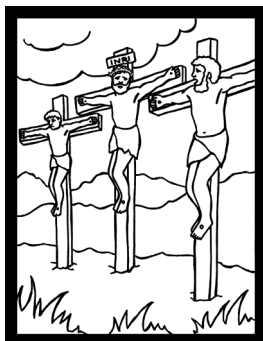


Lesson B3.7 - Turn to Jesus



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Luke 23:32-43

► Bible Characters: Jesus, soldiers, two criminals
Even in his last hour, Jesus showed mercy. Today's story illustrates this so clearly, where Jesus not only prays for the leaders and soldiers who are mocking and killing him, but promises a repentant criminal that he will see him in heaven. Despite deep and unimaginable pain, Jesus displayed the steadfast heart of a loving God until the end.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Crucifixion

The crucifixion of Jesus was the act by which Jesus took upon himself the penalty for our sins and sacrificed his own life so that we would have life. This divine atonement (at-one-ment) reconciled us to God and revealed Jesus as our true King.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands." No accompaniment is needed.

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day!
(Clap clap)

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day!
(Clap clap)

Lord, we praise you and we thank you and we're here to learn about you!

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day!
(Clap, clap)

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Turn to Jesus. Can you say that with me? **Turn to Jesus.** If we are lost, if we are confused, if we are suffering, if we are scared, we are never alone. Where can we turn? **Turn to Jesus!**

- Imagine you did something that wasn't great and now you feel bad it. What could you do?

In today's story, a criminal on the cross beside Jesus was sorry for his sins. What should he do? **Turn to Jesus!** Did he do it? And if he did, how did Jesus react? Let's begin our lesson and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: A Roman leader named Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death. It was a terrible decision, especially because Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Read the caption: Soldiers brought Jesus and two other men to a place called, “The Skull.” The other two men were criminals. Jesus was not.

- Which person is Jesus in this picture? What is he wearing on his head? [Jesus is dressed in a purple robe and is wearing a crown of thorns.]
- Can you point out the two criminals in the picture? [They are in front of Jesus.]

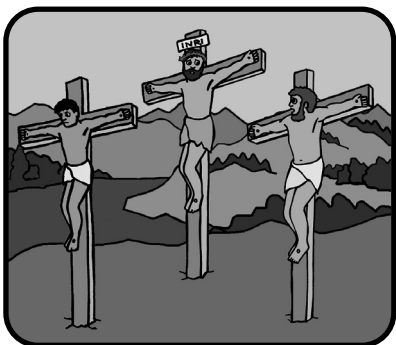


Picture 2

Tell the children: It didn’t matter that Jesus was innocent. He was still punished as if he were a criminal. Soldiers laughed at him and gambled to have his clothes.

Read the caption: All three men were put on crosses. Leaders and soldiers were mean to Jesus. Even one of the criminals made fun of him!

- Why do you think the soldiers made fun of Jesus like this? [They didn’t believe he was the Son of God, the King of the Jews. If they realized who he really was, they might not have acted that way.]
- What is Jesus doing? [He is ignoring their comments and probably praying.]



Picture 3

Tell the children: Jesus looked up to heaven. He prayed, “Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.” The first criminal made fun of Jesus, but the other one said, “We have done bad things and are being punished for it. But not him!”

Read the caption: “This man has done nothing wrong,” the second criminal said. “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

- Why do you think Jesus asked God to forgive the people who were being so mean to him? [Call on volunteers to answer]
- What does it mean to forgive? [To let go and to let God handle the situation.]



Picture 4

Tell the children: After having been treated so badly by the leaders and soldiers, Jesus was amazed at the faithful words of the second criminal on the cross. That man believed in Jesus and was truly sorry for his sins.

Read the caption: Jesus looked at the faithful man. He said, “Today, you will be with me in Paradise. I promise.”

- After hearing this story, do you think it is ever too late for someone to tell God they are sorry for their sins? Why or why not? [Call on volunteers]

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*At a place they called "The Skull,"
Jesus was led up that hill.
There they had him crucified
with a robber on each side.*

*People mocked and made a joke;
soldiers gambled for his cloak.
"Save yourself," the people said.
"If you don't, you'll soon be dead!"*

*Repenting, one of those who hung there
asked for Jesus to remember.
Jesus told him, "You will be
today in Paradise with me."*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Craft: Cross on a Hill Silhouettes**Materials Needed:**

- Black construction paper, white copy paper, crayons or markers, pencils, scissors, glue, stapler

Instructions:

Give each child a piece of white copy paper and some crayons or markers. Direct them to color a sunset on the entirety of the white paper. Center the sunset paper on top of a piece of black construction paper. Staple the papers together at each corner to "frame" the picture.

Next, give kids the other piece of black construction paper, as well as a pencil and scissors. Have kids hold the black paper so it is the same direction as the sunset picture. Invite kids to draw a hill on the black paper. Cut this out and glue it onto the bottom of the sunset paper.

Using the remaining black paper, direct kids to cut a long, thin strip. Cut this strip into three equal pieces. Cut a second long, thin strip. Cut three slightly shorter pieces from that. Glue the three longer pieces on top of the hill, vertically. Glue the three slightly shorter pieces to the longer ones, horizontally, to make three crosses.

h. Song (optional)

This classic children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites.

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak but he is strong.** [Refrain]

Refrain: **Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me he who died
heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.** [Refrain]

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: The Roman leader, Pontius Pilate, sentenced Jesus to death on a cross. What happened next?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*We thank you, Lord, for all you give,
For family, friends, the lives we live.
Please bless our church, and pastors too,
And help us all to trust in you.
For those who face hard times and pain,
We pray your peace might fall like rain. Amen.*