

April 12, 2020

EASTER AT PASSION CITY CHURCH

Forgiveness comes through Jesus.



BIG IDEA

Forgiveness comes through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Luke 23:44-47, Matthew 28:1-10; 18-20, Colossians 1:13-14

REMEMBER VERSE

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- Ephesians 4:32

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO TEACHING •

While Jesus was on earth, He traveled from town to town, teaching people about God and a new way to live. Because of His truth-filled words and love, people from all over the world were believing in Him and experiencing true forgiveness! However, one group of people, the religious leaders of the day, didn't like everything Jesus was teaching. These people believed that they earned forgiveness through following rules, not through a relationship with God. So, these people had Jesus arrested!

In today's story, we are going to see what happened right after Jesus was arrested. We will discover that Jesus not only showed us how to forgive others, but He also made the Way for God to forgive us through the cross! Together, we will discuss that, "**Forgiveness comes through Jesus!**" Through His finished work on the cross, Jesus not only made the Way for us to have true forgiveness but also eternal salvation – a brand new life forever with God! Check out Passion Kids Online to learn more!

RESPONSE TIME

STUDYING GOD'S WORD •

During Passion Kids Online, we learned that, "**Forgiveness comes through Jesus.**" Grab a bible, and encourage your children to find Luke 23:44-47, Matthew 28:1-10; 18-20, and Colossians 1:13-14. Invite your family to take turns reading the verses. Lead them through the following questions:

- We learned today that our mistakes and sin can keep us from God. Without Jesus, is there any way we can be forgiven by God of our mistakes? (No, that's why God made a Way through Jesus!)
- While Jesus was on the cross, what did God do? (God poured out His anger for our sin and mistakes on Jesus – Luke 23:44-47)
- Why did Jesus go to the cross? (Jesus took on all of the punishment of our sin, becoming the ultimate sacrifice. In doing this, Jesus made the Way for us to be forgiven of our sins and that invitation has been extended to all who believe in Him!)
- Jesus' body was placed in a tomb that was sealed shut. What happened on the third day? Let's read Matthew 28:6 to find out. (Jesus rose from the grave. He is alive today!)
- What does Jesus' resurrection mean to us? Let's read Matthew 28:18-20 and Colossians 1:13-14. (Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He extended not only the invitation of forgiveness to everyone, but He has also invited everyone to have life with Him forever.)
- Where does forgiveness come from? (Forgiveness comes through Jesus!)
- How can we respond to what Jesus did for us through His life, death, and resurrection?
- In what ways can your family share the Good News of Jesus with others?

PRAYER •

Prayer is when we talk to God directly. Spend time in prayer with your family, asking for any prayer requests. Encourage your children to pray with and for others. To end prayer time today, read **John 3:16-17** with your family.

REMEMBER VERSE ACTIVITY

Materials Needed: pieces of paper or index cards, writing utensil

DO • Before you play, write out each word of the Remember Verse, Ephesians 4:32, on a separate card. Shuffle the cards and place them in a stack face down. To begin, say the Remember Verse out loud as a family. Then, have one person take the top card and place it face up. The next person will draw a card and place it face up wherever it belongs in the Remember Verse. Continue to do this, working as a family, putting each card in place until the whole Remember Verse is complete. Then, as a family, repeat the Remember Verse once more out loud.

SAY • Do you know why we memorize Scripture? When we memorize Scripture and hide God's Word in our heart, we grow closer to Him! Whatever situation we find ourselves in, wherever we go, God's Word will always be with us. When we memorize God's Word, we learn more about God and our relationship with Him is strengthened!

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Option #1: "The Gift of Forgiveness"

Materials Needed: tape

DO • Use the tape to create two parallel lines, eight to ten feet apart. Invite your children to line up behind one of the lines. The lines will represent the edges of a deep canyon. Talk to your children about how our sins separate us from God. We can't get across this canyon to God on our own! (Allow the kids to try to jump across.) Then, use the tape to create a large cross between the two lines. Allow your children to use the cross like a bridge to walk across to the other side of the canyon to be with God.

SAY • Today, we learned that our sin separates us from God. Let's pretend that these two lines are the edges of a deep canyon! We are on one side, and God is on the other side. However, because of our mistakes, we cannot get to God on our own. Do you think you can jump all the way to the other side of the canyon? (Allow some attempts.)

God doesn't want to be separated from us, because He created us and loves us so much. So, God sent Jesus to make the Way for us through His finished work on the cross. While Jesus was on the cross, God poured out His anger for our sin on Jesus. Jesus took on all of the punishment of our sin, becoming the ultimate sacrifice. In doing this, Jesus made the Way for us to be forgiven of our sins, and that gift has been extended to all who believe in Him.

The best part is that the gift of forgiveness is free to us! We don't have to earn it. When we acknowledge our sin and ask for forgiveness, Jesus forgives us every time! He made the Way for us to be with God. (Take the tape, and create a cross between the two lines.) The cross is like a bridge. Because of Jesus, we have the Way to get back to God. (Let the children walk across the bridge to the other side.)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Option #2: “The Empty Egg Hunt”

Materials Needed: plastic eggs

DO • Fill all the plastic eggs with small items around your house, but leave one egg empty. Take a few minutes and hide all of the eggs around the house. Once the eggs are hidden, invite your children to look for the eggs, not opening them until all the eggs are found. Once all the eggs are found, spend a few minutes opening the eggs to see what’s inside. When the empty egg is opened, remind your kids of the empty tomb.

SAY • Today we learned that, “**Forgiveness comes through Jesus!**” Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus made the Way for us to have a relationship with God. Even though Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He didn’t remain dead. His tomb is empty, just like this empty Easter egg. Jesus is alive! Jesus went to the cross willingly because He loves us so much. He took on the punishment for our sins, that we may live forever with Him!

Option #3: “One-Cut Cross”

Materials Needed: sheets of paper, scissors, coloring utensils

DO • Invite your children to cut out the shape of a cross from a regular piece of construction paper with one, straight cut. Follow the directions on how to create a one-cut cross, included on the page below. After creating the cross, invited everyone to decorate their cross.

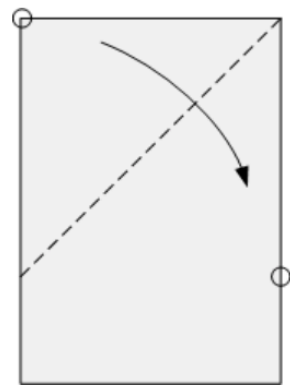
SAY • How did Jesus show us the ultimate forgiveness? (Allow responses.) That’s right! He died on the cross to make the Way for us to be forgiven of our sins. Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to go to the cross and die for us. Jesus did this so that we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life with Him.

Did Jesus stay dead? No way! He rose from the grave three days later. Jesus is alive!! Who is up for a challenge? Who thinks they can cut out the shape of a cross from a regular piece of construction paper with one, straight cut? That seems impossible doesn’t it? But it can be done! Let’s follow these directions to make our one-cut cross.

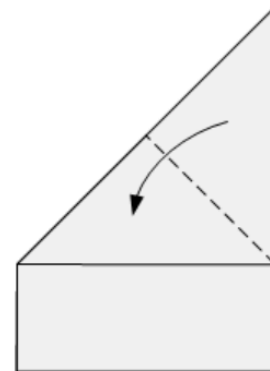
ONE-CUT CROSS

Family Activity #3

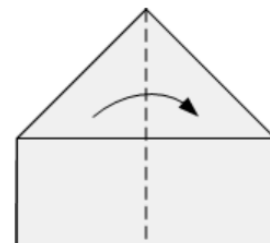
1. Fold the top left corner down to the opposite edge of the paper.



2. Fold the right corner down to the opposite edge of the paper.



3. Fold the paper in half vertically.



4. Fold the paper in half vertically again.



5. Cut along the middle vertical line!

