

Jesus Dies

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 25, Kindergarten

Lesson 25 Goal

- Your child will introduce the children to the Passion story.

Key Points

- Some people did not understand who Jesus was. They hurt and killed him.
- This was not the end of the story—Jesus told his friends that death would not win.



Parent Reflection

The Crucifixion sometimes presents a troubling paradox for Christians. How could a God who is Love demand the sacrifice of his Son on a cross? Why did it take death on the Cross to restore humanity?

In order to redeem humanity, God gives himself in love, coming as a human being. In his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes, “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross” (2:5–8).

Jesus shows his love for us in his complete gift of self, and we are called to follow his example by giving of ourselves in love to God and to others. Sacrificial love takes many forms, and we have many opportunities to “die to ourselves” if we look for them. It may consist in swallowing our pride and being patient or helping someone unexpectedly. Even the smallest sacrifices, when done with love, are pleasing to God.

Reflection Question

What are some ways in which I may need to “die to myself”?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- quiet, meditative music
- music player
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the

saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “Sometimes the best way to pray is to just sit quietly and think about Jesus.”

Begin to play the quiet, meditative music that you selected. Invite your child to close his or her eyes. Continue with the following guided meditation.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Say, “Imagine that you are sitting on a couch and Jesus is sitting next to you. He is smiling at you and you are talking. What do you tell him? Can you feel that Jesus loves you very much? I will sit quietly now and also pray this way.”

Model quiet prayer but be attentive for signals that your child is getting restless.

When that happens, turn the music very low and pray the following:

“Thank you, God our Father, for loving us so much! Please be with us as we learn and live and love today. Amen.”

Discovering

When Jesus Died. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Good Friday.

Say, “Today we will hear a story from Sacred Scripture. It’s a very important story. We will hear that some people did not understand who Jesus was. They hurt and killed him. This is a sad part of the story, but it is not the whole story. Months earlier, Jesus told his friends that death could not win! Another day, we will hear the rest of the story and see that Jesus was right—death does not win!”

Ask your child, “Why did the people want Jesus to die?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Jesus Dies for Us. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the drawing activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Jesus' Cross. Invite your child to glue the craft sticks together to make a cross. As an option, your child can also draw the corpus (body) on the cross. Talk about the crucifixion, but tell your child that there will be a happy ending to the story.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint John the Apostle. Show your child the picture of Saint John the Apostle on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint John to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

- ▶ "What was John's job before Jesus called him to be his follower?" (*a fisherman*)
- ▶ "What is special about Saint John the Apostle?" (*He was with Jesus all along and was with him when he died.*)

▶ "What did you like best about the story about Saint John the Apostle?"

Have your child write and draw about Saint John the Apostle using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

Say, "Here is a little prayer that I will say and you can pray along in your heart."

Jesus,

In good times,

In bad times,

In all times,

You are with us, and we thank you!

Amen.

John the Apostle

Close to Jesus

John sat in the boat, now pulled up on shore. His brother James, their father Zebedee, and John were all fixing their fishing nets, which had torn.

Three men walked towards the boat. John saw two were fishermen, Peter and Andrew, who were also brothers. Who was the third man?

It was Jesus. That may have been the first time that John and James had ever seen Jesus, but when Jesus called to them, they listened. He asked them to be his followers. They threw down their fishing nets, climbed out of the boat, and went off with Jesus.

From then on, John stayed close to Jesus. He saw huge crowds following Jesus. He saw Jesus

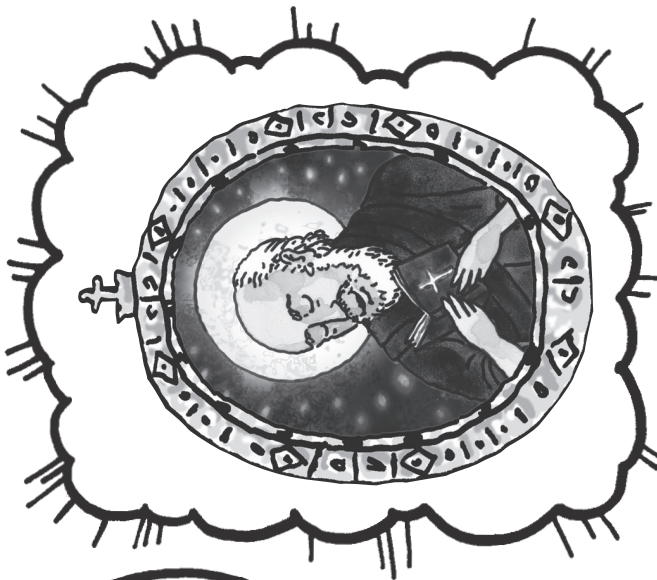
healing people. There he understood Jesus' love for children and all people. John saw Jesus bring a little girl who had died back to life! He saw Jesus on a mountaintop, speaking with holy men who had lived long ago!

He had been with Jesus all along. And he was with him when Jesus was dying. With him were Jesus' mother, Mary, and some other of Jesus' friends.

Jesus spoke. He asked Mary to treat John as her son now, and John to treat her as his mother. John stayed with Mary from then on.

What John didn't know at the time was that the story of Jesus was not over!

DRAW



**Saint
John,
pray for us!**