



Jesus Dies on the Cross
John 19:17-42

WEEK 4

POINT ➔ **WE BELIEVE
JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Open your Bible to John 19, and show children the words. SAY: **The Bible, God's special book, tells us about a special way God took care of us. When I tell you, help show me what happened using your fingers. You can copy me.**

Some people told lies about Jesus. So Jesus was sent to die on a cross. Jesus carried his own cross. Have kids walk their fingers. **The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross.** Have kids make a cross shape with their fingers. **One man hung up a sign that said "King of the Jews."** Have kids pretend to hammer with their index fingers. **Some people laughed at the sign. Jesus' mother, Mary, watched, and she was very sad.** Have kids use their index fingers to trace tear tracks down their cheeks. **Jesus told his friend John to take care of Mary as if she were John's own mother. This was God's way of taking care of Jesus' mother. Even when he was dying, Jesus came to the rescue to help his mother!** Have kids make two sets of fingers walk off

together. **When Jesus knew his job on earth was done, he said, "I am thirsty."** Have kids cup their hands. **The soldiers held a sponge with a sour drink to Jesus' lips. Jesus tasted it and said, "It is finished!"** Then Jesus died. It was close to nighttime, and some friends came and took Jesus' body and buried it.

God helped us be close to him by sending his very own Son to die on the cross so we can live in heaven forever. It was the biggest rescue ever!

ASK: **What do you think about what Jesus did to rescue us?**

What do you want to say to Jesus for dying so you could live with God in heaven?

SAY: **Jesus' death on the cross was sad. But Jesus died because he loves us, and then he came back to life!** ➔ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**





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Give each child several pieces of paper, and have children stand together on one side of the room.

SAY: Imagine that God is all the way over on the other side of the room, and imagine that the floor is just water that you can't walk on. You can't reach God because there's so much sin between us and God. The Bible says that God can't touch sin because he never does anything wrong. Jesus' death on the cross made a bridge that helps us get to God.

We're going to put our papers on the floor in the shape of a cross that goes all the way across the room. Play ● "Jesus Died for You" (track 9) on the *CD*. Have kids each place their papers on the floor one at a time to make a cross shape. Kids can only walk as far as the paper goes. Direct kids where to put their papers. If needed to cross the room, have kids each take two or more turns.

When the cross shape is all done, have kids walk all the way across the room.

ASK: Why do we need bridges over rivers or roads?

If sin is like a river that God can't touch, why do we need Jesus to be like a bridge for us to get to God?

How does Jesus' death on the cross show that he loves us?

SAY: God took care of us by sending Jesus. Jesus died to make a bridge so we can get to God. Now nothing can keep us from God's love! And ➔ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.



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Pass out paper and *Color Switchers Markers*. **SAY: Draw a colorful cross. As you're coloring, think of one friend or family member you can give your picture to and tell about how Jesus died on the cross to rescue us.**

Read aloud John 19:19. **SAY: Pilate put a sign with Jesus' name on the cross, because Jesus was the one dying. But he was dying for other people! I'm going to help you write some names on your cross. We'll write your name and the name of the person you're going to give your picture to.** When you write the names, use the white end of the marker so the name shows up clearly on the cross.

ASK: Why did we need Jesus to rescue us?

What are you going to tell the person you give your picture to about Jesus?

SAY: Jesus died on the cross. He died for everyone, so God can forgive us. Now we can be best friends with God! And someday we'll go to heaven to be with Jesus. ➔ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**



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Pass out the *Wikki Stix* and have kids bend them into cross shapes. Lead kids in singing 🎵 "Jesus Died for You" (track 9) on the *CD* to the tune of "London Bridge." When you sing kids' names during the chorus, have kids use their crosses to point to the child you name.

SING:

Jesus died for you and me. (*Point to a child, and then to yourself.*)

He took our sins (*"lift" a frown off your face*)

And set us free. (*Open hands as if setting something free.*)

We can be forgiven, you see. (*Hold arms as if on cross.*)

Jesus loves us! (*Hug self.*)

Jesus died for [name] **and** [name],
[Name] **and** [name],
[Name] **and** [name].

We can be forgiven, you see.

Jesus loves us!

(*Repeat from the beginning.*)

ASK: **What are some things Jesus has forgiven you for?**

Try to describe how much Jesus loves you.

SAY: The Bible says, "Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and...by believing in him you will have life" (John 20:31). This means that Jesus died to rescue us from our sins and help us be close to God. He loves us that much! And we love Jesus, too! We show our love by believing that he died to save us. And ➔ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE, TOO.**



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Gather kids around you.

ASK: Tell about a time you cried.

SAY: Jesus died on the cross. It was a sad day. People who loved him felt sad and cried. They didn't know that Jesus would soon be alive again!

Jesus didn't want to die on the cross, but he knew it was the only way to help the people he loved. In fact, he died to help all people. Jesus died to rescue us from our sins and help us be close to God.

ASK: Tell about a time you had to do something you didn't want to do.

Read aloud Matthew 26:39.
Why did Jesus die on the cross even when he didn't want to?

SAY: Jesus died because he loves us and wanted to forgive us for our sins. But we don't need to be sad, because we know what happened after Jesus died—he came back to life! ➔ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE** and that someday we'll see him in heaven.