

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 3 • Unit 8 • Week 2

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

OBJECTIVE:

To teach the students that Jesus died to pay the death penalty for all people, because everyone has sinned and the wages of sin is death. Jesus has gone to heaven as the firstborn Son of God, but others who have died are still in the grave. They are in the grave as if they were asleep, and are waiting for the resurrections after Christ returns to the earth to set up God's Kingdom here. The reward of the saved is eternal life in God's Kingdom here on the earth.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: To start today's lesson, I would like each of you to close your eyes and picture in your mind what a perfect world would be like. First, think about how it would be in your own home. Tell me what you are seeing in that perfect home. [Allow response. Help them out if needed—no yelling, living with both parents, no bad shows on TV, no fighting with brothers and sisters, etc.]

Ask: Now, picture being at school. How would things be different at school if it were a perfect world? [Let students respond. Ideas: no fighting, good sportsmanship in games, no cheating on tests, no stealing, no special groups or cliques—everyone is friends with everyone else, no one makes fun of another classmate, teachers can teach about God and His laws, no prejudice toward others because of skin color or race, etc.]

Say: Now let's think even bigger. Tell me what it would be like in your neighborhood if we lived in a perfect world. [Let students answer. Ideas: No one breaking into houses to steal from others, no worry about the neighbor's mean dog—since animals would be friendly, too; wouldn't have to lock things up, etc.]

Ask: How would things in the rest of the world be different if all things were perfect? [Allow response. No war between countries, no hunger, guns not used to hurt other people, TV and computers used for learning, no drug or alcohol abuse, etc.]

Say: How nice it would be to grow up in a world like that! That is the kind of world God wants for us, and we know that some day it will be like that, after Jesus returns and sets up God's Kingdom here on the earth.

Ask: But why isn't it like that today? That's what we are going to talk about in our lesson.

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: In the world we live in today, what happens when someone breaks the law? [If they get caught, they go to jail, pay a fine, do community service.] What does the Bible tell us happens when someone breaks God's laws?

Say: Let's read Romans 6:23. [Have one student read.] The first part of this verse tells us that the wages or cost of sinning is death. This is talking about eternal death, and not being in God's family after Christ returns to the earth. That means that if we break God's laws, even if we think it's only a little bit wrong, we cannot be in God's Kingdom—that perfect world to which we look forward. But God wants us to be in His Kingdom, and in the Bible He shows us how we can. Turn back to Romans 3:23. [Have one student read.] This verse tells us that everyone has sinned in some way or another. That means the death penalty has to be paid for us so we can have eternal life in God's Kingdom instead of eternal death.

God's way of life is the way of love. Love is caring about people and being willing to serve them and do whatever is needed to help them. In 1 John 4:16 we read that "...God is love." Let's turn to John 15:13 and read what Jesus says is the greatest love of all. [Have one student read.] Jesus says there is no greater love than to be willing to die, or "lay down one's life," for someone else. Each year as we again celebrate God's Holy Days, we start by observing the Passover.

Let me read to you what Jesus said would happen to Him at the time of the last Passover He would keep with His disciples.

Do: Read Matthew 26:1-4 "Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 'You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.' Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him." That is exactly what happened, and Jesus died on the cross the next day at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

As we keep the Passover every year we remember that Jesus was killed—He laid down His life—to pay the death penalty for our sins. He himself had never sinned. But because of the great love He has for us, He was willing to suffer death so that we can have eternal life. Now that the death penalty has been paid, we can have eternal life in God's family if we continue to obey God until Christ returns to set up God's perfect Kingdom here on the earth.

Jesus was in the grave three days and three nights, as He said He would be. Then He was resurrected (brought back to life) and His body changed from being physical to being spirit. He became the firstborn Son of God. After Jesus appeared to His disciples and told them to go and teach others the things He had taught them, Mark 16:19 says: "... He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God." And that is where Jesus is today.

Ask: Since heaven is where Jesus went after His death and resurrection, is that where we will go after we die? That is what many people believe. Let's see what God tells us in the Bible.

Say: In the stories we have read from the Bible about King David, we know he obeyed and trusted in God. When he did wrong, he always went to God in prayer, asked for forgiveness and learned to do things God's way. Listen to what Paul wrote about David in Acts 13:22: "...He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'" If heaven is where good people go when they die, then certainly, David must be in heaven.

But let's read Acts 2:29 and 34 and see what Peter told the people in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost. "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.... For David did not ascend into the heavens...." Turn to John 3:13 and let's read what Jesus, Himself said. [Have one student read.] Jesus is the only one who has gone to heaven at this time. Others who have died, including good King David, are still in their graves as if they were only asleep. They don't know anything right now. They are waiting for Jesus Christ to return, and then God will resurrect them. When Christ returns to the earth, as pictured by the Feast of Trumpets, God will first resurrect (bring back to life) David and all the others who obeyed God until they died. At this time they will be changed into spirit beings and receive their reward of eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

God created us for a purpose. Because of His love for us, Jesus died on the cross (laid down His life for us) to pay the death penalty for all of our sins. That makes it possible for us to have eternal life in God's Kingdom. And the Bible tells us that Kingdom will be here on the earth, not in heaven.

Do: Read this in Revelation 21:2-5.

LESSON APPLICATION:

"John 11:25" worksheet.

Make a copy of the worksheet for each student. Have them work the math problems to learn the code, and then fill in the blanks to reveal the scripture.

Music:

Sing the following to the tune of "There Is Joy in My Heart" from the United Church of God hymnal, pages 14-15.

There is joy in my heart knowing Christ has died for me.
There is joy knowing that we have life eternally.
He did nothing wrong. He was perfect as can be,
But He laid down His life for you and me.

There'll be peace in the whole world when Christ will come again,
There'll be peace in the whole world when Christ will come again,
For a thousand years, then God shall dwell with men,
There'll be peace in the world when He comes.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven."

family activity

THE POINT:

In today's lesson we learned that Jesus died to pay the death penalty for all people, because everyone has sinned and the wages of sin is death. Jesus has gone to heaven as the firstborn Son of God, but others who have died are still in the grave, as if they were asleep, and are waiting for the resurrections after Christ returns to set up God's Kingdom here. The reward of the saved is eternal life in God's Kingdom here on the earth.

ASK ME...

- What is sin? (disobeying God's laws)
- What is the penalty for sinning? (eternal death)
- Does God say it's okay if we just sin a little bit?
- What did Jesus say in John 15:13 was the greatest love of all? (look up and read the scripture with your child)
- Why did Jesus die? (to pay the death penalty for everyone's sins)
- Name the sins Jesus committed. (Be sure to emphasize this is a trick question!)
- Did good King David go to heaven to receive his reward? Where is he? (still in the grave, waiting for the resurrection)
- What is our reward for obeying God's way of life? (eternal life in God's Kingdom)
- Where will our reward be? (on the earth)

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Read 1 Peter 3:15 with your child and discuss how important it is that we learn what the Bible really says so we can explain to people what we believe and why.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven."

JOHN 11:25 WORKSHEET

Work these math problems to learn the code.
Then fill in the blanks to finish the scripture.

$$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ + 5 \\ \hline \end{array} = A$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ + 15 \\ \hline \end{array} = B$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ + 7 \\ \hline \end{array} = D$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ + 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = E$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ + 13 \\ \hline \end{array} = G$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 34 \\ + 14 \\ \hline \end{array} = H$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ + 15 \\ \hline \end{array} = I$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 37 \\ - 12 \\ \hline \end{array} = L$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 34 \\ - 17 \\ \hline \end{array} = M$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 28 \\ - 15 \\ \hline \end{array} = N$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ - 11 \\ \hline \end{array} = O$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 48 \\ - 19 \\ \hline \end{array} = S$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array} = T$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array} = U$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array} = V$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = W$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array} = Y$$

God has promised us eternal life in His Kingdom.
In John 11:25 we read that Jesus told Martha:

"... $\frac{\quad}{48} \frac{\quad}{27} \frac{\quad}{21} \frac{\quad}{48} \frac{\quad}{4} \frac{\quad}{31} \frac{\quad}{27} \frac{\quad}{25} \frac{\quad}{39} \frac{\quad}{27} \frac{\quad}{12} \frac{\quad}{27} \frac{\quad}{29}$

$\frac{\quad}{39} \frac{\quad}{13} \frac{\quad}{17} \frac{\quad}{27}' \frac{\quad}{6} \frac{\quad}{48} \frac{\quad}{4} \frac{\quad}{16} \frac{\quad}{37} \frac{\quad}{48} \frac{\quad}{48} \frac{\quad}{27}$

$\frac{\quad}{17} \frac{\quad}{14} \frac{\quad}{50} \frac{\quad}{19} \frac{\quad}{39} \frac{\quad}{27}' \frac{\quad}{48} \frac{\quad}{27} \frac{\quad}{29} \frac{\quad}{48} \frac{\quad}{14} \frac{\quad}{25} \frac{\quad}{25}$

$\frac{\quad}{25} \frac{\quad}{39} \frac{\quad}{12} \frac{\quad}{27}' "$