



MEMORY VERSE

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:17)

INTRODUCTION

Can you think of a time when someone found out you did something wrong? (*Share an example from your own experience.*) Most of the time when we do something wrong, there is a punishment to keep us from doing it again. Unlike you and me, Jesus is perfect. He never did anything to deserve punishment. He could have come to the world to punish everyone in it for all the bad things people have done. But our verse tells us that God sent Jesus into the world for a completely different reason. Let's read it together then tell me why God sent Jesus into the world.

PRESENTATION

(*Read John 3:17 from your Bible and have the children follow along on the visual.*) Why did God send Jesus into the world? (*Allow response.*) Jesus came to save the world. Who remembers our verse from last time? (*Review John 3:16.*) What book of the Bible is that verse from? (*Allow response.*) It's found in the book of John. Today's verse is found in the book of John too. In fact, it comes right after last week's verse! (*Read John 3:17 from Bible while children follow along on visual.*) Is John in the Old Testament or New Testament? (*Allow response.*) The New Testament! It is the fourth book in the New Testament. The first four books are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Say them with me. (*Say with children.*) These four books all tell about Jesus—His birth, His life, His death and resurrection. The four men who wrote these books lived in different places. But all four of these books—called the Gospels—tell the same story about Jesus. Some of the stories have more details than others. Some of the books tell stories that aren't told in the other books. But together, all four Gospels give us the true story of the life of Jesus. Because God never lies, His Word is true all the time and is always correct. That is one reason we can trust that the Bible is the true Word of God. Let's say our verse together. (*Say verse with children from visual.*)

EXPLANATION

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world—God's Son is Jesus. Jesus did not come to condemn (find you guilty) or punish you for your sin. He loves you so much that He does not want that for you.

but in order that the world might be saved through him—Jesus came so that you could be saved from the punishment of sin. The only way the world (you and me) can be saved from sin is by believing Jesus died on the cross and came back to life—trusting Him as the only one who can save you. When you are saved, your sins are forgiven and you have everlasting life with God. Jesus came to save the world—and that includes you!

Preschool Memory Verse

For preschoolers, teach "'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish..." John 3:16

Introduction

Use the suggested introduction.

Presentation

Read the verse from the Bible. Let the children see where it is in the Bible. Tell them the Bible tells us who God is and how we can believe in Him.

Explanation

Review what you've taught from John 3:16 then explain that Jesus came for everyone because everyone needs Him to save them from the punishment for sin. Anyone can believe in Jesus and be saved from their sin.

Materials

Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
Books of the Bible Poster
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack and Resource Pack.)

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Lesson 3 ESV IPEAR

Preschool Application

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus as the only one who can save you from sin, God has met the biggest need in your life! You can know God and love Him with all your heart. He wants you to spend time with Him so you can know Him more and more.

Unsaved: Jesus is perfect—He never did anything wrong. He died on the cross and came alive again so you don't have to be far away from God. You can be saved from the punishment of sin. If you have not believed in Jesus, you can believe in Him today—right now!

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

Blindfold
Sticky notes

Preschool Repetition

"Mystery Meal"

Lead the children in saying the verse then pretend to make different types of food. Allow them to guess what meal you are pretending to make, offering additional clues as needed. When a child guesses correctly, repeat the verse and play the game again.

It is recommended that you use motions in addition to visuals and verse repetition.

John 3:16—Hold hands like a book.

For God—Point up.

So loved—Hug yourself.

The world—Trace a large circle with your hands.

That he gave—Hold hands out as if giving a gift to someone.

His only Son—Touch right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm.

That whoever—Point at lots of people.

Believes in him—Reach forward with both hands, palms open. Then close your hands and bring them back toward yourself as if accepting a gift.

Should not perish—Shake head no.

APPLICATION

Unsaved: Jesus knows you and loves you. Say with me, "**Jesus loves everyone!**" (*Say with children.*) Jesus came to show His love for you by dying in your place and taking the punishment for your sin. Will you believe on Him today?

Saved: Jesus also came into the world to love us and show those who have already believed in Him how to live. He came to show us how to care for other people even those who others do not care about and those who are hard to love. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, He wants you to love all people. **Ask the Holy Spirit to help you love people who are hard to love.** You can show your love by telling them of God's love and praying that they will trust Jesus as Savior.

REPETITION

"Stump the Teacher"

(*Blindfold a teacher. Allow a child to choose a word from the memory verse and cover it with a sticky note. Then lead the children in saying the verse, skipping the word covered by the note. Have the blindfolded teacher guess which word was left out. Repeat, making it harder by leaving out more than one word.*)