

KIDTOWN GUIDE

1st-5th Grades

DATE: 11/1/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26-27

LESSON: Jesus' Crucifixion



INTRO

Parents say to your kid(s) - Today is a different kind of lesson, because this story is different from every other story in the Bible. Every other story we've learned about so far has been pointing toward this one! And every story we will learn about that comes after this one points us back to it. Like all stories in the Bible, today's story is a true story. It's also a really sad story AND the most amazing joy-giving story of all time. It's a little complex. Today, we are remembering a very important funeral, so our songs and activities won't be quite as high energy as they normally are. We're not trying to bum each other out. We just want to focus on how serious and important this story is.



LESSON - JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [Jesus' Crucifixion](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

Jesus was innocent. (Kids repeat!)

Think back to all the stories you know about Jesus and His life. We have watched Jesus over and over again perform miracles and help all kinds of people. Jesus loved everyone above himself and caused harm to no one. But the religious leaders just keep getting more and more mad at Jesus. At this point in the story, the religious leaders (Pharisees and Sanhedrin) are so mad that they came to the political leaders (Herod and Pilate) to say He should be killed for all of the "wrong" they think He has done. But Jesus hasn't done anything wrong. Jesus is 100% completely innocent.

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

Barabbas was guilty. (Kids repeat!)

Barabbas on the other hand is not an innocent man. He has killed and hurt many people and caused lots of chaos. He has some stuff in common with Jesus. He wanted to point people to God and set God's people free from Roman rule. But the way he went about it was sinful. He has killed people! He led others to kill people. Barabbas deserves to be in prison. He deserves punishment for his crimes. He's guilty. But in a really surprising twist, Jesus is about to get the punishment that Barabbas deserved and Barabbas is about to go free!

Story Point #3: (Kids repeat!)

The crowd cried for the innocent man to die. (Kids repeat!)

The crowd cried for the guilty man to go free. (Kids repeat!)

Every year, the Roman Governor Pilate had a tradition that he would release 1 Jewish prisoner that was scheduled to be killed on the day of Passover. A crowd of Jewish people got to pick who went free. In this moment, Pilate told the crowd they could pick between the murderer Barabbas or the innocent man Jesus.

Who do you think the crowd picked?

Amazingly, the crowd chanted for Pilate to crucify Jesus and set Barabbas free! They didn't care that Barabbas had murdered. They were convinced Jesus had to die. Equally amazing, Jesus did not complain or argue with their decision. Pilate was confused why Jesus didn't try to defend himself, but Jesus knew what He was doing. The Roman soldiers beat and mocked Jesus as they led him to the cross. Even though Jesus never sinned, He was nailed to the cross and crucified.

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

Jesus in our place is the heart of the gospel. (kids repeat)

Without even realizing it the crowd asked for the gospel!

They asked for the innocent man to die so the guilty man could go free.

That's exactly what Jesus came to do! Jesus went to the cross so that Barabbas could go free AND Jesus went to the cross so that we could go free. Romans 3:23 and 6:23 tell us that everyone has sinned and that the cost of sin is death.

Just like Barabbas, we have sinned and we deserve death.

Jesus never sinned and He didn't deserve death.

But He went to the cross to die in our place. He is our perfect substitute. His death pays to set us free. His death absorbs the punishment that we deserve.

Imagine if you were in really big trouble and another kid (or even your sibling, said "I'll take their punishment.") They do the dishes you were supposed to do. They get grounded so you can stay ungrounded. That's a tiny picture of what Jesus did for us!

When we trust and serve Jesus, we are given forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in Heaven with our Father. We get to go free just like Barabbas did.



RESPONSE

Sing: [He Humbled Himself](#) (Key Passage Song)
[Good Good Father](#)

Pray: Dear Lord, Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for sending your perfect Son to live the perfect life we cannot live and die in our place on the cross. Help us see that we are sinners like Barabbas who deserve death. Thank you that Jesus took our punishment. Help us trust in Jesus and thank him for forgiving our sins. We need you and we love you. Amen

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*
- What Jewish Holiday did the Roman Governor Pilate release a prisoner that was sentenced to death? *The Passover celebration.*
- Before Jesus was crucified, Pilate asked Him questions and the religious leaders made accusations against Him. How did Jesus respond? *Look at Matthew 26:62-63. [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.] Jesus was silent. He was even silent as the soldiers placed a robe and a crown of thorns on His head to mock Him. This fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7. Jesus' silence shows His humility, obedience, and willingness to lay down His life.*
- When Jesus was on the cross, the people made fun of Him, saying "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself!" Was this true? Was Jesus powerless to save Himself? *[Allow kids to respond.] No! Jesus is all-powerful and can do anything, but Jesus was obedient to His Father and carried out His plan for our salvation. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins.*
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?
 - *Allow time for questions and if you have any questions you are really stumped on, email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*



BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#)

Parent Share - What does Jesus' death on the cross mean in your life?

Scratch Art Cross - *Supplies: white paper, scissors, crayons or colored pencils, black paint, paint brush, dish soap, coin or something to scratch with*
Cut paper into crosses and decorate them with crayons or colored pencils. Mix together equal parts black paint and dish soap. Paint over the colored cross with the paint mixture and allow it a few minutes to dry. Once it's dry, use the coin or something similar to scratch beautiful art into your cross!