



# Life of Christ

## Why did Jesus have to die?

Lev. 4, John 1:29

**Younger Verse**

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

**Older Verse**

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

**Lesson Goals**

Explain why Jesus had to die  
Understand how a person can become a Christian

**Welcome Time**

Have you ever wondered why Jesus had to die? Let's read the Bible and see why Jesus had to die.

*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.*

**Bible Story**

This lesson may be hard to understand. Be sensitive to help the kids grasp this hard concept.

All through the Bible, God helps us to know that He has reasons for everything He does. Sometimes we can see and understand. Other times we may not know why things happen.

Many people may wonder why Jesus had to die. When we hear about how Jesus died, it seems too mean and cruel. Why would God allow such an evil people to do this to His only Son?

Let's look in the Bible and read verses that help us discover the very important reason for this act.

In the front part of the Bible, a man named Moses helped God's people to do things God's way. They set up laws and rules to help the people follow God.

When someone disobeyed God, they had a plan to get rid of the wrong (sin) in the person's life. The person had to bring an offering to God. It had to be an animal like a small bull, lamb, or birds. The animal had to be the best, with no spots and no problem. In this way a person way giving his best to God as a way to "pay" for his wrongs or sins.

The animal was killed or sacrificed to God in the temple church. God would see the special sacrifice and forgive the person's sin.

Over time, the people forgot about their responsibility or relied on the priest to make a sacrifice for them and their sins. God knew that this offering would not be enough. He had a plan and He was waiting for the perfect time. God even told people long ago that there would be a new way to "take away sin." All the people were excited and couldn't wait to see what God was going to do.

God's plan was different. He knew there needed to be a special sacrifice to remove all the guilt and sin of everyone. Our verse this week gives us a clue as to what God had in mind. God sent His Son, Jesus, into our world. Jesus knew when He came to our world that He had a purpose. You see, He was going to be the perfect sacrifice for us.

Jesus lived here with us and helped many people know about God. He taught them important lessons from the Bible. He had 12 friends that followed Him and listened to all His teachings.

All the time that Jesus was here, He never did wrong. That's right; Jesus never sinned. This

is important because God required a perfect sacrifice and Jesus knew that He must be this sacrifice.

While He was with us, Jesus taught His friends that He would die one day. He told His friends one day, and Peter told Jesus to stop talking and saying those things (Matthew 16:21). They could not understand why, but Jesus knew.

One day, Jesus' friend John saw Him coming and told the crowd, "Here comes the lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) John knew that Jesus was like a pure and perfect lamb that would die as a sacrifice for all our wrongs—just like a long time ago in the Bible.

Then one dark evening, some people came and arrested Jesus. They lied about Jesus and brought Him to the judge. Sadly, Jesus was crucified on a cross even though He had done nothing wrong.

We know the reason Jesus died—not because people didn't like Him. He died to pay the price for all the wrongs we have done. Jesus was a lamb that was sacrificed for all our wrongs. He helped make a way for us to be forgiven.

The best news is that Jesus came back to life! After He died, they put him in a cave grave. Three days later, Jesus came back to life! He made a way for us to go to Heaven. If we believe in Jesus and know that He died and came back to life to pay for all our sins, we can go to Heaven one day. Jesus made a way for us to get to God!

The Bible also tells us that Jesus died once for everyone to bring us to God (1 Pet. 3:18). When Jesus died on the cross, an interesting thing happened in the temple church. The curtain separating God from the people was split from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). God tore the curtain to show that because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can now get to God. There is nothing that separates us when we believe in Jesus.

The Bible also tells us that Jesus is the only way to Heaven (John 14:6) and Jesus' death is the only way for us to be forgiven and made right with God.

Do you understand why Jesus had to die? He was the only way for us to get to Heaven. Would you like to trust Him and ask Him to forgive all your wrongs? We don't automatically go to Heaven. We must ask God to forgive our wrongs and ask Jesus to come into our life. If you want to know more, talk to me about it.

#### Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids understand why Jesus died.

#### Memory Verse Activities

John 3:16 is a wonderful verse for the kids to memorize. Take time to practice it and really LEARN it.

#### Prayer Time

Thank God for loving us and sending Jesus.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy snacks and talk about the lesson.

Planning for Feb. 17th  
What does it mean to be a Christian?  
The rich young ruler  
Matthew 19:16-26

Preschool Lesson  
For  
Why did Jesus die?

Teachers: This lesson is very basic. Help the kids see how much Jesus loves us and cares for us.

We learn many things in the Bible. It tells us how much God loves us and how special we are to God. The Bible also tells us about Jesus.

Jesus was God's one and only Son. God loved us so much that He wanted us to be in Heaven with Him one day. The problem is that we sometimes do things that are wrong and it separates us from God. This made God sad, so He thought of a way to get us back together.

God sent His Son Jesus into our world. Jesus lived with us and helped us learn many things about God. He also did something for us that helped make a way for us to get to God.

Jesus died on a cross. Many people were so sad when He died. Some friends put Jesus in a cave grave. Then, 3 days later, Jesus came back to life! It was so exciting! Jesus was alive! That is why we celebrate Easter!

Jesus loved us so much that He died and came back to life! If we believe in Him, we will go to Heaven one day.

Sing "Jesus loves me this I know."

## Hands-on Activities For Why did Jesus die?

One word to describe what Jesus did is called redemption. That is a big word and it is hard to understand. There is a picture illustration to help us understand. Have you ever got tokens or tickets from an arcade or pizza place. You “redeem” the tickets for prizes when you give your tickets to purchase fun stuff. In the same way, Jesus redeemed us when He died on the cross. He “paid” for all our sins and made a way for us to go to Heaven if we believe.

Bring a scrap of material or cloth. Talk about how a big cloth in the temple church separated God from the people. When Jesus died, God tore the cloth to show that we do not have to be separated from Him any longer. Jesus made the way for us to go to Heaven.

Another word that Jesus used to talk about His sacrifice is ransom. Jesus said that He came to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). What does ransom mean? There is a Disney movie called the Aristocats that describes this word. Several mean men took a wealthy woman’s cat and held her for ransom. That means that they wanted “ransom” money for the cat’s return. When Jesus said He was a ransom, that means He paid for our wrongs. He was the sacrifice to pay for our sins.

Bring the Power bands with different colors of beads to help the kids understand how to become a Christian.