

JESUS IS PUT TO DEATH

BIG IDEA

When Jesus died God transferred our sins onto Him so we could be free.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy Play dough – enough for each person to have a piece the size of a golf ball

Gather a tissue for each person, and draw the outline of a cross in felt pen on each one

Find pencils or pens

Find some large nails – enough for one each

Get a waste paper bin or bucket

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start (except waste paper bin / bucket)

INTRO

Today we are looking at the events of Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross. We call it Good Friday, because for us, it was the best day ever – it gave us a way back to God. But for Jesus it was the worst day ever – because he was separated from his father God.



GIVE EVERYONE A PIECE OF PLAY DOUGH and get them to make an imprint from something in the house on the dough, then bring it back to the table.

Have turns showing your play dough and letting everyone guess what made the imprint.

Remember when God made the first people, Adam and Eve? He loved them with all his heart forever and always. But then they believed the snake's terrible lie which brought sin into the world... the lie that God didn't love them. Adam and Eve's relationship with God was broken.

So God promised to provide a new way for us to be friends with Him and a way to get his world back. But when Jesus came to be that way back to God people reacted to him in different ways and formed different impressions of Him.

Big things make impressions on our lives. Jesus' dying made an enormous impression on everyone around him.

READ

The story of Jesus dying on the cross is a terrible story because Jesus didn't deserve to die as he had done nothing wrong.

When Pilate the Governor questioned him, Jesus didn't say anything. Pilate was really impressed with Jesus and wanted to let him go. But the people called out for Barabbas who was a notorious criminal to be freed instead, and then handed Jesus over to be crucified.

WHILE YOU ARE READING, have everyone turn their play dough into a cross.

☞ As they led Jesus off to be crucified... a huge crowd of people followed, along with many women weeping.

Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution. When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

Jesus prayed, "Father forgive them: they don't know what they're doing."

The people stood there staring at Jesus and

the ringleaders made faces, teasing, "He saved others. Let's see him save himself! The Messiah of God – ha! The chosen – ha!"

The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. "So you're King of the Jews! Save yourself!"

Printed over him was a sign: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: "Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!"

But the other criminal made him quiet down: "Do you have no fear of God? We deserve this, but not him – he did nothing to deserve this." Then he said, "Jesus remember me when you enter your kingdom."

Jesus said, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise." ☞☞

Luke 23:26-49; My First Message, Eugene Petersen, pages 300-304, NavPress © 2007

EXPLORE

When Jesus died he called out, "It is finished! Father into your hands I commit my spirit." No wonder Jesus cried out, "It is finished". His work of rescue was done.

Now anyone who trusts in Jesus, as the thief hanging on the cross did, belongs to God's 'forever' kingdom.

A centurion was watching and heard Jesus call out to God to forgive the people of the world – and it made a huge impression on him. He suddenly understood who Jesus was.

QUESTIONS

What impression did Jesus have on other people watching him die?

What were the impressions of:
- the criminals on the crosses?
- the soldiers standing around?
- the women who wept?

Where do you think Peter was? What impression did Jesus' death have on him?

When Jesus died on the cross He took all our sins and got rid of them forever, giving us instead a new beginning and a clean heart.

TAKE THE TISSUES WITH THE CROSSES DRAWN ON THEM and ask everyone to write 'my sins' on their piece of tissue.

Now screw up your tissue. Place the rubbish bin at the other side of the room.

Everyone says "I'm sorry God – forgive my sin" and throws their sin-rubbish into the bin.

But even though we have put the tissues in the rubbish bin, they are still there. Someone can still pull them out and read them...

Now because of Easter and Jesus dying on the cross, he takes our sin-rubbish and gets rid of it completely. He forgets our sin and we are given a whole new start.

Take the family to the bathroom and flush away the tissues with the sin written on them, one at a time. Let the children see that the paper has completely gone.

When Jesus takes our sin, it really is gone forever.

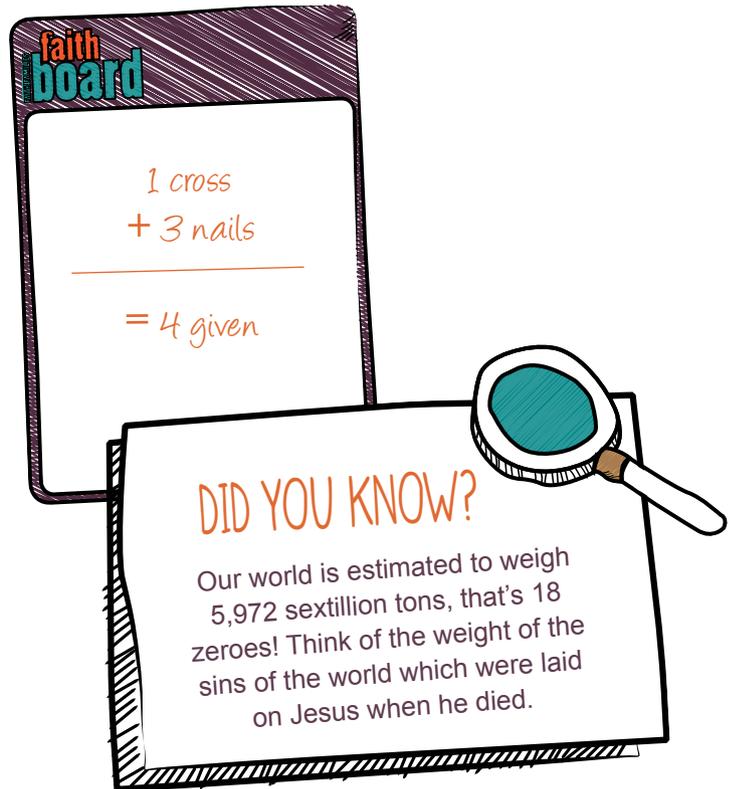
When we really know that we are forgiven, it makes a lasting impression on us that changes the way we live forever.

PRAY

Hand around a nail to each person and ask them to pray:

Thank you Jesus for dying for my sins. I'm sorry for everything that I've done that has made you sad. Thank you for being nailed to the cross for me so my sins could be forgiven completely. Amen.

FAITH BOARD



LIVE

Create your own Easter Garden on Good Friday.

Take a container such as a roasting dish, and half fill it with soil. Then cut a hole in the side of an ice cream container to make a 'tomb'.

Set the tomb on one side of the container and spread the soil to cover the top of it completely. Pick flowers from the garden and cover at least part of the tomb and soil to create a garden. Create a path leading to the tomb opening, with bits of dry leaves or small pebbles. Add twigs for trees. Find a stone that fits across the opening of the tomb.

Now give everyone a short fat ice block stick to decorate with felt tips as one of the characters. (You will need at least a Jesus figure and a soldier figure.) You could also have an angel and one or more disciples (hiding further away). For the Jesus figure, take a strip of fabric (about 1cm wide and 20cm long) and some mixed spice. Lay out the fabric and sprinkle on the spice before wrapping up the body of Jesus.

Place Jesus in the garden tomb and the stone over the hole. Stand the soldier to keep guard, the angel above and the disciples in the distance.

(On Easter Sunday morning make sure Jesus is out of the tomb and somewhere else before the children awake – they might like to look for where he is hidden. Leave the fabric strip folded in the tomb.)

OTHER IDEAS

1 Cover the table with a big runner of brown paper, put out a jar of pens, and, during the weekend, everyone can write/ draw on it what Easter means to them, and their own messages to Jesus. Visitors can join in.

2 Each evening over dinner, share something that made an impression on you that day. Perhaps it was something you saw, like a rainbow, or something someone did, like an act of generosity.

3 Explore the idea of impressions further by doing some Crayon Rubbings. Place a coin or leaf under a piece of paper and gently rub with a crayon until the object's impression appears on the paper. How can we make an impression on the people around us?

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- A Kinder surprise egg for each person OR a hollow plastic egg with a treat inside
- A cupcake
- A relighting candle
- A packet of marshmallows (for resurrection buns)