

WEEK 4

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God hears our cries.

BIBLE

Jesus Dies on the Cross: Luke 23:32–49

Whether it's a rocket car powered by soda and mints or a tornado in a water bottle, there's so much in our world that can fill us with awe. The world of STEM is full of things that look like little miracles, but they're nothing compared to the miracles God can perform. In this four-week series, kids will take a look at some of the miracles that Jesus performed during his ministry. Through stories showing the power of Jesus, they'll no doubt go, Wow! Jesus **has the power to heal, to calm our fears, to provide, and to save.**

Easter is almost here! I can almost see that early morning Easter sunrise sending sunlight rays of hope into the darkness. Before we head off into that *glow-rious* celebration, we must remember the deepest darkness that Jesus had to go through for you and me and how the light of his love never flickered out.

POLL | Things That Make Us Cry

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the following prompts and make your best crying face if it is something that makes you cry.*
- I know a lot of us might not want to admit this, but we all cry sometimes. Sometimes it's because we're sad or frustrated, and other times it's because we were laughing so hard that it made us cry. Sometimes we even try not to cry, even though we really want to.
- **Which of these things might make you want to cry?**
 - **You watch a sad scene in a movie.**
 - **You have to move away to a new town.**
 - **You walked into the kitchen while someone was chopping onions.**
 - **Your best friend won't talk to you anymore.**
 - **You have to get a shot at the doctor's office.**
 - **You lost a pet.**
 - **Your friend lost a pet.**
 - **You got in trouble because you made a big mistake.**
 - **You got in trouble for no reason.**
- Today's Bible story was about a time when Jesus got in trouble for no reason . . . well, there was a very good reason he had to suffer, but it wasn't because he did anything wrong. It was so awful that even Jesus cried out.

BIBLE STORY | Watch the Bible Story from the online lesson from **Luke 23:32-49.**

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Who cried out to Jesus things like, "Save yourself if you're really the king?"** *Soldiers, rulers, people watching.*

- **Who cried out to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom?"** *One of the criminals beside Jesus*
- **Who cried out to God, "Into your hands I commit my spirit?"** *Jesus*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **When are times that you feel sad, worried, or any other big emotion?**
 - **What are some words you can use to cry out to God when you are feeling these things?**
 - **How do you think crying out to God can help when things are tough?**

BIG IDEA | God hears our cries.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 31:9–16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** **Psalm 31:9-16**
- The first half of this scripture talks about being sad, feeling alone, and being in physical pain. We all have felt these emotions before. Even Jesus felt these emotions. In fact, they are so common there's a word for it: lament.
- It's a kind of prayer or truth-telling that admits we are sad and we need God. Jesus lamented, old prophets wrote laments, and even today we can lament when we wish a situation is better than it actually is.
- **Read verse 14 again.** The writer of this psalm is crying out to God. Why? Because God is listening. **God hears our cries.**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for sending us Jesus, even though that meant letting your own son go through incomparable pain, suffering, and sadness. Because of this, we know you understand the tough things we experience, too. Thank you for hearing us when we cry out to you. Amen.

ACTIVITY OPTION #1 | **ACTIVITY** | **Blacklight Pictionary**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using an invisible ink pen, a blacklight, paper, and writing utensils, grab another person and take turns drawing Easter-themed images. The other person should guess as the person draws, but once the drawer is done, they will shine the blacklight on the ink to reveal the image. Switch drawers and play again.*
- You could only see the full picture once the blacklight was turned on, but sometimes it was too late for you to make the correct call, right?
- In today's Bible story, we saw that some people only recognized Jesus for who he really was when it was already too late.
- However, we know who He is and we can GLOW and SHINE bright for Him so that everyone knows He is God! Even if we are sad, we can still glow because **God hears our cries.** He is with us!

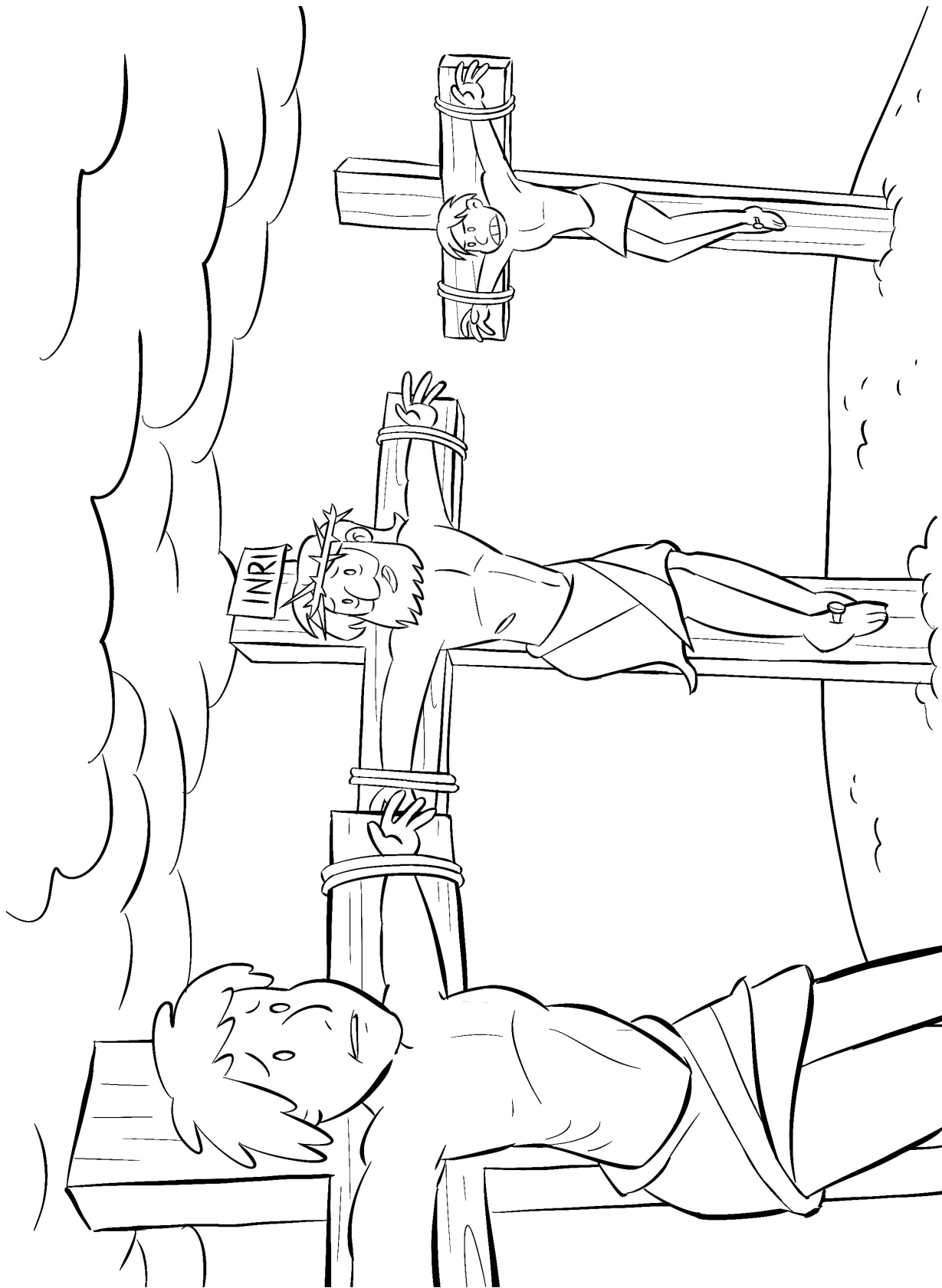
ACTIVITY #2 | Bible Story or Memory Verse Printable

Print either or both the Bible Story and Memory Verse Printable. This will help remind you of the Big Idea for today and also our monthly memory verse.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 27:1a (NIV)

- **"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?"**

INSTRUCTIONS: Watch the video from the online lesson page and practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL).



BIG IDEA: God hears our cries.
BIBLE: Jesus Dies on the Cross: Luke 23:32-49; Psalm 31:9-16



"THE LORD
IS MY LIGHT
AND MY
SALVATION
WHOM SHALL
I FEAR?"

PSALM 27:14 (NIV)