

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

HIGHLIGHTS:

This week your child learned Jesus died on the cross to take the eternal punishment for our sins. Jesus was taken to Pilate, who chose to crucify Jesus and let a murderer (Barabbas) go free. The guards beat Him, placed a crown of thorns on His head and made Him carry His own heavy cross through the town, up to the hill where He would die. Jesus was nailed to the cross and hung there to die between two prisoners. It became very dark, and the sun stopped shining. When Jesus had died, He was taken off the cross and laid in a tomb. A large stone was placed at the entrance of the tomb and guards were posted there. (Matthew 27:15-61, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 18:19-19:42)

JESUS TOOK AWAY MY SINS:

Teach your child about the meaning of Easter and how Jesus took away our sins. Take several sheets of newspaper and tear it into thick strips. Tell your child that each strip of paper represents our sins. Talk with your child about the different sins in our life such as telling a lie, not obeying, taking a sibling's toy without permission. As you talk about each sin have your child take a strip of newspaper and wad it up into a ball. After you have used all of the newspaper, tell the story of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. Have your child look at his hands and see how dirty they are from the newspaper, just as our sin makes us dirty. Grab a wet wipe and wipe your child's hands clean as you tell your child that Jesus has risen and he has taken away our sins. Stress with your child that Jesus took away our sins and that is why we celebrate Easter!

EASTER BASKET:

Create an Easter basket for a friend or a neighbor. You can pick up a simple basket at the local craft store or make one using a gift bag and have your child draw a picture of a basket and tape it to the front of the bag. In the bag, you will place several items that represent the story of Easter.

- One green leaf branch that your child can find on a walk
- A bunch of purple grapes
- Draw and cut out a large red heart
- A piece of chocolate candy
- Small white stuffed lamb
- Yellow candy chick peep

In the basket, place a card that tells about the items. The card could say... The green is like the palms that lay upon the ground for Jesus's parade. The purple reminds me of the meal that Jesus shared dinner with His friends. The red reminds me it is true that Jesus loves us so much He died for me and you. The brown is as dark as a cave that was Jesus' grave. The white is like the angel bright who said, "He is risen, our Jesus is all right." The yellow matches the bright sun that reminds me of Easter and what our God has done. Once you complete the bag, deliver it to a friend or neighbor.

SING A SONG:

Sing this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb".

Jesus died on the cross

On the cross

On the cross

Jesus died on the cross

For my sins