



## R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

<b>LESSON TITLE</b> The significance of salvation - Easter workshop	<b>LEARNING STAGE UKS2</b>	<b>WST TEACHER/DATE</b> Mrs Bastable Mrs Jordan Mrs Moreton
<b>AIM:</b> To know what Christians believe Jesus did to save human beings.  <b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b> To explore the significance for Christians of Jesus' death on the cross.	<b>MAIN AREA/S OF LEARNING</b> (Herts R.E. Syllabus 2017-22) Sources of wisdom Beliefs and practices <b>Other AOL covered:</b> Justice and fairness Identity and belonging Symbols and actions Ultimate questions	<b>LESSON RESOURCES</b> <b>WST will bring:</b> 5 sets of filled Easter Story eggs Powerpoint presentation Design a T-shirt worksheet to photocopy Post-it notes <a href="http://request.org.uk/jesus/jesus-importance-today/2013/10/11/why-did-jesus-die/">http://request.org.uk/jesus/jesus-importance-today/2013/10/11/why-did-jesus-die/</a>  <b>School to provide:</b> OHP with sound (suitable for USB) Felt pens/colouring pencils

### Introduction

Today we are going to think about why Jesus' death and resurrection is so important to Christians and so central to the Christian faith.

### Activity 1

Show PP slide of some famous people and give pupils the opportunity to discuss, in pairs, who they are and what, if anything they are or will be remembered for in the future. Briefly discuss as a class. Jesus lived over two thousand years ago and yet today he is still remembered, talked about and followed all over the world by more than 2 billion people (see [www.reference.com](http://www.reference.com)). What makes a person memorable? What is Jesus remembered for? What do you know about him? Share ideas as a class.

At Easter, Christians remember and celebrate Jesus dying on the cross and coming back to life. His death and resurrection are central to the Christian faith. Christians believe that God made the world and the people and that he wanted people to be friends with him. But people made choices that made it impossible for people to be friends with God. The Bible teaches that Jesus came into the world to help people be friends with God again. He told people that God loves everyone, he taught them how to live for God and how to treat each other. His death on the cross was his ultimate sacrifice so that people can be forgiven for the wrong things they have done.

### Activity 2

Re-cap the events of the Easter story, using filled Easter eggs (one set per group of 6 (max) pupils) to promote discussion. The eggs contain clues to important events that took place during Holy Week. (Eggs contain palm leaf; 30p in silver coins; a small piece of bread/cracker; a nail and a toy soldier; a stone. One egg is empty. Challenge pupils to identify the parts of the story that the contents relate to and, if time, put into chronological order.

With input from pupils, summarise the Easter story, using the egg contents and supporting PP images from 'The Miracle Maker':

- Palm leaf – Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday
- 30p in silver coins – Judas agrees to betray Jesus
- a small piece of bread/cracker – Jesus shares the Last Supper
- a nail and a toy soldier – Jesus is arrested and crucified
- a stone – Jesus is laid to rest in a sealed tomb
- empty egg – the resurrection - Jesus' friends discover the empty tomb

### **Activity 3**

Explore why Jesus died on the cross. Use slides and/or visuals to explain Christian understanding of original sin and free will in a simple way – God is perfect, made the world and people perfect – but people messed up! God wanted to create a way for people to be friends with him again. If they recognise their mistakes and ask God for forgiveness, all the things they do wrong (sins) can be put on to Jesus, who took them all with him to the cross.

To further illustrate and clarify, watch video from RE:quest website:

<http://request.org.uk/jesus/jesus-importance-today/2013/10/11/why-did-jesus-die/>

**Independent activity** With talking partners, pupils discuss:

- the key message of the film
- examples of sins
- any questions that they have

### **Activity 4**

Think more deeply about the idea of sin. Simply put, sins are the wrong things we think, say and do. We all know (hopefully!) that lying, murdering and stealing are wrong and would be called sins. But what sort of things might we do on a daily basis that could be regarded as sinful and upsetting to God?

Hand out Post-it notes. Each child writes an example of a sin on a post-it note. It could (but doesn't have to) be something you have thought/said/done, or have experienced other people saying/doing. Invite children to stick their post-its on to a classroom board or flip chart in the shape of a cross. Ask the pupils to suggest reasons why we are using the shape of a cross. Christians believe that when they confess (admit) their sins to God and they are sorry for what they have done, God will forgive them, because of Jesus dying on the cross.

### **Activity 5**

Design a t-shirt that a Christian could wear, with words and/or symbols that convey something about the Easter message of salvation and forgiveness. Come up with some examples of powerful words and symbols that might be appropriate – show examples (PP slides) and discuss images used e.g. cross (why is it empty?), heart, use of contemporary images like Apple logo.

Briefly discuss layout and choice of fonts – the t-shirt needs to be eye-catching, and its message understood in a moment.

### **Extension/enrichment activities**

Write an acrostic poem using one of the following words: Easter, Forgiveness, salvation OR write an Easter poem in the shape of a cross.

## **Plenary**

Why is the death of Jesus so significant to Christians? Christians believe that if they accept that Jesus died on the cross for their sins, and they say sorry to God, he promises to forgive them and they can be friends with him forever – even after their life on earth comes to an end.

## **Deeper Questions – Some possible follow up/class discussion suggestions**

If God made the world, why isn't everything perfect?

What is meant by a soul?

Is heaven the same for all religions?

## **Class teacher's notes**

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit  
[www.watfordschoolstrust.org](http://www.watfordschoolstrust.org) or email [info@watfordschoolstrust.org](mailto:info@watfordschoolstrust.org)

