

# WE WERE THERE

- **Big Idea** *When Jesus died on the cross, Christians were miraculously present in Him.*  
**Bible Passage** *John 18:1–20:18; Romans 6:1-6*

## Lesson Summary

Though the pain of the cross was Jesus' alone to endure, the benefits were widespread because God miraculously placed Christians in Him.

Just as Levi was within his forefather Abraham when Abraham made sacrifices to Melchizedek the Priest, so believers were within Jesus when He became the greatest of all sacrifices (Hebrews 7:1-17, especially verse 10). The Holy Spirit places believers into the body of Christ, and our union with Him brings the gracious benefits of God's forgiveness, credited to us in Christ.

## Teacher Devotional

*Father, the Gospel of Your redemption of me is a mystery higher than I can attain. Yet, by Your Spirit, You impart wisdom and understanding. Open my eyes to see the wonders of Easter and the glory of Your salvation in Jesus Christ Your Son.*

*And may the overflow of what You show me touch the hearts of my students as we celebrate the glory of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Amen.*

## Make Disciples

**Teacher—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.**

### Opening Prayer

Pray that each student would grasp the significance of this great verse and glory in the fact that Jesus completed all there was to do in redeeming people from the clutches of sin. Ask that God would help each understand the fullness of the words, "It is finished!"

Pray that no student would walk away from the gift of God's love or attempt to do for themselves what Jesus has so effectively already done.

### Key Verse

**Topic:** We Were There

**Reference:** *John 19:30*

**Memorization Activity:** Allow each student to do an interpretive reading of the memory verse. Challenge them to verbally express the passage with emotion fitting the content. Intonation, intensity, volume, and pauses all add to a richer communication of these precious words.



## DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

### KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • Their sins put Jesus on the cross.
- N** • As believers, Jesus' death was their death to sin.
- O** • They did not redeem themselves.
- W** • Their presence at the crucifixion brought a miraculous freedom from sin.
- Christ's resurrection was their resurrection to a new life.

### CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Sorrowful that their sin sent Jesus to the cross.
- E** • Relieved that the cross of Christ solved their sin problem.
- E** • Exuberant to be joined with Jesus in a new life.

**L**

### CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Confess to their part in the crucifixion of Jesus.
- O** • Proclaim their newness of life in Jesus.
- Praise God for solving the biggest problem anyone ever had.
- Memorize John 19:30.

## Disciple Guide—page 2

Discuss the questions as a group before allowing the kids to write their own answers

## Spark Interest

**Teacher—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.**

### Carried On (10-15 minutes)

This object lesson explains the way believers were present at Christ's crucifixion. **Supplies:** carry-on-sized suitcase and another bag with various travel accessories to place in it

Stand before your class with the empty suitcase and say, **I'm making a trip. The airline says that I may bring one carry-on bag at no extra charge. What should I bring with me?**

Allow students to brainstorm ideas and affirm their responses. If they mention an item you have brought, take it out of the bag and place it in the suitcase. Items you might bring along could include a toothbrush, comb, hair brush, reading material, change of clothes, face towel, travel pillow, etc.

After you have identified most of your travel items and placed them in your suitcase, say, **Maybe I should leave my comb behind because it might cost too much to bring along. What do you think?**

Your students should then refute the idea because whatever you put in the suitcase will not cost any more. The price of your ticket includes the right to bring along a carry-on piece of luggage. The price has been paid and the suitcase is approved.

**This is like the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. He went through the trial of the cross and God miraculously put all who believe into Him. What Jesus experienced, we experienced. When Jesus died, believers died in Him. When he arose from the dead, we arose from the dead in Him. Just as the comb can ride in the suitcase wherever I fly, so believers can ride inside of Jesus and go where He goes.**

### Disciple Guide—page 1

Review the incredible events of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## Explore Scripture

**Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include exercises from the student Disciple Guides.**

### John 18-20

Invite students to review (or discover!) the sufferings of Christ by reading these passages from the Gospel of John. Have a different student read each passage. After each passage, have the class read the summary statement and repeat the words, "We were there in Him!" in unison.

# WE WERE THERE

John 18:1—20:18, Galatians 2:20

1

**1. John 18:1-3**

Jesus was betrayed by Judas.

**2. John 18:15-17; 18:25-27**

Jesus was denied by Peter three times.

**12. John 20:11-16, 19-21, 26-29**

Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to many.

**11. John 19:34**

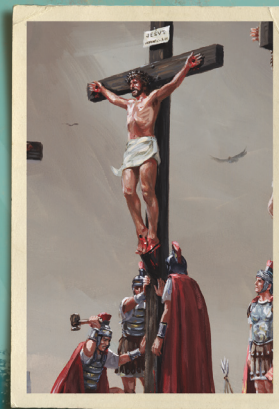
Jesus' side was pierced with a soldier's spear.

**10. John 19:30**

Jesus finished His work, gave up His Spirit, and died.

**9. John 19:23-24**

Jesus was crucified and His clothes were divided among the soldiers.



**3. John 18:19-23**

Jesus was struck in the face by an official.

**4. John 18:37**

Jesus made the Good Confession.

**5. John 19:1**

Jesus was whipped and scourged at Pilate's instructions.

**6. John 19:1-2**

Jesus was mocked and beaten by the soldiers.

**8. John 19:16**

Jesus was handed over by Pilate to be crucified.

**7. John 19:6**

Jesus heard the Jews shouting "Crucify Him!"

>>> Which person in John 18:21 do you most identify with? Why?

**(answers will vary)**



John 18:1-3: Jesus was betrayed by Judas. *We were there in Him!*

John 18:12-13: Jesus was bound by Roman soldiers. *We were there in Him!*

John 18:19-23: Jesus was struck in the face by an official. *We were there in Him!*

John 18:15-17, 18:25-27: Jesus was denied by Peter three times. *We were there in Him!*

John 18:37: Jesus made the Good Confession. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:1: Jesus was whipped and scourged at Pilate's instructions. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:1-2: Jesus was mocked and beaten by soldiers. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:6: Jesus heard the Jews shouting "Crucify Him!" *We were there in Him!*

John 19:15: Jesus was denied by the Jews. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:16: Jesus was handed over by Pilate to be crucified. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:23-24: Jesus was crucified and His clothes were divided among the soldiers. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:25-27: Jesus cared for His mother. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:28-29: Jesus was thirsty. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:30: Jesus finished His work and gave up His Spirit. *We were there in Him!*

John 19:34: Jesus' side was pierced with a soldier's spear. *We were there in Him!*

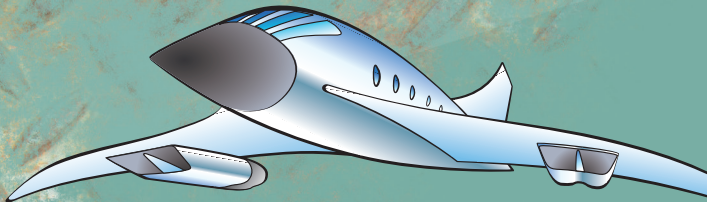
John 19:38-41: Jesus was placed in a tomb by Nicodemus and Joseph. *We were there in Him!*

John 20:11-16; 19-21; 26-29: Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to many. *We were there in Him!*

## There in Him

2

>> Galatians 2:20 says that, as believers, we were "crucified with Christ." Miraculously, we were there in Him when He died. That means that we died to sin, but it doesn't mean we saved ourselves...Jesus did it all!



>> How is our crucifixion with Christ comparable to a pilot and a passenger on an airliner?

**(answers will vary)**

Heart Beat

**It was for me!**

>>> Jesus died for you! Express what it means to you.

**(answers will vary)**

>>> Jesus rose for you! Express what it means to you.

**(answers will vary)**

## Inspire Action

**Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.**

### Payment (10-15 minutes)

*This craft activity highlights forgiveness.* **Supplies:** 8 1/2 x 11" paper with the outline of a person for each child; 9 x 12" envelope with an outline of a person on the outside, with "Jesus" written on the outline

Supply each student with a paper with the outline of a person stenciled on it. Ask them each to cut out a figure for themselves. Explain that these paper persons represent them. Tell them that today is a day to receive and to celebrate forgiveness through Jesus. Then, ask the students to write down sins that they have committed—great or small—for which they would like to be forgiven in Jesus' name. After they have had an opportunity to write what is on their hearts, allow students to place their "paper representatives" in the envelope with the outline of Jesus on it. Seal the envelope.

(You may strengthen the visual illustration by nailing the envelope onto a fabricated wooden cross or onto a cross sketched onto a wooden board. Be sure you effectively destroy the envelope and all contents within. A paper shredder or even a careful and complete incineration by fire would be appropriate!)

With great assurance, explain that all who believe are put into Christ. His death has become their death. His payment for sin has become payment for our sins. And His resurrection to a new life has become our resurrection to a new life!

"Jesus paid a debt He didn't owe because we had a debt we couldn't pay."

### Closing Prayer

God, you are wonderfully gracious and loving. Thank you ever so much for surrendering Your very own and only Son to the cross for us. We love You and worship You in celebration of Your sacrifice for us! Fill our hearts with a zealous commitment to You. Grant us each the enduring joy of forgiveness and the peace of fellowship with You! In Jesus' name, amen.

### DISCIPLESHIP TIP

Recognize that each of your students is on a spiritual journey and that journey is very personal. Pray for wisdom and discernment from God to understand where your students are in the journey, and for sensitivity in how to play an encouraging role in each of their lives, never forcing anything, but working with God in His time.

## Additional Activities

### Easter Poem (15-25 minutes)

Have your students write a poem about Easter with one of the following titles as a prompt:

Easter, My Great Day    His Death, My Life  
Jesus, My Savior        Resurrection Power

Or have your kids write their own title and create a poem from it.

### Easter Reenactment (20-60 minutes)

Reenact the Easter story found in the Gospels (or just one Gospel) beginning with the Last Supper through the betrayal, the trials, the steps to the cross, the crucifixion, the burial, the resurrection, and Jesus' appearances to the disciples.

Choose a student to play Christ. Other roles can include Judas, Herod, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, Peter, John, the soldiers, the other disciples, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, etc. You may wish to provide a hammer and piece of heavy metal for making the sound effects of the nails being driven into the cross. The need for additional props should be minimal.

### Verse Hunt (10-15 minutes)

Using the Bible references from the first page of the student book, hide verses throughout the room that your students can find. Have them report each discovery by reading the reference aloud to the class. The hunt is over when all verses are found. You may wish to reward the one who discovers the most verses, or you may simply wish to treat all students to an Easter snack.

### SUPPLIES

#### General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides  
Pencils, markers, crayons  
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

#### Make Disciples

None

#### Spark Interest

•CARRIED ON: carry-on bag

#### Explore Scripture

None

#### Inspire Action

•PAYMENT: paper, envelope





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