

Life of Christ

John dies

Mark 6:17-29; Matt. 14:3-11

Younger Verse

I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25

Older Verse

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. John 11:25

Lesson Goals

See how Jesus dealt with sadness
Trust God during hard times
Describe how making bad choices, affects us and others also

Welcome Time

Have you ever wondered why bad things sometimes happen? Listen to this story to see how Jesus handles bad news.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

If you ever listen to news on the radio or T.V., you may hear about bad things that have happened to someone. Bad things also happened to people when Jesus lived.

One of Jesus' relatives was John who baptized people in the river. He was a man who boldly told people things from God. He would tell people to change their ways and follow God. He was not afraid to let people know about God.

Obviously, some people did not like the way he would tell the truth. He did not nicely or carefully share it. He would boldly wham a person with the news.

John did this to someone very important—the king! Let me explain what happened.

King Herod was not a very nice king. He did many things that were mean and sneaky. His brother, Philip, had a wife named Herodias. King Herod thought she was very pretty. He decided that he wanted her for HIS wife. So, she became King Herod's wife.

This was not right and John knew it. So, what do you think John did. He told King Herod that he was doing wrong. This made the king and his new wife very upset. In fact, Herodias had a grudge against John for saying the things that he did.

Because of his words, John was handcuffed and put in prison. Herodias wanted John killed for embarrassing her. She held a grudge for the things that John had done.

However, King Herod kept him alive because he knew that John was a man who loved God. He may have been afraid of what God might do to him if he killed John.

Another reason King Herod kept John alive was that he liked to hear what John had to say. King Herod enjoyed listening to John talk about God and how to get right with God.

One day, the palace had a big celebration. It was King Herod's birthday! There was lots of excitement and many people were there to celebrate the occasion. Most of the

people invited were special people and commanders of the armies. Everyone came dressed in their finest clothes.

During dinner, different people came to dance and entertain the king. One of the dancers was the daughter of Herodias. She performed a beautiful dance that impressed the king and his guests.

King Herod was so pleased that he told her in front of all his guests that he would give her anything she wanted!! Can you believe it!

Herodias' daughter ran to her mother to ask her advice. What do you think she should ask for? You won't believe it.

Remember, Herodias had a grudge against John. She saw this as a great time to "get even" with him. She told her daughter to ask for something unbelievable!

The girl hurried back to the king. She told him that she would like. . . John's head on a plate!

The king was shocked. He never imagined that she would ask for this. He wanted to keep John alive, but since he promised in front of all his guests, he had to keep his oath.

Immediately, the king had John beheaded and his head returned on a plate to Herodias' daughter who gave it to her mother. This bad thing happened because of bad choices that someone made, not because God did something bad to him.

John's friends put his body in a tomb and also told Jesus the sad news. Jesus went alone to a quiet place to pray and mourn John's death.

It is so sad to hear when bad things happen to good people. John was trying to do special things for God and was put in prison and killed. Some people wonder why God would let this happen. God loves us and cares for us but sometimes things happen that we do not understand. It does not mean that God doesn't care. It means that we have to trust God and know that He promises to lead us through good times and bad times.

King Herod heard the message of how to get to Heaven, but he never took it to heart. You may have heard this message too. God made a way for us to get to Heaven. It is by believing in Jesus, His Son. If we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our heart and forgive our wrongs, Jesus will come into our lives and stay with us forever. He promises to take us to Heaven one day. Have you taken this message to heart? Don't be like King Herod who heard but never really listened and obeyed.

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids learn lessons from this story.

Memory Verse Activities

John knew where he was going when he died. Our verse helps us understand too. If we believe in Jesus, we will live in Heaven one day. Practice saying the verse.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us care for those who are hurting. Also, ask God to help us forgive others who have hurt us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy snacks together and look for teaching moments!

Planning for September 15th
What do I do when someone is mean to me?
Judas betrays Jesus
Luke 22:1-6

Preschool Lesson for John is killed

(Teachers: Be sensitive to your kids. If you think that hearing about death may be hard for them to handle, mention that the dancer wanted to hurt or harm John because she could not forget and forgive what happened earlier.)

Isn't it fun to celebrate a birthday with cake, ice cream, and maybe a party!

One time in the Bible, there was a mean king named Herod that had a birthday. There was a big celebration and many people were invited. They wore their most beautiful clothes and brought gifts to the king.

King Herod served a delicious dinner for his guests. He had all kinds of yummy food and desserts for his friends.

During dinner, different people came to dance and entertain the king. One of the dancers was the daughter of the king's new wife. She performed a beautiful dance that impressed the king and his guests.

King Herod was so pleased that he told her in front of all his guests that he would give her anything she wanted!! Can you believe it!

She went to her mother whose name was Herodias to ask for help. Now, Herodias did not like one of God's helpers named John. John would tell people messages from God. Sometimes, he would say things that would make people mad. He was doing this to help them turn to God and change their ways.

Well, John had said some things to King Herod and his new wife, Herodias. Herodias remembered the words and did not forgive John or ask God for forgiveness.

When Herodias' daughter asked what to do. She told her daughter to ask the king to kill John.

The king was shocked. He never imagined that she would ask for this. He wanted to keep John alive, but since he promised in front of all his guests, he had to keep his oath.

Immediately, the king had John killed.

John's friends put his body in a tomb and also told Jesus the sad news. Jesus went alone to a quiet place to pray and mourn John's death. He was sad that John died and wanted to talk to God about it.

God wants us to forgive others and forget about the wrongs that they may have done to us. He wants us to love others just like He loves us.

Pray and ask God to help us love people this week.

Hands-on Ideas For John is killed

In the story, Herodias held a grudge against John, even though she was the one at fault. She did not want to admit her wrong and she blamed John instead. In our lives, we must admit when we are wrong, ask for forgiveness and forgive others in the same way. God promises that He will forgive us when we tell Him our wrongs. He also tells us that He will clean us and forget all the wrongs that we did.

King Herod heard John's words but did not take them to heart. It is easy to hear about Jesus and know who He is. It is another thing to really believe and trust in Him with your heart. Teachers, you may have children today that do not know Jesus personally. Take time to share how Jesus can be more than someone they hear about in history; He can be their best friend!

Celebrate Birthdays today! Bring a cake and party favors. It would be fun to sing also! Make sure every child knows that you love them and that they are special.

King Herod worried about what others would think if he didn't grant the dancer's request. It is important to do what God wants and not worry what others think or say. Talk about how hard it is to do things and not be afraid of what others are whispering about you.

Look around your apartment complex and see if someone needs encouragement this week. Have the kids write cards or take flowers to that person. Help the kids see the importance of helping others in need.

Make up a dance or stomp routine with your kids.