

LUKE | RESCUE | GOOD FRIDAY

Suffer

GOD STORYJesus' Death
*Luke 23:26–56***KEY VERSE**

Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.
Colossians 1:14 (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

- God's overarching story is one of rescue. People have made many mistakes that have caused us to need to be rescued. This series focuses on Jesus, our Rescuer. Take some time to consider what you've been rescued from—and what you've been rescued to!
- Expect more visitors as well as families that do not attend church regularly. Be sure to introduce yourself and take the time to learn everyone's names. You may find it helpful to pair anyone who's new with a friend.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (2 minutes)

Lead into the lesson by discussing difficult things the kids have done for other people and what it means to suffer.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Play a game to review facts about Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host and God Story segments.

My Story

4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Read Luke 23:44–55 and guide the kids to draw what they feel or hear about in the passage.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (8 minutes)

Challenge the group to recall missing sections of Colossians 1:14.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

*Extend as needed and adjust the timing for other activities.



BIG IDEA

Jesus suffered for us.

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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- This is meant to be a casual conversation as the kids arrive. Move on quickly to the Intro Activity so you have enough time for it before the teaching video.

INSTRUCTIONS

- >Welcome everyone—especially any visitors—and gather the kids together.
- Ask:
 - What's the most difficult thing you've ever done for a friend? For a family member? For someone whom you didn't know well?
 - What do you think the word "suffer" means?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus suffered for us.**

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bouncy ball

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone to stand in a large circle.
- Number each of the kids starting at one.
- Let them know that you're going to bounce the ball and call out a number. The person whose number it is should try to catch the ball after the first bounce. If they catch it, you'll ask them a question. They should answer it if they can, then bounce the ball and call out a new number. If they don't know the answer, they can bounce the ball and say the number of someone they think knows the answer.
- Ask the following questions during the game:
 - We celebrated Palm Sunday last week. What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem that day? (Donkey)
 - As Jesus rode by, people put their coats and what else on the ground? (Palm branches)
 - What is today called? (Good Friday)
 - What happened to Jesus on Good Friday?
 - On the night Jesus was betrayed by his friend Judas, he ate dinner with his disciples. We call it the Last...fill in the blank. (Supper)
 - At the Last Supper, Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples. He told them to do this every time they got together to remember him. Today, we call this...fill in the blank. (Communion)
 - Who is our Rescuer? (Jesus!)
 - Jesus died on a...fill in the blank. (Cross)
 - Jesus didn't stay dead. After...fill in the blank... days, he rose again. Jesus is alive! (Three)



BIG IDEA

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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

LEADER TIP

- Note that there is no Life Story in today's video due to the focus on Good Friday.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Jesus' Death, Luke 23:26–56)

My Story

4 | Small Group Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Scrap paper
- Markers

LEADER TIPS

- Show your own Bible to the kids. Briefly explain how you interact with it (e.g., writing in it, highlighting passages, etc.).
- Some kids may express that Good Friday is sad. You can affirm that Jesus suffered—but explain that he did it for us so that we can be close to him forever. So, a sad story quickly becomes a joyful one! It's called "Good Friday" because of the good news that Jesus rescued the whole world from sin.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your small group together.
- Give each person a piece of paper.
- Place the markers where everyone can reach them.
- Encourage the kids to draw how they feel or what they hear as you read from your Bible.
- Slowly read Luke 23:44–55.
- As the kids finish up, emphasize the good news that Jesus did not stay dead. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! Let the group know that we'll talk more about it at Easter.
- Invite everyone to share their pictures with the rest of the group.
- Pray together.



BIG IDEA

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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Key Verse cards
- Wall-safe tape
- Key Verse colouring pages
- Markers

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Tape the Key Verse cards in order on a wall. If there's no space available, place them in order on the floor.

LEADER TIPS

- Romans 6 says that we've been set free from sin!
- Make sure everyone's names are on their pages.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather the kids around the Key Verse cards.
- Lead the group to read aloud Colossians 1:14.
- Discuss:
 - What does "Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free" mean?
 - What has the Son done?
 - What have we been "set free" from?
- Remove a card or two.
- Challenge everyone to fill in the blanks.
- Continue removing cards and filling in the blanks.
- Once you've removed over half of the cards, ask the kids to help you put them back on the wall in the correct order.
- Give each person a Key Verse colouring page.
- If time permits, set out the markers and invite the kids to begin colouring. Otherwise, encourage everyone to take their pages home.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Crafts
- Key Verse cards

LEADER TIPS

- There is not a take-home card for Good Friday.
- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a Key Verse card.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.
- Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.