

Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Cycle A

Focus: May the Cross remind us that Jesus gave all.

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about forgiveness and how Jesus wants us to use our words or tell a parent when a person hurts us.*

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Loving God, we have come together to thank you for your great goodness, to beg you to forgive the things we have done wrong, to ask your help to live as we should. Remind us always that Jesus is with us, joining his prayers with ours. So it is that we pray this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Song/Movement (can hand out attendance stickers at this time)

“There is Power in the Name of Jesus” track 19 from America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs
Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

There is _____ in the name of Jesus. (3x)

There is _____ in that wonderful name.

Blank is: Power, Glory, Healing, Salvation.

There is salvation in that wonderful name. (2 extra times) Fades out.

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son.”

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: What do you think this means?

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Read : “The Story of the Cross, The Stations of the Cross for Children” (in cabinet)

This book can be a little long; but it does show why The Cross is such an important symbol for Christians all over the world. You might want to exclude the prayers as you are reading to ensure you have enough time to finish the story.

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Reflecting on the Reading: This is a hard lesson for little children to hear but it helps the children understand the sacrifice that Jesus made for all. It gives them a new dimension of Jesus and will hopefully help them to come to love him even more. Explain that Jesus died for us because he loves us so much.

Gospel Activity

See the Filler Options Sheet if you need more activities.

Coloring Sheet- “For God so loved the World”

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: “We Believe!”)

Ask: *Do we believe in God, gave his only Son to save the people of the world?*

Do we believe in Jesus, who died for us and loves us so much?

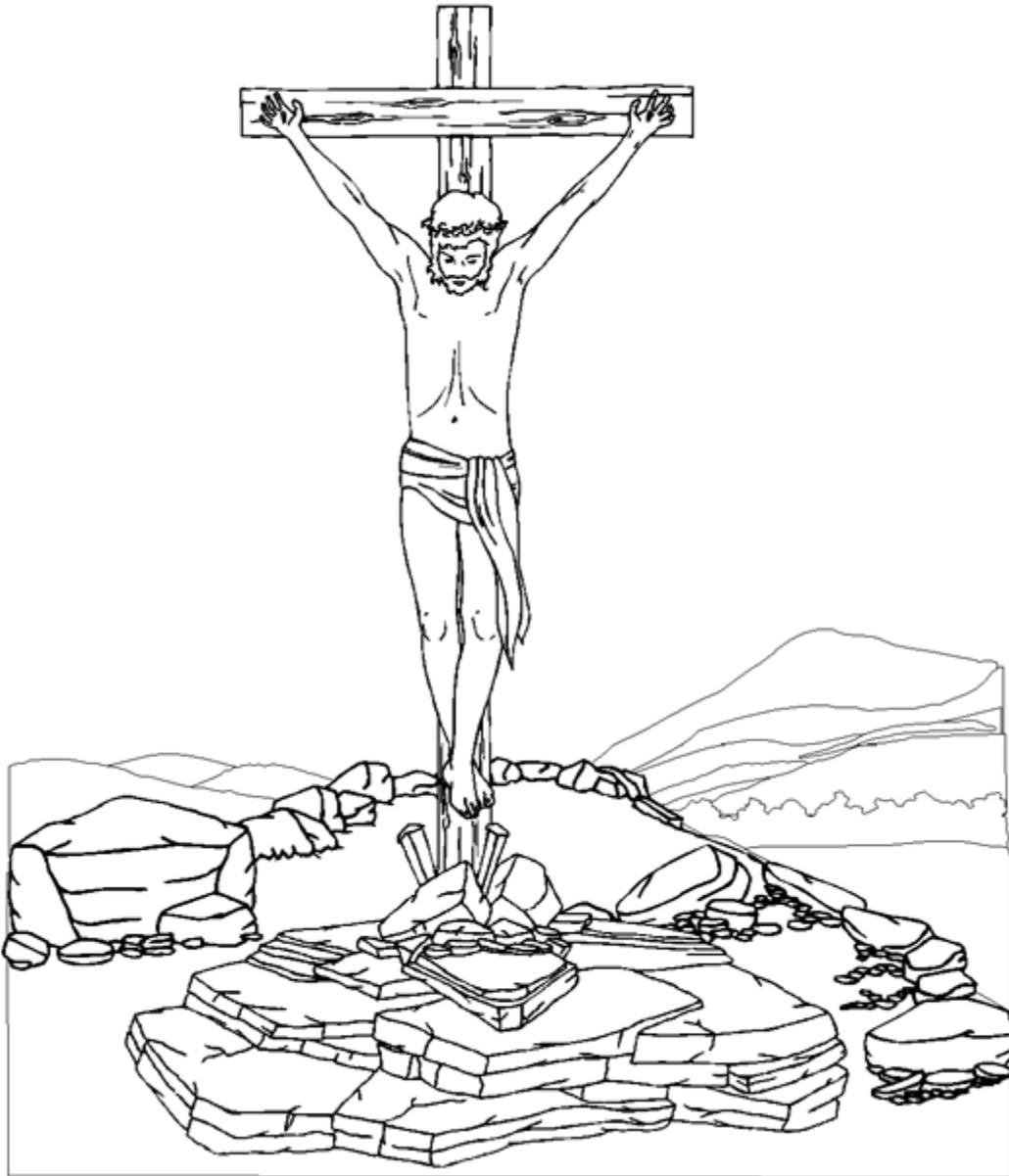
Do we believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to remember that Jesus is always with us?

Sending Forth

Say: *Let’s try to remember that Jesus is always with us. When we are happy, sad, mad or afraid. Jesus will take care of us.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play “Amazing Grace” track 24 from America’s 25 Favorite... while children put away any materials and line up. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that he who believes in him might not perish.

Sermons4Kids.com