

Jesus Christ, Our Savior

Object lesson:

“The Paper Gospel”

1. Gather the children in a circle to show object lesson on the floor or table.
2. Watch this video to learn how show *The Paper Gospel* Video:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ewi5Ynlh9fg

“Sin Gets Heavy”

1. The weight of our own sin is hard for us to bear, but Jesus bore the sin of the world.
2. What you will do: During class, give each person a book(s), and suggest the book contains all of the sins, the bad things you have done over the years. For small classes, you can give each child more than one book. Then you will demonstrate how heavy sin gets by having them place the books on the outstretched arms of a volunteer. You will compare this to how heavy all of the sins of the world must have been for Jesus to bear on the cross.
3. What you will say: *I want you to imagine that the book I gave you has all of the sins you have committed written in it. Every lie, every time you talked back, every time you grumbled, every time you slammed a door, every time you cheated, and anything else. Some of you may need a bigger book, however let's pretend they are all in there. How long do you think you could hold that book up at arms length? Some day you may want to try, but probably after only a few minutes, it would become quite heavy.*
 - a. I need a strong volunteer? (Have the volunteer come to the front and stretch out his or her arms, similar to how Jesus did while on the cross, only with his or her palms up.)
 - b. Now, one by one, come up and stack your book of sin upon the hands of our volunteer. Keep the sides even as you do. Oh, and volunteer, just yell out "IT'S ENOUGH" when the books of sin get to be too much for you.

- c. *Can you imagine how heavy just the sins in this classroom could be? How about the sins in our church? How about the sins in our neighborhood? Jesus did not bare only some sins. The Bible says, "Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2: 2. Jesus himself was without sin. It was because of our sin that He died on the cross. He died in our place.*

Craft: Hearts on a Cross (Graft films)

1. Take Graft film shaped cross
2. Use markers to draw hearts on the cross

Ask...

- a. How does a cross remind us about God's love?
- b. How can we show our love for Jesus?
- c. Why is a heart a symbol for love?
- d. Now, Take your crosses and stick it somewhere (mirror, window) to remind you of the love Jesus has for you.

Activity: Jesus Is Our Savior

1. This game will help kids see Jesus is our rescuer (Savior) and offers us a lifeline when we're trapped in sin.

Instructions...

- a. Have kids form groups of four, and give one person in each group a jump-rope. Those kids will be the Rescuers.
- b. Say: Often when a person is trapped somewhere and can't get out, rescuers throw the person a lifeline to hold onto while they're being pulled to safety. In this game, the jump-rope will be the lifelines.
- c. Have rescuers stand on one side of the room and other kids wait at the other end of the room until kids are no longer in their groups. Ask everyone except the Rescuers to kneel and close their eyes. Explain that at your signal, those with out lifelines (that's everyone but the rescuers!) will silently raise their hands. Rescuers will speed walk to their group members and rescue them one by one.

- d. To rescue a group member, the Rescuer will tap the person on the shoulder, and help the person stand up and hold the lifeline. Then the Rescuer will lead the rescued person across the room to the safety zone. Kids can open their eyes only when they've reached the safety zone...If you have time, play several rounds. This game is best played in a large room or outdoors. If you're playing inside, make sure all obstacles have been removed from the center of the room.

After playing the game, ask your students...

- What was it like waiting to be rescued?
- How did you feel when you were rescued?
- *Say: Just as people who are trapped need a lifeline, we're all trapped in sin. Jesus is our rescuer, our Savior who throws us the lifeline of salvation.*

Game : Following Jesus

1. This game will help children understand that their actions can let others know they are followers of Jesus.

Instructions...

- a. Have the children stand in a circle.
- b. *Say: the disciples didn't just follow Jesus around; they learned to care about what He cared about.*
- c. In this game, one of you will play the part of "Jesus". The rest of us will be disciples. If "Jesus" claps his hands, we'll all clap our hands. If "Jesus" pats his head, we'll all pat our heads. Sounds easy, right? The hard part is, one of you will be an outsider and won't know who "Jesus" is. You'll have to watch the group and guess which player is "Jesus".
 - Send a volunteer briefly outside the room. Then choose one child to be "Jesus." Bring the "outsider" back into the room and into the middle of the circle. "Jesus" should begin making hand motions that everyone else follows. Some examples of hands motions or actions include reaching for the sky, waving hands in the air, touching toes, and so on. The "outsider" will observe from the center of the circle and try to determine which child is "Jesus."

- The “outsider” will have will have three turns to guess which child is “Jesus.” If all three guesses are incorrect, the adult leader will reveal the identity of “Jesus.” After the identity of “Jesus” has been revealed, choose a new “outsider” and a new “Jesus.”

Activities & Crafts

Jesus Christ, Our Baptizer with the Holy Spirit

Object lesson: Transformed Hearts

1. The concept of the Holy Spirit can be difficult to grasp so use this craft to teach kids how the HS transforms hearts. Explain that everyone sins and sin creates holes in our hearts, but when we know Jesus, the Holy Spirit fills our hearts, and covers sin.

Have kids follow these steps...

- a. See *photo* on usb key “Transformed Hearts Craft”.
- b. Cut brown craft foam into a gingerbread person and write “sin” across the chest.
- c. Cut foam hearts as wide as the chest.
- d. Cut 2-inch x 6-inch strips of red and yellow tissue paper.
- e. Using a hole punch, punch several holes in the heart to create a large hole, that represents “sin”.
- f. Staple each side of the heart to the chest.
- g. Bunch the tissue paper together, pinch the tip, and push it through the hole so the flame bursts through the heart.

Crafts: Holy Spirit Puzzle

1. See the activity sheet
 - a. 35 piece set
 - b. 42 piece set
 - c. 48 piece set
2. Fiery Headband
 - a. Stuff you need: red, orange, and yellow tissue paper, construction paper, stapler or tape. Preparation: Cut construction paper lengthwise into 1-inch sections.

Staple or tape ends of construction paper strips together to form circles that will fit around children's heads. You might have to staple a few sections together to make the circle large enough. Have children tear the tissue paper into small pieces and glue around the headband so the pieces look like flames.

Activity: Filled with the verse

1. You can use this activity to introduce the Bible verse or lesson.
 - a. Place one word from the verse in separate balloons. Let children pop a balloon and when all the little pieces of paper with Bible verse words are popped out of all the balloons, the children will tape or glue the words in order on a poster board with a large balloon tracing on the board. Let the children color the big balloon after the Bible verse has been glued in order.

Activities & Crafts

Jesus Christ, Our Healer

Object lesson: Jesus our Healer

1. What you will do: Use masking tape or yarn to make a straight line on the floor. Select a volunteer from the class to help with the object lesson. Have the books ready for this demonstration.
2. Have the volunteer hold his or her arms straight out to the side, with both palms facing up. Ask the volunteer to walk the length of the line. Once the volunteer has completed the task say, *That was fairly easy wasn't it? Without the burden of sin in our life it is easier to walk the narrow path, but lets see what happens when we introduce the burden of sin.*
3. Once again have the volunteer hold his or her arms straight out to the side, with both palms facing up. This time place one book on the palm of each of the volunteer's hands and ask them to walk the length of the line again, without letting the books fall. Ask the volunteer if it was harder this time? Explain that the books will represent various sins. Have the children call out sins that they may struggle with.

4. Have the volunteer return to the beginning of the line and place additional books on top of the book(s) that are already there. Have the volunteer walk the line again. Continue adding books until it is impossible for the volunteer to complete the task without dropping the books. Explain that every one of us sins and it is impossible for us to walk the narrow path with the burden of sin pressing down on us. How can anyone walk the narrow path, the path God calls us to walk, with the heavy burden of sin?
5. What you will say: *There is good news! Jesus, the only Son of God, came to Earth as a man to ...*

Crafts: Jesus Heals

1. Center 2 **band aids** in the center, like a cross, on the **dry erase page**
2. Have the children trace their hand, heart, something that needs Jesus to heal it.

Activity: Jesus Heals

1. This game will help children know that Jesus wants to heal us.

Instructions...

- a. Divide the children into teams of five or six. Have one child on each team put a **soft ball** (other object) his or her knees. Instruct children to walk a designated distance and back again without dropping the ball. They can't use their hands to hold the ball in place. Remind the children that this is not a race, just a different way of trying to get across the room. If they drop the ball, have them pick it up and put it back between their knees and continue. You can even change the instructions to hopping, skipping with the ball between their knees.
- b. As kids do this, say: *It's harder to walk when you can't move your legs freely. Isn't it? People, just like us, are hurt and need healing, and because we are hurt and broken, Jesus wants Heals us.*
- c. After playing the game, say: *how do you think Jesus feels about our hurt, and brokenness, our needs?*
- d. Say: *Jesus heals us because He cares about us, and all our needs.*

Jesus Christ, Our Soon Coming King

Object lesson: Treasure Hunt

1. Materials: Several **pictures** that relate to your lesson
2. What you will do: Before class obtain pictures that relate to your lesson. You can print pictures at home. You can also find pictures in magazines or hand draw the pictures.
3. Hide these pictures around the room before the children arrive. It's a good idea to count the pictures first, to make sure that all of them are found.
4. What you will say: *Today our lesson is on the topic of _____. Today we will be going on a treasure hunt. I have hidden ____ number of pictures throughout the room, it's your job to find them all. These pictures all relate to our lesson. On the count of three, find the pictures!*
5. Once the children find all the pictures, you can explain how each picture relates to the lesson. You should also mention that the greatest treasure hunt of all is putting God's word into our hearts. This would be the perfect way to transition to scripture reading or memory work.

Craft: Eye on the Sky

1. Materials: Two toilet paper rolls for each student, colored masking or electrical tape, markers
2. What you will say: Do you remember what the angel told the disciples after Jesus went up into heaven? Jesus would come back in the same way He went up. We're supposed to be watching and ready for Jesus to come at any time. Let's make some binoculars to help us keep our eyes on the sky.
3. Procedure: Tape the toilet paper rolls together. Let the children decorate their binoculars with
4. the markers and any other craft supplies you might have.

Activity: Balloon Crown

1. Learn how to make a balloon crown:
 - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9t0h9hQ4PI>
 - b. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXISgPcJR6o>

Other Resources

- <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/puppetskits.htm>
- <http://www.truthforkids.com/craft-directory/#.WC-OcalrJFQ>
- <http://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool.php>
- <https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2013/03/page/2/>