

Katie



MATTHEW 27

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-53

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Old newspaper or magazine, large branch or 2x4

Ask:

- What did we talk about last week from the Gospel of Matthew? (The bags of gold)
- Was anyone able to use their gifts or time or resources to serve Jesus this week? (Allow for answers)
- After this story, Jesus had the last supper with his disciples and went into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While there, he was betrayed by Judas, arrested, and given over to the Jewish authorities.

Explain:

Jesus was taken to trial, and it was decided that he would be executed by the Romans. The Romans killed the worst criminals by crucifixion. They would beat and whip the person, then force them to carry their cross. Once they were at the place where the crucifixion would occur, they nailed or tied the person's hands and feet to the cross, raised it to be upright from the ground. The person hung there until they died. It was a horrible, painful death, meant to deter others from being criminals. Jesus endured this, even though he was perfect and never sinned. Even though he committed no crime. He did this for you and me.

Activity:

Have the kids lift a 2x4 or heavy branch and carry it for a while. Explain that this 2x4 weighs about 9 pounds (or whatever your stick weighs). Depending on how much of the cross Jesus carried (whether it was the whole cross or the crossbeam), it would have weighed approximately between 100-300 pounds. That's at least 11 of these 2x4s! Jesus struggled under the weight, so we'll see what happened next.

Read: Matthew 27:32-44

Explain:

Take a moment to think about what Jesus went through.

Have you ever been ridiculed and mocked? It isn't easy. Jesus not only took on physical pain and suffering, but also the emotional pain of being mocked and laughed at. This is the Savior of the world, dying for these people, and all the while they mocked him and spit on him. That is incredible love.

Read: Matthew 27:45-55

Explain:

When Jesus died, some incredible things happened. Rocks split in two, an earthquake, tombs broke open, and the Temple curtain was torn in two. This curtain is likely the curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the temple. Only the High Priest was allowed in here once a year to beg atonement for the sins of Israel. Jesus, the Great High Priest was offering atonement and forgiveness for all people with his death on the cross. He was giving us access to the Father, forgiveness for our sins, and redemption from the fall. He was buying us back!

Activity:

The Temple curtain, it is mentioned by an historian (Josephus) was 4 inches thick. It is said that two horses pulling against it couldn't rip it. I don't have a curtain, but I do have this old magazine. Does anyone want to try ripping it in two? (Allow kids to try. They cannot open it. It has to be all the pages at once)

After they try, explain that the curtain was ripped from top to bottom, indicating that God was making the way to himself. Then, rip the magazine in half (There is a special technique to doing this, shown at the end of the lesson)

Explain and Apply:

Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we now can be made right with God. When we confess our sins and choose to follow him as our Lord, he saves us and gives us grace and forgiveness. This is why Jesus came. He came to earth and died the death of a criminal so that we could have peace with God. His sacrifice grants us forgiveness. He bore our punishment so we could be healed. Amazingly, the story doesn't end there! Three days later he rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father. He has given his followers his Holy Spirit to lead and guide them and help them to live new, changed lives for his glory. This beautiful gift is available to you. If you want to learn more about how to accept this amazing gift from Jesus- his death in place of ours- find a teacher to talk to after class.

Do a Craft:

On a piece of construction paper, have kids write Romans 5:1-2. Over top, glue the edges of the pieces of the ripped magazine to create a door effect that they can open and shut. Reminding them that the death of Jesus, opened the way for us to have peace with God.

Memorize: Matthew 27:51**Close in Prayer**