

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



JOHN 18

JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Scripture: John 18

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: String, two filled water bottles (if you have enough for each child to have two, do that), dissolving paper (I ordered mine online from Amazon with the brand Juvale), water, bowl, balloons, sharpe marker

Play a Game:

Does anyone remember at the Last Supper what Jesus said Peter would do? (Deny him 3 times before the rooster crowed)

What did Jesus say would happen with the rest of his disciples? (The shepherd would be struck, and the sheep would scatter.)

We're going to play a game of scattering sheep. Have the kids each get a balloon and write their name on it. They must protect their balloon while everyone tries to stomp everyone else's balloon. The last balloon unpopped, wins.

Explain:

Many deserted Jesus when he was arrested while praying in the garden, others deserted him later, like Peter. These were Jesus' closest friends, and they deserted him. How do you think that made Jesus feel? Have you ever felt deserted by friends? Jesus knows what that feels like.

Read: John 18:15-27

Ask:

Who can tell me what happens next? (NOTE to the teacher: My students are very familiar with the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. If, however, we have a new student or someone who doesn't know the story, I always make sure to tell them. But for this lesson, I didn't have new students, so I let them explain the events of Easter, so I could dive into what sin is and does.

Activity:

- Ask the kids why Jesus needed to die. (allow for answers) Often, kids will give the classic answer of for our sins, but don't quite understand what that means. I took this opportunity to dig deeper with sin.
- Ask what sin is? (The Bible defines sin many ways. It is missing the mark of a perfect bullseye, it is twisting something good and using it for evil, it is breaking boundaries, it is doing what you aren't supposed to do, it is not doing what you are supposed to do.)
- There are a lot of ways to define sin, but now let's look at what sin does. Who thinks they are the strongest one here? (Pick a volunteer)
- I need you to break something for me, okay?
- Tie a thread around a child's hand (just one loop) and ask them to break it. They should be able to break it easily.
- Explain that the rope is sin. See, you can sin and still break free. No big deal, right? Now loop the thread a few times around the hands. Can you still break free? Was it harder? See sin is sneaky. We can easily convince ourselves that one little sin doesn't hurt us. But the Bible tells us that sin leads to death. Now wrap a ton of string around so the child can't break out.
- Even one sin is enough for us to deserve eternal punishment, we can't break free of even one on our own. But we are so often tempted that "one little sin won't hurt us." The truth is they lead to death. And the truth is that these little sins are why Jesus died on the cross.

Another Activity:

Since not everyone is able to do the thread example, have them all try to hold up a water bottle in each hand with their arms fully extended. See who can hold it out the longest.

Explain:

Even something that doesn't seem heavy can become a burden to us easily. Sin is a burden that we bear until we seek the forgiveness found in Jesus at the cross. He died so we would not have to. He bore our sins so that we could be free of our burdens. This is why he endured the torture, his friends betraying him. He endured it to make us right. But we must choose life. We must ask him for forgiveness, accept his sacrifice on our behalf, and cling to him as Lord. Then we follow him the rest of our days. We obey him and live for him. We won't be perfect. Peter wasn't. And we'll hear more about his story next week.

Visual:

Have the kids write their sins on dissolving paper. Explain that the Bible says when we ask God's forgiveness, he washes our sins away. Have them place their papers in a bowl of water. The paper will dissolve, and the sins will be gone. He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west and no longer counts them against us. And guess what? The best part of the story is that Jesus rose again! He didn't stay dead! He is risen and we who choose to follow him will live forever with him in heaven!

Allow for questions and a time of prayer.

Memorize: 1 John 1:9

Close in Prayer

