

"I am the
resurrection
and the life.
He who believes
in Me, though
he may die,
he shall live."

John 11:25

The Resurrection Story

Why did God require a sacrifice for sin?
Why was Jesus nailed to the cross?
How did Jesus rise from the grave?

Free 7-day family devotion

April 2-8

K-6th grade

Enlist your teens to lead some lessons

7 Seven sayings on the cross - NKJV

1. Luke 23:34, "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
2. Luke 23:43, "And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
3. John 19:26, "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"
4. Matthew 27:46, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
5. John 19:28, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"
6. John 19:30, "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.
7. Luke 23:46, "And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, He breathed His last.

Lesson 1 - Forgiveness

What is forgiveness?

Parent/teacher: Before they can learn what forgiveness is, they must first know what 'wrong' or 'sin' is. This truth will build forward to Lesson 7. Have the child open to the verse and help them read it. Then ask the questions below and allow them to guess the answers and discuss it with them.

Luke 23:34, "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Why do we have laws? *Laws show people what is right and what is wrong. Give an example.*

Because people do things that are not good -or- do things God does not approve of. It is called evil. It is wrong to hurt others. We have laws that keep us from hurting others. God warns us about doing wrong in His Word, the Bible. It is right and good to help others. God tells us in His Word, the Bible, what is good and right to do.

What happens to us when we break God's laws?

God cannot dwell with anyone who does wrong - sins.

God can only dwell with someone who only does good and right all the time.

It is called holiness.

God knows when we do wrong. He always sees it. He is not pleased. He will not dwell with us.

BUT! Jesus will show us how to be accepted by God just like Adam and Eve did.

In Luke 23:34, Where was Jesus when He said, "Father, forgive them?"

On the cross being ridiculed and crucified.

What does 'crucify' mean? *To be nailed on a big cross to punish someone for a crime.*

What crime did Jesus commit? *Jesus never sinned and He never committed a crime.*

Who were the people who "did not know what they do?"

The Israelites who did not believe in Jesus. They nailed Jesus to the cross.

Why does God forgive us? Doesn't God require a sacrifice for sin?

1. *Yes, God told the people to bring a lamb to sacrifice. It had to be innocent and perfect - a lamb without sin.*
2. *The lamb would die in their place because of their sin.*
3. *God then forgave them of their sin and accepted them. He gave them clean hearts.*

Why did Jesus die on the cross? He never sinned!

1. Jesus was our lamb to sacrifice. He was innocent and perfect - without sin.
2. Jesus went to the cross because He wanted God to forgive us - so we would be accepted by God the Father.
3. Jesus wants to forgive you.

Must we ask God to forgive us for doing wrong and sinning? *Yes. Discuss.*

If we wrong someone, should we be sorry for it? *Yes, we should know in our heart.*

If we do wrong against God, should we be sad and sorry for it? *Yes, our hearts become sad.*

What does God's Word say we should do when we do wrong and sin?

Have them turn to 1 John 1:9. It is important they learn how to use the Bible, read the verse, and discuss it.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1. First, go to God's Word. God's Word tells us what we should do when we sin. And God's Word teaches us about His Son, Jesus and Heaven.
2. Pray - Confess - admit we did wrong. Tell God exactly what you did even though He already knows all about it. That's what God wants you to do!
3. Repent - God wants you to stop doing wrong and start doing what His Word says.
4. Ask God to forgive you for not obeying Him and His Word.

God will forgive you and clean your heart. He will accept you!

Read again: ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

What 2 things does God do when we confess?

1. He forgives us.
2. He cleans us - He cleans our hearts.

Let's pray to God: *Dear God, I know doing wrong is sin. I know that I sin. I want to stop doing wrong. I ask you to clean my heart and forgive me. Help me follow You and follow what You say in Your Word, the Bible. Help me to confess my sin as soon as I realize I have sinned. Amen.*

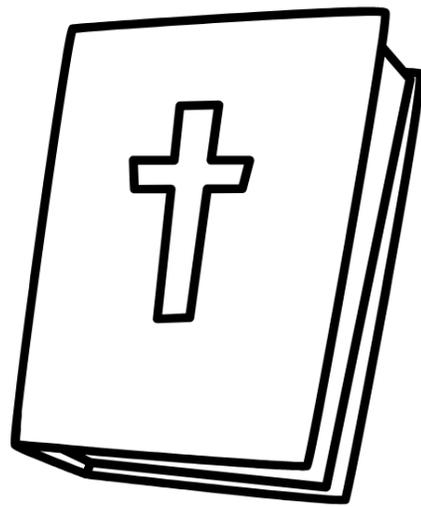
Worksheet answers: God's Word, Pray, forgive.

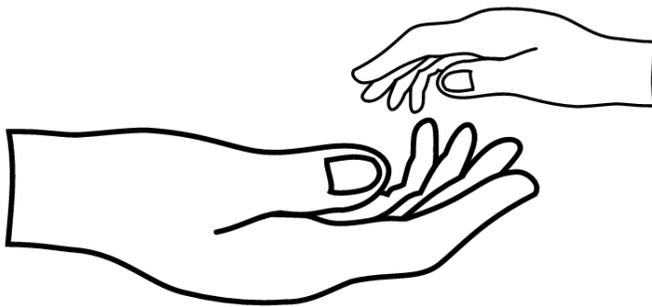
Lesson 1 Worksheet

First, fill in the blanks with the proper word. Use the middle section of page 2 to help you. Then, color each one.

Then, cut out each picture with words section and paste them into their proper order on a separate sheet of paper. Put the paper somewhere where you will see it often.







Lesson 2 - Paradise

What is Paradise?

Parent/teacher: This lesson is a continuation on forgiveness. Forgiveness, confession, sin, sacrifice, and such terms will take time before they are truly realized and understood. Sometimes, it takes years before these important truths are fully understood. Therefore, it is important to review and continue teaching these truths.

Have the child open to the verse and help them read it. Then ask the questions below and allow them to guess the answers and discuss it with them.

Luke 23:43, 'And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'"

When Jesus was on the cross, was he there alone?

No, two criminals were being crucified next to Him.

What does 'crucify' mean? *To be nailed on a big cross to punish someone for a crime.*

What crime did Jesus commit? *Jesus never sinned and He never committed a crime.*

Why then was Jesus put on the cross to be punished?

1. *Jesus was hated by the Israelites because He told them He was God's Son.*
2. *God forgives sin only if a perfect sacrifice dies in their place.*
3. *The penalty for sin is death.*
4. *God allowed Jesus to be put on the cross so Jesus could pay for our sins and be our perfect lamb sacrifice.*

Read Luke 23:42, "Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Who said, 'Lord, remember me...in your kingdom?'

One of the two criminals who were being crucified next to Jesus.

Why do you think he said that?

He believed that Jesus was God's Son. He believed Jesus did not sin.

Read: Luke 23:40, "Do you not even fear God." V. 41, 'this Man has done nothing wrong.' 'Man' is capitalized.

What did Jesus tell him, in Luke 23:43?

He would be in paradise today, with Jesus.

What is paradise?

Revelation 2:7, 'where the tree of life is, which is in the very presence of God.' Heaven!

Give them the lesson 2 worksheet for this next part. See if they can guess the answer. This is review.

Earlier, in lesson 1, we learned that God wants us to do what: _____ if He is to forgive us for our sin? *Confess*

Did the criminal on the cross next to Jesus confess?

He said in v.40, 'we receive the due reward of our deeds.' He also said, "Do you not fear God.' He also said, 'Lord, remember me.'

Answer: God hears what we say with our mouth and He also hears what we say in our hearts and minds. He knows the heart of this criminal.

Jesus knows what is in our _____. *Heart*

God's Word is always true and if God says we must confess, then this criminal did confess.

Earlier, in lesson 1, we learned that if we confess our sin to Jesus, He will do what: _____ for us? *Forgive*

Did Jesus forgive the criminal? *Yes*

What happened to the criminal when he died on the cross?

Jesus said the criminal would go to Heaven and be in the presence of God and Jesus.

Let's pray: Dear God, we believe You created a paradise for us. We thank you so much for paradise and we want to go to paradise with Jesus like the criminal did. Help us to learn about confessing and forgiving. We confess our sin and ask you to forgive us. Amen.

Lesson 2 worksheet

God wants us to do what: _____
if He is to forgive us for our sin?

Jesus knows what is in our _____.

If we confess our sin to Jesus, He will
do what: _____ for us?

Lesson 3: Jesus Cares for Others

Jesus Cares for Others

John 19:26, "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

What is happening to Jesus as He is hanging on the cross?

1. He is dying and shedding His blood to pay for our sins. (See previous lessons).
2. He is being mocked and made fun of.
3. He is in pain.

Even though Jesus is in pain:

- Jesus can see everyone below and everything that is happening. (*Jesus always sees everything, He sees us, and He sees what is happening in your life, too*).
- Jesus sees and notices His mother standing below Him. (Remember He is elevated - higher above the people while on the cross and He can see everyone below Him).
- Jesus knows that after He dies, His mother might have to live alone. (*Have them turn to 1 Peter 5:7. Use verse worksheet and see if they can fill in the blanks*).
- Jesus is concerned about His mother and He takes care of her needs.

Have them turn to John 19:27.

"Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.""

What does Jesus do to help his mother?

Jesus asks one of His disciples to take care of His mother. Jesus' mother went to live with that disciple. (The disciple was John).

Let them do the second worksheet. See if they can get them all right.
(Answers: Sees, Sees, Mother, You, Care).

1 Peter 5:7

'Casting all your

upon Him, for He

for you.'

Fill in the missing word about how Jesus cares.

Jesus _____ everything!

Jesus _____ us!

Jesus was concerned about

His _____.

Jesus is also concerned about _____.

If Jesus cares about others, we should also

_____ about others.

Lesson 4: Jesus is Forsaken

Jesus is Forsaken

Matt 27:45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Can you pronounce what Jesus said in this verse? *Let them try to say it.*

What language do you think it is? *Aramaic - a common language most nations spoke.*

Why did Jesus ask God 'why have you forsaken me' if He already knew why He was on the cross? *Answer: Jesus was quoting Psalm 22.*

Look at V.3 & 10. The Psalm declares 'He' is God! V.16-18 refer to the cross.

Meaning: Jesus was telling the crowd He was God - the very God in Psalm 22!

When Jesus was on the cross dying, He quoted Psalm 22, a Psalm King David wrote which describes God suffering. Jesus is saying, 'He' is fulfilling Psalm 22!

Did God really 'forsake' Jesus when He was on the cross?

Yes, God was giving Jesus all of our sins and Jesus was accepting them and receiving all of the penalty for sins.

What is the penalty for sins? *Separation which means suffering and death and hell.*

What important lesson is learned by this?

God cannot be in the presence of sin. Sin separates us from God, only Jesus can bring us back to God.

Do you remember how to be forgiven of your sins?

Go to God and His Word (believe Him and believe Jesus)

Confess to Jesus you have sinned (tell him how you have sinned).

Ask Him to forgive you.

Let's pray: Dear Jesus, I believe **You Are God**. I believe Your Word and I have sinned. You took my punishment for my sins. I want to thank you and I want to stop sinning and I want to ask you to forgive me for my sins. I want to go to Heaven with You and God our Father. Amen.

Worksheet answers: God, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. The worksheet should convey Psalm 22 is all about Jesus.

Lesson 4 worksheet

Psalm 22 - A psalm of King David

1. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Who did King David write about? _____

3. "But You are holy."

Who is the holy one? _____

10. "You have been My God."

Who else is God? _____

16. "They pierced My hands and My feet."

Who's hands and feet were pierced on the cross?

Lesson 5: I Thirst

Jesus Said, 'I Thirst.'

John 19:28, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

Can you think of some reasons why Jesus said, 'I thirst?' *He was thirsty because:*

- *He most likely didn't have anything to drink for hours.*
- *He was physically hurt - (beaten, whipped, scourged) by the people. The body needs fluids.*
- *His mouth was very parched. Discussion: has your tongue ever stuck to the roof of your mouth?*
- *Soon, He needs to speak to God the Father clearly so his mouth needs water.*

****Challenge question: Do you know what famous words Jesus is about to speak?**

What famous king in the Bible wrote the Psalms?

King David. Ask them what they know about King David.

Did all of the Israelites know and love King David?

Yes! He was the most loved king and the Israelites believed King David and the Psalms he wrote. They loved the Psalms.

Read King David's Psalm 22:15. "My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death."

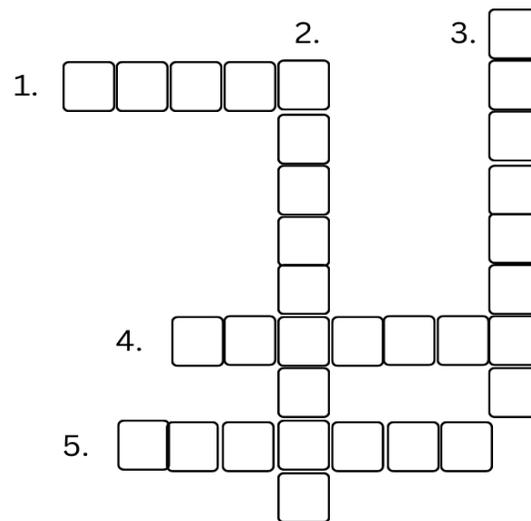
'I thirst' means Jesus is telling the people He is the One whom vs 15 is about.

Do the crossword puzzle. The answers will be from this lesson.

Answers: (1. Speak, 2. King David, 3. John 19:28, 4. Psalm 22, 5. I thirst).

Let's Pray: Dear Jesus, we've learned about how You suffered for us. We know sin causes suffering and You took our suffering. Thank You, Jesus. Help us to know You more and love You more just like You love us.

Lesson 5 Crossword



1. On the cross, Jesus needed water so He could do this?
2. Who wrote Psalm 22?
3. Our lesson begins with Jesus speaking in what Bible verse?
4. What famous book and chapter of the Bible does Jesus quote?
5. What is Jesus' famous 5th saying on the cross?

Lesson 6: It is finished

It is finished.

John 19:30, "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

Why do you think Jesus was saying it is finished? (What is finished)?

The suffering was finished! The suffering He had to endure was very painful.

(Sin can cause suffering. Remind them God also allows us to suffer but not all suffering is from sin. Sometimes suffering just comes - God is in control. Example: John 9:1-3, the blind man born from birth. The disciples asked, 'who sinned that this man was born blind. Jesus said no one but to show the glory of God's healing power').

- His life. Jesus is realizing He about to die - He may only have a few moments to speak.
- The payment. The debt we owe for our sin is paid for when Jesus dies. We won't have to die.
- God's very long PLAN is finished. God planned out how our sin would be paid back in Genesis 3:14. Also explained in Egypt with the passover lamb.

Who created you body, soul and spirit?

God created every part of us. Our mind, body, soul and spirit. The Holy Spirit, who is God, guides us and speaks to us.

What happen to Jesus' spirit in the verse?

Jesus' spirit leaves His body and it goes back to God in Heaven. Soon, Jesus will die, be buried, and rise from the grave. He will be reunited with His Spirit.

Let's Pray: Dear Jesus, we are learning what happened to You on the cross. You paid our debt for sin. You suffered for us. Thank You for taking our place on the cross. Help us to believe Your Word - the Word of God, and help us follow You.

Lesson 6 coloring sheet: The Holy Spirit is with us.



Lesson 7: Jesus Dies

Jesus Dies

Luke 23:46, "And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last."

What did Jesus say about His Spirit?

He put His Spirit into the hands of God. He wanted God to help Him and take care of Him

Can we put our care into God's hands?

Yes! God's hands are the best place to trust and care for us.

Can you think of some things we should put in God's hands? Discuss: heart, soul, life, future.

What happened after Jesus said, 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit?'

Jesus died. They put Him in the grave. What happened next? Do you know?

Read: Luke 24:2-3, "But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. **3** Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus."

Jesus was missing from the grave! What happened?

Read: Luke 24:36, "Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

Jesus appeared in front of His disciples! He is alive!

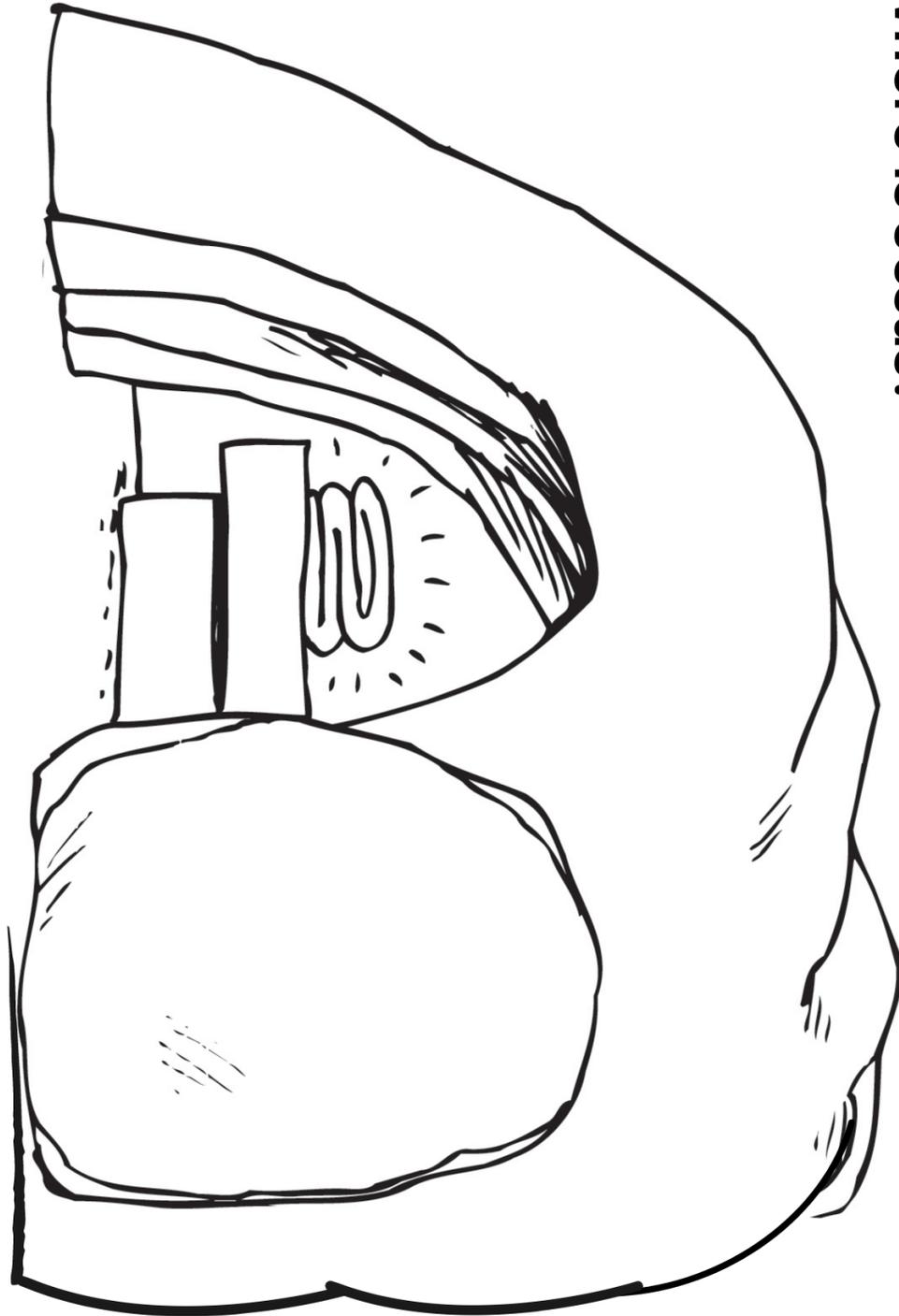
How did Jesus come alive and rise from the dead?

Jesus is God - He can do anything. And Jesus is also a man - He suffered for us.

What have we learned? Jesus is God! He has all power over death, hell, earth, the universe. We sin and we are separated from God. Jesus paid for our sins. Jesus offers us eternal life.

To receive eternal life, we must confess our sins to Jesus, turn from our sins because God's Word tells us to, and ask Jesus to forgive us. He will forgive and give us eternal life. When we die we will come alive one day just like Jesus did! Pray in your own words to Jesus now.

Lesson 7 coloring sheet



Where is Jesus?

