



Parent  
Newsletter



## Session 4 God's Plan: 2 SAVE Us!

Why did  
Jesus have  
to die?

Jesus died and  
rose again so  
that you can  
become a mem-  
ber of God's  
family.

### Bible Verse

**Preschool:** Jesus died so that we can be with God. (See 1 Peter 3:18.)

**Elementary:** "Christ died for sins once and for all time. The One who did what is right died for those who don't do right. He died to bring you to God."  
1 Peter 3:18

### Spark Principle— Transformation

Transformations occur when something new is introduced to an existing object and changes the object. Jesus changes us.

## Parent Devotional

Today we come to the greatest of all events. We were created to be companions of the Father, but sin separated us from God. Christ died on the cross to make a way for us to get back to God. He paid the wages of sin with His own life, that we might be brought into fellowship with the Father. Listen to His prayer: "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). This is the only way an unholy people can approach a holy God.

Others have died for a good cause, but the grave was the end. Jesus Christ rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. He appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11–18), the other women (Matthew 28:1,8–10), Peter (1 Corinthians 15:5) and the disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35).

What effect did all these appearances have on the disciples? They knew in whom they believed; they knew that He had conquered death and that He was a risen Master and Lord and Savior.

The cross upon which Christ died has become the focal point of all history. The cross was the triumphant goal of Christ's life—the one thing to which He had been looking forward, not from the beginning of His earthly life, but from the beginning of time itself. He was "the Lamb whose death was planned before the world was created" (Revelation 13:8). Surely salvation is God's greatest plan and His greatest miracle.

## Bible Story Recap

Jesus and His friends were in danger—the religious leaders wanted to find a way to get rid of Jesus. And if they were mad at Jesus, they were probably just as mad at Jesus' friends, too!

Jesus gathered with His friends to eat a special meal called the Passover meal. Jesus told His friends that some terrible things were going to happen to Him (but they didn't understand Him completely). Jesus knew it was time for those things to happen, just as God had planned.

After their meal, Jesus and 11 of His friends went to pray. Another friend, Judas, had made secret plans to help the religious leaders arrest Jesus. Soldiers came to the garden and took Jesus away, even though He had done nothing wrong!

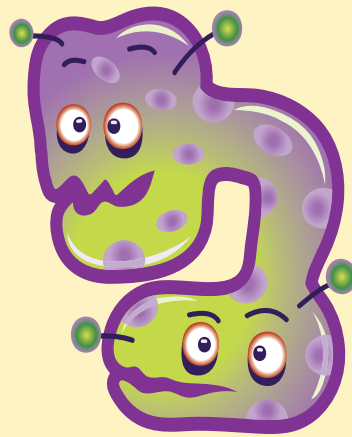
Later, Jesus was taken to a hill outside the city. His hands and feet were nailed to a cross. Jesus knew that what was happening was necessary to pay the price for people's sins. It was hard, but it was part of God's good plan. Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" Then He died.

On Sunday, some women went to Jesus' tomb. The stone that had sealed the tomb was rolled away. Jesus' body was gone—and two men in shining clothes told the women, "Jesus isn't here! He has risen, just as He said He would!"

The women remembered Jesus' promise! They were so happy! They ran back from the tomb and told everything to Jesus' friends. Some of Jesus' friends ran to the tomb to see if it was true. And it was! The tomb was empty!

## Discussion Questions

- ❖ **Why didn't Jesus stop the people who lied about Him and hurt Him?** (Jesus knew it was part of God's plan.)
- ❖ **What are some of the reasons to be glad that Jesus is alive?** (Because Jesus died and rose from the dead, we can become members of God's family. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and be close to God.)
- ❖ **When Jesus lived on Earth, how did He show God's love?** (Taught people about God. Healed sick people. Fed many people. Died on the cross and came back to life again so that we can become members of God's family.)
- ❖ **How does Jesus show His love for us today?** (Forgives our sins. Promises always to be with us and help us. Hears and answers our prayers.)
- ❖ **Why is it important to know about Jesus' love?** (We know that our sins can be forgiven and that we can become members of God's family.)



## Transformation

**If you have any questions about becoming a member of God's family, please talk to someone at SonSpark Labs VBS.**

