

Life of Christ

Jesus Will Die For Everyone

John 11:45-53

Younger Verse

[Jesus] offered Himself. Hebrews 7:27 (HCSB)

Older Verse

He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all when He offered Himself. Hebrews 7:27 (HCSB)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Do you remember our last two lessons? What have we learned? We learned that Jesus healed a blind man who had been blind since birth. We also learned that He chose not to heal His friend Lazarus. Instead, He raised Him back to life! We also learned, last week, that many people believed in Jesus because of the miracles He performed. They knew Jesus must be powerful when He gave sight to the blind man and then He raised a man from the dead! How amazing!

There were others, though, who, instead of believing in Jesus and following Him, ran to the Jewish leaders to give a report of what Jesus was doing. This group of Jewish leaders was called the Pharisees. There were about 6,000 Pharisees during the time of Jesus! If you will remember, there was an extra book of rules that had been made up. The Pharisees thought you had to keep all of these extra rules, plus all of the rules in the Bible, to please God. It looked like they were doing the right thing; they were very religious. And they were very powerful.

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard what Jesus had been doing, they called a meeting. When they began to meet, there were many of the Pharisees who were worried. They worried about all of the people who were believing in Jesus. They worried that if this continued, everyone would believe in Him, and the Roman government (which was ruling at this time) would come and take away their right to be a nation. What little power they had with the Romans would be gone. But Caiaphas, who was the Chief Priest that year, began to talk to them. Caiaphas said, "What do you know? Isn't it better that just one person die instead of all of us?" He thought that instead of losing their power, it would be better if they just killed Jesus. They thought that killing Him would solve all of their problems. So, from that day on, they began

Lesson Goals

To see the difference between religion and living for Jesus.
To see that Jesus' life was not taken from Him; He gave it willingly.

looking for ways to kill Jesus. How sad! These men, leaders of the Jews, men who studied the Laws, who knew all that the law said about the One that God would send, missed it. They missed Him. These men couldn't see past all of their schooling and importance to see that God's gift to them, Jesus, was right in front of their eyes, even when He told them who He was.

Without realizing it, Caiaphas had prophesied that Jesus' death would be for everyone! To prophesy means to tell about something before it happens. Caiaphas wanted Jesus dead for all the wrong reasons, but Jesus would die. That is why He was born. You see, all of us have sinned. We have all done things we knew not to do, and we have chosen not to do things that we should have done. In just the same way as your mom or dad works all day and then deserves to be paid, our payment, or what we deserve for sin, is death. But, while we were still devoted to our sin, Jesus Christ died for us! He did not wait until we cleaned ourselves up. He did not wait until we stopped sinning (because we cannot without Him). While we were still sinning, Jesus offered Himself. His life was not taken from Him by Caiaphas or the Pharisees or the Romans. He gave Himself to die in your place and in my place. He loved you that much. And He loved me that much.

Well, what do we do about this good news? You can choose to accept it by choosing Jesus. He loved you enough to die for you; will you live for Him? Will you follow Him? The Pharisees thought they knew God well. They had studied. They were important. People looked up to them. Can you see the difference? We can keep a bunch of rules and study a lot without ever really seeing Jesus, or we can have a friendship with the God who made us and loved us enough to send His One and Only Son. What will you choose? Let's pray.

Prayer Time

Oh God, thank you so much for loving me enough to send your Son to die for me. Thank you that He wanted to die in my place. Help me live for you today and every day.

Memory Verse Activity

Make a door knob hanger for each student's bedroom. Allow them to decorate their own hanger and add the memory verse or print patterns for them to color.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 26
Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet
John 11:54-12:1

Preschool Lesson

Jesus Helps Me!

Sing: to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”

Jesus was the Lamb of God,
Lamb of God, Lamb of God
Jesus was the Lamb of God
He died so all could live.

Teach: Last week we talked about how Jesus helped His friend Lazarus. Lazarus was sick, and even died. So with Lazarus dead, how could Jesus help? He made Lazarus live again! Jesus helped His friend, Lazarus.

Guess what? Jesus helps you, too. Jesus helps you by giving you someone to care for you, someone who prepares your meals and washes your clothes. Jesus helps you get up in the morning. Jesus also helps you by giving you a brain to think with and fingers to write with. And Jesus helps you by giving you a place to come and learn about Him.

Jesus has helped you in another way, too. Did you know that you and I do things we should not do? Do you always and only say kind and helpful words? Or do you sometimes do bad things? Do you always obey your mom and dad and do things right when they tell you to do them? Do you always help your brothers and sisters or do you sometimes yell at them and kick them? I bet you mess up sometimes, because I do, too. That “messing up” is called S-I-N and the Bible tells us that everybody has done it. And because we sin, we should be in really big trouble! But, Jesus can help us get out of this trouble we are in, he can help us not mess up as much. Jesus helped us by dying! Does that seem odd? That someone could help us by dying?

Well, Jesus was the only man who never messed up. And because He never messed up, He could die for me and for you and for all of our “mess ups.” By dying, Jesus took all of our punishment. Jesus is the way to get out of the trouble we are in because of our “mess ups.” Jesus is the way to be a friend with God.

Pray: Thank you, Jesus, for making a way for me to get out of trouble. I want to be your friend.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Provide coloring pages of Jesus on the cross.
- Provide activities that center around the Romans. The Jews feared that the Romans would come and remove their power and end them as a nation.

Design your own coin. Use the examples of the Caesars. Draw a circle. Decorate it with your own profile.

Bring a white sheet to class. Wrap it around your students to resemble togas.

Talk about Roman Numerals, etc.

- Review the “Roman’s Road” with your students. You might even want to make book-marks they can take with them.
- Play “Capture the Flag.” Just as the Jewish leaders were seeking to find Jesus and have Him killed, your students can search for the opposing teams’ flag.
- For older students: Talk with your older students about Bible prophecies concerning Jesus’ death. See Genesis 3:15, Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, etc.