



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus died so He could forgive our sins.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say that Jesus died for their sins.

KEY PASSAGE:

Mark 15:21-47, The Crucifixion

MEMORY VERSE:

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

A truly great escape room can really give you a sense of being trapped, even though it's not real. All truly seemed lost when Jesus was sentenced to die on the cross, but not even death could stop Jesus!

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for dying for our sins.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

“So if the Son of Man sets you free, you will really be free.” John 8:36 (NirV)

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36 (NIV)

“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” John 8:36 (NLT)

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose three kids from the audience. Have each one “sing” the memory verse in a different musical style - country, hip hop, oldies, opera, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!



SKIT

ESCAPE ROOM: DOOMED!

ITEMS NEEDED:

Optional: Egyptian tomb props

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

3M

CHARACTERS:

Kevin - Voice only - A worker at the Escape Room who voices the Pharaoh

Tyler and Jeff - Kids in an Escape Room

Tyler and Jeff enter.

PHARAOH: *(voice)* Welcome to The Tomb of the Pharaoh! You have violated the sanctity of my final resting place! If you ever want to see the light of day, you must find the clues that lead to your escape. If you do not, you are doooooooooomed!

TYLER: Did you hear that Jeff? We are doooooooooomed! Like that's really gonna scare me.

JEFF: Come on, Tyler, use your imagination a little.

TYLER: Imagination? How am I supposed to pretend I am in any danger at all here? This isn't the desert of Egypt. This is Vacation City.

JEFF: I know.

TYLER: We're in a strip mall in between a popcorn place and White Mountain Creamery.

JEFF: Look, I went through your goofy wax museum for you. Can you at least try to have a little fun here?

ESCAPE THE TOMB: DOOMED!

SKIT

TYLER: How am I supposed to have fun when I am doooooooooomed?

JEFF: Just help me look for the clues, okay?

TYLER: Will I get a Scooby Snack if I find one?

JEFF: No, but I'll buy you a "I Escaped the Tomb of the Pharaoh" T-shirt!

TYLER: What a prize. I escape almost certain non-death, and all I have to show for it is a lousy T-shirt.

KEVIN: *(voice)* Umm, attention patrons now in The Tomb of the Pharaoh. Due to a major malfunction with our systems caused by a computer virus, all security doors are now magnetically sealed, and our air conditioning unit has shut down.

JEFF: What's that mean?

KEVIN: It means that in about twenty minutes, there won't be any breathable oxygen in the Tomb.

JEFF/TYLER: WHAT???

KEVIN: Please, try not to talk too much. Preserve as much air as you can, and we'll try to get you out in the next half hour.

TYLER: Half hour? You said twenty minutes.

KEVIN: Oh yeah. I didn't think about that. We'll try to shave a few minutes off that time.

TYLER: We're gonna die, Jeff! We really are doomed!

JEFF: Don't you mean doooooooooomed?

TYLER: Jeff, this isn't funny! We're trapped in this tomb, and there's no way out. In twenty minutes, it's going to be... my tomb!

SKIT

JEFF: Calm down, Tyler. Never give up hope. Just remember, Jesus was shut in a tomb once.

TYLER: I seem to remember He was dead at the time too. He didn't need any oxygen.

JEFF: True. But do you remember what happened three days later?

TYLER: Sure I do. Jesus rose from the grave.

JEFF: We were doomed because of our sin. Jesus appeared to be doomed because of His death. But on Easter Sunday, He rose from the grave. He was never doomed, and neither are we!

KEVIN: Hey guys, good news! We've got a blow torch, and if you give us about five minutes, we'll cut a hole in the wall and have you out!

TYLER: He did it! We are saved! Hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus!

KEVIN: Actually, my name's Kevin.

TYLER: I'm not talking about you, Kevin. I'm talking about Jesus, the guy who died to save us from the doom of sin.

KEVIN: Someone died to save us from sin? I need to meet this guy.

TYLER: Get us out of here alive, and we'll introduce you!

KEVIN: Buddy, you got a deal!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

The fire escape plan for your room/church

Do any of you know where to go in case of a fire? If we had an emergency and needed to evacuate in the middle of church, do you know where to go? Adult workers – do any of you know the plan if we have to evacuate this building? When this church was built, we were required to make sure we had emergency exits and evacuation routes from every room in this building. We don't want anyone to get trapped in any part of this church. There's always a way out, an escape, in case of an emergency. We don't want anyone to even feel doomed, much less BE doomed!

Even when Jesus was sealed inside a tomb, He was never doomed. He was fully human, but He was also the Son of God. Death could not contain Jesus, but death was necessary so He would save us from sin. He died, and He was buried. But He endured that death so He could give us new life.

Death is not the end of the story. Not for Jesus, and not for us. If we believe Jesus died for our sins, we will be raised up to live forever with Him in Heaven!



LARGE GROUP GAME

ESCAPE ROOM ACTIVITY

Each week, instead of a traditional object lesson, the kids will help one of your kid min workers who is “trapped” in an escape room to try to break out. There are a few ways you can stage this. If you have the means, you can live stream the kid min worker on a video screen and have them deliver the puzzle and clues over video. Or, you can have one of the other workers appear on stage and tell the kids that this worker is trapped and has sent a note asking for help.

This week, the kids will decipher three scrambled words to decode a secret message.

INTRODUCTION

Hey, kids. Thanks for helping me these last couple weeks trying to find my way out of this chamber. Unfortunately, I think I’m stuck. Using the clues from the riddles you solved last week, I found this tablet that was broken in half. The answer to the riddle was stick together, but when I stuck them together, the letters on the tablet didn’t make any sense. I don’t know if this is code or a foreign language or what, but I’m sending you what I found. I thought maybe the last word, “PU” was just the word “UP” written backwards, but the other words make no sense backwards. I hope you can solve this puzzle because if you don’t, I’m doomed!

THE CLUE

The following “words” are shown on a tablet or written on a board one on top of the other.

VEREN
VIGE
PU

Kids will need to unscramble the letters to spell, “NEVER GIVE UP.”

WRAP UP

Wow guys, that’s great work. And it’s just the message I needed. I remember that when Jesus died, everyone thought that was the end. They were doomed! But Jesus’ death was just part of the plan for saving us from sin. Jesus was never doomed because He was God’s Son! He rose from the grave, and because He lives, we can be forgiven. We all have hard times, but with Christ by our side, we are never doomed. We can live victorious every day and never, ever give up! I’m not gonna give up on escaping this chamber. I’ll see you next week, and hopefully in person!



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus died so He could forgive our sins.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say that Jesus died for their sins.

KEY PASSAGE:

Mark 15:21-47, The Crucifixion

INTRO:

Imagine for a moment if the story of Snow White ended with the poisoned apple. Snow White drops dead. The dwarves put her in a glass casket. The end. There's no prince, no kiss, and no happily ever after. Snow White is simply doomed!

Imagine if the story of Cinderella ended at midnight. Her carriage turns back into a pumpkin. She goes back to her life of rags and chores. The prince quickly forgets the girl in the glass slipper and marries someone else. How's that for a happy ending?

Or imagine if Luke Skywalker missed the port with his proton torpedoes on the Death Star. He has a clear shot. He misses. The Death Star blows up the Rebel base. So much for a happy ending, and so much for any sequels!

So many of the stories we love have moments of certain doom. It appears that all is lost, that evil has triumphed over good, and that there's no hope for our heroes. Escape rooms play off this theme by creating a false sense of doom. There's a clock ticking on the wall. Something or someone is coming, and if you don't make your escape in time – everyone is DOOMED!

Today we come to that moment in the Easter story. It's the saddest part of the gospels but also one of the most important moments in all of human history. Jesus has been betrayed by Judas. His friends have abandoned Him. His followers have turned against Him. Jesus dies on the cross, and He is buried in a tomb. It certainly seems that Jesus – and all of us – are now doomed.

READ MARK 15:21-47**MAIN POINT:**

The story of the cross is one of the hardest to read in the Bible.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

We know Jesus was God's Son. We know He never sinned. We know He did not deserve to die. We know He could have called an army of angels from Heaven to save Him. Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested, tried, abused, mocked, spat upon, and nailed to the cross. He suffered it all willingly because He knew – if there's no death, there's no resurrection.

When Jesus was sealed in the tomb, His enemies declared victory. But death was not the end of this story any more than it was for Snow White. Jesus died so He could live again. He died so He could forgive our sins and give us eternal life!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Every good story writer knows that the more hopeless things appear near the end of the story, the more joyful a happy ending will be. Storytellers like the Brothers Grimm and George Lucas want us on the edge of our seats. They want us to believe that Luke Skywalker will miss the shot and that Cinderella will never see the prince again. They want us to believe this because they know it will make our joy that much greater when they give us a happy ending.

There's no lower low than the story of the cross, and there's no greater joy than the story of the resurrection. The Bible tells us that the price of our sin is death. Someone had to pay that price, and when a man who never sinned took our place on the cross, He paid the price for all of us, once and for all.

There's nothing happy about the cross. There's nothing happy about the tomb. But without these things, there's no victory over sin. Jesus came to save us from certain doom. He faced death, and He defeated it. If we place our faith in Jesus, we will have our sins forgiven. We will receive eternal life.

The Easter story is a happy one and a victorious one, but there's no happy ending without the death of Jesus. Let's thank God for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Let's rejoice that Jesus rose from the grave. Let's remember that we are no longer doomed to suffer the price for our sins. Jesus died to save us from sin. Jesus died to give us new life!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for dying for our sins.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Which is scarier: an escape room or a haunted house?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

John 8:36

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids play a few rounds of I Spy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 15:21-47

Where did the soldiers take Jesus?

What did the soldiers do to Jesus at Golgotha?

What happened after Jesus died?

Why did Jesus die?

What can Jesus do for us because He died?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us enough to die for our sins.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Which is scarier: an escape room or a haunted house?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

John 8:36

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids play a few rounds of I Spy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 15:21-47

How did Jesus die?

What happened after Jesus' death?

Why did Jesus die?

Why was Jesus the only person who could die for our sins?

How can we have our sins forgiven?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us enough to die for our sins.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A man named _____ was forced to carry Jesus' cross.

- A. Simon*
- B. Peter
- C. John

Jesus was put on the cross with _____.

- A. chains
- B. ropes
- C. nails*

The people who watched Jesus died _____.

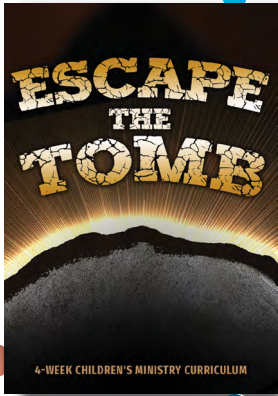
- A. tried to save Him
- B. made fun of Him*
- C. cried for Him

Who declared that Jesus was the Son of God after He died?

- A. John
- B. His mother
- C. A Roman soldier*

Jesus died because _____.

- A. He was guilty
- B. He wanted to save us from sin*
- C. God turned against Him



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Escape the Tomb Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DOOMED!



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

A truly great escape room can really give you a sense of being trapped, even though it's not real. All truly seemed lost when Jesus was sentenced to die on the cross, but not even death could stop Jesus! Mark 15:21-47, The Crucifixion



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Read the crucifixion story with your kids this week. Ask them how the story makes them feel, to hear how Jesus died. Ask them if they know why Jesus chose to die.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How did Jesus die?
- Why did Jesus die?
- Why was Jesus our only hope to be saved from sin?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

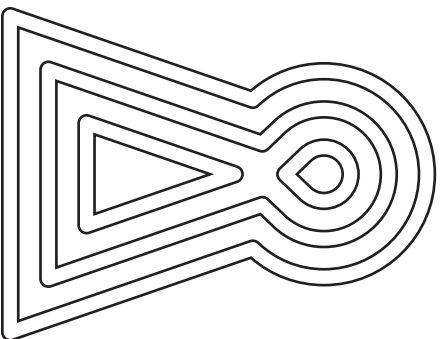
What you need to know:

Because Jesus died, we can be forgiven. Only Jesus could take the punishment for the whole world upon Himself. Take time to remember what Jesus did as a family this week, especially on Good Friday. If your kids have questions about the Easter story, help them to find answers.

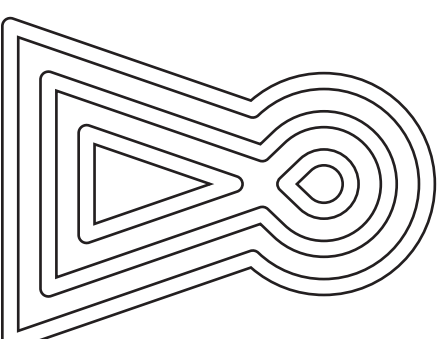


CRAFT ACTIVITY

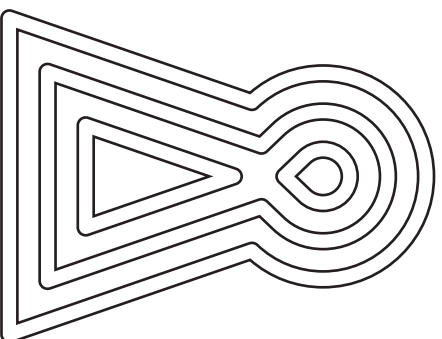
Have the kids make a craft of three crosses using craft sticks. The kids can anchor these crosses to another craft stick or a few sticks that form a base and will let the craft stand on its own.



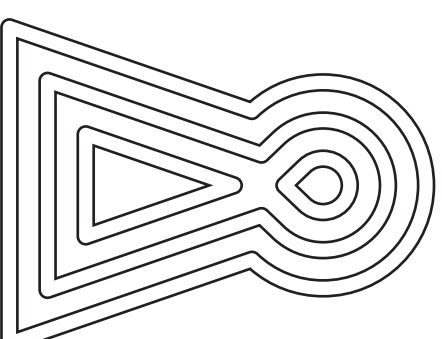
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