

Week 45: Teacher Background & Preparation Sheet

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | Teacher study only | Not read aloud

Why the Cross Matters: Salvation Explained

Primary Scripture: Romans 3:21–26; Romans 5:6–11; Ephesians 2:1–10

Supporting Scripture: Genesis 3:1–21; Isaiah 53:4–6; Matthew 27:32–54; John 3:16–18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4.

Bible timeline placement: After Jesus' crucifixion, examining what His death accomplished and why salvation is possible only through Him.

Big Idea: Jesus died for our sins and rose again so that everyone who turns from sin and trusts Him can be forgiven and receive new life.

1. Purpose of this lesson

Last Sunday, November 1, the children learned that Jesus died on the cross. This week, we help them understand why.

Children may already know that Jesus was nailed to a cross, that He suffered, and that He died. They may even know that He rose again. But knowing what happened and understanding why it happened are two different things.

This lesson brings us to the very heart of Christianity.

We want our children to understand that Jesus did not die because He had done something wrong. He was innocent. He had never sinned. Yet He willingly gave His life to save people who had sinned against God.

We also want them to understand why that rescue was necessary. God is perfectly holy, which means there is no evil or wrongdoing in Him. He is also perfectly loving, merciful, and just. Our sin is a serious matter, and God does not simply pretend it never happened.

The good news is that God Himself provided the Savior we could never provide for ourselves.

By the end of this lesson, children should begin to understand these truths:

- God created us to know and love Him, but our sin separates us from Him.
- No amount of good behavior can erase our sins or earn salvation.
- Jesus is God the Son, who came into the world, lived without sin, and willingly died in our place.
- Jesus rose from the dead, and everyone who repents and trusts Him receives forgiveness and new life.
- Salvation is God's gift of grace, and the Holy Spirit begins changing the lives of those who belong to Jesus.

The teaching must never leave children feeling that their sin is greater than God's ability to save. We should speak truthfully about sin, judgment, and the cross, while helping them see the extraordinary love God has shown through Jesus.

2. Book and passage background

The primary teaching comes from two letters in the New Testament, Romans and Ephesians.

Romans

Traditional author: The apostle Paul.

Approximate date: Around AD 57, with some scholarly variation.

Original audience: Christians in Rome, including Jewish and Gentile believers. Gentiles were people from nations outside Israel.

Purpose: Paul explained the gospel, showing that all people need salvation and that God makes sinners right with Himself through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans begins by addressing humanity's sin and accountability before God. Paul then explains that God has provided righteousness through Christ, not through human achievement.

Romans 3:23 tells us:

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

This verse removes the idea that some people are naturally good enough to earn salvation. It places every person in need of the same grace.

The next verse gives the hope:

"and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24)

The word *justified* means being declared right with God. This is not because we have never sinned, but because God grants righteousness to those who trust Christ.

The word *redemption* carries the idea of being set free through a costly rescue. In Scripture, that rescue comes through what Jesus accomplished.

Paul's point is that forgiveness is freely given to believers, but it was not accomplished without cost. Jesus gave His life for our salvation.

Ephesians

Traditional author: The apostle Paul.

Approximate date: Around AD 60–62, according to the traditional Roman imprisonment dating. Authorship and dating are debated in modern scholarship.

Original audience: Christians in Ephesus and possibly other churches in Asia Minor, in what is now western Turkey.

Purpose: To explain God's grace in Christ, the new life believers receive, and how the church should live together as God's people.

Ephesians 2 describes our condition apart from Christ and the wonderful change God makes possible through His mercy.

Paul teaches that salvation is not our reward for obeying enough rules or doing enough good deeds. It is received through faith because of God's grace.

Teachers should understand the distinction between grace, faith, and good works.

Grace is God's undeserved kindness. **Faith** is trusting Jesus and relying on what He has done. **Good works** are the loving and obedient things believers are called to do because God has saved them, not the price they pay to become saved.

Ephesians 2:8–10 carefully maintains this order.

3. Historical and cultural context

What a cross meant in the Roman world

In the first century, crucifixion was a form of execution used by the Roman authorities. It was intended to punish publicly, humiliate the condemned, and warn others against defying Roman power.

Jesus was condemned under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate and crucified outside Jerusalem, as described in Matthew 27 and John 19.

A cross was not originally a comforting symbol of love and forgiveness. It was an instrument of suffering and death.

This contrast matters when explaining the meaning of the cross to children. Christians do not celebrate cruelty or suffering for its own sake. We remember the cross because Jesus willingly gave His life there, and because God brought salvation through His death and resurrection.

Why sacrifices were familiar to Jewish people

Long before Jesus came, God had given Israel a system of sacrifices as part of their worship under the old covenant.

In Leviticus, sacrifices taught important lessons about God's holiness, the seriousness of sin, forgiveness, and the need for atonement.

Atonement refers to God's provision for dealing with sin so that people can be reconciled to Him.

On the Day of Atonement, described in Leviticus 16, the high priest offered sacrifices associated with cleansing from the people's sins.

These sacrifices were part of God's appointed worship, but Hebrews 10:1–14 explains that repeated animal sacrifices could not finally remove sin. They pointed toward something greater.

Jesus came to accomplish what those sacrifices could never complete. His sacrifice was sufficient, and His death did not need to be repeated.

Children do not need a detailed explanation of every Old Testament sacrifice. Teachers, however, should recognize that the cross did not suddenly appear in God's plan. Scripture had been preparing God's people to understand the need for a Savior.

Why the cross was not an accident

Jesus repeatedly taught that He would suffer, be killed, and rise again.

In Mark 8:31, He began preparing His disciples for these events. In John 10:17–18, He explained that He willingly laid down His life.

We should be careful here. The people involved in Jesus' death were morally responsible for their actions, yet God was not surprised or defeated by what happened. Acts 2:23 holds together human responsibility and God's purposeful plan.

The cross was not the end of God's plan.

It was central to accomplishing our salvation.

4. Immediate biblical context

What happened before?

In Genesis 1 and 2, God created a good world and made human beings in His image. People were created to live in fellowship with Him.

Genesis 3 records humanity's rebellion against God. Adam and Eve disobeyed His command, and sin entered human experience.

Sin brought guilt, shame, death, and separation from God. Romans 5:12 connects the entrance of sin and death into the world with Adam.

Even there, God's mercy was evident. Genesis 3:15 contains a promise concerning the woman's offspring and the serpent. Christians understand this in light of the whole Bible as an early indication of the victory Christ would ultimately accomplish.

Across the Old Testament, God continued revealing His plan. He made promises to Abraham, rescued Israel from Egypt, gave His people the law, and spoke through prophets about the coming Savior.

Isaiah 53:5–6 describes a suffering servant who would bear the wrongdoing of others. The New Testament identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of this suffering servant prophecy, particularly in Acts 8:32–35 and 1 Peter 2:24–25.

Then Jesus came.

He taught people about God's kingdom, healed the sick, welcomed sinners who came to Him, and revealed the Father's love. Though He was without sin, He was arrested, condemned, and crucified.

What happened afterward?

God raised Jesus from the dead.

The resurrection is not an optional addition to the gospel. It confirms Christ's victory over sin and death and belongs to the salvation message itself.

Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers, commissioned them to share the good news, and ascended to heaven.

Through the preaching of the apostles, people learned that forgiveness and new life were available through faith in Him.

The church began proclaiming what Jesus had accomplished, and that same good news continues today.

Why this moment matters

The November 8 lesson serves as the bridge between November 1, when children learned that Jesus died, and November 15, when they will examine the resurrection and its eyewitness testimony.

We are helping children connect the events:

Jesus died for our sins. Jesus rose again. Jesus saves everyone who turns to Him in faith.

Without understanding why Jesus died, children may remember the cross as little more than a terrible event involving a good person.

But Scripture teaches something far greater.

The Son of God gave Himself to save sinners.

5. Key theological truths

Core truth 1: God is holy, loving, and just

Anchor Scripture: Romans 3:25-26

God's holiness means He is perfectly pure and good. His justice means He always does what is right. His love means He seeks our good according to His perfect character.

At the cross, God's love and justice are not enemies.

Romans 3:25-26 explains that Christ's sacrifice demonstrates God's righteousness while providing justification for those who have faith in Jesus.

God does not save by pretending evil does not matter. He saves through the sacrifice of His Son.

Romans 5:8 also reveals that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. God's love moved toward people who could not rescue themselves.

For teachers: Avoid describing the Father as angry while Jesus is loving, as though the Son had to persuade an unwilling Father to show mercy.

John 3:16 teaches that the Father loved the world and gave His Son. Galatians 2:20 also shows the Son's personal love and self giving. The saving work flows from the one loving purpose of God.

Core truth 2: Sin is serious, and every person needs salvation

Anchor Scripture: Romans 3:23

Sin includes our wrong actions, words, desires, and failure to love and obey God as we should.

A child can understand sin through familiar examples, such as lying to escape trouble, deliberately hurting someone, stealing, or refusing to obey a rightful instruction.

But sin is deeper than a list of bad behaviors. It is our rebellion against the God who made us.

Romans 3:9-23 teaches that Jews and Gentiles alike are under sin. Nobody is justified through perfect law keeping.

Romans 6:23 identifies death as sin's wages, while also pointing to eternal life as God's gift through Christ.

This must be handled gently with children.

We should not tell a young child that one mistake means God no longer loves them. We should explain that sin is real, that all of us need forgiveness, and that God has provided a Savior.

Important distinction: Children are valuable because God made them in His image (Genesis 1:27). Their sin is serious, but it does not erase their God given worth.

Core truth 3: Jesus died in our place

Anchor Scripture: 1 Peter 3:18

The apostle Peter explains that Christ, who was righteous, suffered for the unrighteous to bring us to God. This is the heart of substitutionary atonement.

Substitution means one person takes another person's place. In the saving work of Jesus, the sinless Savior willingly bore our sins so that we could be reconciled to God.

Isaiah 53:5–6, Romans 5:6–9, and 2 Corinthians 5:21 help explain this truth.

Jesus was not a sinner being punished for His own wrongdoing. Hebrews 4:15 teaches that He was without sin.

He is uniquely able to save because He is fully God and fully human. As a true human being, He could suffer and die. As the eternal Son of God, His saving work has the worth and sufficiency necessary for our salvation.

We should not reduce the cross to an example of a friend taking someone else's ordinary punishment at school. Such illustrations can help children grasp a simple idea, but none fully captures the holiness of God, the guilt of sin, or Christ's willing sacrifice.

Core truth 4: Salvation is a gift received through faith

Anchor Scripture: Ephesians 2:8–10

Here we must be especially careful because children often think in terms of rewards.

At school, good work may earn a good grade. At home, helping with a chore may earn an allowance. In sports, effort and practice may help someone win.

Those are understandable parts of everyday life, but salvation does not work that way.

No one can earn forgiveness by collecting enough good deeds.

God saves us through Jesus Christ. We receive His gift through faith, not through our own goodness.

Repentance belongs to this response. Acts 3:19 calls people to repent and turn to God. Repentance means turning away from sin and turning toward God.

Repentance does not mean a child must become perfectly obedient before Jesus will receive them. It means recognizing sin, wanting to turn from it, and placing trust in Christ.

Ephesians 2:10 shows that believers are created in Christ Jesus for good works. Obedience follows salvation as its fruit, not as its purchase price.

Core truth 5: Jesus' resurrection is essential to salvation

Anchor Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 17

The cross and resurrection must always be held together.

Jesus truly died. He was buried. God raised Him bodily from the dead.

Paul explains that if Christ had not been raised, Christian faith would be futile and people would remain in their sins.

The resurrection shows that Jesus is alive and that death did not defeat Him.

Romans 4:25 connects His death and resurrection with our justification.

Children should not leave believing that Christianity ends with Jesus suffering on the cross. Their Savior is alive, and He will never die again (Romans 6:9).

Core truth 6: Salvation brings a new relationship with God

Anchor Scripture: Romans 5:1-2

Through faith in Christ, believers are justified and have peace with God.

This peace is more than a calm feeling. It means the barrier of guilt and condemnation has been dealt with through Jesus.

John 1:12 teaches that those who receive Christ and believe in His name are given the right to become children of God.

Romans 8:15-16 teaches that the Holy Spirit bears witness to believers' adoption into God's family.

This does not mean Christians will never feel sad, afraid, or troubled again. It means their standing before God has changed because of what Jesus accomplished.

6. Christian and Missionary Alliance doctrinal alignment

The official Alliance Statement of Faith directly supports this lesson, especially Articles 1.2, 1.5, and 1.6.

Article 1.2 teaches that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly human and that His death was a substitutionary sacrifice.

Article 1.5 teaches humanity's sinful condition and the need for Christ's atoning work.

Article 1.6 teaches that salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ and that those who repent and believe are justified by grace through faith, born again of the Holy Spirit, and granted eternal life.

These are not minor points of doctrine. They explain why Christianity centers on Jesus Himself rather than on human improvement.

Connection to the Fourfold Gospel

Christ Our Savior

This is the central emphasis of Week 45. Jesus saves us through His sacrificial death and resurrection. Acts 4:12 teaches that salvation is found in no one else.

Christ Our Sanctifier

Those who belong to Jesus are not only forgiven. The Holy Spirit begins changing them so that they grow in obedience and love. This is connected to Ephesians 2:10 and Galatians 5:22-23.

Christ Our Healer

Jesus remains compassionate toward those who suffer. James 5:14-15 encourages prayer for the sick. We must not confuse forgiveness of sin with a promise that every believer will experience immediate physical healing.

Christ Our Coming King

Jesus is alive and will return. Acts 1:11 and Revelation 21:1-5 teach us that our hope extends beyond the present world to His coming kingdom.

For this week's lesson, the strongest emphasis should remain on **Christ Our Savior**. The other three aspects help teachers understand the fullness of Christ's work without distracting children from the central truth.

7. God revealed as Trinity

God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This is essential to understanding salvation faithfully.

The Father did not become the Son. The Son is not the Holy Spirit. They are distinct Persons, yet together they are the one true God.

Scripture reveals each Person's involvement in salvation.

God the Father: John 3:16–17 tells us that the Father loved the world and sent His Son. Ephesians 1:3–6 describes the Father's saving purpose.

God the Son: Jesus, the eternal Son, took on human nature and willingly gave Himself for our sins. John 1:1, 14 and Hebrews 2:14–17 help establish His divine and human identity.

God the Holy Spirit: The Spirit convicts people of sin (John 16:8), brings new birth (John 3:5–8), and lives in believers (Romans 8:9–11).

Ephesians 2:18 gathers these truths together, teaching that through Christ believers have access to the Father by one Spirit.

For children, we can explain this without trying to solve every mystery about God's eternal nature.

The Father loves and sends the Son. Jesus saves us through His death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit gives new life and helps believers follow Jesus.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit act together in the one saving purpose of God.

Avoid illustrations involving water, eggs, clovers, or one person wearing different hats. These commonly confuse the distinction between the three Persons or the unity of God.

8. Reliability of Scripture and apologetics foundation

This lesson deals primarily with the meaning of Jesus' death. We should distinguish between the historical evidence for the crucifixion, the biblical teaching about its meaning, and the evidence connected to the resurrection.

What do we know about Jesus' crucifixion?

The crucifixion of Jesus under Pontius Pilate is among the most securely established events of His earthly life.

The four Gospels record His crucifixion, and early Christian writings consistently proclaim His death and resurrection.

There are also references to Jesus' execution outside the New Testament.

The Roman historian Tacitus, writing in the early second century, referred to Christus being executed during the reign of Tiberius under Pontius Pilate (Annals 15.44).

The first century Jewish historian Josephus also referred to Jesus and Pilate in Antiquities 18.63–64. This passage has a complicated textual history because some of its wording appears to have been altered by later Christian copyists. Many historians nevertheless accept that it contains a genuine reference to Jesus' execution.

These sources support the historical reality of Jesus' death. They do not, by themselves, establish the theological meaning of His sacrifice.

What about the resurrection?

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is particularly important.

Most scholars date it to approximately AD 53–55, within roughly twenty five years of Jesus' crucifixion.

In 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, Paul passes along an early summary of Christian proclamation that includes Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and appearances.

Many scholars believe the tradition Paul received predates the writing of the letter, although precisely when and where its wording took shape remains debated.

This matters because the resurrection was not introduced as a new Christian belief hundreds of years after Jesus lived. It belonged to the earliest Christian preaching.

However, we should not tell children that historians have found a recording, photograph, or physical object that independently proves the resurrection. No such evidence exists.

Historical study can examine early testimony, the sources, and the circumstances surrounding the first Christians. Scripture gives us the apostolic witness that Jesus truly rose.

How does the Old Testament support the gospel?

Isaiah 53 describes the suffering servant bearing the wrongdoing of others. The New Testament identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of this passage.

This connection is important because the Old Testament book of Isaiah existed long before Jesus' earthly ministry.

The Dead Sea Scrolls include ancient copies of Isaiah that predate the New Testament period. They demonstrate that the suffering servant passage was not created by Christians after Jesus' death.

That is significant historical evidence for the earlier existence of the prophecy.

Still, identifying Jesus as its fulfillment is a theological conclusion supported by the New Testament, not something archaeology can establish independently.

A helpful approach for children

When children wonder whether Christianity is true, teach them to consider three questions:

1. What does the Bible actually tell us?
2. What can history help us understand?
3. What are we only guessing about?

This week, the answer begins with Romans 5:8 and 1 Corinthians 15:3–4.

We know what the apostles preached about Jesus. We have historical evidence that Jesus was crucified. And we have Scripture's testimony that His death and resurrection accomplished our salvation.

We can welcome honest questions without exaggerating what the evidence proves.

9. Anticipated children's questions

Question: Why did Jesus have to die?

Because sin is serious, and we cannot make ourselves right with God. Jesus willingly died for our sins so that we could be forgiven and brought back to God (Romans 3:23–26; 1 Peter 3:18).

Question: Did Jesus do something bad?

No. Jesus never sinned. He was perfectly obedient to His Father, yet He willingly took our sins upon Himself (Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Question: If God loves us, why couldn't He just forgive us without the cross?

God truly loves us, but He is also perfectly just. He does not treat evil as though it does not matter. Romans 3:25–26 explains that Jesus' sacrifice shows God's righteousness while making forgiveness possible. Scripture reveals the way God chose to save us, though it does not answer every question we might have about other possible ways.

Question: Does God love me when I do something wrong?

Yes. God's love is not earned by being perfect. Romans 5:8 tells us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. God calls us to repent, receive His forgiveness, and learn to follow Jesus.

Question: If I do lots of good things, will I get into heaven?

Good things matter, but they cannot save us. Ephesians 2:8–9 teaches that salvation is God's gift, received through faith in Jesus. Once we belong to Him, we want to do what is good because we love Him.

Question: What does it mean to trust Jesus?

It means believing who Jesus is, believing what He has done, and relying on Him to save you rather than relying on yourself. Trusting Jesus includes turning toward Him and away from sin (Acts 3:19; Romans 10:9–10).

Question: What happens if I sin after becoming a Christian?

Christians still make wrong choices, but Jesus does not stop being their Savior. First John 1:9 teaches believers to confess their sins, and First John 2:1–2 points us to Jesus as our advocate. His forgiveness is not permission to continue sinning carelessly, but it gives us hope when we fail.

Question: If Jesus died, how can He save anyone now?

Because He did not remain dead. God raised Him from the grave, and Jesus is alive forever. Hebrews 7:25 teaches that He is able to save those who come to God through Him.

Question: Did God stop loving Jesus when He was on the cross?

No. The cross was not a conflict between an unloving Father and a loving Son. The Father sent the Son in love, and Jesus willingly gave His life. The cry of Jesus recorded in Matthew 27:46 reveals the terrible suffering He endured, but Scripture does not teach that the Trinity ceased to exist or that the Father's eternal love for the Son ended (John 3:16; 10:17–18).

Question: Can a child really become a Christian?

Yes. Jesus welcomed children (Mark 10:13–16). A child can genuinely turn to Him in faith. Salvation does not depend on reaching a certain age or understanding every difficult doctrine. Teachers should explain the gospel clearly, welcome questions, and avoid pressuring children into giving a particular answer.

10. Common misunderstandings and gentle corrections

Misunderstanding: Jesus died because He had done something wrong.

Biblical correction: Jesus was without sin and died for our sins (1 Peter 3:18).

Misunderstanding: God loves good people but dislikes bad people.

Biblical correction: All have sinned, and Christ died for us while we were sinners (Romans 3:23; 5:8).

Misunderstanding: Jesus saves us if we are good enough.

Biblical correction: We are saved by grace through faith, not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Misunderstanding: We earn forgiveness by feeling sorry enough.

Biblical correction: Repentance is important, but forgiveness rests on Christ's work, not the strength of our feelings (Acts 3:19; Ephesians 1:7).

Misunderstanding: God the Father forced an unwilling Jesus to die.

Biblical correction: Jesus willingly laid down His life (John 10:17-18).

Misunderstanding: Jesus stayed dead after the cross.

Biblical correction: God raised Jesus on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Misunderstanding: Becoming a Christian means never making another mistake.

Biblical correction: Believers still need to confess sin and grow in obedience (1 John 1:8-9).

Misunderstanding: The cross guarantees that Christians will never suffer.

Biblical correction: Jesus warned His followers that they would face trouble, while promising His presence and ultimate victory (John 16:33).

One additional misunderstanding deserves special care: children sometimes believe that because Jesus died for sins, they should feel personally responsible for causing His suffering in a way that makes them ashamed of their existence.

We must communicate our shared need for salvation without placing a crushing emotional burden on a child.

The biblical message calls us to recognize our sin, but it also invites us to look to the Savior who willingly came to rescue us.

11. Gospel connection and preparation for the main lesson

Our central passage should be Romans 5:8:

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

This verse is short enough to be considered for the children's memory verse and rich enough to carry the lesson's central message.

It tells us that God's love is demonstrated through something Jesus actually did.

The cross is not merely a symbol. It is the place where Jesus gave Himself for sinners.

When preparing the child facing lesson, lead the children through one connected understanding.

Begin with God's good creation and the relationship He intended for humanity. Explain how sin entered the world and why we cannot repair our separation from God through our own goodness.

Help them see that God did not abandon humanity. Across the Bible, He promised and prepared the way for the Savior.

Then bring them to Jesus.

Explain that Jesus is God the Son, that He lived without sin, and that He willingly gave His life in our place. Let children understand that His death was real and costly without dwelling on frightening physical details.

Explain grace as an undeserved gift, faith as trusting Jesus, and repentance as turning away from sin toward God.

And do not stop at the tomb. Tell the children that Jesus rose again and is alive today.

The final invitation should be clear, warm, and free from emotional pressure. A child who wants to trust Christ should be encouraged to speak with the teacher or another trusted Christian adult, ask questions, and respond sincerely to the gospel.

Never assure a child that repeating particular words automatically saves them. Salvation comes through faith in Christ, not through a formula.

12. Teacher heart preparation

Before teaching this lesson, spend time with Romans 5:6-11.

Notice that Paul describes God's love for us when we were still powerless and sinful. Salvation began with God's mercy, not with our ability to improve ourselves.

That is important for us as teachers, too.

We may stand in front of children who know many Bible verses, children who have never attended Sunday school before, children who struggle to sit still, and children quietly carrying worries we know nothing about.

Every one of them needs Jesus.

And so do we.

Our responsibility is not to make children feel guilty enough to respond or excited enough to repeat a prayer. We have the wonderful privilege of explaining God's Word truthfully and lovingly, trusting that the Holy Spirit can work in their hearts.

Some children may understand the gospel quickly. Others may need to hear it many times, ask difficult questions, and think about what it means.

Be patient with them.

When a child asks a question you cannot answer, it is perfectly acceptable to tell them you will study Scripture and seek a faithful answer. Confidence in God's Word does not require us to pretend we know everything.

Prayer for the teacher

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us when we could never save ourselves. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and rise again. Help me understand Your Word faithfully and explain it with kindness, patience, and clarity. Please guide the children who will hear this lesson. Help them

recognize their need for Jesus without being overwhelmed by fear or shame. Let them see His love, understand His sacrifice, and know that He is alive and able to save. Holy Spirit, work in our hearts and help us trust Jesus more deeply. In His name, amen.

Final teacher preparation emphasis

The greatest danger in teaching this lesson is reducing salvation to either a frightening explanation of punishment or a simple lesson about being kind.

The Bible gives us something much greater than either one.

God is holy. Our sin is real. We cannot save ourselves. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, willingly died for our sins and rose again. Everyone who turns from sin and trusts Him receives forgiveness and new life.

That is what makes the cross matter.

The children should leave remembering not simply how Jesus died, but **why He died, how much God loves them, and why Jesus is the Savior they can trust.**

Research reviewed: The Alliance official Statement of Faith and Fourfold Gospel; biblical passages in Romans, Ephesians, and related New Testament texts. Historical evidence is distinguished from biblical doctrine and scholarly interpretation.