

Elementary

Small Group

Day 3



Today's Bible Story

Jesus' Crucifixion and
Resurrection
Luke 23:32-45,55-56

Bottom Line

Because of Jesus,
I am saved.

Memory Verse

John 14:6 (NirV): "Jesus
answered, 'I am the way and
the truth and the life. No one
comes to the Father except
through me.'"



Small Group Leader Guide Day 3

Kingdom Quest VBS

THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Our Choice

Believe - Trust that Jesus is God's Son, that He died for your sins, and rose again so you can be forgiven and live forever.

Repent - Admit that you have sinned, say sorry to God, and turn away from wrong choices.

Follow Jesus Every Day - Choose to obey Jesus every day, learn from His example, and tell others about Him. The Holy Spirit helps you grow closer to God.

On Tuesday (Day 3)

In 2nd-5th Grade Small Groups:

During the lesson, Station Leaders will share the Gospel. *See page 3 in the SG Leader Guide for explanations of how to share the Gospel.*

Kids will use the Response Card to share their thoughts about following Jesus. They will tell us whether they want to Wait, they Already follow Jesus, they are Ready to follow, or they have Questions about it.

Crew Leaders will collect the cards as kids finish and let Station Leaders know who in their crew has Questions or is Ready to follow Jesus. Station Leaders will lead any kids who have Questions or are Ready to step into the hallway and have an in-person conversation with one of the counselors.

Prayer Requests - Give to prayer team to pray over (send cards, if manageable)

Follow Jesus - Give to a designated spiritual counselor to have a one-on-one conversation with the kid

Baptism - Give to a designated spiritual counselor to have a one-on-one conversation with the kid

As crews finish collecting responses from their kids, the Station Leader will pass out the next activity. This will give kids something to work on quietly while other crews are still responding.

Counselors will take their kids back to their crews when they are done talking.

Station Leaders will turn in their entire stack of cards to _____ (who for your campus?) so that each kid can be appropriately followed up with in the weeks to come.

Children's Ministers will preselect spiritually mature leaders to be available in the halls to have one-on-one conversations with kids about their next steps!

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Today's Bible Story

Jesus' Crucifixion and
Resurrection
Luke 23:32-45,55-56

Bottom Line

Because of Jesus, I
am saved.

Key Question

What's the greatest
thing anyone has ever
done for me?

Theme
SAVED

Preparing for the Day

Set up the room:

- Have Kingdom Quest Logs and Gospel Next Step Cards (older only) separated and ready to give Crew leaders as they enter.
- Prepare wrapped gift box with light, stone, and cross inside.

Tips for leaders:

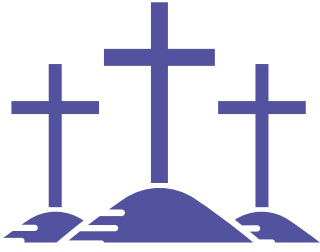
- Reinforce the Bottom Line: **Because of Jesus, I am saved.** Use the phrase often.
- Keep it active and visual. Use gameboard or quest language and actions when possible. Get creative!
- Use short call and repeat phrases to maintain energy.
- Use movement: Have kids stand for answers, use hand motions, repeat key words and phrases.
- Give short, specific choices rather than open questions.
- Praise bravery/positive behavior.
- Use Crew Leaders and Assistant Leaders.
 - Give clear instructions to the other leaders in the room, too! They won't know how to help unless you tell them.

Kingdom Quest Logs:

- Each kid will have a daily Kingdom Quest Log.
- The Log has the Lesson Recap, Memory Verse, space for prayer/reflection, and a back page with information for parents.
- There is a version for younger and older kids.
- Encourage kids to show their parents their Logs each day and challenge them to retell the story.

Gospel Presentation:

- Note that today's "Prayer & Reflection" section is longer and the craft is shorter today.



What You Need

- Themed stickers/tattoos to give kids who brought back their KQ Log
- One empty gift box or bag 1/station
- tea light 1/station
- stone/small rock 1/station
- small cross
- Day 3 Bottom Line Poster (1/station)

Welcome (1-2 minutes)

Welcome back, Quest Crew! I'm [name], your Crew Guide for the week.

This week we are on Kingdom Quest to discover God's Kingdom. Let's review what we've learned so far.

Day 1: **Jesus invites us to follow Him**. Point to Day 1 Bottom Line Poster.

Day 2: **Jesus helps us trust Him!** Point to Day 2 Bottom Line Poster. Today we are learning: **Because of Jesus, I am saved!**

Opening Activity (1-3 minutes)

Fixed on Jesus

How You Prepare

- Place items inside the gift box.

What You Do

Hold up the closed box and announce:

Today I brought something really special. It is a gift.

Really hype it up like it will be the coolest thing ever.

Before we open it, let's think for a minute. What's the greatest gift you've ever received?

Select 1-2 volunteers to answer.

Those are great gifts, but this gift is even BETTER than any of those!

Pull out one item at a time (make sure light stays off), pausing after each: **Would this be a great gift for you? Why or why not?**

Invite a few kids to respond briefly after each item.

After the last item, close the box.

Sometimes something does not look like a great gift at first. It might even look disappointing. But what if we just aren't seeing the whole story yet?

Most great gifts cost something. They take time, effort, or sacrifice. The greatest gifts usually come from love.

Today we are learning about the greatest thing anyone has ever done for us. It did not look like a gift at first. It did not feel exciting or happy. But it changed everything.

What You Need

- Gift box from opening activity
- Gospel Next Step Cards (1/older kid)
- Gospel Icon Posters (1 set/station)

Bible Story Review (3–5 minutes)

How You Prepare

- Keep gift box with items close by.

What You Do

- Retell today's story in a fun, dynamic way. Use the Bible story pictures as you lead.
- Select a volunteer leader from each crew.

What You Say

Friends, are you ready for a Kingdom Quest? Today we are going to hear about the greatest rescue plan ever! Before we talk about today's story, let's do our Kingdom Quest Chant together. We'll do this each day before Bible Story time and as we are leaving! Repeat after me.

Use hand motions to add more engagement to this chant.

Jesus invites us to follow Him—I follow His light! *(Kids repeat)*

Called on a quest to do what's right! *(Kids repeat)*

Step by step, I trust and obey! *(Kids repeat)*

His Kingdom grows in me each day! *(Kids repeat)*

Hold the gift box from the opening activity.

Earlier, we looked inside this gift box and saw ordinary things. Some of them did not look very exciting.

Sometimes the greatest gift does not look like a gift at first.

Hold up the cross.

When Jesus died on the cross, it did not look like a gift.

Jesus died and they laid him in a tomb with a big, heavy stone to block the door.

Hold up the stone.

Nothing about it felt like a gift. It felt sad, hopeless, confusing. But the stone was rolled away and He rose again!

Hold up the light. Turn it on.

Jesus is alive. And that changed everything! The cross was not the end of the story. It was part of the greatest rescue plan ever! Let's remember why we needed that rescue.

Leader Tip:

Display the Gospel Icon Posters where kids can see and refer to them as you speak.

Younger Kids:

Teach motions quickly before starting:

- **God Created** - Make a circle with hands to create an earth
- **We Sinned** - Hold up both pointer fingers together and move them apart to show we have been separated
- **Jesus Saves** - Make a cross with your pointer fingers
- **We Choose** - Hold hands like you scooped up water to show holding a gift

Every time I say **Created**, you make a circle with your hands. Ready?

God **created** the whole world. He **created** the sun, moon, stars, animals, and people. He **created** you on purpose to know Him and belong to His family. Everything He **created** was very good.

Now, repeat after me: God created me for a purpose.

Kids: God created me for a purpose.

Now, when I say "Sin", move slowly move your pointer fingers apart.

Adam and Eve chose not to trust God. **Sin** is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God. All of us have **sinned**. **Sin** separates us from God, and we cannot fix it by ourselves.

Now, repeat after me: Sin separates us from God.

Kids: Sin separates us from God.

Every time I say "Jesus", make a cross with your pointer fingers.

God made a way. He sent **Jesus**. **Jesus** lived a perfect life. He died on the cross for our sins. Three days later, **Jesus** rose from the dead. **Jesus** is alive. Because of Him, our sins can be forgiven.

Repeat after me: Jesus saves us.

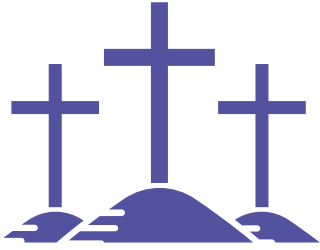
Kids: Jesus saves us.

When I say "choose" cup your hands open in front of you.

God invites us to **choose** to trust Jesus. He does not force us. When we **choose** to trust Him, He forgives us and welcomes us into His family.

Let's say our Bottom Line: **Because of Jesus, I am saved.**

Younger Kids → Move on to Prayer & Reflection.



Older Kids:

You were created on purpose by a powerful and loving God.

Hold up "God Created" Icon Poster. Attach it to the wall or display so kids can see.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He made everything, and He made people in His image.

You were made to know Him, love Him, and belong to His family. He is King over everything, and what He made was very good.

But we chose our way instead of God's way.

Hold up "We Sinned" Icon Poster. Attach it to the wall or display so kids can see.

Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God. Every person has sinned.

Because God is holy, sin separates us from Him. We cannot fix that problem on our own.

BUT, God made a way. At just the right time, He sent His Son, Jesus.

Hold up "Jesus Saves" Icon Poster. Attach it to the wall or display so kids can see.

Jesus is fully God and fully human. He lived a perfect life. Even though He did nothing wrong, He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. His body was placed in a tomb and the entrance was sealed with a stone.

Three days later, the stone was rolled away. Jesus rose from the dead, defeating sin and death. Because of Him, forgiveness and eternal life are a gift!

And God does not force anyone to follow Him. He invites us.

Hold up "We Choose" Icon Poster. Attach it to the wall or display so kids can see.

Each of us must decide how we will respond to what Jesus has done.

To follow Jesus means we believe He is Lord and Savior, admit that we have sinned, and turn from our sin to trust Him alone.

When we do, God forgives us, welcomes us into His family, and begins a new life in us. Let that settle.

Let's say our Bottom Line together: **Because of Jesus, I am saved.**

Today we're going to give you the opportunity to respond. Choosing to follow Jesus is a big decision, and it is not something to rush into or choose just because someone else does it.

It means you believe Jesus is who He says He is, that He died and rose again to save you, and that you want Him to be the Leader and King of your life. Following Jesus means committing to learn His ways and live as part of His Kingdom.

It means talking to Him in prayer, reading the Bible to know Him better, and asking Him to help you turn away from sin and grow to be more like Him.

It's important to know that Christians are not perfect people. We still make mistakes, but we admit when we are wrong and trust Jesus to forgive us and change us. When someone trusts in Jesus, God gives them His Holy Spirit to guide them, teach them, and help them grow.

Being a Christian is not just about going to church or knowing Bible stories. It is about building a real relationship with Jesus that shapes the way you think, speak, and act. It means you want to live under His rule and be part of what He is doing in the world.

Discovering God's Kingdom is not just something we talk about during this week. It is something we step into for the rest of our lives. Choosing to follow Jesus is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, and it is also one of the very best!

Take a moment to briefly share when you decided to follow Jesus and commit your life to Him. Share how He changed you and what being a part of His Kingdom has meant to you.

Instruct Crew Leaders to pass out Gospel Response Cards

Your Crew Leaders are going to hand each of you a card. If you have never made the decision to follow Jesus and commit your life to Him, we have some amazing, Jesus-following adults here to answer any questions you may have.

Read the options on your card, and put a check mark next to the one that best fits you today. You may not be ready to make any decision yet, and that's ok! You may have already made this decision, or you may be ready today.

Leader Tip:

Assure kids that these adults go to our church. That you know them and trust them. It may be scary to talk to someone they don't know.

What You Need

- Quest Log (younger and older) 1/kid
- coloring utensils
- pencils
- stickers
- Small Group Spotify Playlist

Give your card to your Crew Leader when you are finished. If you want to know more about following Jesus or have questions, your Crew leader will take you just outside the door to talk to someone.

Prayer & Reflection (7-10 minutes)

How You Prepare

- Put Logs and supplies at each seat.
- Play background music.

What You Do

- Explain that this guide can help them talk to God as they continue on an epic journey to discover God's kingdom.
- Invite first-time kids to write their names in their book.
- Show the kids the Day 3 page. Read the prompts and guide the kids through them.
- Give them several minutes to quietly write a prayer.
- Close in prayer together.

What You Say

Today we heard the greatest rescue story ever told. The cross did not look like a gift at first, but it was the greatest gift of love the world has ever seen. Because Jesus died and rose again, sin and death do not win. Because of Jesus, we are invited into God's Kingdom.

Right now, take a quiet moment. Close your eyes to help you focus.

Younger Kids:

Repeat this prayer after me:

God, thank you for creating me (kids repeat)

Thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus (kids repeat)

For making a plan to save us (kids repeat)

You are amazing, kind, and faithful (kids repeat)

Amen.

Older Kids:

Think about what Jesus has done for you. If you already follow Him, thank Him for saving you and ask Him to help you live as part of His Kingdom. If you are still thinking and learning, ask God to help you understand more about who Jesus is and what it means to trust Him. Talk to God honestly. He hears you.

Turn to page 3 in your Log. Write something that you learned today or that you are thankful for.

Craft (5-7 minutes)

Kingdom Charm

How You Prepare

- Cut paracord to appropriate lengths for both bracelets and necklaces and pre seal ends if needed.
- Sort beads into small containers for each crew.
- Pre tie one simple knot at one end of each cord if helpful.
- Set out examples but keep them simple so kids feel free to create their own design.

What You Do

- Give each child one piece of paracord.
- Invite them to choose beads that remind them of today's lesson.
- Encourage creativity. They may create patterns, use colors with meaning, or simply design something they like.
- Instruct Crew Leaders to help them knot and secure their bracelets when finished.

What You Say

Today you are creating something called a Kingdom Charm. This bracelet is a reminder of the greatest gift ever given.

Because of Jesus, you are invited into God's Kingdom. When you wear this bracelet, let it remind you that Jesus loves you, forgives you, and is alive.

You can choose any beads you like. You might choose a cross bead to remind you of what Jesus did. You might choose a bead with the name Jesus. You might pick colors that mean something to you.

There is no single right design. This is between you and God. As you create, think about what part of today's story stands out to you most.

When you look at this bracelet later, remember that because of Jesus, you are saved.

Younger Kids:

- Help them create simple repeating patterns, you can practice patterns, take off beads, and repeat.
- Use short reminders like Jesus loves me and Jesus is alive.
- Focus more on joy and belonging than theological depth.
- Be sure to instruct kids not to put the beads in their mouth.

What You Need

- Pre cut lengths of paracord, sized for child wrists/necklaces
- Assorted beads in various colors and shapes
- Cross beads
- Beads with the word Jesus
- Letter beads for optional personalization
- Small trays or cups for sorting beads
- Scissors
- Lighters for adult use only to seal cord ends if needed
- Tape to secure one end of bracelet while kids bead

Older Kids:

- Encourage them to assign meaning to colors or patterns.
- Invite them to include a bead that represents their response to Jesus.
- Allow space for quiet reflection while they create.
- Gently ask deeper questions about faith and following Jesus.

Walk around as kids are creating and ask these questions, encouraging kids to discuss with their crews.

1. **What made you choose those colors?**
2. **What does the cross remind you of?**
3. **If someone asked about your bracelet, what would you tell them?**
4. **What part of today's story meant the most to you?**
5. **How does knowing Jesus is alive change the way we live?**
6. **What does it mean to be part of God's Kingdom?**