

Footprints

Lesson 3 – Footprints to the Cross

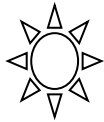
- In today's lesson the children will follow Jesus to the cross and learn about His sacrifice for their redemption.
- This month's Life Point: *I am saved by GOD's Grace.*

Scripture Study

Matthews 27:27-31, Luke 23

Story: *Jesus' Crucifixion*

Matthews 27:35-54



Prayer:

Father God, thank you for your Son's sacrifice. Bless our class with your presence and with a spirit of gratitude for the price you paid for our redemption. Let us always be aware of your amazing grace towards us. In Jesus name, amen.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 2:8

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."



Memory Verse Song:

Seeds Family Worship –
Ephesians 2:8
"Grace"

You Tube Link

https://youtu.be/1Ku99SX_sX8

The Redemption Story

(10-15 min.)

The point of this activity is to present the salvation message in brief at each lesson.

Instructions: Follow the pictures on the board or Power Point slide to tell the children about God's plan to restore our relationship with Him. Invite children who are familiar with the pictures to describe the images to the class. Always have someone ready in the classroom to pray with a child who desires to accept Jesus as his Savior or to be available to pray for any needs a child may have.

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Object Lesson

(15 minutes)

Supplies:

33 AD costume -

A bed sheet or long piece of fabric and a scarf. Wrap the piece of fabric as a robe and the scarf on the head. (This will be used each week this month)

Abyss (a drawing of a hole about 5 feet in length, with the word *death* written on it.)

GOD sign (8 x 11)

Sharpie wide marker

(Wear the 33 AD costume) Good Morning kids! Last week we followed Jesus's footprints to the House of God. Today we will follow Jesus footprints to the cross.

Jesus's footprints to the cross do not start at the garden where he was captured. The cross was the reason he was born.

I am placing before you an abyss. For those that do not know what this is, an abyss is a hole, a very, very deep hole. *(Place the abyss drawing on the floor and the GOD sign on one side of the abyss. Use tape as safety measure. Have a 6/7-year-old child volunteer stand next to the GOD sign).*

God created Adam and Eve to fill the earth with children and live happily with God in the garden of Eden. When they sinned, humanity disconnected from God *(move the child volunteer to the other side of the abyss).*

Now, you can try reaching out to God by being a good person. *(Instruct the child volunteer to jump across the abyss to get to God without falling into it. – she will not make it – have her go back to her side).*

You can try reaching out to God by coming to church every Sunday. *(Instruct the child volunteer to jump across the abyss to get to God without falling into it. – she will not make it – have her go back to her side).*

You can even try giving all you have to the poor. *(Instruct the child volunteer to jump across the abyss to get to God without falling into it. – she will not make it – have her go back to her side).*

There is absolutely nothing you can do on your own to be in God's presence. There is only one way *(draw a cross over the abyss)* that is through Jesus Christ alone. *(Instruct the child to use the cross as a bridge to get to God.)*

God never stopped loving Adam and Eve. He has never stopped loving you. So He made a way to bring you back to himself. *Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."* John 14:6

Teaching Tips:

- Pray on behalf of the children and the families that attend your church. Seek the Lord's blessing for them.
- The children will pay attention to the lesson if they hear your passion for GOD when you speak.
- Do not be afraid of making mistakes. Do however accept your errors before the class and make the appropriate corrections. (2 Timothy 2:15)

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The Message

Supplies:

33 AD costume for you and two other volunteers.

*After the *Message* play a worship song.

Have children turn toward a wall or face the front of the classroom. Away from facing each other.

Lead them in prayer.

Seek after God.

Where two or three are gathered in His name, He is there!

Storytelling tip:

Express emotions, feeling, reactions as you read the Crucifixion story to the children.

You can only enter God's presence through prayer.

I want you to imagine.... You are in Jerusalem for the Passover festival. You have been a follower of Jesus for a couple of years. Everything seemed normal until you sit at the table to eat and hear rumors that Jesus was captured overnight. The rumors also say that some Jews will do whatever it takes to finish with Jesus.

Now, kids pay close attention because you are about to hear a very descriptive story of what happened as the Jews lead Jesus to the cross.

(#1 volunteer in costume will read: Luke 23:13-24)

(#2 volunteer in costume will read: Matthew 27:27-31)

(Teacher will read: Luke 23:26, 32-48)

Did you notice that Jesus never once called angels to come to his rescue? He could have. At any time, Father God could have stopped time, rescued his son and forget humanity. But he did not. Neither did Jesus back away from the punishment he was receiving.

I know some may say “well, Jesus is God, so he could take it.” – Jesus was fully divine and fully human. This means that his body felt all the excruciating pain of the punishment he was given.”

Remember that abyss, we spoke about earlier? He knew that his sacrifice was necessary to make a way for all of humanity to return to God.

As a Christ follower you must never forget his sacrifice, take it for granted or think that it was easy for him. It was his love for you that kept Jesus on the cross, not the nails.

No other sacrifice could have ever been perfect enough to make us righteous again, as Adam was before the first sin was committed.

Because that is exactly what Jesus does on the cross. When we believe in our hearts in Him, we are made white as snow, we are made as Adam was before the first sin. Salvation happens when we confess Jesus with our mouth. How about you? Can you follow Jesus footprints to the cross and be made new again?

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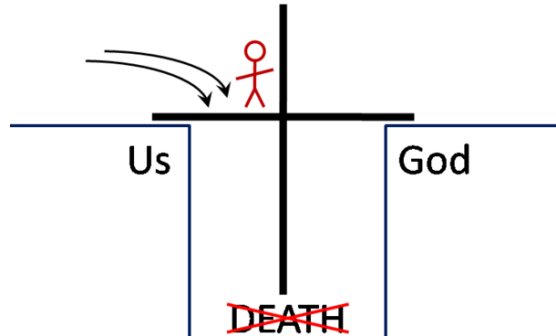
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The Bridge of Salvation Sketch

John 14:6

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

- Teach the children how to do the Bridge of Salvation Sketch on a piece of paper.
- Separate the children in small groups to practice.
- Key question in turning conversations into Salvation is: Do you ever think about how God feels about you?



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ADDITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THIS MONTH

(These activities are to be used when you have spare time after a lesson)

Good Friends Stick Together (week 1)

Items: 2 Balls

Presentation: Good friends will stick with you through good and difficult situations. Jesus is this kind of friend. **Jesus also wants you to surround yourself with good friends that will support you in your Christian walk.** “...*There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.*” – Prov. 18:24

Instructions: Clear a path in the classroom. Chose three children to stand next to each other. Place a ball in between each child. The kids have to stick really close to each other so that the balls will not fall from in between. Have the kids take a walk around the classroom. Have the other kids encourage them as they walk. If a ball falls put it back and encourage them to finish the walk. Have other children take turns.

Prayer House (week 2)

Items: Worship music. Display a Board with “The Lord’s Prayer”. Display a Prayer List.

Presentation: Is your house a house of prayer? Jesus clearly wants for us to pray in the church, in our homes and wherever we go. You and me are Jesus temple. We are His house because His Spirit lives inside of us. **“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”** Matthew 18:20

Instructions: Today we are going to pray until your parents arrive to pick you up. We are going to seek His face. You can sit down and pray. You can walk around and pray. You can stand and pray. If you don’t know how to pray read the Prayer Board. If you don’t know what to pray for look at the Prayer List. But please whatever you do, DO NOT GIVE UP, pray and press to see His face.

The Bridge (week 3)

Items: Heavy weights or rocks. A book bag.

Presentation: The Bible says that **“He (Jesus) personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right...”** 1 Peter 2:24 These rocks here represent your sin. I am going to put them in the book bag. Now this line represents GOD and this line represents you. The distance in between is the distance between GOD and You because of your sin. Do you think that you can get to GOD, by jumping across while carrying your own sins on your back? Who wants to try?

Instructions: Mark two lines with duct tape. There should be a distance of six feet between the lines. With a marker write GOD on one and ME on the other. Have a child put on the book bag with her ‘sins’ in it and try to jump to get to GOD. (Use wisdom and be careful that no child gets hurt) After allowing a few children to try – tape construction paper on the form of a cross to cover the gap between GOD and the child. Have a child then lay down the book bag and cross the bridge to GOD.

GOD’s Not Dead!! (week 4)

Items: Worship and Praise music. Worship flags.

Presentation: The Bible says that when some women came to bring spices to anoint the body of Jesus they saw two angels in the tomb. The angels said “He is not here, but is risen!” The women were surprised, afraid, but also happy! They were excited! They ran to tell the others! Let’s worship GOD!

Instructions: Invite the children to celebrate Jesus by dancing until their parents arrive! Move the chairs and put songs that are lively for the kids to dance and glorify the LORD!