


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 9

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 9: Peace With God

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Jesus Is Crucified</p> <p><i>Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• Optional: DIY biblical costume for the disciple John (a robe, sheet, or old tablecloth)
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” <i>Romans 5:1, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>I am at peace with God.</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

We've just spent four weeks looking at the perfect life that Jesus lived. What do you think we'll be discovering about Jesus now?

Take student responses. (Jesus died on a cross to pay for our sin.)

Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to God, and the Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a, NLT). If Jesus lived a perfect life and did not sin, why would he

have to die? Keep that question in your mind as we take a look at today's story.

Think about one of your closest friends. How do close friends treat one another?

Take student responses. (Emphasize that a close friend doesn't abandon you on the worst of days.)

One of Jesus's closest friends was John. John was with Jesus on the worst of days... the day that Jesus died. Today, we're going to hear from John about what happened on that day.

To tell the Bible story today, dress up as John, one of Jesus's disciples. Get into the character of John, feeling his pain, sorrow and confusion as he watched his friend, Jesus, be crucified.

It all started the week before.

- Jesus and I were hanging out together.
- I saw many people coming to him, wanting to be healed and wanting to hear what he taught.
- We had seen Jesus come into Jerusalem just a few days ago, riding on a donkey. It was just as the scriptures had foretold hundreds of years before, *"Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt."* (Zechariah 9:9, NLT)
- Some people thought Jesus would be our new King that would help fight the Romans so we could be free of them.
- A few days later we gathered with Jesus to celebrate Passover, as we had always done in years past. But this time was different.

We didn't understand all that he was telling us.

- He kept talking about how his body was going to break for us, and his blood would spill out for us, but we didn't really understand.
- We didn't know he was trying to tell us that he was going to die soon.

Now he was in the hands of the Roman soldiers.

- They took him to court and tried him.
- His own people, the Jews, decided he should be killed because he was claiming to be God.
- They shouted, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

I couldn't understand why they were saying this.

- This is how criminals were treated, but Jesus was no criminal.
- Before long I saw Jesus. I couldn't believe what I saw. He was carrying a large wooden cross across his back.
- No one was helping him. He was so tired that he could barely carry the heavy load up the hill.

- I had been up this hill before, and it wasn't good. I knew what was coming, and I was so scared.

Why did Mary, Jesus's mother, have to see this?

- Mary was with us too.
- We huddled together, Mary, Peter and I, and followed Jesus as he made his way up the hill.
- I can't imagine what she was thinking. Watching her precious son be treated this way.
- I wonder if she knew what was coming?

They nailed Jesus's body to the cross

- There Jesus lay as the soldiers strapped him to the cross, and pounded the nails through his hands.
- It was agonizing to watch.
- Then, lifting the cross upright, he hung for everyone to see.
- For hours he suffered!
- What do you think he was thinking as he hung there? I wonder if he was thinking of you and me?

This was the great rescue that Jesus had planned with God the Father and the Holy Spirit before the world was made:

- He would take our sin and pay for it on the cross.
- He would give his life, so we could have eternal life with him.
- He would pay the price required so we could get back to God, forever!

It is finished, he said:

- And breathed his last breath.
- The payment for the sin of the world, past, present and future sin, was complete. God had provided the perfect sacrifice: the lamb of God, the Messiah, his one and only son, the one who lived the perfect life we could not live.
- His human life was gone.
- And then I remembered what he had told us: My body will break for yours, my blood will be spilt for you. And it had. He lived a perfect life. Certainly he died taking the punishment for my sins, for he had no sins of his own that needed to be punished.

We were so crushed! Why would it all end like this?

- Soon everyone left the hillside, except Peter and Mary and a few others.
- We helped take Jesus' body off the cross, and prepared it for burial.
- A rich man named Joseph was there too. He had already purchased a tomb for his family, and offered it to us to bury Jesus in.

- They placed his body in the tomb, and then the Roman soldiers had a large stone rolled in front of the opening, to ensure it stayed closed. The soldiers were instructed to stand guard in front of.

When Jesus died, everything changed.

- The sky went dark. The earth shook. Rocks split apart. It was like all of creation was groaning with sadness.
- I overheard that the curtain in the temple or house of God (a curtain used to separate ordinary people from the holiest place in God's temple, the place where God dwelled) had torn in two. Tombs were opened, the bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead and were appearing to people! What could this mean?

Review the Bible verse:

“Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” *Romans 5:1, NLT*

What is the opposite of being someone's close friend?

Take student responses. (an enemy)

Jesus died for our sins and acts of rebellion against God so that we would no longer be God's enemies but his close friends! Our sins have been paid for and washed away, and there is no guilt or shame to keep us from drawing close to God out of fear! We are at peace with God, and he is at peace with us!

Jesus's death on the cross has given us the greatest gift: peace with God. We'll talk about this great gift in our small groups today.

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.