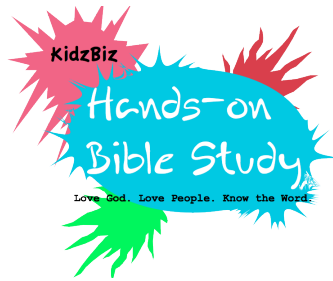


The logo features a central blue starburst shape containing the text 'Hands-on Bible Study'. To the left is a pink starburst with 'KidzBiz' written on it. To the right is a red starburst. Below the blue shape is a green starburst. The background is white.

KidzBiz

**Hands-on
Bible Study**

Love God. Love People. Know the Word.



Easter

Overview:

Easter is a time to reflect and remember the suffering, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ. This month we will get an up-close view of Jesus' work on the cross and what that means for us today.

Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of the purpose in the suffering of Jesus.
- To learn the Biblical response to the work of Jesus on the cross.
- To discover the example of Jesus in obedience to the Father.
- To accept the mission of Christ to share the gospel and watch for his return.

Memory Verse:

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. – Philippians 2:8

Passage:

- Matthew 26:36-28:20

Bottom Line:

“Jesus crushed sin and death on the cross.”

Character Virtue: Surrender

Bible Skills:

- Locate the New Testament
- Find Philippians 2:1-11
- Recite Philippians 2:5-11
- Locate the Passion account in any Gospel

Opening Discussion Questions:

- What is the worst day you have ever had?
- Has there ever been a time when someone else took the blame for something for you? Or blamed you for something that you did not do? How did you feel?

Story:

The Gospel of Matthew shares with us the life, ministry, and the suffering and death of Jesus. Jesus lived a life that was completely without sin and he was sent to the earth to save God's people by providing a way for them to be reconciled to God. God's plan for Jesus was his suffering, death, and resurrection. Today we celebrate the suffering, death, and resurrection on Easter.

Read Matthew 26:36-39

The night that Jesus was betrayed he shared a meal with his disciples. Afterwards they left to go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus separated from his friends to go and pray alone.

Jesus prayed that his Father would remove the pain and suffering that was to come but he said that he would do the will of the Father no matter what.

While Jesus prayed he actually sweat blood because he knew the pain that was to come. While he prayed and anguished his disciples and closest friends slept.

Read Matthew 26:47 and 69-75

Jesus finished praying and found his disciples sleeping. At that time he heard soldiers coming for him.

His follower, Judas, led the soldiers to find Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus to the Jewish leaders for a trial. While they were questioning Jesus, people asking if he was a friend of Jesus approached his follower Peter. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times and was so upset with himself that he cried.

Read Matthew 27:35-44

Soldiers whipped Jesus and had a crown of thorns placed on his head. He was forced to carry his own cross to the place where he was to be crucified.

Jesus was put on a cross using nails that were hammered through his hands and feet. The people near him mocked him and the Jewish leaders ridiculed him. The people around him watched him die like he was put on display for a show.

Through all of this Jesus never replied with any remarks of anger. Jesus actually forgave the people that killed him.

Read Matthew 28:2-6, 18-20

The followers of Jesus ran away because they were scared but when some of them returned to Jesus' grave they found the tomb empty and an angel that told them Jesus had risen from the dead.

Jesus appeared to his followers and told them that the story is not over, it has actually only begun. He told them to share the news of his suffering, death, and resurrection with all the people of the world.

He told them that he would be with them always and would return one day to make the world right once and for all.

Jesus' Obedience

Objective: To understand that Jesus obeyed the Father in the most difficult task and set a pattern for us to obey God in tough times as well.

Object: Origami: Different colors of paper and patterns for the kids to choose from.

Lesson: This lesson will seek to teach kids that they have a pattern to follow for obedience of God in Jesus Christ.

Opening: Allow kids to choose a color paper and hand out a pattern of origami (there are a few to choose from but all the kids need to do the same one, so you could take a short vote to decide).

Next, Take kids step by step through the steps of the origami.

Next, pause throughout and point out the importance of following each step closely so that the end result will be as it should be.

Next, after you have finished making the origami, allow kids to play with their new creation.

Finally, take a second to discuss how hard the task would have been without instructions and someone to guide them through the steps by providing a pattern.

Discussion: Have kids put their origami down in front of them.

Ask one of the kids to share a command from God that they find hard to obey (lying, gossiping, loving our enemies, etc.). You may need to give guidance or present a few for them to choose from. Allow them to write these struggles on their origami.

Share with the kids your greatest struggle and commit to pray for each other and remember each other's struggles.

Closing: Gather in a circle and take turns praying. Ask kids to specifically remember their own struggle in their prayer.

Kids take the origami home with them to remind them of their struggle and the need to pray. Challenge the kids to read the passion account (Matthew 26:36-28:20) at home at least 1 time this week. Agree to do the same and keep kids posted on your progress through this task.

Jesus' Suffering

Objective: To understand that Jesus suffered physically and was betrayed by his friends.

Object: Nail Necklace: Nails (without a point), thin twine, colored twine, and glue.

Lesson: This lesson will seek to teach that Jesus' suffering and betrayal was a part of God's plan for our salvation.

Opening: Prior to class glue two nails together to form one larger piece. Each child will need two sets of glued nails. Have kids attach the two cross pieces together with the thin twine (metal twin is recommended).

Next, attach the colored twine to the nails in a way that will keep them secure. Leaving some space in the metal twine may help in this part.

Have kids put the necklace on. Ask the kids if they knew anyone in their family that wears a cross necklace. Share with the kids the importance of remembering what Jesus did for us by suffering.

Discussion: Ask the kids if there is anyone in the group that would like to pray and ask God to take away their sins and give them Jesus' cleanness. Lead those that would like to pray in a prayer of surrender, simply saying, "God I know I have sin and I trust that Jesus has made a way for me to have forgiveness, I commit my life to follow Jesus and surrender to his teaching."

Tell them about the first time you prayed for forgiveness and about how you still sin and always have to remember to tell God that you are sorry.

Closing: Gather in a circle and take turns praying. Go around the circle allowing each child the opportunity to pray.

Kids take the necklace home with them to remind them of their struggle and the need to pray. Challenge the kids to read the passion account (Matthew 26:36-28:20) at home at least 1 time this week. Agree to do the same and keep kids posted on your progress through this task.

Jesus' Death on the Cross

Objective: To understand that the death of Jesus on a cross was according to the plan of God to save his people by crushing sin and death.

Object: Card stock in varying colors, scissors, and cross pattern.

Lesson: This lesson will seek to teach kids what was accomplished in Jesus' death on the cross.

Opening: Hand out the card stock, scissors, and have the kids cut out the cross. Before completely cutting the perforated line the kids can write something that they would like to confess on the cross.

Next, cut the perforated line and put the two pieces together to form a cross that will stand up. Discuss the meaning of the cross for Christians and why we see it so often around churches or being worn by Christians.

Tell the kids that the power of the cross is in what Jesus did there. He crushed sin and death. He took our sin and gave to us his cleanness (righteousness) so that we can be friends with God once more. In this way, he took one of the worst symbols of his time and made it into a wonderful expression of God's love.

Discussion: Ask the kids if there is anyone in the group that would like to pray and ask God to take away their sins and give them Jesus' cleanness. Lead those that would like to pray in a prayer of surrender, simply saying, "God I know I have sin and I trust that Jesus has made a way for me to have forgiveness, I commit my life to follow Jesus and surrender to his teaching."

Tell them about the first time you prayed for forgiveness and about how you still sin and always have to remember to tell God that you are sorry.

Closing: Gather in a circle and take turns praying. Go around the circle allowing each child the opportunity to pray.

Kids take the cross home with them to remind them of their struggle and the need to pray. Challenge the kids to read the passion account (Matthew 26:36-28:20) at home at least 1 time this week. Agree to do the same and keep kids posted on your progress through this task.

Jesus' Resurrection

Objective: To understand that Jesus is alive today and will return for his people one day.

Object: Two tongue depressors, markers, and a rubber band.

Lesson: This lesson will seek to teach kids that Jesus is alive because God raised him from the dead. We look for him to return for his people and make the world right.

Opening: Hand out two tongue depressors and one rubber band to each child.

Next, have the kids write on the tongue depressors one thing that will happen when Jesus returns (no more pain, crying, sin, death, fighting, etc.).

Next, attach the two tongue depressors together by holding them in a "V" formation and wrapping the rubber band around and between the depressors.

If the boomerang is thrown at the right angle it will return back to the one that threw it.

We may not have the greatest confidence in the boomerang that we just made but we can have absolute that Jesus will return for us because his resurrection displays his power over death and his desire to show his love for his people.

Jesus will not only return but he has also sent us out (the Bible literally reads "Cast us out" or "throw us out"). Like this boomerang we are launched into the world around us to share the message of Jesus with others.

Discussion: Tell the kids about something that you wish were different about the world (war, sickness, poverty, etc.). Ask the kids what they wish were different. Commit to pray for those that are most affected by a world that is full of sin and death.

Share with the kids the person that told you about Jesus Christ for the first time and why you are so grateful for them being willing to share.

Ask the kids to share one person that they would like to invite to church this week and agree with them to invite one person, as well.

Closing: Gather in a circle and take turns praying. Go around the circle allowing each child the opportunity to pray.

Kids take the boomerang home with them to remind them of their struggle and the need to pray. Challenge the kids to read the passion account (Matthew 26:36-28:20) at home at least 1 time this week. Agree to do the same and keep kids posted on your progress through this task.

Story Telling:

One skill that we can all improve is our ability to tell a story. This is a skill that our ancient fathers had naturally come to them but that we have lost. I am listing four possible storytelling methods to connect with this passage.

Sounds:

As you read the story think of sounds that may be heard by the people within it. What would the Garden of Gethsemane sound like? What about the soldiers? What did Peter sound like denying or the rooster crowing? How about hammers striking a nail?

Objects:

There are many connecting objects to this story like a large rock in the garden, olive plants or flowers. There are swords of the soldiers or coins that Judas was paid. There are nails and small stones, as well. Perhaps even the cloth that wrapped around Jesus.

Actions:

As you progress through each passage of this story you may want to use hand signs to remember each portion like praying hands for the garden or heads laying on hands for his disciples sleeping (Hey why not both). Also, hiding faces for betrayal or rubbing eyes to picture crying. You could make a cross with your fingers or make like a hammer hitting a nail. A good one for the last section could be holding up the index finger for one (symbolizing "one day"). You get the picture, we can be really creative with these and allow the kids to help.

Refrain:

This one takes some fore thought but coming up with a little refrain can help make the story stick. Imagine the disciples singing "Nighty, night I must sleep. All of this praying is just too deep" or the mockers at the cross saying, "Jesus, Jesus is just a man. He is not a part of God's big plan." Or Peter saying, "I do not know this Jesus man. I do not know him, so just scram." Anyway, the point is to imaging refrains that you could get certain kids in the group to repeat as you tell the story.

Bible Skills:

We have to plan ahead if we are going to incorporate Bible Skills into the group. Have rewards for successful completion of the skills. For the younger ages the tasks can be simpler. For the older we can challenge them with all of the skills. Make time at the end of each group meeting, depending on age, to review these skills.

Bottom Line:

The bottom line is the point that we want kids to walk away with after the month is up. Review the bottom line at the beginning of the lesson, use it to make transitions, and review at the end of the lesson.

Week	Amanda	Kinisha	Kim	Sarah
1	K	5th	1st and 2nd	3rd and 4th
2	3rd and 4th	K	5th	1st and 2nd
3	1st and 2nd	3rd and 4th	K	5th
4	5th	1st and 2nd	3rd and 4th	K