of us deserve his grace, no matter if we are first or last. We are all sinners deserving to be punished for our sins. That's what is fair! We don't want God to be fair in that way. Instead of being fair like that

and punishing everyone, our just and generous God sent Jesus to save us. In today's lesson we learn about one of those people. His name is Zacchaeus. No one in his town would have expected that Jesus would give him grace. But he did! Want to find out what happened?

TELL THE STORY

Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
*The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook*



Play *The
Biggest Story*
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
Jesus gives
grace even
to big-time
sinners.

Two words can be used to tell Zacchaeus's salvation story: *seeking* and *receiving*. We are told that Zacchaeus "was *seeking* to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). But we are also told two other important details about him: "He was a chief tax collector and was rich" (19:2). Those weren't good things. No one in town would have liked Zacchaeus. Why? Because he collected taxes from his fellow Jews for the Roman Empire. Paying taxes isn't bad. What is bad, though, is what tax collectors did: they would lie about how much people had to pay. Then, all the extra money they collected they'd keep for themselves. It made them filthy rich! The other important detail about this greedy man is that he was short. He was so short he couldn't see Jesus over the heads of the crowd when he came through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. So he had an idea. He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up onto a sycamore tree. Now he could see Jesus. Short, bad Zacchaeus was seeking.

As Jesus walked, he came to the base of the sycamore tree. He looked up. What a strange sight—a man in a tree! "Zacchaeus," he called out his name. "Hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today" (19:5). The little man climbed down. He took Jesus to his house and "*received* him joyfully" (19:6). *Receiving!* He received Jesus with his emotions ("joyfully") and with his actions: "Lord,



half of what I have, I give to the poor. And all the people I have cheated I will give them back four times as much” (see 19:8). He received Jesus by giving his riches away in one day. Amazing!

What is more amazing is what Jesus said next: “Today salvation has come to this house” (19:9) because Zacchaeus believed in Jesus. The people grumbled that Jesus had “gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner” (19:7). But Zacchaeus, the big-time sinner, knew that Jesus came for that very purpose: “To seek and to save the lost” (19:10).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Seeking. Receiving. Those two important words help us understand how Zacchaeus approached Jesus. He needed a Savior, a Snake Crusher, to crush all his sins. Lots of sins! He was a *chief* tax collector, after all. So he sought Jesus. Then he received Jesus.

There is another important word that helps us understand what was happening. *Pulling.* The last line in the story, which is the most important, comes from Jesus. He says, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (19:10). Another way to say that is Jesus came to save sinners. But what about *pulling*? Do you remember that Jesus said, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” (18:25)? Zacchaeus is rich! So how did he get through the eye of the tiny sewing needle? Easy. Jesus pulled him through. He came to seek and save the lost—both rich and poor, short and tall. The next time you think about Zacchaeus, picture Jesus pulling a camel through the eye of a needle. Impossible? Not with God—all things are possible for him.

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** What did Zacchaeus do to seek out Jesus? What did Jesus do to seek out Zacchaeus? Why did Jesus say he came?

TAKEAWAY: Zacchaeus was seeking Jesus, and Jesus was seeking him.

3

Engage

Memory Verse
The Son of Man
came to seek and
to save the lost.

LUKE 19:10

2. **QUESTION:** When Jesus told Zacchaeus he was coming to his house, how did he respond? What were his emotions? What were his actions? What did Jesus say had come to his house?

TAKEAWAY: When Zacchaeus received Jesus, he was saved and his heart was changed.

3. **QUESTION:** How easy did Jesus say it would be for a rich man (like Zacchaeus) to enter the kingdom of God? How was Zacchaeus able to enter the kingdom of God?

TAKEAWAY: It is impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God—but with God, all things are possible.

4. **QUESTION:** What did Zacchaeus deserve for cheating poor people out of their money? What did God give him instead? How did that change Zacchaeus?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus gives grace even to big-time sinners.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Heads, Shoulders, Knees, Zacchaeus

Supply List: bean bags (one for every two children)

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Divide children into pairs. Have each pair face one another, and place a bean bag on the floor between them. If the leader calls “head,” “shoulders,” or “knees,” everyone must touch that body part. If the leader calls “Zacchaeus,” everyone tries to grab the bean bag before his or her partner does. Whoever gets the bean bag first earns a point. Continue randomly calling “head,” “shoulders,” “knees,” or “Zacchaeus.” After a set amount of time, the person in each pair with the most points wins. Remind children that Jesus called Zacchaeus by name.



Option 2: Capture the Balloon

Supply List: balloons, permanent marker, music

Before Class: Gather supplies. Inflate balloons (one per child).

Write each child's name on a balloon with permanent marker. Distribute balloons around the room. Have children hit the balloons around while music plays. When the music stops, have each child find the balloon with his or her name on it. The last person to find the balloon is out. Continue play until one child remains. Alternatively, have a leader record how long it takes for all the children to find their balloons and see if the group can beat their time in subsequent rounds. Remind children that Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name, and he knows our names too.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Capture the Balloon

Supply List: balloons, permanent marker, music

Before Class: Gather supplies. Inflate balloons (one per child).

Write each child's name on a balloon with permanent marker. Distribute balloons around the room. Have children hit the balloons around while music plays. When the music stops, have each child find the balloon with his or her name on it. The last person to find the balloon is out. Continue play until one child remains. Alternatively, have a leader record how long it takes for all the children to find their balloons and see if the group can beat their time in subsequent rounds. Remind children that Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name, and he knows our names too.

Option 2: Zacchaeus in Action

Supply List: tape, paper, markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make three evenly spaced parallel lines across the playing area with tape. Label the furthest line "Zacchaeus climbed a tree," the middle line "Zacchaeus came down," and the bottom line "Zacchaeus was changed."

When the leader calls out one of the phrases, have children run to that line as quickly as possible. The last child to the line is out. Continue calling out phrases until one child remains.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Zacchaeus, Come Down!

Supply List: cardstock, scissors, hole punches, yarn, small paper plates, glue, craft sticks, green tissue paper, pencils

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock make copies of Zacchaeus (one per child). Cut out each Zacchaeus, and punch a hole at the top. Tie and knot one end of a 12-inch piece of yarn through each hole. Cut tissue paper into 1-inch squares. Make a sample craft.

Set Zacchaeus figures, tissue squares, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children glue a plate to a craft stick to make a “tree.” Have children decorate the tree by wrapping tissue squares around a pencil eraser and gluing them to the plate. Next, have children punch a hole at the top of the plate. They can then thread the yarn attached to Zacchaeus through the hole and tie a large knot at the end of the yarn so that it cannot pass back through the hole. Demonstrate how Zacchaeus goes up and down the tree by pulling the string.

Option 2: My Name

Supply List: cardstock, glue, cotton swabs, paper plates, empty boxes, spoons, glitter

Before Class: Gather supplies. On the top of cardstock print “Jesus knows my name and loves me!” (one per child). Put glue on paper plates and set on tables. Make a sample craft.

Give each child a cotton swab and printed paper. Have children dip the swab in glue and use it to write their name in the center of the paper. While holding the paper over an empty box, gently shake a spoonful of glitter over the glue to make the letters appear. Remind children that just as Jesus knew Zacchaeus’s name, he knows each of their names and loves them!



Option 1: String Tree Art

Supply List: paper, brown yarn, scissors, cotton swabs, green paint, paper plates, colored pencils

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print the Big Truth at the top of a piece of paper (one per child). Print pictures of Zacchaeus (one per child). Cut various lengths of brown yarn. Put green paint on paper plates. Make a sample craft.

Set Big Truth papers, Zacchaeus pictures, yarn, paint, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children make a tree by gluing brown yarn onto the Big Truth paper. Have them dip their cotton swab into the green paint and dab around the branches to make “leaves.” Have them color and cut out Zacchaeus and then glue him onto the tree.

Option 2: Zacchaeus, Come Down!

Supply List: cardstock, scissors, hole punches, yarn, small paper plates, glue, craft sticks, green tissue paper, pencils

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock make copies of Zacchaeus (one per child). Cut out each Zacchaeus, and punch a hole at the top. Tie and knot one end of a 12-inch piece of yarn through each hole. Cut tissue paper into 1-inch squares. Make a sample craft.

Set Zacchaeus figures, tissue squares, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children glue a plate to a craft stick to make a “tree.” Have children decorate the tree by wrapping tissue squares around a pencil eraser and gluing them to the plate. Next, have children punch a hole in the top of the plate. They can then thread the yarn attached to Zacchaeus through the hole and tie a large knot at the end of the yarn so that it cannot pass back through the hole. Demonstrate how Zacchaeus goes up and down the tree by pulling the string.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 77

The King Comes

LUKE 19

September 30, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Read Luke 19.
- Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.
- Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

What is the name of the holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus? How about the holiday where Jesus rose from the dead? Christmas and Easter are two of the most important days in history, and that is why we celebrate them every year, year after year. Christians around the world and throughout history have also celebrated Holy Week. Holy Week ends with Easter, but it begins with Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and people waved palm branches to welcome him as the King. They welcomed him as King because they witnessed, or heard about, Jesus's wonderful words and amazing miracles. He taught terrific truths, fed the hungry, cared for the poor, blessed children, healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, and cast out thousands of demons. No wonder people wanted to make him king! Of course, Jesus is a

king. He is the King of kings. But he didn't come on Holy Week to be made an earthly king. He came to suffer and die on Good Friday. So while the lesson for today focuses on a happy day in history—Palm Sunday—let's remember where the week is heading.

TELL THE STORY

Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth

Jesus is the King
of kings—but not
the king God's
people expected.

If you were a great king and had lots of power, money, and servants, how would you decide to make your entrance into an important city, like London or Washington DC? Would you fly into the airport on a private jet and then take a big, bulletproof limousine through town? Back in Jesus's day, if the Roman Emperor rode into an important town, he would ride on a strong and beautiful horse with hundreds of guards surrounding him—holding banners, shields, and swords. When Jesus decided to make his entrance into Jerusalem, he did things differently. He sent two of his disciples into a small town to borrow a young donkey, called a colt. No one had ever ridden this colt. After the disciples found the colt, they brought it to Jesus and laid their coats on it as a saddle. Then Jesus sat on it. It took days to train a colt to let a person ride it, yet Jesus immediately steadied the small creature like he steadied the big waves.

As Jesus rode up to Jerusalem, a crowd ran ahead of him to spread their coats and palm branches on the road. Some shouted, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38). Others yelled, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mark 11:9–10). "Hosanna" means "save us." They were asking King Jesus to



save them. The Pharisees didn't like what they heard. They didn't want to praise Jesus. They didn't believe that Jesus was the King they were waiting for. "Tell them to stop shouting such things," they told Jesus. But he would have none of their nonsense: "Even the stones would cry out in praise, if I silenced all the people" (see Luke 19:40). All creation should praise the Creator. All people, then and now, should cry out, "Save us, King Jesus!"

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

There was a lot to make Jesus happy on Palm Sunday. How wonderful it was that so many people praised him as King and Savior. But Jesus was also sad. He was sad to hear what the Pharisees said. It also made him sad to see Jerusalem. In fact, the Bible tells us that when he "saw the city, he wept over it" (Luke 19:41). He knew that Holy Week was going to be the hardest week. Even as the crowds that day praised him shouting, "Blessed is the King," he knew a few days later the crowds would be shouting, "Crucify, crucify him" (23:21). He wept because his own people would reject him as King. He also wept because he knew that in a few years, after the Romans crucified him, they would destroy the city.

But is all hope lost? Of course not. We have the gospel—the good news! What is the good news? Jesus suffered and died. But then he rose from the dead. Now Jesus is crowned King and reigns in heaven. One day soon he will come again and enter earth (not just one city) in power and glory, riding on a white horse, with millions of mighty angels at his side. Then and there every knee will bow before him and confess that Jesus is *the* King.

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** What are some things you remember about Jesus from the Biggest Story so far? What do you think is the most important thing about Jesus in the Biggest Story? Why do you think the Gospels spend the most time on the last week of Jesus's life?

TAKEAWAY: The biggest thing about the Biggest Story is that Jesus died—and didn't stay dead.

3

Engage

Memory Verse
Blessed is the
King who comes
in the name of
the Lord!

LUKE 19:38

2. **QUESTION:** Who were God's people waiting for from King David's line? What did they expect this king to do? Was Jesus the King they were waiting for? How was he different than they expected?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus is the King God's people had waited for—but not the king they expected.

3. **QUESTION:** Who was praising Jesus in our story? Who was not? What did Jesus say to the Pharisees when they tried to get Jesus to stop the people from worshiping him? Why would the stones praise Jesus?

TAKEAWAY: If we didn't praise Jesus, the stones would cry out in worship.

4. **QUESTION:** When Jesus came to Jerusalem, did everyone recognize he was the promised King? What will be different when he comes again?

TAKEAWAY: When Jesus returns, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that he is King.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Pin a Coat on the Donkey

Supply List: paper, scissors, large piece of paper or poster board, black marker, tape, blindfold

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print and cut out pictures of a coat (one per child). Draw a large picture of a donkey (big enough for the coat to fit as a saddle). Tape the donkey to the wall at a child's shoulder height.

Give each child a coat picture with tape and the child's name on it. Going one at a time, each child will be blindfolded, spun around, and be pointed in the direction of the donkey. Instruct each child to tape his coat where he first touches the wall. The child whose coat is closest to the correct place to sit on the donkey wins.



Option 2: Pass the Palm

Supply List: chairs (one per child), palm branches (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place chairs in lines of six around the room.

Divide children into teams of six. Have each team go to a line of chairs and sit down. Give a palm branch to the first child in each line. On “Go” the first child passes the branch to the person sitting next to her and so on down the row. When the branch gets to the last child, he runs behind his team’s chairs to the first chair while the other children all move down one seat. The child who sits in the first seat then passes the branch back down the row. Children continue this cycle until all children have returned to their original chairs. The first team to return to its original position wins.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Donkey Relay

Supply List: balloons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Inflate balloons (one per team plus a few extra).

Divide children into teams of five or six and have each team line up single file. Give the first person on each team a balloon. On “Go” have the first person place the balloon between his knees, run to the other side of the room and back, and pass the balloon to the next team member, who repeats the process. If the balloon falls at any time, the child must stop and reset the balloon before continuing. The first team to finish wins. Tell children that if you ride a donkey, you may walk a little funny when you get off.

Option 2: Travel by Coats

Supply List: old coats (two per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Divide children into teams of five or six. Give each team two coats. Tell teams they must travel to the opposite side of the room by only stepping on the coats (by placing one down, stepping on it, placing the next down, stepping on it, picking up the first, etc.). Once she reaches the opposite side of the room, the child must use the coats and slide step back to her team. The child should give the coats to the next player, who repeats the process. The first team to race all

team members wins. Remind children the crowds lined the road with their coats to welcome Jesus like a king.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: My “Palms” Branch

Supply List: various shades of green paper, craft sticks, glue sticks, pencils, scissors, permanent markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make a sample craft.

Set supplies on tables. Have children trace their hand six times on shades of green paper. Have them cut out all six hand prints and glue them onto a craft stick so the hands slightly overlap, resembling a palm branch. With a permanent marker, children then write “Hosanna!” on the craft stick. Remind children that people waved palm branches and shouted “Hosanna!” as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Option 2: Praise Tambourine

Supply List: heavy-duty paper plates, paint, paintbrushes, cups, water, pipe cleaners, scissors, markers, bells, hole punches

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place various colors of washable paint on paper plates. Fill cups halfway with water for cleaning paintbrushes. Cut pipe cleaners in half (four halves per child). Make a sample craft.

Give each child a paper plate, four bells, and four pipe cleaner pieces. Set remaining supplies on tables. Children first write “Hosanna!” on the plate with markers. They then punch four holes around the edge of the plate. Have children attach the bells to the plate by threading each pipe cleaner through a bell and hole, twisting to secure. Children then paint the back of the paper plate. When the paint dries, encourage children to shake their tambourines and shout “Hosanna!”



Option 1: King of Kings Palm

Supply List: paper, glue sticks, tissue paper in shades of green, scissors

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print a template of a palm branch (one per child). On the bottom of a separate paper, print the words “Jesus is the King of kings!” (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Set copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children cut out the palm branch. Have them cut out pieces of tissue paper and glue them to the palm branch until it is covered. Glue the palm branch onto the “Jesus is the King of kings” paper.

Option 2: Praise Tambourine

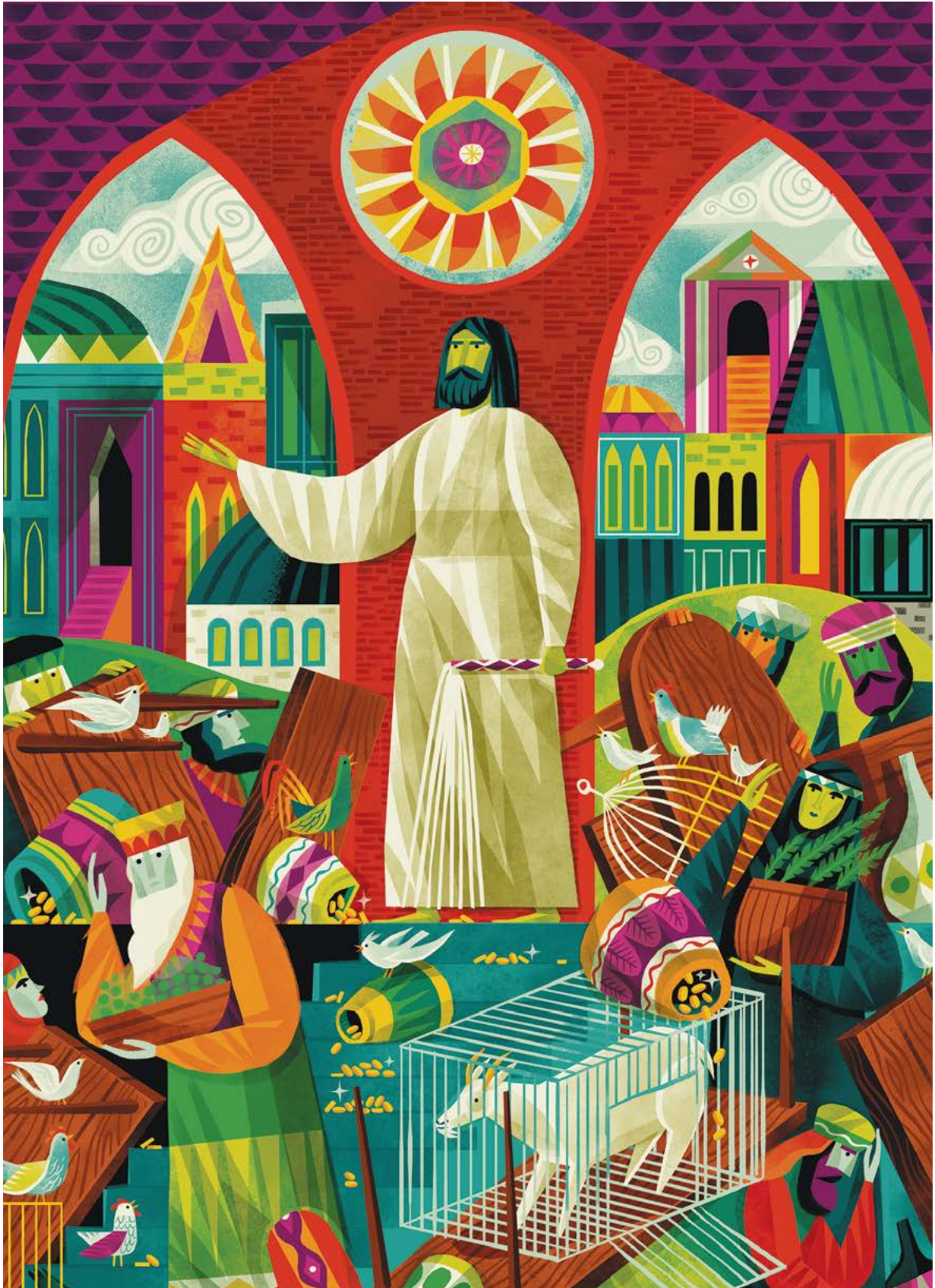
Supply List: heavy-duty paper plates, paint, paintbrushes, cups, water, pipe cleaners, scissors, markers, bells, hole punches

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place various colors of washable paint on paper plates. Fill cups halfway with water for cleaning paintbrushes. Cut pipe cleaners in half (four halves per child). Make a sample craft.

Give each child a paper plate, four bells, and four pipe cleaner pieces. Set remaining supplies on tables. Children first write “Hosanna!” on the plate with markers. They then punch four holes around the edge of the plate. Have children attach the bells to the plate by threading each pipe cleaner through a bell and hole, twisting to secure. Children then paint the back of the paper plate. When the paint dries, encourage children to shake their tambourines and shout “Hosanna!”



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 78

Jesus Cleans House

MARK 11

October 7, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Read Mark 11.
- Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.
- Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.

1
Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2
Teach

Last lesson we looked at Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. King Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, a young donkey. The next few lessons focus on that same week, the last days of Jesus's life. One of the details that we left out from last lesson was something the Gospel writer, Matthew, wrote about. He said that Jesus's riding on a colt fulfilled what the Old Testament prophet Zechariah said, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted . . . on a colt" (Matt. 21:5; Zech. 9:9). This verse tells us that Jesus's plan was God's plan. It also tells us we serve a humble King. Jesus was humble—meek and mild and kind and gentle. But, when he needed to, he also showed his awesome power and righteous anger. "Righteous anger" is getting mad about things that upset God, like stealing food from the poor. The day after Palm Sunday, Jesus

showed such anger. Let's listen to what happens, and let's also remember that Jesus is both the Lamb of God, who came to sacrifice his life, and the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who came to show his teeth—and roar!

TELL THE STORY

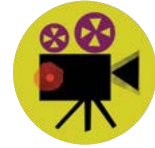
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
*The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook*



Play *The
Biggest Story*
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
Jesus wants
faithful
and fruitful
followers.

Have you ever been in a cathedral—an old church with stone walls, stained glass, and a really tall ceiling? A place where if you said hello your voice would bounce off the walls for about ten seconds? The temple in Jerusalem was kind of like that. The temple had painted cedar roofs, marble pillars, and the doors to the Holy of Holies were over 60 feet high. Most people were in awe when they saw the temple. It was so big and beautiful! When Jesus entered it on Holy Week, however, he was not impressed. The temple was to be a place of prayer and praise, but the Court of the Gentiles (the temple area for non-Jewish believers) looked more like a noisy and corrupt market. People were buying animals for their Passover sacrifice, but they were being cheated by many of the sellers. This so upset Jesus that he drove out “those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons” (Mark 11:15). And as he was putting a stop to all the buying and selling, he taught, “Doesn’t the Bible say, ‘The temple shall be a place of prayer for Jews *and Gentiles*’? But you have turned it into a hideout for cheats and thieves” (see 11:17).

Just before Jesus had cleared out the money-changers from the temple, Jesus had done something else unusual. He’d cursed a fig tree! Yes, he saw a fig tree that had big, beautiful green leaves, and he expected, because it looked alive, it



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to have little buds he could eat. But when he got closer, he noticed that the fruit tree had no fruit. So, he cursed it: “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And sure enough, the “fig tree withered away to its roots” (11:14, 20). Wow. Why did he do that? He did it as a symbol to show that the temple was like that fruitless tree and that it was soon to be judged for being fruitless. Now, God’s people are called to be the temple where God dwells, a light to the nations. Are we like the temple and the tree, looking good on the outside but not truly happy to follow God’s ways? Or are we full of good fruits, like forgiveness and prayer? Jesus came to save all of us—let’s turn to him and ask him to make us truly alive and fruitful.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

The Passover was the most important Jewish holiday. People would travel to the temple, buy an animal to sacrifice for their sins, bring it to the high priest, and have him sacrifice it (see Num. 28:16–25). In this way their sins would be forgiven. The animal died in their place. Now they were in a right relationship with God. But Jesus came into the temple at Passover and cleared it out. He was asked why he did it. Do you know what he said?

Jesus talked about the “temple of his body” and how it would be “destroyed” (he’d be killed on the cross) but raised up “in three days” (John 2:20–21). He also taught, another time, that he was “greater than the temple” (Matt. 12:6). What was he talking about? Jesus was teaching that he was the new and better “temple.” Think about it. Do we travel to Jerusalem to have our sins forgiven? No. We go to Jesus. Do we need to buy an animal and have it brought to the high priest? No. Jesus is our high priest. Do we need an animal to be sacrificed? No. Jesus is our sacrifice for sin. Jesus is greater than the temple, because he is the only person that we need to go to for God’s mercy. What incredibly good news!

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** Was there anything that made you angry this morning? Was Jesus ever angry? What’s different about his anger than our anger?

3

Engage

TAKEAWAY: When Jesus was angry, he was angry about the right things and in the right way.

Memory Verse

My house shall
be called a house
of prayer for all
the nations.

MARK 11:17

2. **QUESTION:** What was happening in the temple courts when Jesus entered? What was supposed to happen there? Why did it make Jesus angry? What did he do?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus was angry that the temple court was full of cheaters and that there was no place for people from other nations to pray.

3. **QUESTION:** What happened just before Jesus came into the temple? Why was he angry at the fig tree? Is Jesus happy when churches and people look great on the outside but inside are not good at all? How might a church seem good but not actually be good? How about you?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus wants his people to be faithful and fruitful, not just to look good on the outside.

4. **QUESTION:** What did Jesus say would be destroyed? What did he say would happen three days later? What was he talking about? How is Jesus like the temple? How is he better than the temple?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus is the new and better temple.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from *TheBiggestStory.com*, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Clean Up Relay

Supply List: chairs, tennis balls, brooms

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place a chair on the opposite side of the room from each team's starting line.

Divide children into teams, and have teams stand single file at the starting line. Give the first child on each team a broom and a tennis ball. On “Go” the



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first person must use his broom to hit the ball to the opposite side of the room, around his chair, and back to his team. When he reaches his team, he must give the broom and ball to the next player. The first team to race all team members wins. Explain that Jesus didn't clean the temple with a broom. Instead, he cleared the temple of cheaters and thieves.

Option 2: Balloon Train

Supply List: tape, balloons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place tape on the floor along the perimeter of the room. Inflate balloons (two for every three children).

Divide children into teams of three, and give each team two balloons. Have teams line up along the tape with space between teams. Have each team make a train by standing single file and placing one balloon between each team member. Teams must stand close enough together to keep the balloon in place without touching it with their hands. On "Go" teams walk clockwise along the tape perimeter. The first team to return to its starting point wins. If at any time a balloon falls, the team must stop, step inside the tape line, do five jumping jacks, then reset and walk forward as a train again. Following close to Jesus protects us from getting off track like the cheaters and thieves.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Protect the Temple

Supply List: masking tape, four cones, four small balls, eight soft dodgeballs

Before Class: Gather supplies. Use masking tape to divide the room in half. Place two cones inside each half, and place a small ball on top of each cone (making "temples"). Place eight soft dodgeballs along the tape line.

Divide children into two teams. Have each team stay on its side while using the balls to knock down the other team's "temples." When a temple is knocked down, the children must reset it before their second temple is knocked down. If a team successfully knocks down the second temple before the first is reset, they win. Remind children that Jesus predicted that the temple would be destroyed and that he would rebuild it in three days.

Option 2: Get Out Tag!

Supply List: none

Choose one child to be “It,” and have remaining children be “money-changers.” Play a game of tag. On “Go” the child who is “It” must chase the money-changers. If a child is tagged, she must go to jail (a predetermined corner of the room). When “It” has tagged four people, one of the four becomes the new “It” and the game continues. Remind children that Jesus drove money-changers out of the temple because they were cheating people and preventing worship.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Braided Whip Bookmark

Supply List: thick string, tape, beads

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut thick string into 15-inch pieces (three per child). Make a sample craft.

Set string and remaining supplies on tables. Have children knot three pieces of string together at the top, then tape the knot to the table to hold it in place. Instruct children to braid the string until there are 4 inches left. Have them string two or three beads onto each string and then knot the three pieces together to close. Tell children that the braided whip bookmark represents when Jesus drove the money-changers out of the temple with a whip.

Option 2: Faithful and Fruitful

Supply List: paper, construction paper (green, brown, and red), glue sticks, markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a large, full tree (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Set copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children rip green paper into pieces and then glue them to a tree paper to make leaves. Have them rip brown paper into pieces and then glue them to the tree paper to form the trunk.

Then they can rip red paper to make fruit to add to the tree. Have children use markers to write, “God can make me faithful and fruitful.”

3rd–5th

Option 1: Braided Whip Bookmark

Supply List: thick string, tape, beads

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut thick string into 15-inch pieces (three per child). Make a sample craft.

Set string and remaining supplies on tables. Have children knot three pieces of string together at the top, then tape the knot to the table to hold it in place. Instruct children to braid the string until there are 4 inches left. Have them string two or three beads onto each string and then knot the three pieces together to close. Tell children that the braided whip bookmark represents when Jesus drove the money-changers out of the temple with a whip.

Option 2: Prayer Jar

Supply List: tissue paper, decoupage glue, paper bowls, empty baby food jars, foam paintbrushes, craft sticks, permanent markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut tissue paper into small pieces. Pour decoupage glue into paper bowls. Make a sample craft.

Set tissue paper, decoupage glue, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children use a foam paintbrush to spread the glue on the outside of a baby food jar. Children then cover the jar with tissue pieces. Finally, children can “paint” the glue over the tissue to seal. While the jar is drying, have children take five to ten craft sticks and use permanent markers to write someone or something they want to be praying for (family, friends, the church, not getting angry, etc.). Have them place the sticks in their jar. Encourage them to use the jar to help them remember to pray for these things because God hears and answers prayer.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.

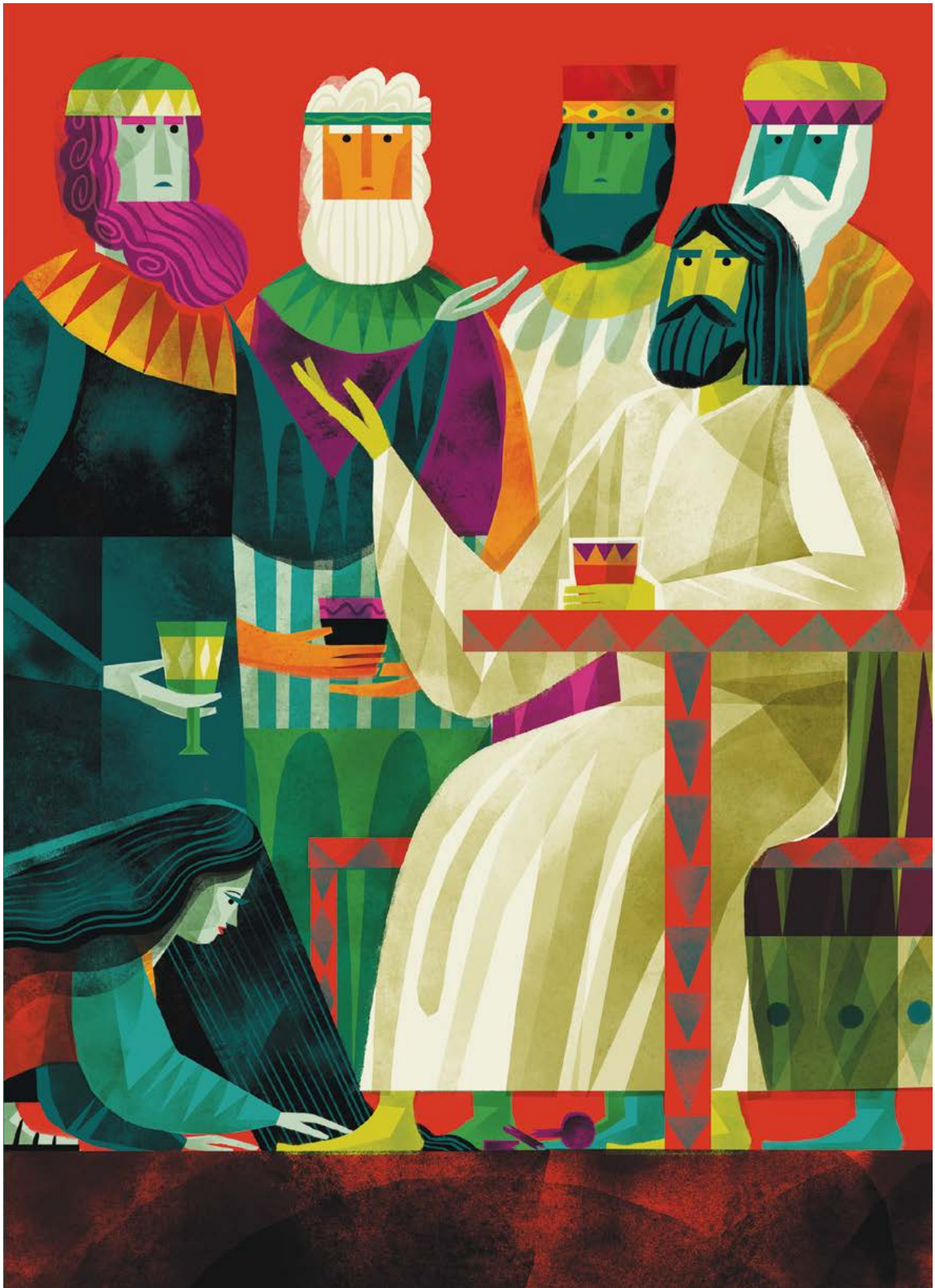


Story

78

Mark

11



STORY 79

A Woman to Be Remembered

JOHN 12

October 14, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Read John 12.
- Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.
- Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.

1
Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2
Teach

As Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem, he stopped in Jericho to save Zacchaeus. Then he rode on a colt into the holy city, as people praised him as King and Savior. Then he did those strange symbolic things in and outside the temple. In the temple, he cleansed it of those who were making money off sacrifices for sin. Outside the temple, he cursed the fruitless fig tree. No faith, no fruit? No good! It was Passover week. But right before and during that week, Jesus stayed about 2 miles away in the home of his close friends—sisters Mary and Martha, as well as Lazarus, their brother. The story of Lazarus is one of the best stories in the Bible. It happens right before the story we will talk about today. Lazarus

dies. Jesus arrives in town. He weeps at Lazarus's tomb. Then, Jesus said, "Take away the stone" (John 11:39) from the tomb. After the stone was moved, Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out," and sure enough, Lazarus "who had died came out" (11:43–44). Mary and Martha now believed without a doubt that Jesus was the Christ and that he had resurrection power. They loved him more than ever. Let's see now how Mary showed that love.

TELL THE STORY

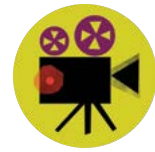
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth

We cannot love
Jesus too much.

Have you ever been to a fancy dinner? Maybe there were cloth napkins, fine silverware, and fancy plates. A few days before Holy Week started, Jesus and his disciples were having dinner with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in their house. We don't know if it was a fancy dinner, but it must have been a big one.

For special dinners guests would recline on their stomachs around a low table and the food would be placed in the center. Everyone around the table would lean on one elbow and grab the food from the center, and their feet would stick out the back. Strange, huh? Or kind of cool. Try it some day! As Martha was serving the guests—placing dishes of wonderful food on the middle table—her sister was listening to Jesus teach. This upset Martha because she wanted help. But Jesus was happy that Mary was listening because it was the better choice (see Luke 10:38–42). He was likely teaching about what was about to happen to him in Jerusalem. He would suffer, die, and rise again. Mary was so moved by Jesus's teaching that she left, went to her room, and grabbed a tall white jar filled with expensive perfume. She returned to the table and opened it by Jesus's feet. The whole house was now filled with the smell of the sweet perfume. Then



she did something that seemed crazy. She poured the perfume on Jesus's feet, let down her long hair, and wiped his feet clean.

Judas said, "What a waste! She could have sold that for thousands of dollars and given the money to the poor." Jesus replied, "She has done a beautiful thing. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this on my body, she is preparing me for burial. Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her" (see Matt. 26:10–13). Do you know what is beautiful? Do you know what will be remembered, at least by God? When we love Jesus with crazy love—with the best that we have! Such love and worship is never a waste.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

When Mary poured the perfume on Jesus's feet, he was still alive. But his death was coming soon, even if Mary didn't know it. Regardless, Mary loved Jesus so much that she wanted to give him the best she had. Jesus, however, knew he would die in a few days. And he saw her gift as preparing him for burial. He responded to her extravagant gift by saying she had done a beautiful thing. Anytime we worship Jesus, it is beautiful. He is worthy of the most extravagant, costly worship we can give. Her costly gift was given to the one who would give the costliest gift to us—his life. As we remember Mary's gift, may we remember how it points us toward Jesus's burial and death and his great love for us.

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

1. **QUESTION:** Who are some people that you think of when you think of the Bible? Who is the surprising woman that Jesus said would be remembered wherever the gospel is told? What did she do?

TAKEAWAY: Wherever the gospel goes in the world, Mary will be remembered for her gift.

2. **QUESTION:** What would people in Jesus's day do to prepare a dead body for burial? What did Mary's perfume prepare Jesus for?

3

Engage

Memory Verse
Keep yourselves
in the love of
God, waiting
for the mercy of
our Lord Jesus
Christ that leads
to eternal life.

JUDE 21

TAKEAWAY: Mary's perfume pointed ahead to the fact that Jesus would soon die and be buried.

3. **QUESTION:** How much did Mary's gift cost? Why was Judas upset that she used it on Jesus? What else did Mary do that was embarrassing? Was Jesus happy with her gift? Why do you think he thought it was beautiful?

TAKEAWAY: Mary's love for Jesus was crazy and costly.

4. **QUESTION:** Can you ever love Jesus too much? Can you praise him too loudly? Can you follow him too closely? Are you willing to follow him even when it costs you a lot? When it's embarrassing? Why?

TAKEAWAY: True worship is never a waste.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Heel-to-Toe Relay

Supply List: none

Divide children into teams of five or six. Have the first person on each team walk heel-to-toe to the other side of the room and then run back to tag the next player in line, who will repeat the process. The first team to race all team members wins. Remind children that Mary poured perfume on Jesus's feet, and he said she'd be remembered forever.

Option 2: Don't Break the Treasure!

Supply List: balloons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Inflate balloons (one for every two children plus a few extra).

Divide children into pairs. Have the pairs line up on the starting line. Give each pair a balloon, and explain that it represents a special treasure that they must not drop. On "Go" have the pairs walk to the opposite side of the room and back with the balloon held between their backs. If the balloon slips out, they must

let it touch the floor before replacing it and continuing the race. The pair that completes the race first wins. Remind children that Mary took her treasure and broke it to anoint Jesus's feet.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Pick Up Relay

Supply List: plastic cups, water, large clear jars, kitchen tongs (one per team), towels

Before Class: Gather supplies. Fill plastic cups full with water (one per child). Set plastic cups along the starting line. Place jars on the opposite side of the room (one per team).

Divide children into teams of five or six. Give the first person on each team a pair of kitchen tongs. On “Go” have the first player on each team use the tongs to pick up a plastic cup filled with water, to carry it to the other side of the room, and to pour as much water as possible into his team’s jar. Have him return to his team and hand the tongs to the next person, who will repeat the process. The team with the most water in their jar after all players have raced wins. (Note: Have towels on hand to clean up any spills.)

Option 2: Don’t Break the Treasure!

Supply List: balloons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Inflate balloons (one for every two children plus a few extra).

Divide children into pairs. Have the pairs line up on the starting line. Give each pair a balloon, and explain that it represents a special treasure that they must not drop. On “Go” have the pairs walk to the opposite side of the room and back with the balloon held between their backs. If the balloon slips out, they must let it touch the floor before replacing it and continuing the race. The pair that completes the race first wins. Remind children that Mary took her treasure and broke it to anoint Jesus’s feet.



Story

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John

12

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Perfumed Feet

Supply List: spray bottles (one for each scent blend), water, essential oils, construction paper, pencils, scissors, markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. Prepare spray bottles with a mixture of water and essential oils in different scents. Make a sample craft.

Set supplies on tables. Have each child remove his or her sock and shoe from one foot and trace that foot on construction paper with a pencil. Then they can cut out the footprint and use markers to write the Big Truth on it and decorate it. Have children come to a leader to help them spray their scent of choice lightly on their footprint.

Option 2: Great Love Picture

Supply List: paper, black and brown yarn, scissors, glue, crayons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut black and brown yarn into 4-inch lengths. Print a picture of a woman kneeling at the feet of Jesus with the Big Truth written underneath (one copy per child). Make a sample craft.

Set copies, glue, crayons, and yarn pieces on tables. Have children color the picture with crayons and then glue the yarn pieces to the woman's hair. Remind children that the woman wanted to show Jesus how much she loved him.



Option 1: Perfumed Envelope

Supply List: envelopes, colored pencils, spoon, bowl, rice, essential oil or perfume

Before Class: Gather supplies. Fill a bowl with dry rice and mix in some essential oil or perfume. Make a sample craft.

Give each child an envelope. Set remaining supplies on tables. Have children use colored pencils to decorate the envelope and write the Big Truth on it. Have children bring their envelope to the bowl and fill it with two or three spoonfuls of rice before sealing it shut. Tell children this envelope can be put in a drawer to make it smell beautiful like Jesus's feet after Mary anointed him.

Option 2: Perfumed Feet

Supply List: spray bottles (one for each scent blend), water, essential oils, construction paper, pencils, scissors, markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. Prepare spray bottles with a mixture of water and essential oils in different scents. Make a sample craft.

Set supplies on tables. Have each child remove his or her sock and shoe from one foot and trace that foot on construction paper with a pencil. Then they can cut out the footprint and use markers to write the Big Truth on it and decorate it. Have children come to a leader to help them spray their scent of choice lightly on their footprint.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 80

A Meal for the Ages

MATTHEW 26

October 21, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Read Matthew 26.
- Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.
- Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

One of the most important jobs God's people have is to remember. Last lesson, Jesus said that we should remember what Mary did when she anointed his body with expensive perfume. That special act symbolized his burial. In the Old Testament God's people were supposed to remember the Passover, when God rescued them out of Egypt. The angel of death passed over the firstborn sons and didn't kill them. They remembered by throwing a big feast! At a typical Jewish Passover meal they would have three main things: lamb, flatbread, and wine. They ate lamb because it was the lamb's blood on the doorway that kept them safe from the angel of death. They remembered how God saved them when they trusted him and cried out to him. They ate flatbread to remember that there wasn't time

for bread to rise because they had to leave Egypt so quickly. And they drank wine to remember how God had freed them and would bring them into his kingdom.

In our lesson today we'll learn how Jesus celebrated that Passover feast with his disciples—but with some important differences. Those differences will link the Passover with Mary's perfume. And they will leave us with a very important way for Christians to remember what Jesus has done for us.

TELL THE STORY

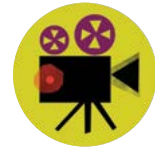
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
Every time we
take the bread
and cup of the
Lord's Supper,
we celebrate
that Jesus died
for our sins.

Jesus and the twelve gathered to celebrate the Passover. As the sun was setting and the meal was about to be served, Jesus made an announcement: "One of you will betray me" (Matt. 26:21). The twelve couldn't believe their ears! How could one of Jesus's closest friends betray him? They were super sad and seriously surprised. They had no idea who would do such a terrible thing. One after the other they asked, "Is it me?" When it came to Judas and he said, "Is it me?" Jesus replied, "Yes, it is you." Soon after, Jesus said, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:15). He then took some flatbread, blessed it, broke it, and handed pieces of the broken bread to each disciple. "Take and eat," he said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (Matt. 26:26; Luke 22:19). He didn't mean that his body somehow turned into thirteen pieces of bread. He meant that that bread symbolized what would happen to his body—it would be broken, in a way. He would suffer and die! And each and every time they celebrated this meal in the future it would be a reminder that he died for them.



Story

80

Matthew

26

After they ate the bread, Jesus took a cup and said, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matt. 26:27–28). They all drank from the cup, and as they drank they may have had some questions. They certainly didn’t think they were actually drinking Jesus’s blood (he hadn’t even died yet). But they would soon understand—after Jesus died and rose again—that the red wine poured out of the cup was a symbol of Jesus’s blood being poured out on the cross. Instead of forgiveness coming from the blood of bulls and goats, it would come from Jesus’s blood. If we have faith in Jesus—who is the only sacrifice we need—all our sins have been forgiven. Nothing could be more important! No wonder Jesus commanded Christians to continue that meal “in remembrance” of him.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Right before Mary anointed Jesus with perfume, he announced to his disciples, “The Passover is coming, and when it comes the Son of Man [Jesus!] will be delivered up to be crucified” (see Matt. 26:1–2). And right before Jesus was handed over to be crucified, he celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. Why? He wanted them, and all Christians throughout all time, to make an important connection. Jesus is the perfect Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for our sins. Our sins are *passed over* only because he died in our place! And like those Israelites in Egypt who believed what God said and took the lamb’s blood and smeared it on their doorway, we believe that the blood of Jesus saves us now and that God will pass over us on judgment day. Jesus wants us to remember this gospel message. So he established the Lord’s Supper (or *Communion*). As we eat the bread and drink the cup together, we remind each other that Jesus’s body was sacrificed and his blood shed for us. We *commune* with each other, which means we are joined to each other and to Jesus. When we eat and drink, God strengthens and feeds our faith!

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** What were special things about the Passover meal that Jesus had with his disciples? What was going to happen the very next day?

3

Engage

TAKEAWAY: The Passover was the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples before he was crucified.

2. **QUESTION:** When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, what did they have to do so the angel of death would spare their firstborn sons from death? When they celebrated the Passover meal to remember how God spared them, what was the focus of their meal? When Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, why don't you think he talked about the lamb? Whom was Jesus revealing as the Lamb that would be sacrificed to save people from sin?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus is the Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for the forgiveness of sins.

Memory Verse

This is my blood
of the covenant,
which is poured
out for many for
the forgiveness
of sins.

MATTHEW 26:28

3. **QUESTION:** What did Jesus say the bread in the meal was? What did that mean? And what did he say the cup was? What did he want them to remember? Did Jesus only want the disciples to remember his death? Who else did he want to remember his death and what it meant?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus wants all Christians to remember his sacrifice by eating the bread and drinking the cup of the Lord's Supper.

4. **QUESTION:** What does Jesus do when Christians eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord's Supper?

TAKEAWAY: When Christians eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord's Supper, Jesus strengthens them and feeds their faith.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Run for Your Supper

Supply List: none

Have children stand in a circle and hold hands. Choose one child to be "It." "It" walks clockwise around the circle, stops at random, separates the hands of two



Story

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Matthew

26

children, and yells, “Run for your supper!” The two players whose hands were separated run around the circle in opposite directions while “It” takes one of their spots. The runners race to claim the second empty spot where they were previously standing. The child who arrives last is the new “It.” Play continues as time allows. Remind children that the Lord’s Supper was a special meal Jesus had with his disciples.

Option 2: Cups Up, Cups Down

Supply List: large plastic cups (at least two per child)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Place plastic cups around the room, with an equal number of cups facing up and down.

Divide children into two teams: a “cup up” team and a “cup down” team. Have children line up randomly around the perimeter of the room. On “Go” each child runs to place the cups up or down depending on his or her team’s objective. After three minutes, tell players to freeze and count how many cups are facing each direction. The team with the most cups facing in their direction wins. Play additional rounds as time permits. Remind children that at the Last Supper, Jesus said the cup would be a way to remember Jesus’s blood shed for them—and us!

3rd–5th

Option 1: Team Memory

Supply List: sixteen coins (four pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters), sixteen opaque plastic cups

Before Class: Gather supplies. Set sixteen coins on the floor (four of each type). Place coins in random order in a four-by-four grid. Cover each coin with a cup so it is not visible.

Divide children into teams and have each team line up single file. Assign each team a coin type. On “Go” the first player from each team runs to a cup and looks under it without revealing the coin type to anyone else. If the coin matches his team’s type, he brings it back to his team. If not (or if the coin is gone), he puts the cup down, returns to his team empty-handed, and tags the next player to go. The first team to find all four of its coins wins. Remind children that the most important thing to remember is Jesus and his sacrifice on our behalf.

Option 2: Hurry Waiter!

Supply List: paper plate (one per team), ping-pong ball (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Divide children into equal teams, and have them line up single file with about 2 feet between each person on their team. The first person on each team is the first “waiter.” Give each waiter a plastic plate with a ping-pong ball on it. On “Go” have the waiter hold the plate with one hand while weaving in and out among his teammates. If the ball or plate falls, the player must start over from the beginning. When the child reaches the end of the line, he must hold the plate and ball with both hands while he runs back to the front. He then passes the plate and ball to the next person in line, saying, “Dinner is served!” before running back to the end of the line empty-handed. The new waiter repeats the process. Play continues until everyone on the team has had a turn to be the waiter. The first team to finish wins.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Supper Time!

Supply List: paper, scissors, crayons, glue sticks, construction paper, grocery ads

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a fork, knife, spoon, and plate. Make a sample craft.

Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children color the place setting, cut each item out, and glue all items to a piece of construction paper. Have children find pictures of food they like in the grocery ads, then cut them out and glue them to their plate. Remind children that the Last Supper was a supper to remember forever.

Option 2: Passover Lamb

Supply List: cardstock, scissors, cotton balls, glue sticks, crayons



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Matthew

26

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, make copies of a lamb template. Make a sample craft.

Set copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children take a lamb paper and cut out the lamb. They then glue cotton balls to the lamb's body, pulling the cotton balls to stretch them out, if desired. Have them color the face of the lamb with crayons. On the back of the lamb have children write, "Jesus is our Passover Lamb."

3rd–5th

Option 1: Passover Lamb

Supply List: cardstock, scissors, cotton balls, glue sticks, crayons

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, make copies of a lamb template. Make a sample craft.

Set copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children take a lamb paper and cut out the lamb. They then glue cotton balls to the lamb's body, pulling the cotton balls to stretch them out, if desired. Have them color the face of the lamb with crayons. On the back of the lamb have children write, "Jesus is our Passover Lamb."

Option 2: The Last, Best Supper

Supply List: paper, scissors, construction paper, colored pencils, glue sticks, red and brown tissue paper

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a picture of a glass (goblet style) and a loaf of bread. Make a sample craft.

Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children cut out the glass and bread and then glue them to a piece of construction paper. Have them write the Big Truth underneath the glass and bread. Instruct children to tear the red tissue paper into small pieces and glue them "inside" the glass to make it look like wine. Then they can tear the brown tissue paper into small pieces and glue them to the loaf of bread. Remind children that the Last Supper was a supper to remember forever.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 81

Everyone Leaves Jesus

MARK 14

October 28, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Read Mark 14.
- Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.
- Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

At least three times Jesus told the twelve that he would be betrayed, be arrested, suffer, and die. They heard him, but they didn't understand him. Even after the Passover meal, where Jesus used the bread and cup to point to his death, the twelve couldn't yet grasp why Jesus's blood would have to be poured out for the forgiveness of sins. They wouldn't really understand who Jesus was and what he was doing that Passover Week until after his resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The twelve didn't understand Jesus, but one of the twelve did something worse than misunderstand. He betrayed Jesus. Judas! Even though Judas was one of Jesus's closest friends and traveled with him for three years, he loved money more than he loved Jesus. And he was paid thirty pieces of silver from

the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus. How terrible! The Jewish leaders wanted Jesus so they could kill him. How totally terrible! Judas betrayed Jesus because Jesus wasn't the king he was looking for; the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus because he was claiming to be the Son of God. Today's lesson focuses on how Jesus's enemies went after him and how his friends turned against him.

TELL THE STORY

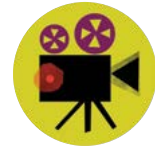
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
Jesus was
betrayed and
denied by his
friends and
handed over to
his enemies.

Have you ever had a friend stop wanting to be friends with you? It doesn't feel very good. The last hours of Jesus's life must have felt a bit like that. Actually, he must have felt much worse. Can you imagine a close friend handing you over to be killed? Can you imagine your other closest friends leaving you to die alone? It's hard to imagine, but that's what Jesus experienced.

After the Passover meal, Jesus took Peter, James, and John to the garden of Gethsemane. It was very late—and still dark. Everyone was exhausted. Jesus was super sad because he knew many terrible things were ahead for him. He wanted to be with his closest friends on earth and to spend time praying to his Father in heaven. There, in the garden, Jesus prayed for his sufferings to be taken away: "Abba, Father," he prayed. "Remove this cup of pain and death from me. That is what I want. But I pray for what you want, not what I want" (see Mark 14:36). Jesus prayed that prayer three times, and three times he returned to find his friends asleep. Snore. Snore. Snore. They couldn't even stay awake when Jesus needed them the most. How sad for Jesus. Suddenly, in the distance, they saw torches. It looked like a small army was approaching. It was Judas, leading a



Story

81

Mark

14

mob with swords and clubs. “The hour has come,” said Jesus. “The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners” (14:41).

Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss. That kiss of betrayal was the sign to the mob that this was the man to arrest. At once Jesus was arrested and brought back to Jerusalem for a trial. A bunch of people lied as they testified against Jesus, and the Jewish leaders declared, “Guilty!” The saddest thing, though, was not that his enemies lied, but that his friend Peter lied. Peter, who was standing outside, was asked three times if he knew Jesus. And three times he said, “I do not know the man!” Just then, a rooster crowed. He denied Jesus, just as Jesus said he would. Peter cried and fled. The morning had come. Jesus would have to journey to the cross alone.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Peter’s last recorded words in the Gospel of Mark are his lies about not knowing Jesus. Imagine saying you didn’t know who Jesus was when he was your closest friend, when he personally called you to follow him, when you heard him teach great truths, and when you witnessed him cast out demons, cleanse a leper, restore sight to the blind, raise the dead, walk on water, and feed thousands of people with a few scraps of food! Peter cried after he denied Jesus. He cried because he was sad and sorry. He let fear get in the way of friendship (and faith!). Peter’s tears that early morning would be wiped away in two days. He would repent of his sin, return to Jesus after the resurrection, and be a great leader in the early church. He would preach the gospel and perform amazing miracles. And he would learn that Jesus came to die for sinners like him. Life has a way of exposing just how sinful we are. Even Peter wasn’t righteous or courageous enough to follow Jesus perfectly. He was a sinner; we are sinners. He needed a Savior; we need a Savior. Jesus was Peter’s Savior, and he is our Savior! Praise God for that good news.

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** Why did the Pharisees want to kill Jesus? Why did Judas betray him?

3

Engage

TAKEAWAY: Most people didn't have eyes to see who Jesus really was.

Memory Verse

For our sake he
made him to be
sin who knew no
sin, so that in him
we might become
the righteousness
of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

2. **QUESTION:** After the Passover meal, where did Jesus go and with who? Why did he want his friends with him? What was he there to do? Was he looking forward to being crucified?

TAKEAWAY: Although Jesus knew he came to die, he needed help to face the suffering and death.

3. **QUESTION:** Did anyone stay with Jesus when he was betrayed by Judas and arrested? What did his closest friends do? How do you think he felt?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus was betrayed and denied by his closest friends.

4. **QUESTION:** How did Peter feel after he denied Jesus? How do you feel when you disobey God? Who did Jesus come to die for? What should we do when we sin?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus died to save sinners like Peter and you and me.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from *TheBiggestStory.com*, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Hidden Kisses

Supply List: Hershey's Kisses (one per child)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Hide Hershey's Kisses around the room.

Have children search for a Hershey's Kiss (one per child). Remind children that Judas's kiss was not hidden. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

Option 2: Rooster Tag

Supply List: blindfold

Before Class: Gather supplies.



Choose one child to be the “Rooster,” and put a blindfold on him or her. Have the remaining children put their thumbs under their arms and strut around the room like a rooster repeatedly saying, “Cock-a-doodle-doo!” Have the Rooster use the children’s voices to find and tag someone. Whoever is tagged becomes the new Rooster. Remind children that Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Scatterball

Supply List: ball

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Have a leader hold a ball in the middle of the room. Have all children place a hand on the ball. (If the group is large, have another leader hold an additional ball.) When the leader shouts “Scatter,” all children must run away from the ball while the leader tosses the ball straight up in the air. When the ball drops to the floor, any child can grab it and yell “Freeze,” and everyone freezes. She is not allowed to run with the ball, but she can pivot on one foot to throw the ball at someone. If someone is hit by the ball, he is out and must sit where he was hit. Then everyone else repeats these steps with the new leader throwing. If someone catches the ball, the person who threw the ball is out and must sit, and the catcher is the new leader. The last child standing wins. Remind children that Jesus’s disciples scattered when he was arrested.

Option 2: Rooster Tag

Supply List: blindfold

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Choose one child to be the “Rooster” and put a blindfold on him or her. Have the remaining children put their thumbs under their arms and strut around the room like a rooster repeatedly saying, “Cock-a-doodle-doo!” Have the Rooster use the children’s voices to find and tag someone. Whoever is tagged becomes the new Rooster. Remind children that Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Praying at Sunset

Supply List: dark-colored paper, scissors, clothespins, sponges, washable paint in sunset colors, paper plates, white cardstock, white colored pencils, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of praying hands on dark-colored paper and cut out. Make sponge stampers by clipping small pieces of sponge with a clothespin (at least one per child). Place various sunset colors of washable paint on paper plates. Make a sample craft.

Give each child praying hands and a piece of white cardstock. Place remaining supplies on tables. Have children write “Jesus prayed” on the hands with a white colored pencil. Have children paint the bottom 2 inches of the cardstock by dabbing the sponge in paint and pressing it to the paper. Next, have children use a different color to paint another 2-inch section directly above the first, being sure to overlap and blend the two colors. Have children continue painting in this way until the whole paper is painted with various sunset colors. When the paint is dry, children can glue the praying hands to the paper as a reminder that Jesus prayed the night before he was arrested and crucified.

Option 2: Passion of Christ Story Wheel

Supply List: paper plates (two per child), brass fasteners, colored pencils, scissors, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of the following scenes: Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss, Jesus being arrested, and Peter denying Jesus (each picture should be small enough to fit on one-fourth of a paper plate). Cut a one-fourth-sized wedge out of half the paper plates (without cutting to the very center). Make a sample craft.

Place supplies on tables. Have each child take a full-sized paper plate and draw two perpendicular lines through the center to divide it into four equal sections. Have children color and cut out the different scenes, then glue them in sequential order onto the sections of their plate. Finally, assist children in using

a brass fastener to attach a paper plate with the one-fourth section removed to the top of their full-sized plate. Encourage children to retell the story using the story wheel.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Passion of Christ Story Wheel

Supply List: paper plates (two per child), brass fasteners, colored pencils, scissors, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut a one-fourth-sized wedge out of half the paper plates (without cutting to the very center). Make a sample craft.

Place supplies on tables. Have each child take a full-sized paper plate and draw two perpendicular lines through the center to divide it into four equal sections. Have children draw the following scenes in sequential order (one per section): Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss, Jesus being arrested, and Peter denying Jesus. Finally, have children use a brass fastener to attach a paper plate with the one-fourth section removed to the top of their full-sized plate. Encourage children to retell the story using the story wheel.

Option 2: Paper Plate Rooster

Supply List: paper plates, brown watercolor paint, paintbrushes, cups of water, googly eyes, red feathers, scissors, pencils, red and yellow construction paper, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Fill small cups with water. Make a sample craft.

Place supplies on tables. Have each child paint a paper plate brown. When it is dry, instruct them to fold it in half. Have children design and cut out red wattles and yellow beaks from the construction paper. Next, children can make rooster faces on one end of the paper plate by gluing on the wattle, beak, and googly eyes. Finally, have them glue a couple red feathers on the opposite end of the plate to form the rooster's "tail." Remind children that Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



Story

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Mark

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STORY 82

The Snake Crusher Is Crushed for Us

MARK 15

November 4, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Mark 15.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*



THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}



All four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—describe how Jesus suffered and died. They don't all record the birth of Jesus (as important as that was!), and they don't all record the same teachings or miracles of Jesus. But all four spend a lot of time talking about the sufferings and death of Jesus. In fact, all four slow down the story once Jesus gets to Jerusalem for the Passover. In Mark's Gospel, for example, he summarizes thirty-three years of Jesus's life (including his three years of ministry) in the first ten chapters. But the last week of Jesus's life gets six whole chapters. Talk about slowing down—six chapters to cover seven days! Why does he do that? Why spend so much time telling us about the

Last Supper, Jesus's betrayal, Jesus's arrest and trial, Jesus's sufferings before the cross, and finally Jesus's terrible death on the cross? The reason is that the cross matters. The cross stands at the center of the Christian story. The cross is where the Snake Crusher was crushed for us.

TELL THE STORY

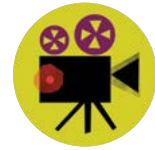
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
The Snake
Crusher was
crushed for us.

Good Friday is one of the most important days in the whole of history, a day Christians set aside to remember Jesus's death. But why is it called Good Friday and not Sad Friday? It certainly was a *sad* day. Jesus was sentenced to death, beaten, and nailed to a cross. So sad. But it was so *good* too—extremely, awesomely, amazingly good! It was good because through Jesus's sacrifice we are forgiven. It was good because the Snake Crusher finally crushed Satan by being crushed on the cross for us.

Here's the story of that sad but good day. After the rooster crowed, the wicked Jewish leaders delivered Jesus over to Pilate, the Roman governor in Jerusalem who would decide whether Jesus lived or died. Pilate questioned Jesus, and he was convinced that Jesus was innocent. So he tried to release him. He brought out two prisoners—Jesus and Barabbas. Barabbas was a rebel and murderer. "Since it is your Passover feast celebration, I'll set one prisoner free," Pilate said to the crowd. "Do you want this rebel or this so-called ruler—Jesus, King of the Jews?" Pilate thought that they would free Jesus. But no! They shouted for Barabbas. "What!" Pilate said. "What then shall I do with Jesus? He hasn't done anything wrong." Then, they shouted, "Crucify him" (Mark 15:13). What! Why? Wow! Pilate preferred to please the crowds than release innocent Jesus, and so he "delivered him to be crucified" (15:15).



Story

82

Mark

15

The Roman soldiers took off Jesus's clothes and whipped him. (How painful!) Then they mocked him by placing a purple cloak on his body and a crown of thorns on his head. (How cruel!) Then they pretended to worship Jesus by kneeling before him, spitting on him, and saying, "Hail, King of the Jews" (15:18). (How blasphemous!) After all that, Jesus carried his cross beam to Calvary, the place where they crucified criminals. Along the way, Jesus fell a few times. The cross was heavy, and Jesus's body was weak from the beatings. A man named Simon was asked to help him carry the cross. Then, when he arrived, the soldiers put the cross beams together, nailed Jesus to it, and lifted him up between two thieves. People taunted him ("Save yourself, and come down from the cross," 15:30) and mocked him ("Come down . . . that we may see and believe," 15:32), but Jesus had a different plan. Instead, he "uttered a loud cry and breathed his last" (15:37). Then, the earth shook, the sky turned black, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. God accepted Jesus's sacrifice! Indeed it was a Good Friday.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Who is the Snake Crusher? Why is Jesus called that? That name goes back to one of the earliest promises in the Bible, when God said to the serpent who deceived Eve in the garden of Eden, "Because you have done this, there will be a long and great struggle between you and Eve's offspring until the day when a child is born from her family who will crush your head once and for all" (see Gen. 3:14–15). Jesus is that child. Jesus is the Snake Crusher. He's the son of Mary and the Son of God. But what is surprising in our story is that the Snake Crusher is crushed. Although he had never sinned, he was punished by God for all the sins of the world. Why? So we wouldn't have to be punished. Jesus was crushed so we don't have to be crushed. He took the punishment for us. That's why it was a Good Friday.

And the Snake? He will still be crushed just as it was promised. But that's a story for another day.

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** What do we call the day Jesus died? Why do we call it good when it's the day he died?

3

Engage

TAKEAWAY: The day Jesus died can be called Good Friday.

2. **QUESTION:** According to the Bible, what is God's punishment for sin? Who has sinned? Jesus never sinned, so why did God punish him on the cross?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus became sin for us and took the punishment we deserved.

Memory Verse

He himself bore
our sins in his
body on the tree,
that we might die
to sin and live to
righteousness. By
his wounds you
have been healed.

1 PETER 2:24

3. **QUESTION:** Who was the Snake Crusher? Why was he crushed for us?

TAKEAWAY: The Snake Crusher was crushed as the punishment for our sin.

4. **QUESTION:** When Jesus died, what happened to the curtain in the temple? If the curtain kept people from the Holy Place where God met with the high priest, what do you think it means that the curtain was torn when Jesus died?

TAKEAWAY: When Jesus died, we were given access to God.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from *TheBiggestStory.com*, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Silent Speed Ball

Supply List: none

Have children stand in a circle. Tell them they must be silent the entire game. Give one child a ball, and have her pass it to someone else in the circle. The child who catches the ball must then quickly pass it to another child in the circle (and so on). If a child makes a sound, fails to catch the ball, drops the ball after catching it, or throws the ball poorly (too short, over the head, etc.), he is out and must sit down. The last child standing wins. Tell children that when Jesus was arrested and put on trial, he was silent and did not defend himself.

Option 2: Sin Relay

Supply List: boxes, heavy books, chairs

Before Class: Fill boxes with books (one per team). Set up chairs on one side of the room (one per team).



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Mark

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Divide children into teams, and have them line up across from a chair. Give each team a box of books. On “Go” the first child on each team must push the box across the room, around his team’s chair, and back to his team. The next person repeats the process. The first team to race all its players wins. Remind children that Jesus carried the heavy burden of our sin so that we could be free of it.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Build a Bridge Challenge

Supply List: masking tape, craft sticks (forty per team), paper clips (ten per team), string, pennies

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Divide children into small teams. Give each team 3 feet of masking tape, forty craft sticks, ten paper clips, and 1 foot of string. Have each team use the supplies to build a bridge that can hold weight. After teams have built their bridges, test how much weight each one can hold by adding pennies to the bridge until it collapses. The team whose bridge holds the most pennies wins. Remind children that Jesus’s death on the cross made a way for us to be with God.

Option 2: Sin Relay

Supply List: boxes, heavy books, chairs

Before Class: Fill boxes with books (one per team). Set up chairs on one side of the room (one per team).

Divide children into teams, and have them line up across from a chair. Give each team a box of books. On “Go” the first child on each team must push the box across the room, around his team’s chair, and back to his team. The next person repeats the process. The first team to race all its players wins. Remind children that Jesus carried the heavy burden of our sin so that we could be free of it.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Stained Glass Cross

Supply List: clear contact paper, permanent marker, yarn, scissors, masking tape, colored tissue paper, hole punches

Before Class: Gather supplies. With permanent marker, draw a cross onto clear contact paper and cut it out. Cut tissue paper into small pieces for the stained glass. Cut yarn into 6-inch pieces for hanging. Make a sample craft.

Set colored tissue paper, yarn, and hole punches on tables. Use tape to hold the cross in place, so the child can peel off the backing and begin putting tissue paper on it until it is completely covered. Have children untape the cross from the table and punch a hole through the top for hanging in a window. Remind children that Jesus loves them so much that he died on the cross for their sins.

Option 2: Fingerprint Cross

Supply List: washable paint, paper plates, markers, paper, baby wipes

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a large cross template (one per child). Place a small amount of different colored paints on paper plates (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Set markers on tables. Give each child a cross paper, and instruct children to write “Jesus died for me” above the cross. Give each child a plate with paint. The children should dip one finger in the paint, then make a fingerprint inside the cross. Have them continue to make fingerprints with different colors of paint until the entire cross is filled. Have children clean their fingers with baby wipes as needed. Remind children that Jesus loves them so much that he died on the cross for their sins.



Option 1: Foil Cross Necklace

Supply List: aluminum foil, pipe cleaners, string

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut aluminum foil into random-sized pieces. Cut string into 18-inch pieces. Make a sample craft.

Set supplies on tables. Have children take two pipe cleaners and form them into the shape of a cross with a loop at the top. Next, children should wrap and scrunch foil pieces tightly around both pipe cleaners until everything but the loop is covered. Have children thread a piece of string through the loop and tie the ends together, making a necklace. Encourage children to wear the necklace to remind them that Jesus loves them so much that he died on the cross for their sins.

Option 2: Faux Stained Glass Cross

Supply List: cardstock, black acrylic paint, white liquid glue, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups, water, pencil, ruler

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, make copies of a large cross. Mix black acrylic paint with half empty bottles of liquid white glue. Shake vigorously until mixed together (one per table). Fill cups with water. Make a sample craft.

Place copies, “black glue,” cups of water, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children take a cross paper and use a pencil and ruler to divide the cross into random sections. Instruct children to use watercolor paints to paint each section a different color. Children then can use the bottle of black glue to trace around the edges of the cross, as well as over the pencil lines that separate their sections. Remind children that Jesus loves them so much that he died on the cross for their sins.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 83

Jesus Lives

LUKE 24

November 11, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Luke 24.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

God's ways are not our ways. If we were to write the story of our salvation, would we have the glorious Son of God born of a young teenage girl and laid in a manger? Would we have him grow up in the small town of Nazareth? Would we have him ride into Jerusalem on a humble donkey? Would we have him suffer? Be mocked and mistreated? Carry a cross to Calvary? Be crucified between two criminals? No, we might write something like the Son of God flew down to earth riding in a golden chariot with six white horses pulling him, sixty million angels flying around him, and when everyone on earth saw him, they fell down before him. We might also write that he lived happily ever after with everyone in his holy (and huge!) palace in the holy city on the holy mountain. But God couldn't do that because he is just and must punish our sin. Fallen people aren't

fit to live happily ever after with him. Which is why God's Biggest Story is so different. It is upside down, different than we'd expected. Jesus's death was different than we'd expect—and so was his resurrection! His resurrection was unexpected but super important. So *listen up* as we talk about Jesus *rising up*!

TELL THE STORY

Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
*The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook*



Play *The
Biggest Story*
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth

Jesus rose from
the dead—just like
the Old Testament
said he would.

Jesus predicted that one of the twelve would betray him. That happened. He predicted that Peter would deny him. That happened. He predicted that twelve out of twelve would forsake him. That happened. He predicted that he would suffer and die. That happened. And he predicted that in three days he would rise from the dead. Did that happen? It sure did!

On Friday Jesus died. So dark and sad. On Saturday his body lay in the tomb. Totally dark, sad, and silent. On Sunday, however, as the sun rose in the sky, the Son of God rose from the grave. The first to witness this miracle of miracles were a few women. They didn't expect Jesus to be alive. We know this because they brought spices to the tomb. Dead bodies don't smell so good, so they wanted to make Jesus's body smell better. But when they arrived at the tomb, they found that the huge stone in front of the tomb was rolled away and Jesus's body was not there. Surprise of all surprises! Just then, another surprise. Two angels stood before them in dazzling white clothes and announced, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you . . . that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise" (Luke 24:5–7). Only then did they remember.



Story

83

Luke

24

After the women spoke with the angels, they ran back to tell the other disciples. The disciples thought they were crazy, but Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves. When they got there, they looked inside and saw Jesus's grave clothes but not his body. Jesus was indeed alive! They ran back and told the others, but at this time "they did not [yet] understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead" (John 20:9). It took a few appearances from Jesus (where they both saw him and touched him!) and his own teaching on the Old Testament for them to understand and believe the amazing news.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

One day after Jesus's death, two of his followers were walking away from Jerusalem when Jesus walked up to them and asked what they were talking about. They didn't recognize him. So they shared how their "chief priests and rulers delivered [Jesus] up ... and crucified him" (Luke 24:20). They said they "had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel" (24:21). They also shared how the women went to the tomb, found it empty, and saw angels "who said that he was alive" (24:23). But they didn't believe all this. That's why they were walking away. Jesus stopped them and said, "Why are you so dumb?" Well, he didn't say it exactly that way. He said it this way, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" (24:25–26). Then, starting with Genesis and ending with Malachi, he taught them from the Old Testament about himself. "It was written," Jesus said "that I should rise from the dead and that the good news that sins are forgiven should be preached to all the nations" (see 24:46–47). Jesus rose from the dead, just like the Old Testament said. Those two followers understood and believed. And that is the good news we should believe too!

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

1. **QUESTION:** What are some surprising things about how Jesus came to earth to save us? Why do you think God's ways are so different than our ways?

TAKEAWAY: God's ways are not our ways.

3

Engage

Memory Verse
“Death is swallowed
up in victory.”
“O death, where is
your victory?
O death, where is
your sting?”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:54–55

2. **QUESTION:** Did Jesus’s followers expect him to rise from the dead? How do you know they didn’t? Why should they have expected him to rise? How did Jesus explain to the two men why he had to die and rise?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus rose from the dead, just like the Old Testament had said.

3. **QUESTION:** When the women told the disciples that Jesus was alive, did they believe them? What convinced them?

TAKEAWAY: The disciples didn’t believe that Jesus was alive until they saw him with their own eyes.

4. **QUESTION:** Did Jesus only appear to a couple of people? Why did he appear to so many? Why was it important that so many people actually saw Jesus with their own eyes after he rose again?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus appeared to hundreds of disciples after his death so they could be his witnesses to all nations.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from *TheBiggestStory.com*, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Alive Tag

Supply List: none

Have children line up along one wall. Identify a “safe zone.” Choose one child to be “It” and to stand in the middle of the room. On “Go” have “It” stand completely still (as if dead or asleep) while the other children walk quietly around him, whispering, “Are you alive?” Whenever “It” wants, he can yell out “I’m alive!” and tries to tag as many children as possible before they get to the safe zone. Anyone “It” tags becomes “It” also. Have all children who are “It” spread out in the room. The game continues as before, but now the original “It” yells “We’re alive” when it’s time to run and tag people. Play continues until one child remains. That person becomes “It” for the next round. Remind children that the disciples thought Jesus was still dead even though Jesus had risen from the dead!



Option 2: Empty Tomb Relay

Supply List: paper, plastic eggs, buckets

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut out small squares of paper and draw a cross on each one. Place cross papers inside plastic eggs. Fill buckets with cross-filled eggs and one empty egg (one per team). Place buckets on one side of the room.

Divide children into teams, and have them line up opposite a bucket. The first child on each team must jump down to her team's bucket and open an egg. If the egg has a cross in it, she must close the egg (with cross paper inside), return it to the bucket, and run back to tag the next person, who repeats the process. The first team to find and return the empty egg wins. Remind children that Jesus's tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead!

3rd–5th

Option 1: In the Tomb, Out of the Tomb, Bridge

Supply List: masking tape

Before Class: Gather supplies. Use masking tape to make a line down the center of the room.

Have children stand with one leg on each side of the line. Explain that the way they are standing will be called “bridge.” Identify one side of the line as “in the tomb” and the other side as “out of the tomb.” A leader calls out “in the tomb,” “out of the tomb,” or “bridge,” and children jump with two feet to the side or position that is called. If a child jumps to the wrong side or position, he is out and must sit to the side. The leader continues calling out the phrases in random order, calling out more quickly the less people there are in the game. The last child standing wins. Remind children that Jesus's death and resurrection provided a way for us to be with God.

Option 2: Pop! Relay

Supply List: balloons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Inflate balloons (one per child and a few extra).

Divide children into teams, and give each child a balloon. The first person on each team must run with her balloon to the opposite side of the room, pop her balloon by stomping on it or sitting on it, and run back to tag the next person in line, who repeats the process. The first team to have all players complete the

race wins. Remind children that the empty balloons are like the empty tomb the women found when they went to take care of Jesus's body. Jesus is alive!

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Jesus Wins Trophy

Supply List: paper, tape, glue, scissors, a variety of supplies (toilet paper rolls, cardstock, cardboard, pom-poms, craft sticks, aluminum foil, etc.)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print papers that say “Jesus won over sin and death!” (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children use the provided supplies to design a trophy. After constructing a trophy, the children should cut out “Jesus won over sin and death” and attach it to their trophies. Remind children that Jesus won over sin and death!

Option 2: “He Is Risen” Handprint

Supply List: paper (white, green, brown, yellow), glue, scissors, crayons

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a semicircle “hill” on green paper and a cross on brown paper (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Instruct children to trace both their hands on yellow construction paper, to cut the tracings out, and to glue them to the top of a piece of white paper (overlapping the palms to form the rays of a sun). Children will then cut out a green semicircle hill and glue it under the handprints. Finally, have them cut out a brown cross and glue it on top of the hill (it will also cover some of the “sun”). Instruct the children to write “He is risen!” on the hill.



Option 1: Jesus Wins Trophy

Supply List: paper, tape, glue, scissors, a variety of supplies (toilet paper rolls, cardstock, cardboard, pom-poms, craft sticks, aluminum foil, etc.)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print papers that say “Jesus won over sin and death!” (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children use the provided supplies to design a trophy. After constructing a trophy, the children should cut out “Jesus won over sin and death” and attach it to their trophies. Remind children that Jesus won over sin and death!

Option 2: “He Is Risen” Banner

Supply List: string, 11" x 17" construction paper, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, sequins, stickers, tape

Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut string into 3-foot pieces (one per child). Make a sample craft.

Place string and remaining supplies on tables. Instruct children to write “He is risen!” in the middle of a large piece of construction paper. Next, they can decorate their banners using the provided supplies, leaving room at the top. When completed, help children fold the top of their banner over a piece of string, using tape to secure it. Have children tie the ends of the string together for hanging. Remind children that Jesus conquered sin and death when he rose from the dead!



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.



STORY 84

A Mission for the Ages

MATTHEW 28

November 18, 2026

BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Matthew 28.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

1

Read

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

2

Teach

As we come to the end of the Gospels, let's review what Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John record about Jesus. Jesus was born. He grew in wisdom. He taught and performed miracles. He was betrayed and arrested. He was put on trial and sentenced to be crucified. He suffered and died. But then, three days later, he turned the world upside down (or right-side up): he rose from the dead. He is alive! He appeared to the women at the tomb, the two men on the road outside Jerusalem, and all the apostles. In fact, Paul tells us "he appeared to more than five hundred brothers [Christians] at one time" (1 Cor. 15:6) and then later to Paul himself. Over five hundred people. Wow! That's a lot of eyewitnesses! One of the times Jesus appeared to his disciples, he said something very important

to them. He wanted them to be more than eyewitnesses; he wanted them to tell the world what they had seen and heard. Let's listen!

TELL THE STORY

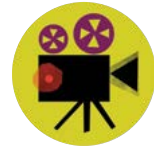
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read from
The Biggest Story
Bible Storybook



Play *The*
Biggest Story
video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth
The King of
heaven and earth
calls his followers
to make disciples
of all nations.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to “Mary Magdalene and the other Mary” (Matt. 28:1) at the tomb, he told them to tell the other disciples some important information: that Jesus had “risen from the dead” (28:7) and that the disciples were to journey to Galilee. That’s the place Jesus first called them, and he wanted to meet there with them again. When the disciples arrived in Galilee, sure enough Jesus showed up. And “when they saw him they worshiped him” (28:17). They worshiped him because he had proved by his resurrection that he was truly God in the flesh. We should worship him too!

At the meeting Jesus gave them what is called the Great Commission, important instructions about their important mission. But before he talked about what they should do, he said something important about himself. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (28:18). How much authority? All! Authority over the rising and setting sun? Yes. Authority over the ocean’s big waves and the tornado’s wild winds? Yes. Authority over every earthly king. Yes. “All authority” means authority over everything! We worship a powerful risen King, don’t we?

After our powerful risen King said that about himself, he said this to his disciples: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (28:19). Just as Jesus made disciples, his disciples are to make disciples. *Of whom?* The nations—that is, people from every country, every group, and every language throughout the



Story

84

Matthew

28

world! *How are they to make disciples?* By going to them, “teaching them” (28:20) what Jesus taught, and “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (28:19). That’s a pretty big job! *How are they to accomplish this great task?* Through Jesus’s presence: “And behold,” Jesus concludes his Great Commission, “I am with you always and for all time” (see 28:20). They would soon discover that the Spirit of Jesus would indeed be with them. In fact, God would pour out his Holy Spirit on the disciples. But let’s not get ahead of ourselves.

The mission they were given by Jesus is the same mission that the church has today. To go tell all people the good news that Jesus taught and to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Jesus said many things to his disciples after he rose from the dead. But the final thing Jesus told his disciples to do was so important that we call it the Great Commission. The word “commission” just means “command.” And what is the Great Commission? Jesus commanded this: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” He wanted to make it crystal clear that he didn’t just come to rescue his disciples, or just the Jews. He came to rescue all people—from every country and every language. Every group of people. What a *great* command indeed! And the best part is, if Jesus, who has all authority over everything, tells us to do something, we can be sure he will help us complete that task. In fact, he promises to be with us always! As we tell people about how they can be rescued by Jesus and how he has crushed the snake, we help accomplish his mission to rescue all people. How awesome is that!

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- 1. QUESTION:** How many gods are there? Is it okay to worship other things than God—like a president, or money, or an amazing singer? How many persons is our God?

TAKEAWAY: We worship only one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3

Engage

Memory Verse
**Go therefore and
make disciples
of all nations.**

MATTHEW 28:19

2. **QUESTION:** After Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to disciples, where did he return? What was the last thing he said to his disciples before he went back to heaven?

TAKEAWAY: Before Jesus returned to his Father, he gave his disciples a final command to go and make disciples of all nations.

3. **QUESTION:** Do you think it's easy to go and make disciples of all nations? To give his disciples confidence as they obey his command, what did Jesus say he had been given? And who did Jesus say would be with them always?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth, so we know all nations will have disciples.

4. **QUESTION:** Was it just the first disciples that were to go and make disciples of all nations? What is the mission of the church (you and me) today?

TAKEAWAY: The mission Jesus gave his disciples is still the mission of the church today.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Red Light, Green Light

Supply List: none

Have children line up on one side of the room. Choose someone to be “It” and to stand opposite the class. Have “It” call out “Red Light” or “Green Light.” On “Green Light” players must move forward as quickly as possible. On “Red Light” players must freeze. Any child who moves after “Red Light” is called must return to the starting line. The child who reaches “It” first wins. Remind children that Jesus gave his followers the green light to go and tell others about him.

Option 2: Tell the World Balloon Game

Supply List: balloons, permanent marker



Story

84

Matthew

28

Before Class: Gather supplies. Blow up seven balloons per team and use a permanent marker to write the names of the seven continents on the balloons (one continent per balloon).

Divide children into two teams, and have each team stand in a circle. Give each team a set of the continent balloons. On “Go” have the children on each team try to keep all seven balloons from falling to the ground by hitting them up in the air. If a balloon touches the ground, it is out of play. At the end of five minutes, the team with the most balloons still in play wins. Remind children that Jesus told his followers to share the good news about him with the whole world.

3rd–5th

Option 1: A Piece of the World Relay

Supply List: simple world map puzzle (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Scramble the pieces to the puzzle and set the pieces in a pile on the opposite side of the room (one puzzle per team).

Divide children into teams. On “Go” the first person on each team runs to his team’s puzzle pieces, grabs a piece, runs it back to the starting line, and tags the next person in line, who repeats the process. Once the team has gathered all the puzzle pieces in this way, the children must work as a team to put the puzzle together. The first team to finish wins. Remind children that Jesus told his followers to share the good news about him with the whole world.

Option 2: Tell the World Balloon Game

Supply List: balloons, permanent marker

Before Class: Gather supplies. Blow up seven balloons per team and use a permanent marker to write the names of the seven continents on the balloons (one continent per balloon).

Divide children into two teams, and have each team stand in a circle. Give each team a set of the continent balloons. On “Go” have the children on each team try to keep all seven balloons from falling to the ground by hitting them up in the air. If a balloon touches the ground, it is out of play. At the end of five minutes, the team with the most balloons still in play wins. Remind children that Jesus told his followers to share the good news about him with the whole world.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: “Go and Make Disciples” Craft

Supply List: paper, maps, scissors, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a paper that has the word GO in large bubble letters, with “therefore and make disciples of all nations” in smaller letters underneath it. Make a sample craft.

Set scissors and maps on tables. Have children cut out pieces of maps and glue the pieces inside the word GO.

Option 2: “I’m Ready to Go!” Suitcase

Supply List: paper, cardstock, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, print a suitcase template with the Memory Verse written underneath it. Make copies of pictures of the following items: a Bible, a globe, praying hands, and a heart. Make a sample craft.

Place copies and remaining supplies on tables. Have children color and cut out the pictures of the Bible, globe, praying hands, and heart. Have them glue the pictures inside their “suitcase.” Have children decorate the rest of the suitcase with colored pencils. Remind children that no matter where they go, near or far, God wants them to share the good news of Jesus and be a part of the work he is doing in the world.



Option 1: Shoes Are Made for Going

Supply List: cardstock, yarn, colored pencils, scissors, hole punches

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, make copies of a gym shoe pattern. Cut yarn into 8-inch pieces. Make a sample craft.

Set copies, yarn, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children color a gym shoe and cut it out. Instruct children to punch holes where the laces would go and to lace and tie a piece of yarn through the holes, tying the yarn in a bow as if tying a shoe. Have children write the Memory Verse on the shoe.

Option 1: “Go and Make Disciples” Craft

Supply List: paper, maps, scissors, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a paper that has the word GO in large bubble letters, with “therefore and make disciples of all nations” in smaller letters underneath it. Make a sample craft.

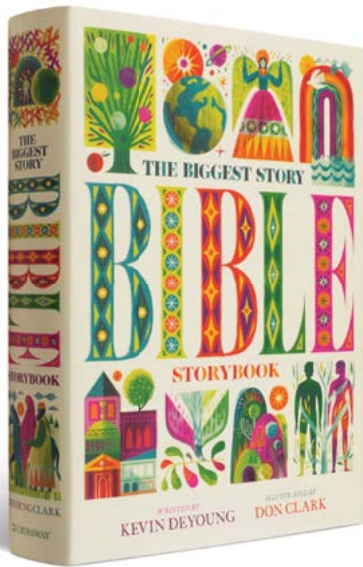
Set scissors and maps on tables. Have children cut out pieces of maps and glue the pieces inside the word go.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.

MORE RESOURCES FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

The Biggest Story leads kids through the overarching story of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. These resources can be used together to help children engage with Scripture and grow to know and love God better.



The Biggest Story Bible Storybook

This beautifully illustrated book by Kevin DeYoung combines 104 easy-to-read stories from Scripture with artwork by Don Clark, helping children ages 6–12 learn the unified story of the Bible.

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Available for individual purchase, these carefully constructed lessons on key biblical stories help children in kindergarten through fifth grade grasp God's plan to redeem the world through his Son, Jesus.

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The Biggest Story Posters

This set of 104 sturdy, 11" x 17" posters feature lesson details on one side and corresponding illustrations on the other. Use them to teach and review lessons, and to decorate your children's ministry area.

Purchase one set of these for each classroom in your ministry.



The Biggest Story Verse Cards

Each colorful, pocket-size card in this set of 104 features a Bible verse and an illustration to help children remember key verses from Genesis through Revelation.

Purchase a set for each student and hand out a card after each corresponding lesson.

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