Get Ready for Easter
Lesson 4 - Jesus Dies on the Cross
PreK – 1st Grade (Sumner)
PreK/K (Puyallup)

Series Verse
He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Matthew 28:6 NASB

Prepare (Before Service)
Game Material: none
Take Home Pages: Make sure there is enough for each child to take home.
Curriculum: Make sure each classroom has an age appropriate curriculum DVD and storybook.

The Point of the Lesson:
Each child will hear about Jesus as He was led away to be crucified. They will see that He went through great pain and suffering in order to pay the price for our sins. They will understand that through belief in Jesus, the gift of salvation is made available to all who believe.

The Power of God’s Word:
“God loved us and sent His Son.” John 3:16 Paraphrase

The Prayer of Each Child:
Dear Jesus, I am so glad that You died on the cross for me. Your suffering paid for all of the bad things that I have done. I believe that You are God’s Son and I will be able to live with You forever in heaven. Thank you for loving me. Amen.

The Lesson in a Word:
Believe
CHECK IN AND WELCOME

STORY
(Use the Classroom Storybook as a Visual Aid)
Have children stay seated while the story is taught live by the teacher. Have the kids repeat sentences, add motions, make faces to show emotions, etc. to make the lesson come alive. Before the story starts, remind the students how to be good listeners. Encourage them to raise their hands before speaking. Here’s a great way to remind them. Say this and have them join you by saying the words and doing the motions together. Try it a couple of times through to teach them.

- **Eyes are watching.** (Point to eyes.)
- **Ears are listening.** (Cup hands around both ears.)
- **Hands are quiet.** (Hands folded in lap.)
- **Feet are still.** (Fold legs criss cross, make a pretzel with your legs.)

Wait until you have everyone doing this to start the story! Praise the students for being good listeners. (You may even want to use the container of stickers for good listeners at the end of the story and verse time.)

**Jesus Dies on the Cross**
Only a few days earlier, people had been cheering and praising Jesus as King. But now they wanted Him to be punished. After Jesus’ trial, the soldiers took Him and treated Him badly. They whipped Him and put a crown of thorns on His head, and made fun of Him being a King. The soldiers made Him carry a large wooden cross as the angry crowd jeered. It was very heavy. When Jesus fell, a man named Simon picked up the cross and carried it for Him the rest of the way. Jesus was put on the cross on a hill named Golgotha. There were two thieves who were being punished also. One of the thieves believed in Jesus. The thief asked Jesus to remember him. Jesus promised the man that He would see him in heaven. A great darkness covered the whole sky. As Jesus breathed His last breath, the earth shook and the rocks split open.
(Source: Matthew 27:26-50)

**Review Questions:**
Use the following questions to review the lesson with the children.

1. How does God feel about us? (He loves us!)
2. What sad thing happened to Jesus? (He died on the cross.)
3. What book tells us all about Jesus? (The Bible.)
4. Show me thumbs up for yes, and thumbs down for no. Is the Bible only for grown ups? (Thumbs down for no!)
MEMORY VERSE
Introduce today’s verse to the children by saying it with them several times. Make it a competition between the girls and boys if you want. Add hand motions and changing inflection to make the verse come alive. Explain what the verse means to the kids.
“God loved us and sent His Son.” John 3:16  Paraphrase

PRAY
Dear Jesus, I am so glad that You died on the cross for me. Your suffering paid for all of the bad things that I have done. I believe that You are God’s Son and I will be able to live with You forever in heaven. Thank You for loving me. Amen.

GAME TIME
Jesus Loves Us
Materials needed: none
Directions: Play the familiar game of Duck, Duck, Gooses, but instead of saying “duck, duck, goose,” have the child who is “It” say, “Jesus loves, loves, loves YOU!”

Have children sit in a circle. The child who is “It” walks around the circle and pats each child’s head while saying only one word in the phrase. When the child says “you,” the child whose head is tapped jumps up and chases “It” back to the tagged child’s space.

If the tagged child catches “It,” the child who’s “It” must sit in the middle of the circle until someone replaces him or her. The new child is “It” and continues the game. Remind children to make sure everyone gets a turn because Jesus loves everyone in the circle.

DVD LESSON
This segment is designated to reinforce the lesson and teach application with age-appropriate props, puppets and video during a large group time. On DVD player, select this week’s lesson and this will play Hear This, Picture This and Do This portions of the video here.

Hear This
Sharkey the Puppet hosts this portion of the video that teaches the Memory Verse in a fun way that includes a little song and a corny joke!

God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. That is today’s verse: God loved us and sent His Son. John 3:16  Paraphrase

Picture This
Jesus Dies on the Cross
Only a few days earlier, people had been cheering and praising Jesus as King. But now they wanted Him to be punished. After Jesus’ trial, the soldiers took Him and treated Him badly. They whipped Him and put a crown of thorns on His head, and made fun of Him being a King. The soldiers made Him carry a large wooden cross as the angry crowd jeered.
It was very heavy. When Jesus fell, a man named Simon picked up the cross and carried it for Him the rest of the way. Jesus was put on the cross on a hill named Golgotha. There were two thieves who were being punished also. One of the thieves believed in Jesus. The thief asked Jesus to remember him. Jesus promised the man that He would see him in heaven. A great darkness covered the whole sky. As Jesus breathed His last breath, the earth shook and the rocks split open.
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Do This:
Jack the Rabbit and Sully the Turtle remind the kids how to apply this lesson to their lives!

Sully continues with his talk show titled Turtle Talk by demonstrating what the word “believe” means with the help of his friend Jack. Jack is blindfolded and believes he knows what an object is because of how it feels and smells. Sully tells the kids that believing in something means you know it is true even when you can’t see it. The story of Easter is about believing that Jesus is God’s son.

Jesus came to earth at Christmas time for a special reason and we celebrate that at reason at Easter time. He came to die for our sins to make a way for us to go to Heaven The Bible says that if we believe in Jesus we can live forever in Heaven. Jesus came to take our punishment for all the bad things we have done. All of us have done bad things, but God loves us anyway. He wants us to believe in Jesus and live our lives to please Him. If you want to know more about this, talk to your Mom or Dad or your teacher at Church. This is the most important truth in God’s Word, the Bible.

(Myron sings a reprise of the Theme Song to end this part of the video.)

CRAFT
Cross Picture
Directions: Have the children glue the cross to the construction paper and decorate.

CHECK OUT
Provide each student with a Take Home Page for the week. Be sure they take home their craft also.