

Life of Christ

Jesus Talks About His Death

John 12:27-50

Memory Verse

"I am going to be lifted up from the earth." John 12:32 (NirV)

"But I am going to be lifted up from the earth. When I am, I will bring all people to myself." He said this to show them how he was going to die. John 12:32-33 (NirV)

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 know when school starts back in the fall? Do you know when our next Bible study is? What about when your next birthday will be? But, do you know on what day of the week Christmas will fall in 2010? How about your last baby tooth, do you know when it will fall out? Have you ever thought about whether or not Jesus knew what was going to happen to Him when He came to earth? Do you think He knew that He would be crucified? Do you think He knew when He would die? We will find those answers and more in our lesson from the Bible.

If you will remember from last week, Jesus talked about wheat and how it must die in the ground before it grows back up and produces more wheat. Do you remember what Jesus was trying to explain? He was trying to explain His death. He was trying to prepare those around Him. In our lesson for today, John 12:27-50, Jesus is continuing this conversation, this teaching and preparation, about His death. Jesus has already said that it is "time."* Time for what? We have read many times in the book of John where Jesus said it was not time yet,** so what is it now time for Him to do? It is time for Him to give His life for you and for me and for everyone. But, how could Jesus know when He was supposed to die? Is that something we all know when we are born? No, I do not know when I will die and neither do you.

Jesus shares with those listening that He is upset. He asks a question and then answers it Himself. Jesus asks, "Should I ask God to keep me from this "hour," this time of My death? No! This time of my death is exactly why I came." That sounds like Jesus knew that He was about to die. But even more than that, Jesus knew exactly how He would die, as well. He knew that He would be lifted up from the earth on a wooden cross! How could Jesus know all these things? Do you

* John 12:23

* John 2:4;
John 7:6,8,30;
John 8:20;
John 12:23

Lesson Goals

To see Jesus' foreknowledge of His death.
To see the purpose of Jesus' death.

remember our very first look at the book of John? John 1:1 tells us that Jesus has been around since the very beginning and that He was with God in the beginning. But, John 1:1 also tells us that Jesus is God! Do you think there is anything God does not know? No! Then if God knows everything, Jesus knows everything! Jesus knew from the very beginning when He would die and how it would happen! Jesus even knew why He was going to die! Jesus also knew that His death would give everyone the opportunity to be clean before God. "Everyone" does not mean that everyone will believe but that every kind of person will believe; some Jewish people and some who weren't, some rich and some poor, and some from every nation on earth. Jesus knew that He had come to die in your place and in my place because of the sin in our lives that we cannot make go away.

The Bible tells us that there were many people who didn't want to believe in Him. They wanted to try and figure God out on their own. But the Bible also tells us that others, even the leaders, did believe! Where do you stand? Are you believing or unbelieving? If you do not believe in Jesus, He can be trusted - more than anyone or anything. And if you do believe, do others around you know what you believe? Our lesson continues with information about those leaders that believed in Jesus. The Bible says they believed but didn't confess Him, or let others know they believed. They loved the approval of men more than the approval of God. These leaders cared more about what other people said than about pleasing God. How about you? If you believe, are you willing to let everyone know? Who can you share with first?

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Draw a picture of a cross. Write the memory verse underneath the cross, at the bottom of the page. Talk about how Jesus knew that He would be "lifted up" on the cross. Continue to talk about how "all people," or all kinds of people, would have the opportunity to believe. On the memory verse picture, allow students to illustrate "all kinds of people" around the cross.

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God for knowing exactly what we need and taking care of us by sending His Son, Jesus.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 30
Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 13:1-30

Preschool Lesson

Jesus Knows

Sing: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Teach: Who remembers what we celebrate at Easter? Not Easter bunnies. Not baskets full of candy. We celebrate Jesus dying for us and then coming back to life again on the third day, Easter Sunday!

Do you remember us talking about the special dinner Jesus had with Mary, Martha and Lazarus? That was the night Mary rubbed Jesus’ feet with perfume. Jesus left their home the next day and headed from their town, Bethany, to the big city of Jerusalem. He went there for a special feast.

We learn something amazing from our lesson from the Bible today. Jesus did not go to Jerusalem only for the feast. Jesus knew something. Jesus knew that this special week in the city would be His last week. Jesus knew that it was time for Him to die. He also knew, before it happened, that He would die on a cross.

Jesus knew all of this. Jesus was a little troubled, but He also knew that He must die because He knew that dying for me and for you was why He was born. Jesus came to die. Jesus did not come just to teach wonderful lessons. Jesus did not come simply to make sick people well. Jesus came to make a way for us to be friends with God. Jesus knew that was exactly what we needed!

Pray: God, thank you, for Jesus. Thank you for letting us be your friend.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Make a clock out of a paper plate, construction paper “hands” and a brad fastener. Talk about John 12:27.
- For older students: Talk about light and darkness (John 12:35-36, 46). Giving an example in a darkened room lit with a candle, flashlight or the overhead light will reinforce the lesson.
- Provide coloring pages not only of the cross but also of Jesus’ birth. Talk about Jesus’ purpose for coming - to die.