

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](#)

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The climax (and turning point) of God's big story is the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's Son. Jesus became nothing and took on the nature of a servant, humbling Himself to death on a cross ([Philippians 2:6–8](#)).

WHAT?

Crucifixion was a horrible and painful process—a form of slow torture as the recipient suffocated to death. Jesus willingly went to the cross, submitting Himself to “the joy set before Him” as He endured the cross, so we could be restored to right relationship with God ([Hebrews 12:2 NIV](#)).

WHERE?

The crucifixion of Jesus took place outside the city gates of Jerusalem on a hill called Golgotha. Jesus would have been exposed up on that hill as He suffered. Jews from all over would have been in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

WHEN?

It is no coincidence that Jesus died at Passover—the time when all of God's people remembered God's salvation in the Exodus. Jesus died as a sacrificial lamb, ushering in a new and better exodus event: freedom from our slavery to sin and death.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus died to fix the relationship between God and people, making the way for us to be with God. Jesus fulfills the promise God made after the first sin in [Genesis 3](#), reversing the curse of sin. Jesus is the only One who can defeat sin and death!

Activity: Love Sensory Bag

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

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.*

Prayer and Blessing

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jesus Picture](#)

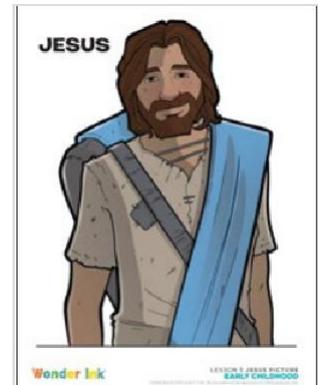
Ahead of time, print the [Jesus Picture](#).

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!