

What is Suffering?



Set-Up

Theme: Jesus' suffering

Text: [Matthew 27:27-36, 45-50](#)

Preparation: You'll need two ice cubes and a paper towel for each child. Then dim the lights and play soft music in the background.

Powerful Easter Children's Message: Jesus' Suffering

Say: Today we're going to do something to help us think about Jesus' crucifixion on a cross.

Have kids each take an ice cube in each hand and rest their hands on a paper towel.

Then read [the Scripture](#). If this takes more than two minutes, have the children put down their ice cubes as you continue reading.

Ask:

- How did it feel to hold the ice cubes in your hands?
- What did you want to do with the ice?
- How do you think Jesus felt as he was crucified on a cross? Do you think he wanted to come down from the cross? Why or why not?
- Why didn't Jesus get off the cross instead of dying?

Say: I don't think it was the soldiers who kept Jesus on the cross. I don't even think it was the nails that kept Jesus on the cross. What kept Jesus on the cross was his love for you and you and you...*(continue to point to each child.)* Jesus died on the cross because he wanted you to live with him forever in heaven. That's pretty amazing love!

The Cross

Begin the talk by holding up a newspaper and talking about some news items. In the paper we find both good news and some bad news. Which kind of news do you like to hear about most?

Hold up just one sheet of newspaper. I'd like to share with you one news story which is good news for everybody. Fold the sheet as per photo. God sent his son Jesus from heaven (hold top corner and run fingers or other hand down the side to the bottom corner) to earth to show us just how much he loves us. This is the good news of Christmas when we remember about Jesus being born.



Fold again to form the "house shape". Jesus grew up in a family (Mary & Joseph...) and when he became older he healed people, helped people, and taught people about how to know and love God

Begin to tear the paper downwards in a straight line

Talk about how some people believed in that Jesus is God's Son but there were others who wanted to kill him. Talk briefly about Jesus capture and trial. *Tear the other side slowly while talking.* Jesus was nailed to a cross. Jesus friends were very sad. This seemed like bad news to them and good news to those who wanted Jesus dead. *With the torn off bits of paper, crumple them in your hand and hold them up as you talk about getting rid of Jesus and how his body was placed in a tomb and sealed in the tomb.* *Now open the center piece of paper to reveal the paper cross.* Though Jesus suffered and died on the cross he was prepared to do that so that we could be forgiven for the wrong things we do (sins). *Place your palm over the cross.* Jesus wants us to be friends with God and to follow him today. On "Good Friday" we remember all that Jesus did for us. The Good News is that Jesus came back to life again and he promise those who believe in him eternal life-life forever with God. That's good news (*show the newspaper in one hand and the cross in the other*) that's certainly worth sharing with everyone.





Resurrection Roll

Empty sTombs/Resurrection Buns

1 can or refrigerator biscuit dough
about 3/4 stick of butter melted
Marshmallows- large at least 8
cinnamon sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 375F. Pull out your muffin tin. Well a cupcake tin, not a big muffin tin. Have scriptures printed out before hand. Your bible could get messy!

2. I experimented a little bit and split a few of the muffins, the split ones were more caramelized, the full muffins were more doughy, in a good way. Whatever you do flatten each piece of dough with your hands.

The dough represents the linens Jesus was wrapped in before he was placed in the tomb (oven). In the end though the tomb will be the biscuit.

3. Dunk a marshmallow in the butter. Roll the marshmallow in the spices and sugar. *The pure white marshmallows represent a sinless Savior. Jesus' body was cared for and prepared to be placed in the tomb. The butter and spices represent the oils and spices. When Jesus was a baby the wisemen brought oil and spices, a look into what was ahead. For Jewish burial a body is prepared, washed and anointed with oils and spices.*

4. Set it in the middle of the dough. Wrap the dough around the marshmallow completely and pinch to seal.

You'll have to help little ones get it completely sealed.

Roll each tomb in butter then in cinnamon and sugar. Talk about the angel rolling the stone away at the tomb.

Mark 15:46 -*So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.*

Luke 23:55-56 - *A group of women who were at Jesus' burial come back later to anoint his body*

John 19:38-40- *Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by*

Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

5. Place them seam side down, in a muffin tin.
Bake for about 12-15 minutes.
Once baked let them cool for 5-7 minutes.
While you are waiting...

Matthew 12:40-*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

Luke 24:1-8-*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.*

6. Once baked though the marshmallow in each of these little tombs melts into the dough and you are left with an empty tomb.
HE HAS RISEN!

Romans 10:9-*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

John 20:29-*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

