

Jesus Gives Up His Life for Sinners

MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus displays the greatness and worth of God.**
- **Jesus was obedient to His Father, and willingly gave up His life for sinful people.**
- **Jesus is sovereign over the actions of all people.**

MEMORY VERSE

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.—Romans 5:8

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 27:11-54
- 2) John 15:13
- 3) (Isaiah 53:4, 5, 7)
- 4) (Romans 5:8)
- 5) (Mark 1:15)



TEACHER INTRODUCTION

Children have an acute sense of fairness, especially as it pertains to their own well-being. For example, if you ask a child to accept the consequences of a sibling's wrong doings, he will immediately respond with a strong and negative, "But that's not fair!" Now picture the narrative of Isaiah 53—the vision of a suffering servant, a quiet and perfect lamb, despised, rejected, pierced, crushed, and punished to death. Willingly, He goes to the cross to bear not His own sin, but the sin of others. That vision depicts Jesus. Jesus came to save sinners. All the events of His life led to this moment in history. It was not for His own sin or rebellion that He died; Jesus was perfectly righteous. Rather, it was for the sin of His people that He suffered. Every moment leading to Jesus' death—the trial, the floggings and beatings, the nails, the mocking crowds—were all part of God's glorious plan to vindicate His righteousness by punishing sin and saving sinners. This was Jesus' mission, and He completed it in joyful obedience to the Father. Even in the anguish of the Cross, Jesus never cried out, "But it's not fair." Instead, Jesus cried out, "It is finished." Jesus said "yes" to the will of the Father to show the greatness and worth of God in saving unrighteous sinners.

As you prepare for this lesson, pray that the glorious truth of the cross would impact your heart anew. Pray that God would cause you to cherish Christ more and cast yourself fully on Him for salvation. Pray that God would work in the hearts of those in your classroom, that they might be moved by the willingness of Jesus to give up His life on behalf of sinners.

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- **No (33A)**
- **Yes (33B)**
- 6 Small Yes signs (33C-33E)
- It is Finished Sign (33F)
- Growing in Faith Together for Lesson 33 (one per child)

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OTHER SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Frame and Bible Insert (from Lesson 1, save for future lessons)
- Scraps of paper
- Wastepaper basket
- Cross (make one as large as possible using cardboard or other sturdy material; save for use in future lessons)
- Large nails and hammer
- For Application (for each child):
 - › Markers or crayons

VISUALS PREPARATION

- For this Lesson—Before class, take the scraps of paper and scatter them on the floor in the front of the classroom. Also, attach the large cross that you have made to a wall or board at the front of the room.
- For Lesson 24—The next lesson requires four or five days of preparation in advance. Please turn to the next lesson for further instructions.

MATERIALS FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Yes or No Game

- You will need the following supplies for each child:
- › Yes or No Cards (OA-33A-B, Curriculum Resources)
 - › Scissors

2. Memory Verse

- You will need the following supplies for each child:
- › Romans 5:8 Handout (OA-33C, Curriculum Resources)
 - › Scissors
 - › Glue
 - › Markers or crayons

Large Group Lesson

Illustration.....

Look at all of these scraps of paper on the floor. What a mess! Let's pretend for a moment that [child's name] came in the room and made this mess. Was that a good thing for him to do? No, of course not. Now suppose that I told [another child's name] to pick up [child's name]'s mess. Would that be fair? No!



(Display the **No** sign, and emphasize that the child who made the mess deserves the consequence of picking up the mess.)

What if I also decided that [child's name] deserved some kind of punishment for messing up the room? For example, he might have to sit in the corner of the room by himself for the rest of class time, or miss out on a treat. How do you think [the child who didn't make the mess] would feel about taking the punishment for him? Would that be fair?



(Display the **No** sign.)

Today's Bible story tells us about someone who was treated unfairly by everyone—someone who could have said, "No, I won't take this punishment. It's not fair," but instead said, "Yes, I'll do it. I'll be happy to do it!"

Story.....

The Crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27:11-54)

(This narrative is long, so it will be necessary to carefully summarize the story. This lesson is focused on the actual events leading to the death of Jesus, especially His unfair treatment and His absolute willingness to fulfill His goal and die for sinners.¹ Use the **Yes** and **No** signs, and other pictures and visuals at the appropriate times in the lesson. Emphasize the following points.)

- After Jesus was arrested, He was put on trial. A trial is when someone decides whether or not someone else has done something wrong and what the punishment should be.
- The priests and teachers made up lies about Jesus.

? *Do you think Jesus would answer and say, "Those are lies. It's not true!"?*



(Display the **No** sign.)

- Jesus would not answer back.

1. The theology of redemption will be explained in the next lesson.

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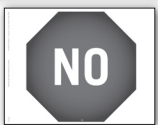


- He was saying, “Yes, I will let them tell lies about Me.”

(Display the **Yes** sign, and attach the smaller **Yes** sign on the **Cross**.)

- The people decided that Jesus was guilty and had done wrong things.
- They said Jesus was a criminal.
- The crowd wanted Jesus punished to death.
- “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” they shouted.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is God! Jesus never sinned! He never did anything wrong! Jesus didn't deserve to die. Is Jesus more powerful than the crowd? Yes, He is all-powerful. He could say, “No, I won't let you kill me.”



(Display the **No** sign.)

But Jesus said, “Yes, I will let them kill Me.”

(Display the **Yes** sign, and attach the smaller **Yes** sign on the **Cross**.)



- Jesus was whipped.

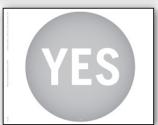
He could have stopped them, but Jesus said, “Yes, I will let them whip Me.”



(Display the **Yes** sign, and attach the smaller **Yes** sign on the **Cross**.)

- The soldiers took off Jesus' clothes, and dressed Him up like a pretend king with a robe and crown made of thorns.
- They made fun of Him. They did not understand that Jesus is the greatest King of all.

They shouldn't have made fun of Him. But Jesus said, “Yes, I will let them make fun of Me.”



(Display the **Yes** sign, and attach the smaller **Yes** sign on the **Cross**.)

❓ *The soldiers spat on Jesus and hit Him on the head over and over again. Would that hurt?*

- Yes, Jesus was human. It hurt Him a lot.

❓ *Couldn't Jesus say, “No, you can't do that. It's not fair. I'm God!”?*



(Display the **No** sign.)

- Jesus is God. He could have said “No!” and made the soldiers stop.

But Jesus said, “Yes, I will let you spit on Me and hit Me.”



(Display the **Yes** sign, and attach the smaller **Yes** sign on the **Cross**.)

- The soldiers placed Jesus on a cross and hammered nails through His feet and hands. The very hands that healed people, fed crowds, calmed storms, and loved sinners.
- It bled and hurt a lot!

Jesus said, "Yes, I will let you hurt Me."



(Display the **Yes** sign, and attach smaller **Yes** sign on the **Cross**.)

The crowd mocked Jesus saying, "Save Yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"



(Display the **Yes** and **No** signs.)

How will Jesus answer? Jesus is God. Is He able to come down from the cross? Yes, He is. But Jesus said, "No, I will not save Myself."



(Display the **No** sign.)

- Jesus chose to stay on the cross, and die slowly and painfully.
- Jesus always obeyed God, even to the point of dying on the cross.

Just before He died, He said, "Yes, it is finished."



(Display the **Yes** sign, and attach the smaller **It Is Finished** sign on the **Cross**.)

John 15:13—[Jesus said,] Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Did Jesus really love His friends? Yes! And so Jesus said "Yes" to the cross and died, because Jesus came to save sinners.

Small Group Application

Choose one or more of these application ideas, as time allows.

Workbook

Have the children turn to Lesson 33 in the workbook and begin to color the sunset behind the cross.

How did you feel while listening to the story of Jesus' death on the cross? Is it a fun story to listen to? It is very sad to listen to the story. Jesus is the most special person of all.

Recall some of the wonderful things that Jesus did.

And yet, what did the people want to do to Jesus? They made fun of Him, beat Him, and painfully killed Him.

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Explain to the children that you are going to read to them some verses from the book of Isaiah. Show them where the book of Isaiah is in the Bible. Tell them that the words in Isaiah were written a long, long time ago—long before Jesus was even born. These words tell about someone. Read the following verses from Isaiah 53 and have the children guess who the verses are describing. (Be sure to define any difficult words in the texts.)

4a—Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

5—But he was pierced for our transgressions...upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace...

7b—...like a lamb that is led to the slaughter...so he opened not his mouth.

These verses speak of the death of Jesus even before He was born. The death of Jesus was planned by God. It wasn't a surprise to Jesus. God planned everything that was going to happen and He was in control of everything that happened. It wasn't the soldiers, priests, or the crowd who made it happen—it was God!

Memory Verse

Have the children pretend that they are going to be in charge of everything that will happen to them for the next day. Would they plan just fun things to happen? Eating only their favorite foods? Watching videos? Playing all day?

Why would Jesus plan to have something very sad and painful happen to Himself?

Read and discuss today's memory verse from **Romans 5:8—...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Why did Jesus die? Did He have to die? What was He showing sinners? Do sinners deserve this kind of love? What should sinners do when they see how much Jesus' loves them? What should you do?

Read Mark 1:15 and have a time of prayer, thanking Jesus for what He has done and asking God to give you hearts that repent and believe.

Optional Activities

If time allows, choose one of the following optional activities:

1. Yes or No Game

Have the students cut out the **Yes** and **No** signs from the **Yes or No Cards**. Review the questions or statements from the lesson presentation. Have the students respond to the questions or statements by raising the appropriate sign. You may want to include other additional statements, such as: "Did Jesus always obey the commands of God? Did Jesus come to save sinners? Is Jesus the Almighty God? Is anything too hard for Jesus to do? Is Jesus a faithful friend?"

2. *Memory Verse*

Have the students take their **Yes** sign from the previous activity and glue it to the top portion of the **Romans 5:8 Handout**. Then have the children color the border while you review the memory verse.

Send Home

- Growing in Faith Together for Lesson 33 (one per child)



33A



33B





33D



33D



33E



33E



33F



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MAIN IDEAS

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- Jesus was obedient to His Father, and willingly gave up His life for sinful people.
- Jesus is sovereign over the actions of all people.

SCRIPTURE

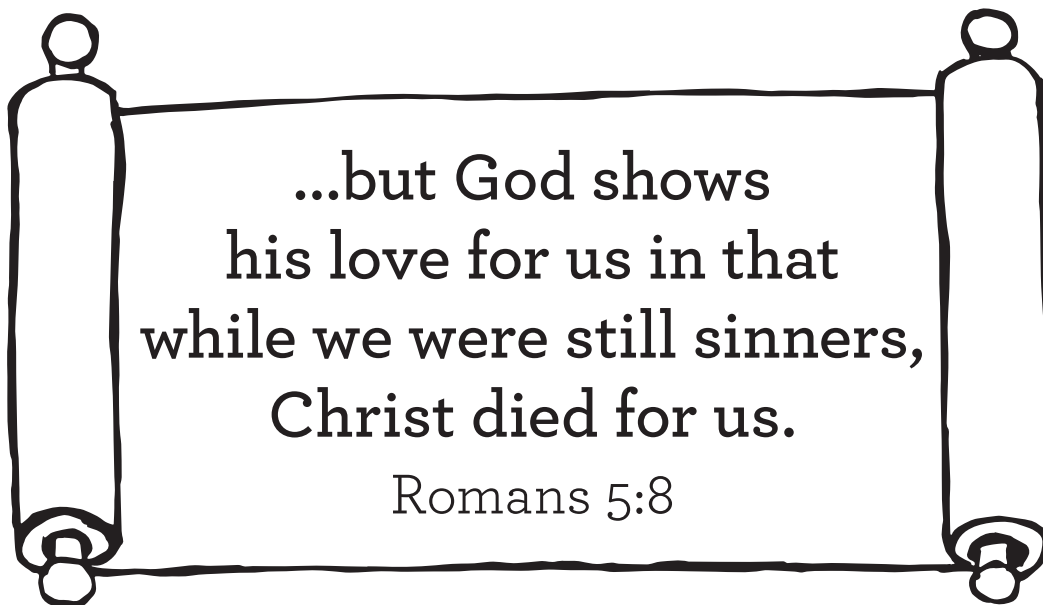
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5) Romans 5:8

2) Matthew 27:11-54

3) Mark 1:15

4) John 15:13

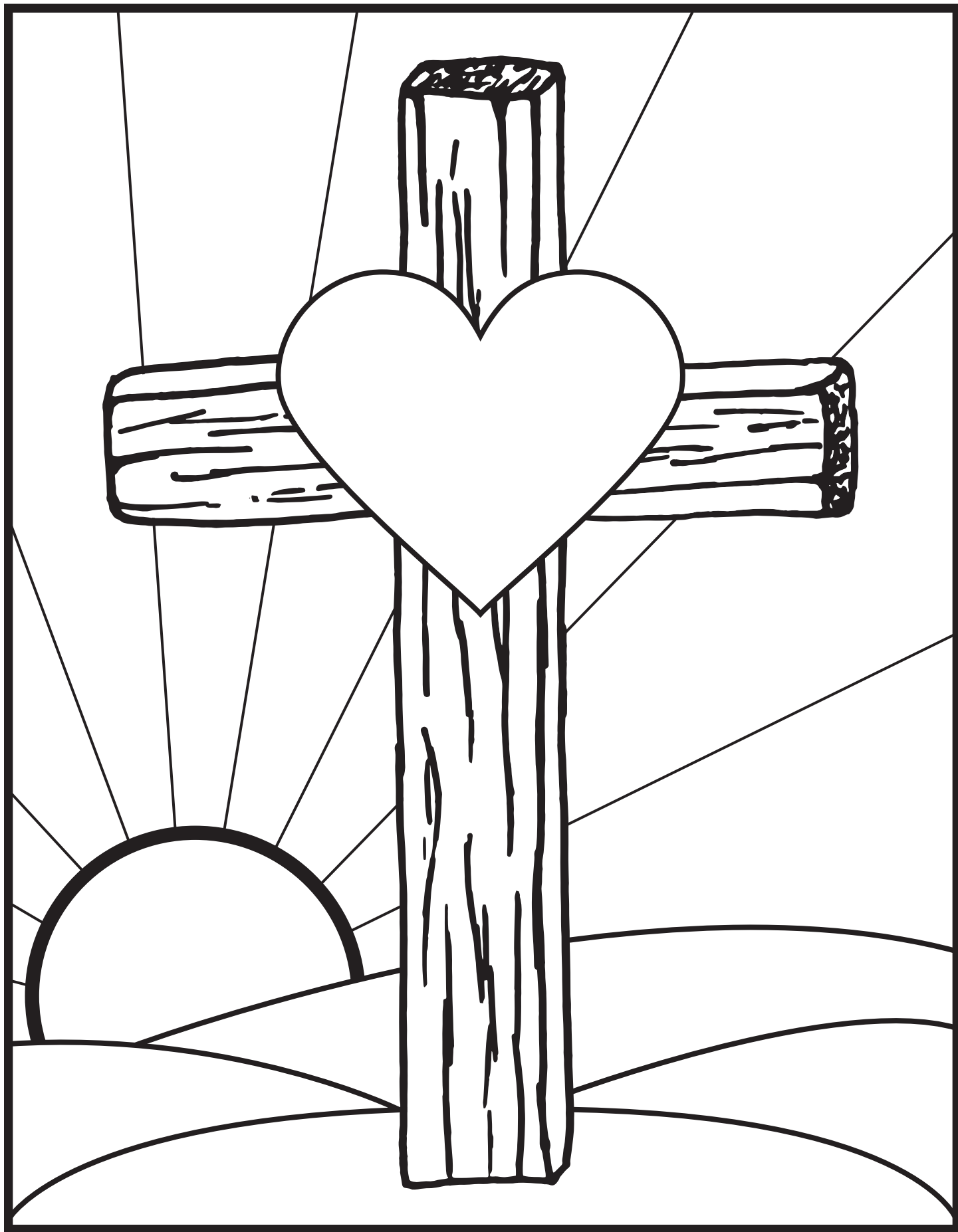
MEMORY VERSE

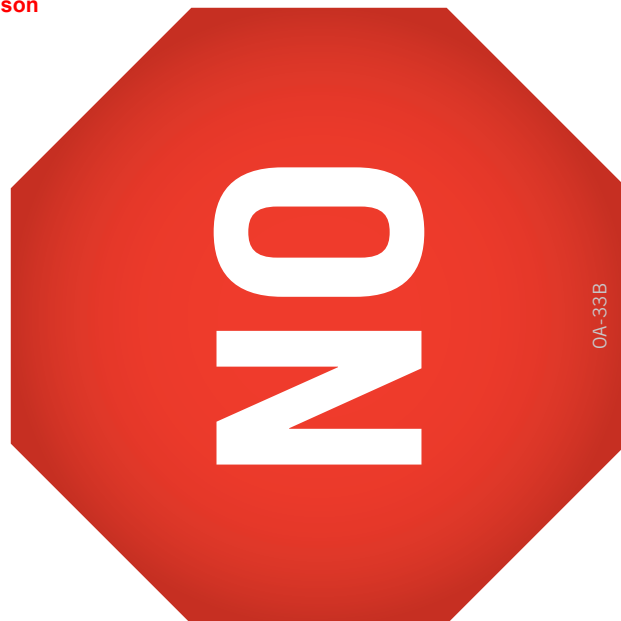


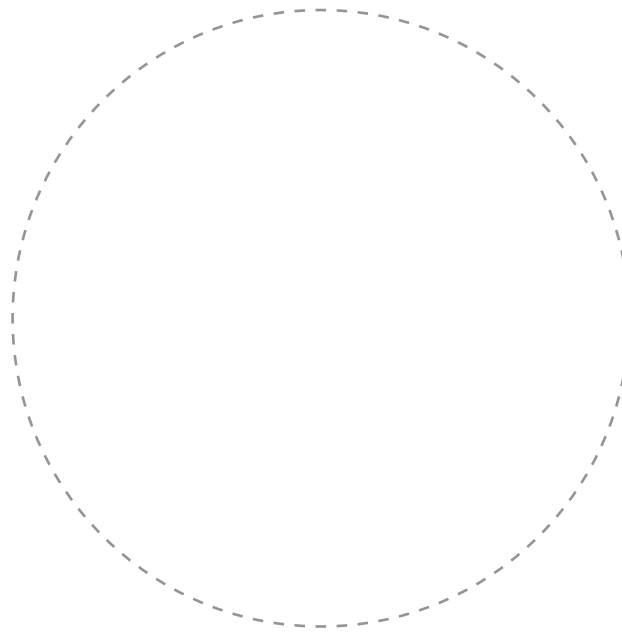
ACTIVITY

How did you feel while listening to the story of Jesus' death on the cross? Is it a fun story to listen to? It is very sad to listen to the story. Jesus is the most special person of all. Jesus did not deserve for people to do mean, bad things to Him. The death of Jesus was planned by God. It wasn't a surprise to Jesus. God planned everything that was going to happen, and He was in control of everything that happened. Jesus died on the cross in order to save sinners—sinners like you. How should you respond to Jesus?

Instructions: Color the heart red. Then carefully color the hills and sunset behind the cross.



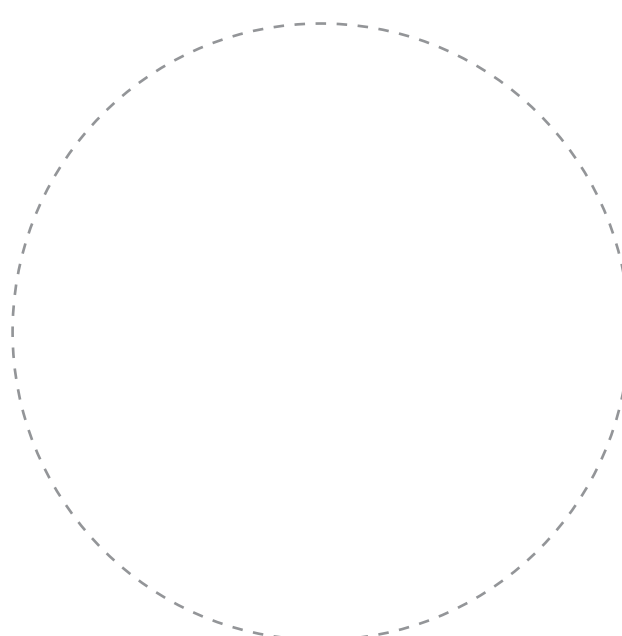




...but God shows
his love for us
in that while we
were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

OA-33C



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OA-33C



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- **Jesus is sovereign over the actions of all people.**

MEMORY VERSE

...but God shows his love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
—Romans 5:8

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 53:4-5, 7
- 2) Matthew 27:11-54
- 3) Mark 1:15
- 4) John 15:13
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LESSON SUMMARY

Children have an acute sense of fairness, especially as it pertains to their own well-being. For example, if you ask a child to accept the consequences of a sibling's wrong doings. He will immediately respond with a strong and negative "But that's not fair!"

Now picture the narrative of Isaiah 53—the vision of a suffering servant, a quiet and perfect lamb, despised, rejected, pierced, crushed, and punished to death. Willingly, He goes to the cross to bear not His own sin, but the sin of others. That vision depicts Jesus. Jesus came to save sinners. All the events of His life led to this moment in history. It was not for His own sin or rebellion that He died; Jesus was perfectly righteous. Rather, it was for the sin of His people that He suffered. Every moment leading to Jesus' death—the trial, the floggings and beatings, the nails, the mocking crowds—were all part of God's glorious plan to vindicate His righteousness by punishing sin and saving sinners. This was Jesus' mission, and He completed it in joyful obedience to the Father. Even in the anguish of the Cross, Jesus never cried out, "But it's not fair." Instead, Jesus cried out, "*It is finished.*" Jesus said "yes" to the will of the Father to show the greatness and worth of God in saving unrighteous sinners. In this lesson, we focused on the events of the crucifixion as depicted in Matthew 27:11-54.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray that...



- *the glorious truth of the cross would impact your heart anew.*
- *God would cause you to cherish Christ more, and to cast yourself fully on Him for salvation.*
- *God would work in both your heart and the heart of your child, that you might be more fully moved by the willingness of Jesus to give up His life on behalf of sinners.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Matthew 27:27-31 to your child.

- **Is this a hard story to listen to? Why? Did Jesus deserve to be treated this way? Why not? Was this a surprise to Jesus?**

Read Isaiah 53:4a, 5, and 7b. These verses speak of the death of Jesus even before He was born. The death of Jesus was planned by God. It wasn't a surprise to Jesus. God planned everything that was going to happen, and He was in control of everything that happened.

- Pretend that you are going to be in charge of everything that will happen

to you for the next day. **Would you want to plan just fun things? Eating your favorite foods? Watching videos? Playing all day? Why would Jesus plan to have something very sad and painful happen to Himself?**

- Read and discuss Romans 5:8. **What should sinners do when they see how much Jesus' loves them? What should you do?**
- Read Mark 1:15 and have a time of prayer, thanking Jesus for what He has done, and asking God to give hearts that repent and believe.

ACTION STEP

Have your parents help you to cut out the shape of a cross and a red heart. On the red heart, write out the memory verse from Romans 5:8. Attach the red heart to the cross. Tape the cross and heart somewhere where it will be seen often.

