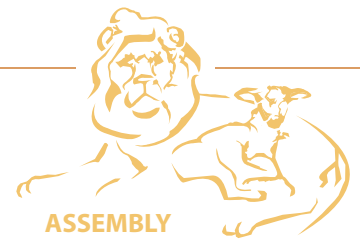


THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 27:32-54



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

THE GOSPEL AGAIN AND AGAIN

Ask the children if they can tell you what the Gospel is. Most will not give the correct answer.

Help the children with the basic components of the Gospel and our response.

- All men are sinners and deserve eternal death
- Jesus died on the cross taking the punishment we deserved
- Jesus rose again promising new life to all those who trust in Him
- All men are commanded to turn away from their sin and trust in Jesus

A CENTURION BELIEVES

Supplies

two old coffee cans or
oatmeal boxes

After Jesus died, all kinds of amazing things happened. When the centurion, a soldier on duty at the cross, saw these things he was convinced that Jesus really was the Son of God. Have the children act out this part of the story.

Presumably the centurion, until that moment, was a mocker but changed his mind. Have one person play the centurion repeating some of the mocking phrases out loud. Have another person play the role of Jesus with his arms out in a cross-like position. Have the person playing Jesus bow his head to signal his death.

Have two children drum on some old coffee cans or oatmeal boxes to signal the earthquakes. Have several children play dead and rise up again at the sound of the earth shaking. They should call out, "I'm alive again." Have other children stand in pairs, side by side, they are the rocks. When they hear the sound of the earthquake they should split apart from one another and fall to the ground.

The person playing the centurion should say, "Surely, he was the Son of God!"

When the skit is done, talk about how God loved even the people who killed His Son. Rather than destroy them, He gave them these amazing events to bring them to faith.

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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The death of Christ is the heart of the Gospel. Without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sins, see Hebrews 9:22. Jesus was the Lamb of God that was slain for the forgiveness of our sins.

Romans 5:8 and 9 says "...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

