

EASTER

Classroom: My One Room ClassroomLeader Guide for One Room

04/12/2020

John 19:16–20:18

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: John 19:16–20:18
- In This Passage: Jesus dies on the cross, which is the punishment for a criminal. Jesus had never done anything wrong, but he takes the punishment for our sins. Jesus is buried in a tomb, but three days after his death, his friends find his tomb empty! Then Jesus—alive—shows up and talks to his friend Mary!
- Bible Point: Jesus died for us.
- Summary Verse: “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus died for us.* This lesson is the most critical piece of Christianity. Don't assume your kids know and understand it. Church kids, who've heard about it, may not understand why Jesus had to die, and you may have some visitors who haven't heard much—if anything—about Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Think About: What's one thing you can do this Easter to thank Jesus for his death and resurrection?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to prepare kids' hearts to believe in him and receive his gift of salvation.

Quick Tip

- Easter Sunday may bring more visitors than usual, so plan ahead! Re-evaluate your check-in process, signage, and other elements from the perspective of a first-time guest walking into a crowded lobby. Prepare welcome packets letting visitors know about other family or kids' events your church will be offering soon. Consider whether there's “inside information” you may need to explain—things like a response kids know to call out or a signal that indicates it's time for kids to find their seats.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

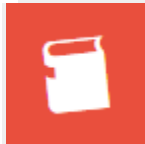
Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible
- bulletin board paper
- markers

Easy Prep

- Draw a large cross on the bulletin board paper, and hang it on the wall.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids explore clues to discover what happened to Jesus' body.

Supplies

- Bible
- “Detective Notes” handout (download [here](#))
- fake flowers (around 8-10)
- **Cross Clues:**
 - wooden block
 - large nail
 - paper sign that says “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”
 - torn piece of fabric
 - dice
 - sponge
 - ointment or spices
- **Tomb Clues:**
 - pebbles (1 per child)
 - table
 - black cloth that can cover the table all the way to the floor
 - fabric to fold
 - brown construction paper
 - green construction paper
 - facial tissue

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the notebook pages on the “Detective Notes” handout.
- On one side of the room, scatter the cross clue items, 1 fake flower, and the Detective Notes notebook pages that are labeled “Cross Clues.” Hold on to the “Tomb Clues” notes.
- Create a garden section in a corner of your room. Fold several sheets of green construction paper in half the long way so they can stand like a tent, and fringe the top of the tents to resemble grass (see picture below). Stick fake flowers in the grass.
- Place the table in the center of the “garden,” and cover it with the black cloth.
- Under the table, place some folded fabric. Scatter pebbles in front of the table.
- Cut out footprint shapes from brown construction paper, and tape them to the floor so 1 set is coming out of the tomb and walking around to the side and the other set is approaching from outside the garden toward the side of the tomb. The 2 sets should meet as if 2 people are approaching each other. Place a crumpled tissue next to the set of footprints that’s coming from outside the garden.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids celebrate Jesus’ death and resurrection with streamers.

Supplies

- red crepe paper streamers (each about 2 feet long) (1 per child)
- green crepe paper streamers (each about 2 feet long) (1 per child)

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let’s keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING[5 min]

Welcome

Supplies

- Bible
- bulletin board paper
- markers

Easy Prep

- Draw a large cross on the bulletin board paper, and hang it on the wall.

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.

- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that Jesus died for us. Jesus died on a cross because he loves *you* so much!**

- Distribute a marker to each child.
- Have kids write their names on the cross.

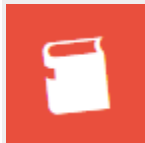
Share

- Tell kids *your* favorite kind of Easter candy.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about *their* favorite Easter candy.
- After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to John 19, and say: **Easter candy, Easter egg hunts, and Easter baskets are all really fun. But Easter isn't about those things; Easter is about Jesus! Jesus died for you and then came back to life. Let's dig in to the Bible to find out more. The Bible is a very special book that God gave us. One of the ways God talks to us is through the Bible. God is ready to talk to you right now. Let's talk with him.**

Pray, thanking Jesus for dying for us.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY [20 min] Easter (John 19:16–20:18)

Supplies

- Bible
- “Detective Notes” handout (download [here](#))
- fake flowers (around 8-10)
- **Cross Clues:**
 - wooden block
 - large nail
 - paper sign that says “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”

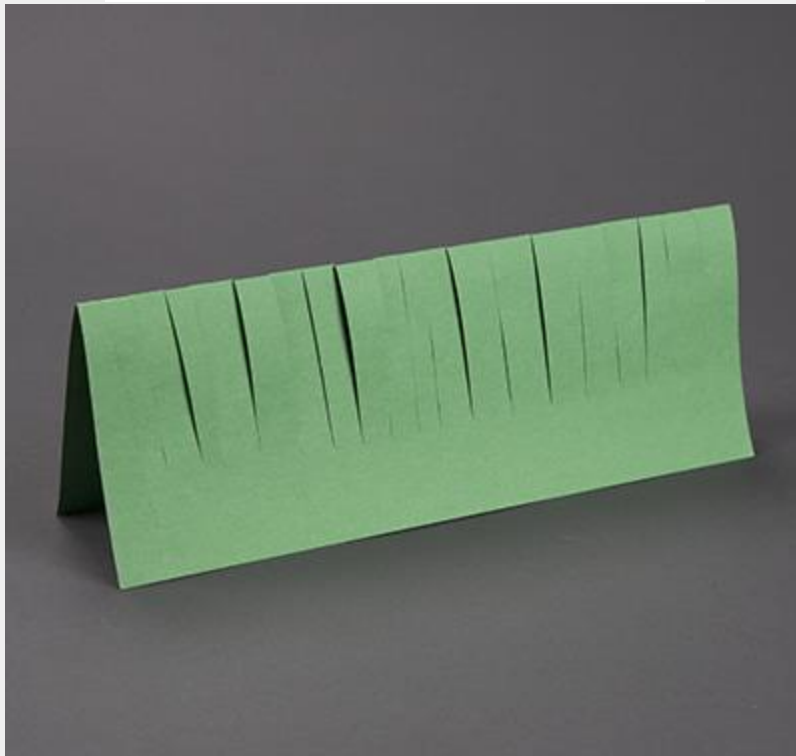
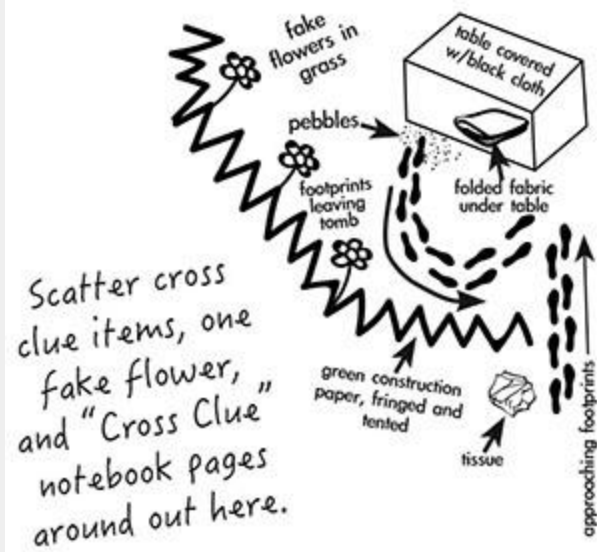
- torn piece of fabric
- dice
- sponge
- ointment or spices

- **Tomb Clues:**

- pebbles (1 per child)
- table
- black cloth that can cover the table all the way to the floor
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Tip

- This lesson has more prep than usual, but that's because it's such an important story! You may have visitors who will never forget being immersed in the clues of Jesus' death and resurrection. Plus, if you have multiple services, most of this prep can be done just once and reset between services.

Gather Clues

Look around the room suspiciously. Say: **Something has happened here. Can't you just feel it? But I'm not quite sure what's going on. There's been a lot of buzz about Jesus. He says he's God's Son, but plenty of people think that's a lie. I heard he was going to get in trouble! Maybe something happened with the Roman governor, named Pilate. Let's see what clues we can find to learn about what happened to Jesus.**

Have kids look for clues, staying out of the garden area for now. Older kids can find the clue notes, and younger ones can find the clue items. Then have kids gather and show you what they found, including both notes and items.

Examine Cross Clues

Point to the wooden block. Say: **Oh! That looks like the same kind of wood they use to build crosses. Did anyone find any clues that talk about a cross?**

Have the child with the John 19:17 note read it aloud.

Say: **Oh wow! That wood must be from when Jesus carried his cross up the hill. Look at the large nail. This isn't good! That's what they use to put people on crosses! Does anyone have any notes about a nail?**

Have the child with the John 19:18 note read it aloud.

Say: **This is terrible. Jesus appeared before the Roman governor, a guy named Pilate. Apparently, Pilate ordered Jesus' death by crucifixion. That means nailing him to a cross of wood! And...what's that sign you have?** Have the child holding the sign read it aloud (or ask a reader to do so). Then have the child with the John 19:19 note read it aloud.

Say: **People were making fun of Jesus.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone made fun of you.** Share your own story first.

Say: **Jesus must've suffered so much. But (point to the torn fabric) that fabric looks like part of his clothes! And I wonder what the dice are for?**

Have the kids with the John 19:23 and John 19:24 notes read them aloud.

Say: **What a sad, sad day. Jesus was hurt, made fun of, and humiliated. What do you suppose this sponge is for?** Point to the sponge.

Have the child with the John 19:28-30 note read it aloud.

Say: **After he drank from that sponge, he died. But what happened next? Hmm...I see some ointment [or spices] like what they put on bodies before they bury them. Do you think that's what they used it for? Let's find out.**

Have the child with the John 19:38-40 note read it aloud.

Say: **Aha! They *did* bury him. I wonder if we can find any clues about where his tomb is. Maybe we could visit his tomb to pay our respects. Wait! What's that flower?** Point to the fake flower. Have the child with the John 19:41-42 note read it aloud.

Say: **We're so close! That flower must be from the garden where his tomb is! Does anyone see a garden?**

Explore the Tomb Clues

Lead kids over to the garden. Point out the pebbles in front of the table.

Say: **Pebbles, huh? Those look like they fell off a much larger stone. Maybe there used to be one here.**

Give a child the John 20:1 note to read aloud.

Say: **Hmm...that's weird. If there was a big stone covering the entrance, why do you think it's gone now? Maybe we could find more clues in the tomb. Do you think anyone's been in there yet? Oh! Here's a note from a detective who's checked out the scene.**

Give a child the John 20:3-5 note to read aloud.

Say: **Well, let's head in and see what we can find.**

Have kids take turns going into the tomb, observing the folded cloth.

Ask: • **Well, did anyone find Jesus' body in there? What did you find?**

Say: **If Jesus didn't need his grave clothes anymore, does that mean he's alive?**

Give a child the John 20:6-7 note to read aloud.

Say: **Maybe if we follow these footprints we can figure it out!**

Have kids observe the footprints and speculate on whose they might be and what happened.

Kids may also note the crumpled tissue.

Say: **A tissue, huh? So maybe someone was crying. Here's a clue that can help us find out whose footprints these are.**

Give a child the John 20:14-16 note to read aloud.

Review the Clues

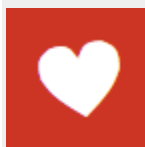
Say: **Wow! We've learned a lot about what happened here! So let's see if we can put all the clues together and figure out everything that happened.**

Have kids review the clues they found and retell the story.

Say: **It's clear what happened here. Jesus died, but more importantly, Jesus died for us. We all deserve to be away from God forever because we've all done wrong things. When Jesus died, he took *our* punishment for those wrong things. Jesus died so that God could forgive us and we can be with him.**

And the best news is, Jesus didn't stay dead! We've seen plenty of evidence that the tomb is empty because Jesus is alive! Let's each take a pebble that fell off the stone when it rolled away as a reminder that Jesus died for us and that he came back to life.

Have each child take a pebble from in front of the tomb.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP[5 min]

Celebrate!

Supplies

- red crepe paper streamers (each about 2 feet long) (1 per child)
- green crepe paper streamers (each about 2 feet long) (1 per child)

Pray and Celebrate

- Give kids each a red crepe paper streamer, about the length of their arm span.
- Remind kids that Jesus bled and died for them.
- Have kids hold a streamer in both hands with their arms stretched out and silently thank Jesus for dying on the cross for us.
- Have kids set down their red streamers, and give each child a green streamer.
- Remind kids that Jesus is alive, and have kids wave the streamers while shouting, "Thank you for coming back to life!"

Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, thank you that you died for us and that you're alive today. We love you! In your name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

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