

# God's Plan: 2 SAVE US!

## Bible Story

### The Salvation Solution

Luke 22—24:35

Why did Jesus  
have to die?

## Bible Verse

"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

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

## Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. TALK ABOUT God's plan for us.
3. THANK God for sending Jesus to make a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and become members of God's family.
4. CHOOSE to be forgiven and become a member of God's family, as the Holy Spirit leads.

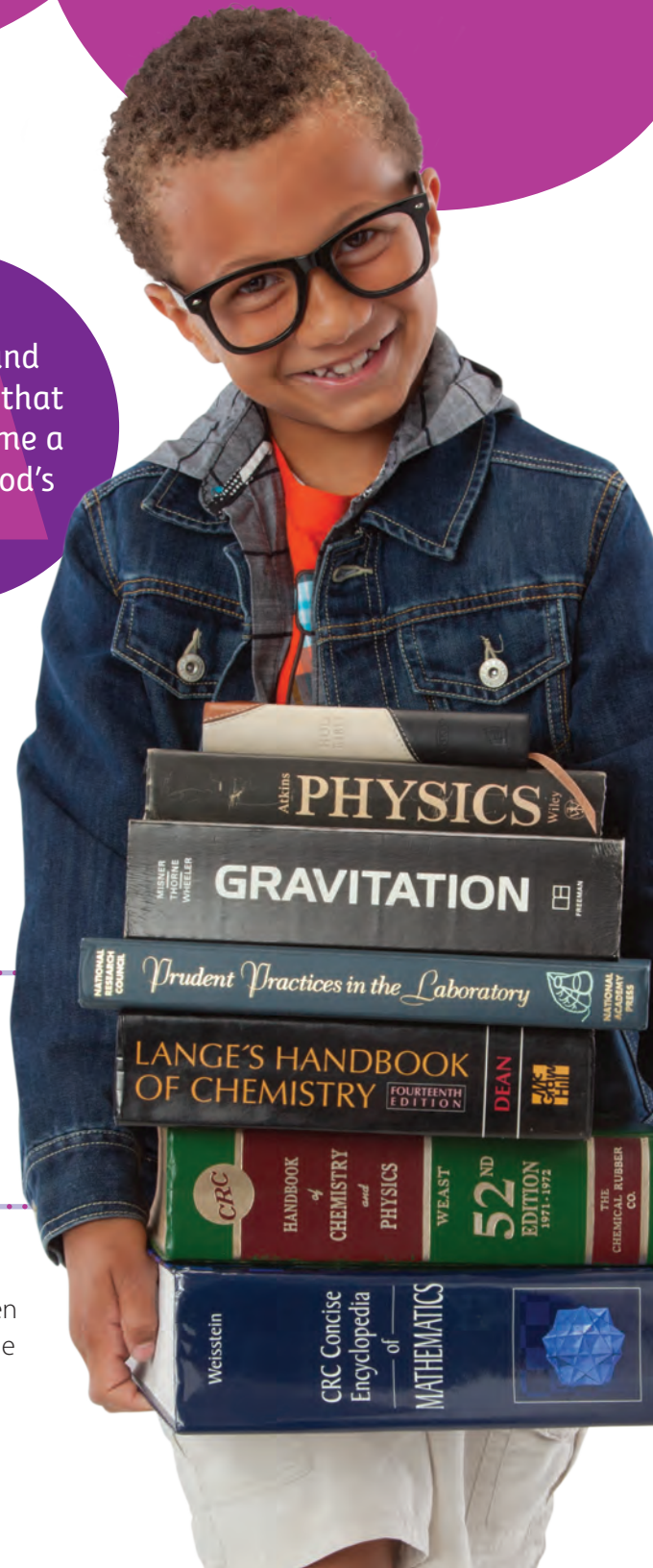
## Spark Principle—Transformation

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



## Cross

For centuries, the shape of the cross has reminded people of the sacrifice Jesus made by dying on a wooden cross for our sins. When you see a cross, you can remember that Jesus died and that He rose again! Jesus died and rose again so that we can become members of God's family.



## Heart Prep *by Henrietta Mears*

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 before time began. He is "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.

## Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What worked well today? Pray for the energy to finish VBS strong.
- Which children seemed interested in joining God's family? Which ones seemed to still have questions? Ask God to give you the opportunity and the words to talk further with these children.
- As you prepare for the final session of VBS, pray for each child by name. Ask God to water the seeds that were planted today.

## Materials

Optional Bible Story materials listed on page 30.

Bibles



Lab Journal



Session 4 Daily Plan Pennant



Session 4 Bible Story Poster from Bible Teaching Poster Pack



newspaper



safety glasses



sandwich-sized and snack-sized resealable plastic bags



measuring spoons and cups



baking soda



vinegar



drinking glass preserved (or recreated) from Session 2



bleach



markers



# Tell the Bible Story

*Preparation:* Mark Luke 22 and 1 Peter 3:18 in your Bible. (Optional: Use Post-it Notes to mark Bible.)

## Bring the Bible Story to Life!

Bring in a flashlight or laser pointer. Before telling the story, tell children to repeat the phrase “just as God had planned” whenever you flash the light. With children, practice flashing the light and saying the phrase several times before beginning the story. As you tell the story, flash the light as indicated.

Cover a table with newspaper where you will be leading the Story Starter activity. Put on safety glasses. In sandwich-sized resealable plastic bag, place approximately 1 tablespoon of baking soda. In a snack-sized resealable plastic bag, place  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of vinegar. Blow some air into the vinegar bag, seal it and place it inside the baking-soda bag. Remove as much air as possible from the baking-soda bag and seal shut. Place on the newspaper-covered table.

## Story Starter

**Welcome back to SonSpark Labs. I'm glad to see you again! Today we're going to discover another one of the laws God made!**

Show plastic bags and explain the contents. Place bags back on table, and smack down hard with your fist on the vinegar bag. The bag should break. Make sure the outside bag remains sealed! If it pops open, quickly seal it again. Shake the two bags to mix the vinegar and baking soda, and then place bag back on the table. It will fill with gas and might even burst open!

**When vinegar and baking soda mix, something new is**

**formed: a gas called carbon dioxide. When something new is created by bringing two different things together, that's a transformation.**

The most important part of God's plan for US involves transformation. WE are transformed when Jesus becomes a part of our lives and we become members of God's family. Hold up Bible and open to Luke 22 bookmark. Today's Bible story is from the book of Luke. In this story, we'll hear all about what Jesus did so that we can be transformed into members of God's family.

## The Salvation Solution

Luke 22—24:35

### Stranger on the Road

One day, two men who loved and followed Jesus talked together as they walked toward the town of Emmaus. Suddenly, a stranger joined them.

“Excuse me,” said the stranger. “You seem deep in conversation. What are you talking about?”

“You must be new around here,” one of the men answered. “Haven't you heard about the things that have happened in Jerusalem?”

“What things?” the stranger asked.





“Jesus of Nazareth—our friend, the One who taught us about God—has been . . . KILLED!” Then they told the stranger what had happened.

## Jesus Is Arrested

Many people didn’t like what Jesus said and did. They made secret plans to have Him arrested and killed. Jesus knew all about the people and their plans. He knew that everything had to happen . . . **(flash light and lead children to repeat the following phrase) just as God had planned.**

After eating a special meal together, Jesus and all but one of His friends went to a garden to pray. Judas, the twelfth friend, had agreed to help Jesus’ enemies arrest Him. And that’s exactly what he did. He led soldiers to the garden and they arrested Jesus . . . **(flash light) just as God had planned.**

The men who were guarding Jesus beat Him and made fun of Him. Then they sent Him to Pilate, who was one of the rulers in the land. Pilate tried to talk the people into letting Jesus go free, but the crowds wouldn’t listen. They WANTED Jesus to die. So Pilate allowed Jesus to be killed . . . **(flash light) just as God had planned.**

## Jesus Dies

The soldiers took Jesus to a hill outside the city and nailed Him to a cross. Jesus’ followers wept as they watched Him suffer. But other people made fun of Jesus and called Him names. Right before He died, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” No one there that day understood that all of this was happening . . . **(flash light) just as God had planned.**

Later, some friends of Jesus wrapped His body in cloth and buried Him in a nearby tomb. They rolled a large stone in front of the tomb to close it. The women went home to prepare spices and perfumes to put on His body.

## Jesus Lives Again!

When those same women returned to the tomb on Sunday morning, were they ever surprised! The stone in front of the grave had been rolled away. Jesus’



body was gone. And two men, some say they were angels, were standing there! The men told the women that Jesus wasn’t in the tomb, because He wasn’t dead anymore. Jesus was alive . . . **(flash light) just as God had planned.** The women ran back to tell the Jesus’ friends the news.

Some of Jesus’ friends went to see the tomb for themselves. It WAS empty! But WHERE was Jesus? Was He REALLY alive again or had someone stolen His body? Everyone was confused and afraid.

## The Stranger Speaks

Well, THAT’s the story the two men told the stranger who met them on the road to Emmaus. But they didn’t understand all the parts of God’s plan. They thought all that had happened to Jesus was just terrible! When they finished, the stranger began to talk about God’s plan. He explained that Jesus HAD to suffer and die and rise from the dead. There was no other way people’s sins could be forgiven. There was no other way to bring people to God.

The two men begged the stranger to stay and eat with them. When the stranger thanked God for the food, the disciples got the surprise of their lives! They suddenly realized that the stranger was actually Jesus Himself! He really WAS alive! They hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the others the incredible news that everything really had happened . . . **(flash light) just as God had planned.**

## Skit Option

As a fun alternative or supplement to this Bible story, ask leaders, youth helpers or other volunteers to perform "Stranger on the Road" Bible story skit in *ShowTime! Assemblies*.

### Conclusion

Hold up glass preserved (or recreated) from Session 2. Remember this experiment?

What did the top clear layer represent? (God.) What did the bottom red layer represent? (Adam and Eve.

Us.) In the beginning, Adam and Eve were close to God.

Then what happened? (Sin separated Adam and Eve from God.) That sin is represented in our glass by the middle blue layer.

Since that time, everyone has been separated from God. We all sin. But our sin hasn't ruined God's plan. Today's Daily Plan is "God's Plan: 2 SAVE Us!" Jesus suffered and died to bring us to God. He took the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven and be with God forever. Watch. Carefully pour bleach down inside of glass. It will slowly bleach the blue color between the layers.

Our Bible verse for today, 1 Peter 3:18, says, "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." Because Jesus died and rose again, our sins can be forgiven. And that is the most important part of God's awesome plan for you!



When you believe that Jesus is God's Son who died and rose again so that you could be forgiven, you can become a member of God's family and live with Him, now and forever. You are no longer separated from God! Invite children interested in knowing more about becoming members of God's family to talk with you or another leader after class. See "Leading a Child to Christ" (p.1).

### Prayer

Divide group into two teams. Instruct one team to say the following prayer in unison: **Thank You, God, for sending Jesus.** Instruct the other team to pray in unison, **Thank You, Jesus, that You are alive and forgive our sins!** Lead teams to repeat their prayers, one after the other, encouraging children to express the prayer with joyful voices.



# Apply the Bible Story

## Bible Story Review

To review the Bible story, lead children to complete “Why Did Jesus Have to Die?” activity on page 14 of the *Lab Journal*. As children work, ask these questions to guide conversation:

- ⦿ **What happened when Jesus went to a garden to pray?** (Jesus was arrested.)
- ⦿ **Why didn't Jesus stop the people who lied about Him and hurt Him?** (Jesus knew it was part of God's plan.)
- ⦿ **How did Jesus' friends feel when He died?** (Sad. Scared.) **How and why did their feelings change?** (They were happy and excited because Jesus was alive again.)
- ⦿ **What are some of the reasons we are 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.)

The question in today's Q&A is “Why did Jesus have to die?” After hearing our story, how would you answer that question? Volunteers respond. The Q&A answer is that “Jesus died and rose again so that you can become a member of God's family.” That's a promise from God to you, me and everyone! Jesus' dying and rising from the dead is the most important part of God's plan. It's the most important thing that ever happened!

## Active Review

Divide children into groups of three or four. Give each group a penny. At your signal, a member of each group flips the penny. Groups whose coins land heads up answer one of the questions above. Continue flipping coins and answering questions until all questions are answered.

## God's Plan for Me (Life Application)

**Today's Bible verse is 1 Peter 3:18.** Read verse aloud from Bible. **Who does this verse say Jesus died for?** (Those who don't do right.) **Who is that?** (Everyone.) **We all sin. We have all chosen to do what isn't right. But Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and be in God's family.**

Children complete “Sins on a Cross” activity on page 16 of the *Lab Journal*. Ask questions such as the following:

- ⦿ **When Jesus lived on Earth, what things did He do to show God's love?** (Taught people about God. Healed sick people. Died on the cross and rose again.)
- ⦿ **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.)
- ⦿ **What can we do to thank Jesus for laying down His life for us?** (Accept His offer to take the punishment for our sins. Believe in His death and resurrection. Accept His forgiveness.)

**What part of God's plan are we talking about today?** Pause for children to respond, “2 SAVE Us!” **This is the most important part of God's plan. That's why our formula for this plan is GP4U = J!** It's all about Jesus and His amazing sacrifice so that we can be saved from our sins and become members of God's family!

Hold up Session 4 Daily Plan Pennant. **The cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the tomb so that we can become members of God's family. Jesus loves us THAT MUCH! And that's the best news ever.**