



Jesus came to show us God's love and set up his kingdom. We see that in his life and can also see it in his death. In Jesus' death, we see an unassuming rescue. Jesus saves us from sin and death. He rescues us from a life of selfishness, loneliness, and sin to an eternal life with God. Jesus came to rescue the lost and be a light in the darkness. He came to save us from sin, show us God's love, and set up his kingdom. We are forgiven, loved, and rescued.

This episode's Bible story is from Luke 22 & 23. The Big Idea is: **Jesus is what Easter's all about.** We may look forward to the Easter Bunny and getting treats, but we don't want to forget what Jesus did out of love for us. Because he was willing to do something really hard, we have something to get really excited about - life in God's family!

Activity 1: What do you remember?

Talk about it:

- What's the most difficult thing you've ever done for a friend? Your brother or sister? Your mom or dad?
- What's the most difficult thing you've ever done for someone you didn't know well?
- What do you think it means to suffer?

Instructions:

- Explain that you are going to give your child a challenge to do and when it's completed, you'll ask them a question.
 - Do 5 jumping jacks: What is today called? (Good Friday)
 - Crab walk to the end of the room and back: What happened to Jesus on Good Friday?
 - Kick as high as you can 3 times: On the night Jesus was betrayed by his friend, Judas, he ate dinner together with his disciples. Fill in the blank: We call that the last _____. (supper)
 - Do 4 push-ups: On the night of the last supper, Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples. He told them to do it every time they got together to remember him. Fill in the blank: Today, we call this _____. (communion)
 - Stretch your fingers as high as you can and then bend down and touch your toes: Fill in the blank: The Key Verse tells us that because of Jesus our _____ have been forgiven. (sins)
 - Reach your arms as wide as you can then give yourself a big hug: Who is our Rescuer? (Jesus!)
 - Do 1 summersault: Fill in the blank: Jesus didn't stay dead. After _____ days, he rose again. He is alive!
 - (If you have space) Do a cartwheel (or redo a previous activity): Fill in the blank: Jesus died on a _____. (cross)
- At the end, say the Big Idea together: **Jesus is what Easter's all about!**

He has saved us from

**the kingdom of
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**He has brought us
into the**

**kingdom of the Son
he loves.**

**Because of what the
Son has done,**

we have been set free.

Because of him,

**all our sins have
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Colossians 1:13-14**

Activity 2: Memory Verse Activity “He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.” Colossians 1:13-14 (NIRV)

Supplies: (provided) Key Verse cards, (from home, optional) Wall-safe tape

Before the Activity: Tape the Key Verse cards in order onto a wall. If there’s no wall space available, place them in order on the floor.

Parent Tip: Romans 6 tells us that we’ve been set free from sin. This is a good time to talk about what sin is and how it affects our relationship with God and others.

Instructions:

- Show your child the Key Verse cards and read them together a couple of times.
- Remove a card or two, challenging your child to fill in the blanks from memory.
- Discuss:
 - What is sin? (Sin is disobeying God but even more than that, it keeps us apart from God)
 - What are ways that we sin? (try and have them think of examples in their own life)
 - What does this mean: “Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free”? (Jesus us died to free us from the consequences of sin - being separated from God, and from the effects of sin - now we can become more like Jesus!)
 - What has the Son done? (He took our punishment for sin with him on the cross)
 - What have we been “set free” from? (from a life being slaves to sin)
 - Talk about how asking Jesus to rescue us from sin and to forgive us is how we become a part of God’s family.
- Continue removing Key Verse cards. Once you’ve removed over half of the cards, ask your child to help you place them back in the correct order.

Activity 3: What Jesus did for us

Supplies: (from home) Bible or Bible app, Scrap paper, Markers/Pencil Crayons

Parent Tips: Encouraging your child to use their imagination can be very meaningful. Remind them that they can express how they feel or what they think about the story in their own way.

Your child may express that the passage from Luke is sad. You can affirm that it’s sad 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!

Instructions:

- Give your child the paper and markers.
- Read Luke 23:44-55 from your Bible slowly.
- After reading the text, say, “The good news is that Jesus didn’t stay dead. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. That is the amazing story of Easter!”
- Ask your child to draw a picture, write a poem or prayer, or something else that expresses how they feel or what they think about when they hear that story.

- Invite your child to tell you what their picture is and what it means to them. Put it up somewhere you can see it this weekend.

Activity 4: Pray together

Parent Tip: With children, it may help them pray using their imagination. You can ask them to picture the person they are praying for and then picture Jesus touching their head as they pray for them. Modeling prayer can be just as important as having your child pray. It's ok if they don't pray a long prayer or say much, just learning to talk with God is important.

- Say, today we've been hearing about how Jesus died for us so we can be rescued from sin and forgiven for our sin. How does that make you feel?
- What do you think you can do in response to Jesus?
- Is there anything you need to ask Jesus to forgive you for right now? (Let your child know they can tell you about it or can pray to Jesus in their hearts about it quietly)
- Take time to pray together, asking for forgiveness and thanking Jesus for what he has done for us.
- Sample Prayer: "Dear Jesus, I'm sorry for _____, please forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross so I can be forgiven and a part of your family. I want to follow you. Please help me to do that. I love you. Amen."