



Session 5



THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

Matthew 26–28

The final three chapters of Matthew serve as the conclusion to the earthly life and ministry of Jesus—Son of God and Messiah. The events Matthew records in these three chapters complete showing how Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies and the only one qualified to provide a perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus' final prediction of His death includes details that Jesus had not previously given—Jesus' death would come through crucifixion.

Chapter 26 shows how preparations for Jesus' death were being made by others. Matthew highlights the activities of various groups. The religious leaders were conspiring to arrest Jesus and have Him killed. A woman in Bethany brought expensive perfume to anoint Him. Judas conspired with the religious leaders to betray Jesus to them.

At the appointed time, Jesus sat with His disciples and shared the last meal He would eat as earthly flesh and blood. At the meal, Jesus revealed His knowledge that one of those at the table would betray Him. Though Jesus knew exactly what would be happening, the disciples, we later discover, were woefully unprepared for the events. After sharing the bread and wine with His disciples, Jesus and the men left for Gethsemane.

In the garden Jesus prayed for God's will to be done, knowing what was to come. After Jesus prayed, Judas came with soldiers and betrayed Jesus. Jesus was arrested, led through a series of trials, and eventually, at the crowd's behest, crucified on the cross where He died. Following His death, Jesus was placed in a borrowed tomb while His disciples and others waited to make final preparations.

On Sunday morning as two women went to view the tomb, an earthquake came and the stone at the entrance of the tomb rolled away. Jesus was not in the tomb because He had risen. Jesus had told those closest to Him that this would happen, but until it did the people did not believe. Jesus left His disciples with a charge to go into all the world and tell about Him.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26–28

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 2:8-9

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 28:6

TEXT TRUTH: Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue us from sin.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Learns the Bible teaches that Jesus died on a cross, was buried, and was raised from the dead. Learns that Bible truths never change. Understands and applies truths from a Bible verse.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “Would You Rather” (Printable), “Stained Glass” (Slide)
- Examine the Text:** “How Much Is It?” and “Price Tags” (Poster Pack), painter’s tape, “Text Truth 5” (Slide), Bibles
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location* video
- Memory Verse:** “Cross” (Printable), copy paper, “Ephesians 2:8-9” (Poster Pack), sharpened colored pencils
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*, “Christ in Context: Matthew” (Poster Pack)

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles*, *Explorer Guides*, pens
- Review:** “Comic Strip” (Printable), crayons or colored pencils, “The Gospel” (Printable)
- Tech Connect** (Optional): a device with the *LifeWay Kids* app

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** red, blue, green, and yellow heavyweight paper; permanent marker; game spinner with corresponding colors; Bibles; scissors
- Move:** 2 large playground balls, painter’s tape, (Optional: pool noodle)
- Make:** large coffee filters, dot markers, child scissors
- Explore:** foam or soft ball

Leaders, grow on the go! Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, LifeWay’s Digital Pass, or visit goexplorethebible.com/kids-training.

THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

Matthew 26–28

The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the religious leaders and made a deal. Judas agreed to betray Jesus. The leaders had Jesus arrested and they sent Him to Pilate, the governor.

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus told him, "You have said it."

The religious leaders began telling lies about Jesus, but Jesus said nothing. Pilate was amazed at Jesus. He decided to let the people decide what he should do. Pilate could let a criminal named Barabbas go free or he could release Jesus. Pilate knew that the religious leaders were jealous of Jesus and that is why they had arrested Him. The religious leaders got the people to tell Pilate that they wanted Barabbas to be free. When Pilate asked the people about Jesus, the people said they wanted to crucify Him.

Finally, Pilate agreed to free Barabbas and let the people crucify Jesus. Jesus died on the cross. One of the soldiers at the cross, a centurion, began to praise God after Jesus died. He understood that Jesus was innocent.

Jesus was buried in a tomb and Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb.

Then the Jewish people observed the Sabbath. On the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and another Mary took spices and perfumes to Jesus' tomb. Suddenly, there was an earthquake! An angel rolled the stone away and was sitting on it. The guards were so afraid that they fainted!

The angel spoke, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has been resurrected just like He promised! Come and see the empty tomb, then go tell the disciples."

The women were afraid and happy at the same time. They ran to tell the disciples the good news when suddenly Jesus appeared to them. The women worshiped Jesus and He gave them a message for the disciples, "Go and tell them to go to Galilee, and I will see them there." Jesus was alive!

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

In the Book of Matthew, Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament promises. He is the King that God's people had been waiting for. As Matthew told the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, he described Jesus as King and Messiah. Jesus reigns over all and He has power over everything—even death.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND HOME THESE FAMILY RESOURCES EACH WEEK:

- "Explore the Bible at Home" (Printables)
- Explore the Bible: Kids Family Cards

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Would You Rather” (Printable), “Stained Glass” (Slide)
- Examine the Text: “How Much Is It?” and “Price Tags” (Poster Pack), painter’s tape, “Text Truth 5” (Slide), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Cross” (Printable), copy paper, “Ephesians 2:8-9” (Poster Pack), sharpened colored pencils
- Prayer: Family Cards, “Christ in Context: Matthew” (Poster Pack)

ANSWERS:

- Tablet: \$90-400
- TV: \$130-600
- Stuffed Animals: \$15-25 each
- Kid’s Fitness Watch: \$30-60
- Bike: \$100-200
- Trampoline: \$300-600

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Greet girls and boys at the door as they arrive.
- Begin: “We are going to play a game. I’m going to ask you each a question. You can only answer with one of the two options that I give you.”
- Ask girls and boys the “Would You Rather” questions.
- Continue: “Today, we finish our journey through the Book of Matthew. We have learned so much from our time spent studying this book. We learned how Jesus was tempted, but never sinned. We learned how **Jesus taught His followers how to love and obey God.** We learned how Jesus performed many miracles and God is the only One who can perform miracles. Lastly, we learned how **Jesus is worthy of praise.**”
- Display the “Stained Glass” slide.
- Say: “Today, we are going to learn why God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus came, died on the cross, and rose again to rescue us from sin. Just like you all had a choice in our game, we all have choices to make every day. We can choose to obey God, or we can choose to sin. We all sin. No one is free from sin. However, Jesus died for our sins. Jesus forgives us for our sins, if we ask for His forgiveness. Our object today is stained glass from a church in Tennessee. Jesus died, but that’s not the end of the story! Jesus ROSE again as our stained glass shows us!”

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display the “How Much Is It?” poster on a focal wall. Place the “Price Tags” around the poster for children to choose from. Ask volunteers to come up and attach the price of what they think each item costs. Talk about each item and the cost of them. Ask kids what they would be willing to do in order to get each of the items.
- Begin: “Last week, we learned how Jesus found people selling things in the temple. He was angry because they were not using God’s temple to worship God. This week, someone in our story trades his friendship for money. Let’s take our Bibles and find Matthew 26.”
- Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 26:14-16. Ask: “Who traded his friendship for money? Judas Iscariot was willing to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.”
- Continue: “Earlier, I asked you to make a choice between two things. After Jesus was betrayed by Judas, the Jewish leaders and people turned against Jesus. Pilate did not think Jesus was guilty of anything wrong. He offered to let Jesus go.”

- Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 27:21-22. “What choice did the people make? They had the choice to release Jesus, but chose to crucify Him instead. Both Judas and the people made horrible choices. Unfortunately, we all sin. However, God had a plan. His plan was Jesus!”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Display the Text Truth.
- Conclude: “Jesus died on the cross between two criminals. His body was taken by a man named Joseph and placed in a new tomb. Guards were placed by the tomb. Three days later, Mary Magdalene and Mary came to prepare Jesus’ body. But guess what? Jesus wasn’t there! Jesus was ALIVE! **Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue us from sin.** That is our Text Truth this week: **Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue us from sin.** We all sin. However, God made a way for us to have a relationship with Him. We must understand that we sin. We have to ask Jesus to forgive us. It doesn’t mean we won’t sin again, but it does mean God will forgive us and help us make better choices!”

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 5 video.
- Ask: “What special place did Joel visit? Name one of the exhibits he saw. Who paid the price for our sin?”

MEMORY VERSE

- Bonus Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Ephesians 2:8-9. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bonus Verse. This week’s Bonus Verse is Matthew 28:6.*
- Before group, copy the “Cross” printable. Display “Ephesians 2:8-9” on a focal wall.*
- Say the verse in short segments and ask your kids to repeat it after you. Make sharpened colored pencils available for children to use. Give each child a “Cross” printable. Ask them to turn the paper over and write the verse around the outline of the cross as many times as they can. Invite children to color the inside of the cross. Repeat the verse again to close.

PRAYER

- Display the “Christ in Context: Matthew” poster and read it aloud.
- Distribute Family Cards to each girl and boy. Encourage your kids to talk about the questions on the back of the card with their family this week.
- Ask your kids how you can pray for them this week. Pray with your group.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: “Comic Strip” (Printable), crayons or colored pencils, “The Gospel” (Printable)
- Tech Connect (Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids app

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and lead boys and girls to locate today’s pages, “The Crucifixion and Resurrection.”
- Help kids answer the prompts in “Who’s Who?” (*Answers: Judas, Barabbas, Pilate, Mary Magdalene & Mary, A Centurion, The Angel, Jesus*)
- Review today’s object, the “Stained Glass.”
- Select a volunteer to read aloud “Torn in Two.”
- Invite another volunteer to read “Sealed Shut.”
- Lead girls and boys to use their math skills to solve the “Gospel Review.” (*Answers: Genesis 1:1; Romans 3:23; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10,13*)

REVIEW

- Copy the “Comic Strip” template for each boy and girl. Make crayons or colored pencils available for kids to recreate the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Ask your kids to re-tell the story of Jesus’ crucifixion. Encourage them to share the story with someone they might meet today!
- As your girls and boys work on their creations, share the gospel with the group. Use the “The Gospel” printable as an aid.

TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Small Group, download the LifeWay Kids app. Use the activity labeled “Explorer Plus” in the Explore the Bible: Kids section of the app.