

Note to Parents

Dear parents,

Welcome to Dig Deeper as a Family! These lessons are the same as the lessons done at church; however, this packet is meant for you to learn about God as a family. There are lots of fun activities here, but you know your kids best, so don't feel like you have to do all the activities. Pick and choose what will work best for your family. The first section is an overview of the lesson to help you get comfortable with the story. Followed by a list of supplies broken into each activity and the links to songs, videos, and printable pages. The final pages are the actual lesson to follow along with. We hope you enjoy following along at home with these fun activities and learning more about God as a family. If you have any questions contact me at sstrong@horizoncc.com.

Best Regards,
Sierra Strong

Overview of Lesson

Parts of the Lesson:

- Opening
- Music Video
- Talk About Video
- Object Lesson
- Craft
- Life Application Wrap-Up

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 23:26–24:12
- In This Passage: Jesus is forced to endure the punishment of a criminal—death on a cross—even though he himself is sinless. Why? Because Jesus is our Savior, taking the punishment for our wrongdoings. But the story doesn't end there! Jesus comes back to life in three days. Jesus is alive!
- Bible Point: Jesus is our Savior.
- Summary Verse: "He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!" (Luke 24:6)

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is our Savior.* The Easter message is the core of Christian beliefs. You may have a lot of visitors today, and they along with the more "churched" kids need to grasp this important truth of the Christian faith: Jesus is our Savior, who died for us and came back to life so we can be with him forever.
- Think About: What stands out to you about Jesus' sacrifice? Why does it matter that Jesus overcame death?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids who are unfamiliar with the message of Easter. Pray that God would give them receptive hearts to accepting Jesus as their Savior.

Supplies for Each Activity



OPENING

▲ Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



MUSIC VIDEO

▲ Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- "You Are the Messiah" (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- "You Gave" (John 14:19b) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- "I Believe" (John 1:12) music video (watch or download [here](#))



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

▲ Kids put nails in jars to represent their sin, and the nails disappear.

Supplies

- Bible
- 3 jars or drinking glasses
- nails (several per child)
- paper



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

▲ Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- "Easter Expressions" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



OBJECT LESSON

▲ Kids use water to spread ink from a cross to a heart.

Supplies

- paper towels (1 sheet per child)
- pens
- cups of water (1 per child)
- washable red markers



CRAFT

▲ Kids make a cross covered in tissue paper.

Supplies

- poster board
- scissors
- colored tissue paper and white tissue paper
- pens
- glue sticks
- chenille wires
- duct tape

Easy Prep

- Pre-cut 6-inch tall crosses for kids under 7.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

▲ Kids remove stickers to represent Jesus' forgiveness.

Supplies

- white dot stickers
- colored dot stickers

START TEACHING HERE



OPENING

[5 min]

Welcome

Supplies

- Bible

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Jesus is our Savior!** Today we'll learn about when Jesus died to save us and then came back to life.

Share

Say: **A savior is a kind of a hero. It's a person who rescues someone.**

Tell about someone who's a hero to *you*.

Have kids get in pairs and tell about someone who's a hero to *them*.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Today we'll explore how Jesus is our Savior and what that means to us! We'll dig into the Bible to find out. The Bible is a very special book that helps us know God. One of the ways God talks to us is through the Bible. God is ready to talk to you right now.**

Pray, thanking Jesus that he's our Savior.



MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

You Are the Messiah

Supplies

- "You Are the Messiah" (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))

- “You Gave” (John 14:19b) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Believe” (John 1:12) music video (watch or download [here](#))

Sing Songs to God - Choose songs you'd like to do, click the link and enjoy!



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

[20 min]

Easter: Jesus Is Our Savior (Luke 23:26–24:12)

Supplies

- Bible
- 3 jars or drinking glasses
- nails (several per child)
- paper

Talk About Rescue

Say: **Today we're going to learn that Jesus is our Savior. A savior is someone who rescues or saves other people from danger or even death. Superheroes might be an example of pretend saviors.**

Tell a superhero story you're familiar with.

Have families share superhero stories they're familiar with.

Say: **Superheroes are pretend people who do made-up things. But Jesus is very real, and he really rescued all of us from death! Let's see how he did that.**

Carry a Jar

Say: **Jesus hadn't done anything wrong. Ever! But some people thought he had done wrong things. They thought it was wrong of him to say he is God, because they didn't know that was really true. Back when Jesus was on earth, the law worked differently. Today, someone might get arrested and put in prison for doing something wrong. But during the time that Jesus lived on earth, punishments were really harsh. Prisoners were punished—or even put to death. Jesus' punishment was dying on a cross—which means they nailed Jesus to a cross made of wood and waited for him to die. It was a terrible way to die. But first, Jesus had to get the cross up the hill. Let's read about that.**

Read Luke 23:26.

Say: **We'll imagine your jars are crosses.**

Have families set out two jars with a space between them. Then have everyone take turns carrying the third jar around the room one time each. The final person will set the jar between the other two.

Say: **We've put Jesus' cross between two others because that's what happened in the Bible. Jesus wasn't the only one being punished.**

Read Luke 23:32-33.

Say: **The Bible doesn't tell us what these criminals did wrong. But we know they really were criminals, unlike Jesus. He was innocent. Let's think of things criminals do.**

As kids share answers, have parents put a nail in each of the criminals' jars for each answer.

Confess Your Sins

Say: **So what does all this have to do with the fact that Jesus is our Savior? Everything! You see, when Jesus died on the cross, he was taking a punishment he didn't deserve. Unlike the criminals' jars next to his, Jesus' jar was empty—it had no sin in it. *Sin* means bad things people do. Because his jar was empty, he was able to take the punishment for other people—people like you and me. Even though we may not be criminals, we've all done wrong things.**

Have families dim the lights if possible. Have family members come up to the jars and silently tell Jesus they're sorry for their sins, each dropping a nail into the jar representing Jesus for each thing they mention. Throughout the experience, keep whispering: **Jesus is our Savior**.

After everyone has put nails in the jar, say: **Jesus is such an amazing Savior because he not only took our punishment, he took the punishment of one of the *criminals*!**

Read Luke 23:39-43. Say: **Even though the criminal still had to die, Jesus forgave him, and he got to go to heaven. Jesus was his Savior!**

Invite an older child or adult to pour the nails from one criminal's jar into Jesus' jar.

Ask: • **How do you feel seeing Jesus' jar full of all our sins?**

Tear the Curtain

Say: **After Jesus died, something happened that might be kind of confusing.**

Read Luke 23:44-45.

Say: Even though it was the afternoon, things got really dark. Then the curtain in the Temple ripped. You might not understand why that's important, but let's see if we can make sense of that.

Read Hebrews 9:1-3. Say: **The Most Holy Place was a place only one priest could go, and only once a year. It was a place where people thought God's presence was the strongest. So when the curtain ripped, it was like God's way of saying that now we can *all* be in God's presence—there was nothing between us and God anymore. Jesus is our Savior, and when he died on the cross it took away things that stood between us and God.**

Let's pretend paper is that curtain. Everyone, grab a piece of paper. Pause. Let's all rip our curtains on the count of three. **1, 2, 3!** After families rip their papers, have them take a minute to talk to God, thanking him that they can talk to him anytime.

Celebrate the Resurrection

Say: Jesus is our Savior, and he gave his own life to rescue us. That's pretty amazing! But there's one more amazing thing we need to learn.

Invite families to turn the lights back on, and read Luke 24:1. Say: **Dead bodies start to smell after a few days, so the women wanted to take care of Jesus' body by making it smell good. They brought spices like the ones we smelled to put on Jesus' body. But it turned out they didn't need to worry about the smell...because this is what they found.**

Read Luke 24:2-3.

Have a parent dump out the jar of nails, and then have everyone examine the empty jar. Say: **Jesus wasn't there! He not only took the punishment for our sins, he *beat* the punishment for our sins! Our sins are gone! Jesus is an amazing Savior! Here's what the women found out about Jesus.**

Read Luke 24:5-7.

Say: **After the women found out about Jesus, they rushed to tell other people who followed Jesus. Let's rush around the room and say "Jesus is alive!" as many times as we can. Tell your whole family!** Allow about 30 seconds for families to share this good news with each other.

Say: **The amazing thing about Easter is that Jesus is alive. Jesus is our Savior, but he's not a dead savior—he's alive and active in our lives today!**



Supplies

- “Easter Expressions” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Discuss and Watch “Easter Expressions”

Say: Today we’re celebrating Easter! It’s amazing that Jesus died and then came back to life. I wonder what it was like for the people who were there at the time. Our video today will help us consider these incredible events from their perspective. Let’s watch!

Watch “Easter Expressions.” After the soldier tells his story, there will be several seconds where there is a black screen on the video. Pause the video at this point.

Ask: • What emotions are you feeling after hearing from this soldier?

• **When do you usually have these same kinds of emotions yourself?** Share an example from your own life, and then have kids share their answers with a partner.

Say: A lot of people were feeling like this then. They had seen Jesus die, and many people were confused, afraid, worried, and so on. But the good news is that this isn’t the end of the story! Let’s keep watching.

Resume playing the video, and watch until the end.

Ask: • What different emotions are you feeling now after hearing from Mary?

Say: Mary and other people who saw Jesus after he came back to life were excited and joyful. Some of them were confused since they didn’t understand how Jesus could come back to life. It’s pretty amazing!

Because Jesus has power over death, we know that he has the power to rescue us from punishment for the wrong things we do. A person who rescues is a savior. Jesus is our Savior!



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

His Love Covers Us

Supplies

- paper towels (1 sheet per child)
- pens
- washable red markers
- cups of water (1 per child)



Draw the Cross

Give each child a paper towel sheet.

Say: **Today we learned how Jesus died on the cross. Jesus is our Savior!**

Have older kids each use a pen to draw the outline of a small cross near a bottom corner of their paper-towel sheets. The cross should be about an inch or two tall. Then they can do the same for younger kids who aren't able to draw that small.

Say: **Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sins. He took our punishment. When they nailed Jesus to the cross, he bled a lot.**

Have the children color in the cross outlines with red markers to symbolize Jesus' blood. Again, older kids can help younger kids as needed.

Say: **Jesus was willing to bleed and die because he loves you!**

Have older kids use a pen to draw a small heart right above the cross so it's barely touching the cross.

Dip the Paper Towel

Say: **Let's see how the love Jesus showed on the cross touches our lives.**

Have kids each carefully dip the corner of the paper towel with the cross into water. They'll only dip it until the water reaches the bottom of the cross. The water from the corner of the paper towel will spread, causing the red color from the marker to slowly cover the heart.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What happened in this experiment?**

Say: **Like the red color in our experiment spread over your heart, Jesus' love can fill your hearts. Jesus is your Savior because he loves you! And you can love him back with all your heart.**

• **How do you know Jesus loves you?**

Say: **Jesus' love is so great that he died to rescue us from punishment. That means Jesus is our Savior.**

Lead the children in a prayer, thanking Jesus for his death and resurrection.



CRAFT

[20 min]

Tissue-Paper Cross

Supplies

- poster board
- scissors
- colored tissue paper and white tissue paper
- pens
- glue sticks
- chenille wires
- duct tape

Easy Prep

- Pre-cut 6-inch tall crosses for kids under 7.

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Cross

Say: **We're learning that Jesus is our Savior. He died on the cross to save us from the punishment we deserve. Even people who are pretty good most of the time have still done wrong things or failed to do good all the time. And when Jesus was on the cross, he took the punishment for *all* the wrong things *everyone* has done.**

Distribute poster board, and have kids each cut out a cross shape about 6 inches tall. (For kids under 7, distribute the pre-cut crosses.) Then have kids rip small pieces of tissue paper (approximately 2 inches square) and write some sins on each piece. (Kids who can't write can just crumple the papers without writing.) They can be nonspecific wrong things or things the kids want to say they're sorry for. Kids can use a variety of tissue-paper colors.

Have kids crumple the pieces of tissue paper they've made and glue them to their crosses. Kids can continue to crumple blank pieces of tissue paper and glue them until the whole cross is covered.

Make a Hanger

Have kids make a loop out of chenille wire and tape it to the back of the cross. They can hang their crosses from a doorknob, a hook, or on the wall.

Pray

Say: **Your crosses are totally covered in bad things. Some of the bad things are things you've done, and some are things other people have done. Because Jesus is the Savior of the whole world, he took the punishment for everything we did wrong when he died on the cross. Take a minute and talk silently to Jesus about that, touching the tissue paper on your cross.** Allow time.

Then have kids crumple small pieces of white tissue paper and glue them to the other side of the cross.

Say: **The white tissue paper can remind us that Jesus is our Savior. He forgave us for everything we could ever do wrong when he died on the cross. And the white can remind us of Easter morning, when the bright shining angels announced that Jesus is alive!**

Talk About It

Ask: • **How does this cross remind you of what Jesus did for you?**

Say: **When Jesus took the punishment for our sins, he saved us from being away from God forever. Jesus is our Savior! Hang your cross at home to remind you that Jesus died for *you* because he loves you so much and wants to be *your* Savior. And look at the white side to remember that Jesus forgives you and is alive today!**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Prayer Circle

Supplies

- white dot stickers
- colored dot stickers

Set the Stage

Gather kids in a circle.

Say: **Today we learned that Jesus is our Savior. He took the punishment for everything we did wrong, even though he's perfect.**

Place a colored dot sticker on the back of every child, and have each child put a white dot sticker over his or her heart.

Pray for Forgiveness

In their circle, have kids turn to the right so they're facing the back of the person who was to their right in the circle.

Say: **Is there anything weighing on you right now—something you did wrong that you want to talk to Jesus about? Right now, talk to Jesus about that, and thank him for taking your punishment.**

Allow time.

Say: **Remember, when you believe in Jesus, he scrubs your sins away so you're shiny and new. That's because when he died, he took your punishment!** Have kids remove the colored stickers from one another's backs.

Thank Jesus for Beating Death

Have kids each place their hands over the white sticker on their heart.

Say: **Jesus is alive! On that bright Easter morning, a shining angel announced that Jesus, our Savior, beat death! With your hand over the white sticker, thank Jesus for beating death.**

Allow time.

Say: **Jesus is our Savior. He died and came back to life to take our punishment! When we believe in him, we know he'll love and forgive us.**

Thank the children for coming. Have kids keep the white dots as a reminder that their Savior is alive.