

LESSON 3 THE CRUCIFIXION

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Showed His Love by Dying for Us

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus is crucified on a cross to defeat sin and fix the relationship between people and God. His sacrifice demonstrates His amazing love for us!

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

Activity: Love Sensory Bag

Activity: Showing Love to Others

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Game: Jesus Loves Me Freeze Dance

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Love Sensory Bag

SUPPLIES: resealable plastic bags (gallon-size), clear hair gel (8 oz. per bag), heart- and cross-shaped plastic beads, clear packing tape

Ahead of time, create sensory bags. Add about eight ounces of clear hair gel and 10–15 heart- and cross-shaped plastic beads. Close the bag across the top and seal with clear packing tape.

Welcome the kids to church. Encourage the kids to use their fingers to push the beads around the bag. As the kids explore and play with the sensory bags, tell them that Jesus loves them so much.

Leader Tip: Add glitter to the sensory bag for an added element of visual stimulation.

You're playing with sensory bags that remind us of love! Who loves you? Allow the kids to respond.
Today we're talking about how Jesus showed us love in a big way! Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves me!

Activity: Showing Love to Others

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Showing Love Pictures

Ahead of time, print the Showing Love Pictures.

In God's big story today, we'll see how Jesus showed His love for us. Let's take a look at a few ways we, or our family and friends, might show love!

Hold up the Showing Love Pictures. Ask the kids what is in each picture. Ask if they have ever seen anything like what's in the pictures.

The kids will see:

- Helping a hurt friend
- Hugs or high fives
- Giving a gift
- Reading a book to someone
- Playing with someone
- Cooking a meal for someone
- Tucking in a child at night
- Praying with someone



After you've looked through all the pictures and discussed them, tell the kids: **We show love in different ways. Jesus showed His love by dying on the cross for us. We'll learn about it today in our story.**

Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS SHOWED HIS LOVE BY DYING FOR US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS SHOWED—Point up.

HIS LOVE—Hands over heart.

BY DYING—Hold arms out to sides, like on the cross.

FOR US—Point to yourself.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about how much Jesus loves us and how He showed that love by giving His own life for us, dying on the cross. Let's sing about Jesus and His incredible love for us!

Play songs from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [The Crucifixion God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

God's big story today is a story from the Bible about Jesus and His love. Encourage the kids to say "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible how Jesus showed His love to us!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the Script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

We've all done things we shouldn't do—this is called sin. Because of that, we need to be rescued and forgiven. God sent Jesus to die for our sin, even though Jesus didn't do anything wrong! God had a great plan to save us all. That's happy. Can you show me a happy face? Pause for responses. It's OK if kids don't know how to respond or feel at this point.

After Jesus had a meal with his disciples, Judas the disciple and Jesus' friend, made a bad choice. He led the religious leaders to Jesus, and they arrested Him. That's sad. Show me a sad face. Pause for responses. It's OK if the kids don't know how to respond or feel.

Jesus was put on trial, which means a judge tried to figure out what He had done wrong, but they couldn't find anything He had done wrong. That didn't matter because the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, handed Jesus over to be punished by dying on a cross. That makes me feel sad. Show another sad face. Pause for responses. It's OK if the kids don't grasp the emotions involved.

Jesus knew the only way people could be forgiven of their sins and be with God was for Him to die. Jesus loved you and me and all people so much He died so that we can be with God forever. That's an amazing love! You can clap and cheer to say, "Thank You, God!" Invite the kids to respond.

This isn't the end of this story! We'll hear more next week about the amazing love and power of Jesus!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Created New Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **JESUS**—Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for “Jesus”).
- **MAKES US**—Both hands over your heart.
- **NEW.**—Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.
- **FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Picture

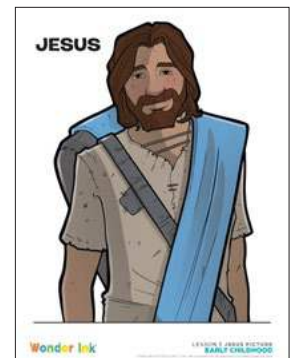
Ahead of time, print the Jesus Picture.

Let's pray and tell God “Thank You” for Jesus. Look at this Jesus Picture as we think about how Jesus loves us!

Hold up the Jesus Picture.

God, thank You for loving us and sending Jesus. Thank You for forgiving us of our sins. Please help us trust in Jesus and follow Him. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessing: Because of Jesus, your sins are forgiven, and you can have a relationship with God ... forever! May you always remember that Jesus showed His great love by dying for you, and in Him, you are made new!



Game: Jesus Loves Me Freeze Dance

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: “Jesus Loves Me” from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Play the song “Jesus Loves Me” from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Invite the kids to dance as the music plays. Pause the music sporadically throughout the song. When the music stops, encourage the kids to freeze until the music starts again.

Jesus showed His love for us when He died on the cross. This isn't the end of the story though! We'll hear the best part in our next lesson!