

June 17-23 Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19

## "IT IS FINISHED"

- Canyon Wall Video: Show Elder Holland's story of brothers climbing a canyon wall in Southern Utah <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Znx2HXY8fo&app=desktop>. Summarize what happened with the older brother at the end. Who grabbed his hands and helped pull him up to safety? Explain that he would've slipped off of the wall if his brother hadn't helped him.

  - Who are some people that can help us in our lives? Share stories of times family members and friends have helped us with different things.
  - Who has the power to give us more help than anyone else? (Jesus) Spend some time reviewing things Jesus has done to help us and others.
  - What can He save us from?
- Christ on the Cross: Show picture of Christ on the cross. Listen to "He Sent His Son" (Children's Songbook) while looking at the picture. Take turns holding the picture. When the music ends, have each person either share something they know about this or talk about something they notice in the picture. Review what happened in Gethsemane and explain that Christ's pain He felt as He prayed in Gethsemane as well as the pain He felt on the cross are both part of what we call the Atonement. Because of His Atonement, we can be saved from death (our bodies and our spirits). We will live again after we die, and our sins can be washed clean if we repent. Spend as much time discussing this as it seems like is needed.
- Jumping Activity: Remind them of what heaven is and spend a little bit of time talking about it. Place the "Celestial Kingdom/Heaven" sign on the wall of a large room or at the end of a hallway. Stand on the other side of the room (make sure it's far enough away that nobody can actually jump to the other side). Tell everyone that the goal is to jump from one end of the room (or hallway) to the other end with the sign that represents the Celestial Kingdom (heaven). They are only allowed to jump ONE time.

  - After everyone's had a chance to try it, help them see that it's impossible to get there without help. Ask them if they'd like to try again, but this time with help.
  - When they try it again, have Mom/Dad stand in front of them so that when they jump, they can jump to Mom/Dad, who can carry them the rest of the way. Compare this to Christ. Explain that Heavenly Father and Jesus both knew that we would need help getting to the Celestial Kingdom. No matter how strong or good we are, we can't get there by ourselves. Remind them of the canyon wall video. Just like that boy needed help from his brother, all of us need help from Jesus Christ.
  - Read/summarize/discuss 2 Nephi 25:23 ("...we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."). Remind them that we're able to get the help that we need from Christ because of His Atonement.
- Atonement Hearts: There are many reasons why the Atonement is important to us. Cut out the hearts and choose one at a time (draw from a bag or upside-down pile on the table). As each one is drawn, read and discuss the different reasons for why the Atonement is important to us. Let the kids tape them onto the Jesus on the cross picture to remind them that He went through with the Atonement because He loves us.

  - Could also do one of the following object lessons to show how Christ can cleanse us from our sins:
    - Salt/Pepper: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM717fFV\\_yM&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM717fFV_yM&app=desktop)
    - Red Bleach: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EY5YhD9vuho>
- Story Pictures: Show them "Easter Story Pictures" page. Ask them if they know what any of the pictures are and talk about the ones that they know. Then go through each one and read the summary/scripture that goes along with it. Let them color each one as we discuss them. The Easter Story Sequencing Cards in the Additional Ideas" section has a good summary of the story as well.

  - Watch "The Atonement: A Bible Story for Children" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACGa3cJITz4&app=desktop>. Tell them to pay attention to see if they talk about any of the objects we just discussed and to listen to what they can learn from it.

6. Other Lessons from the Atonement:

- Role Play Standing Up for What is Right: Read/summarize/discuss John 19:1-16 and Luke 23:12-24. Talk about how Pilate knew Jesus was a good person, but he decided to let him be hurt on the cross anyway because that's what people in the crowd asked him to do. Talk about how sometimes it's hard to stand up for what we know is right when other people are trying to get us to do things that we know we shouldn't. The manual suggest role-playing scenarios to practice standing up for the right, so here are some scenarios to have them act out their responses to:
  - Your friend tells you to steal some candy from another kid. What could you do?
  - Your friend tells you to go on a busy street your mom told you not to go on.
  - Your friends tell you to use bad words. You tell them no, but they say they won't be your friends if you don't.
  - You're playing outside with your neighbor friends. Your mom/dad tells you it's time to come inside. Your friends tell you to ignore your mom/dad and keep playing with them.
- Love and Forgiveness: Review some of the mean things people did to Jesus in Matthew 27:28-31 (crown of thorns, spit on Him, made fun of Him, hit Him, crucified Him). How would you feel if someone did those things to you? How did Jesus Christ respond when people did those things to Him? Read Luke 23:34 and tell them to listen closely to hear what Jesus said about these people. Talk about how He is the perfect example of loving and forgiving others.
  - Choose a story from *The Friend* to share about forgiveness:  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/children/resources/topics/forgiveness?lang=eng& r=1>
- Share how after His death, the centurion said that this must really be the Son of God (Mark 15:39). Share testimonies of Christ's importance to us and how we should always try to be like Him.

7. Jellybean Bracelet Craft: Follow instructions here <http://www.freefuneaster.com/easter-crafts/colors-of-faith-jelly-bean-bracelet/> to make a jellybean bracelet. Or just read the poem for what the different colors stand for and then eat jellybeans. ☺

Additional Ideas:

New Testament Stories Video Chapter 52 (Trials of Jesus): <https://www.mormonchannel.org/watch/series/new-testament-stories/chapter-52-the-trials-of-jesus>

New Testament Stories Video Chapter 53 (Jesus is Crucified): <https://www.mormonchannel.org/watch/series/new-testament-stories/chapter-53-jesus-is-crucified-1>

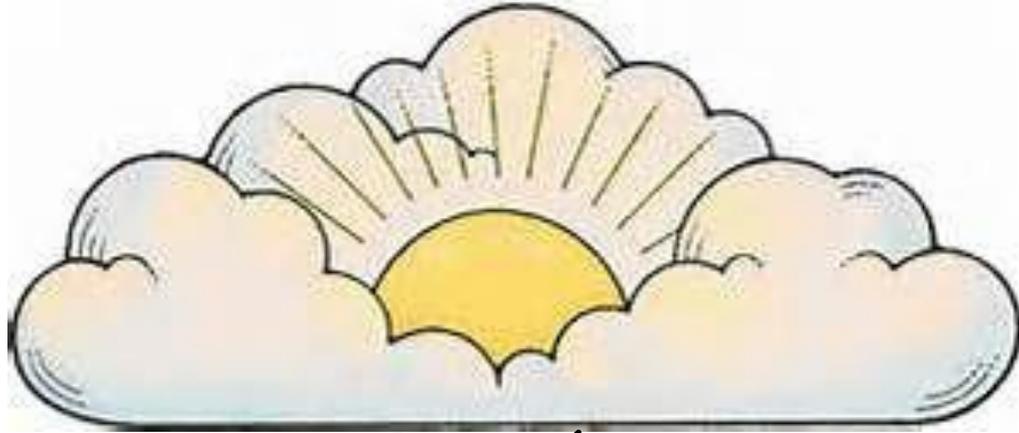
Easter Story Sequencing Cards: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/T-T-003-Easter-Story-Sequencing>

Christ Aid Kit: [https://www.playpartyplan.com/atonement-lesson-ideas-christ-aid-kit/?amp%3Bpreview=true&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=pinterest&utm\\_campaign=tailwind\\_tribes&utm\\_content=tribes&utm\\_term=624646362\\_23529408\\_182948](https://www.playpartyplan.com/atonement-lesson-ideas-christ-aid-kit/?amp%3Bpreview=true&utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=624646362_23529408_182948)

Christ on the Cross (Carl Heinrich Bloch)



Jumping Activity: Place the “Celestial Kingdom/Heaven” sign on the wall of a large room or at the end of a hallway. Stand on the other side of the room (make sure it’s far enough away that nobody can actually jump to the other side). Tell everyone that the goal is to jump from one end of the room (or hallway) to the other end with the sign that represents the Celestial Kingdom (heaven). They are only allowed to jump ONE time. After everyone’s had a chance to try it, help them see that it’s impossible to get there without help. Ask them if they’d like to try again, but this time with help. When they try it again, have Mom/Dad stand in front of them so that when they jump, they can jump to Mom/Dad, who can carry them the rest of the way. Compare this to Christ. Explain that Heavenly Father and Jesus both knew that we would need help getting to the Celestial Kingdom. No matter how strong or good we are, we can’t get there by ourselves. All of us need help from Jesus Christ.



# CELESTIAL Kingdom (HEAVEN)

Atonement Hearts (Why Atonement is Important): Cut out the hearts and choose one at a time (draw from a bag or upside-down pile on the table). As each one is drawn, read and discuss the different reasons for why the Atonement is important to us. Let the kids tape them onto the Jesus on the cross picture to remind them that He went through with the Atonement because He loves us.

(text from <http://media.ldscdn.org/pdf/magazines/friend-september-2016/2016-09-11-why-is-the-saviors-atonement-important-eng.pdf>)

The Atonement made resurrection possible so all of us will live again after we die.

The Atonement made it possible for us to be clean from our sins if we repent.

As part of His Atonement, Jesus suffered challenges of every kind so He could know how to help us feel better when we are sad or struggling.

Jesus Christ can help and strengthen anyone who asks.

Jesus understands our pain and suffering, and He is there for us.

# The Easter Story



Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.  
Matthew 21:8



Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.  
Matthew 26:14-15



As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it for this is my body."  
Matthew 26:26



Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will." "Peter" Jesus replied, "the truth is, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."  
Matthew 26:33-34



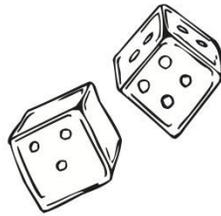
He went on a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine."  
Matthew 26:39



The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him.  
John 19:2



Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross.  
Mark 15:24a



They gambled for his clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.  
Mark 15:24b



Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.  
Matthew 27:59-60



He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.  
Matthew 28:6