

date: **6/11/17****Bible Passage: Luke 22:63—24:8**

(Trial, Crucifixion, Resurrection)

## God Restores Relationship

**REMEMBER VERSE**

He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

Psalm 111:9

### Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

When I first came to Christ, I thought I was a pretty good person. I didn't drink or have premarital sex. I made good grades in school. I obeyed my parents (for the most part). I thought I already had it all together, and I was pretty proud of myself. In many ways, I felt God was lucky to have *me*.

That eventually changed. Slowly but surely my life began spiraling downward. Still, I convinced myself that I was a good person (much better than many I knew), and I still went to church and served every Sunday. Nobody at the church knew about my "other" life, so I figured I was in the clear. I figured that God would just forgive me for everything I was doing anyway.

Eventually I hit rock bottom. In this dark place, I was no longer proud of myself. I no longer thought God would simply forgive me. In fact, I didn't think God could love me anymore. But I believe God let me have my way for a while. He left me to my own devices, because He knew I wouldn't submit to His will until I learned to let go of my will.

It was during this time that I really saw God's love for the first time. God's marvelous love repaired things in my life that seemed beyond repair, and He restored our relationship. Experiencing His desire to bring me back into communion with Him has changed my life.

*Erika Abdelatif*

**ROCKHARBOR** Church



## Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

Before the coming of the Messiah, God commanded Israel to make different kinds of offerings and sacrifices, including a sin offering. This offering points directly to the work of Jesus.

The sin offering was a sacrifice made to mend the broken relationship between people and God. By giving the sin offering, the Israelites asked God for forgiveness of sins. The sacrifice given depended on the wealth of the person giving it. The high priest sacrificed a young bull. A person considered royalty gave a young male goat. All others gave a young female lamb or goat. However, if a person couldn't afford these animals, he could sacrifice two turtledoves or two pigeons. Every sacrifice had to be unblemished and pure.

To give a sin offering, a person laid hands on the sacrifice and confessed his sins over its head. (When the whole community offered a sacrifice, the high priest or elders performed this duty.) Then the person killed the sacrifice and carefully collected the blood in a container. If this sacrifice was made at the temple, the priest sprinkled the blood on the horns of the brazen altar outside of the Holy Place. And on Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement—he sprinkled the blood on and before the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant. Before the altar, the priest poured out the rest of the blood, smashed the container, and burned the animal's fat and organs.

Like the sacrificial animals in Jewish sin offerings, Jesus was unblemished, pure, and without sin. He took on our sins and died for them. His blood was spilled out and His earthly body broken. Through Christ's atoning sacrifice, we are cleansed and made new, and we take on new identities as His children.

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

In today's lesson we see the climax of the story God has been telling. The brokenness that entered through sin will begin to be mended through the death of Christ. It is through Him that our sins are forgiven and our relationships restored. Through Jesus, all things will be made new—our relationship with God, with one another, with His creation.

As you prepare for this week's lesson, think through your relationships with God and others. What needs to be restored in your relationship with Him right now? He is ready and willing to do it—just call on Him. Are there any relationships with others that need restoration in your life? Take time to pray and ask God what He would have you do.

Think of the kids you will be leading this week. Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to be working in their hearts as they learn about Jesus' death. Ask that those who do know the Lord would draw closer to Him in praise and thanksgiving as you all celebrate the fact that God restores relationship.



## EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

Jesus' death and resurrection is the key to The Big God Story. It's what The Big God Story is all about. It's what makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Him today. Lead the kids through an EXPLORE in which they interact with keys.

## Key Toss

### SUPPLIES

- Old keys (car keys, house keys, etc.; at least 5)
- Small, plastic bowls (2)

### SET UP

Place the keys in one of the bowls, and place that bowl at one end of the table. Place the empty bowl at the other end of the table.

### RELATE

Invite the children, one at a time, to try to toss all of the keys into the bowl at the other end of the table. If the small size of the table makes this too easy, place the bowls on the floor. See who can get the most keys in the bowl.

## LARGE GROUP SECTION

## DISCOVER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.*

## Traditions and Remember Verse

### SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

### RELATE

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The



Big God Story.

**He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name. Psalm 111:9**

## Connect

### Question

What has been the most important thing that's happened to you?

## The Big God Story

**Bible Passage: Luke 22:63—24:8**

**Storytelling Technique: Images, Dramatic Reading, and Music**  
**God Restores Relationship**

### SUPPLIES

- [Timeline image](#) (see Resources)
- [Images: Lamb, Isaiah 53:5, Trial, Cross, Resurrection](#) (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Chair or stool
- Soft instrumental worship music

### SET UP

Place the chair or stool center stage. Set a spotlight or main light to shine on the chair, on which the Storyteller will sit. The Storyteller should present today's narrative as a dramatic reading. Get creative, and use this dramatic reading technique to emphasize the key points.

### RELATE

Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. *Tech: Lower house lights and turn on spotlight. Cue music. In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve, and He lived among them in perfect relationship. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Because God is perfect and holy, their sin broke their relationship with God, and they could no longer be in His presence.*

**But God loves people, and He created them to be in relationship with Him. So God planned to send a perfect Redeemer—His Son, Jesus—to restore the relationship destroyed by sin. This is the beginning of The Big God Story. Today we'll hear the most important and powerful part of The Big God Story: Jesus Christ dying for our sins and rising again!** *Tech: Fade out music.*

**Before Jesus came, the Israelites lived under the old covenant—the Law that God had given to Moses. God required the people to sacrifice animals such as lambs as offerings for the people's sins.** *Tech: Cue Lamb image. The sacrifices allowed Israel to be in relationship with God.*

**The Israelites lived with this system of sacrifices for thousands of years before God sent Jesus to be the final sacrifice for sin. About 700 years before Jesus came, the prophet Isaiah (*Tech: Cue Isaiah 53:5 image*) said the Messiah would be “pierced ... [and] crushed for our [sins, and that] ... by his wounds**



**we [would be] healed” (Isaiah 53:5). This verse means that Jesus would be the last sacrifice. Jesus’ dying on the cross would pay for the sins of all people for all time.**

Invite children to turn to Luke 22:63 in their Bibles and follow along as you storytell. **Last week we saw how Jesus was betrayed and arrested. After this happened, Jesus was brought to the Jewish leaders, where “the men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him” (v. 63). Tech: Cue Trial image. Then the Jewish leaders sent Jesus to be tried by the Roman governor, Pilate. Invite kids to turn to Luke 23:2. They told Pilate, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He ... claims to be Messiah, a king” (v. 2). They tried to make it sound like Jesus was against the Roman king, Caesar. But Jesus never meant to be just an earthly king like Caesar; He is the King of everything because He’s God!**

**Pilate couldn’t find a reason to crucify—or kill—Jesus, but the crowd shouted, “Away with this man!” (v. 18). The people there wanted Jesus to be crucified on a cross, and Pilate agreed to their request.**

**Jesus was ordered to carry His cross to the hill for crucifixion. Jesus was bloody and tired and too weak from being beaten to carry this big, heavy cross, so soldiers took a man from the crowd “and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus” (v. 26). When Jesus and the crowd of people got to the top of the hill, Roman soldiers pounded long nails through Jesus’ hands and His feet, nailing Jesus’ body to the cross. Then they lifted the cross upright, and He hung in terrible, terrible pain. Tech: Cue Cross image.**

**Why did Jesus hang there on that cross? Invite kids to respond. Jesus was giving His life as the last sacrifice for the sins of the world! As Jesus hung there, He took on Himself the weight of the sins of every single person since the beginning of time. And all of these sins separated people from God, so Jesus paid the price for those sins. After six hours, it was finished. Jesus Christ died.**

Invite kids to follow along in Luke 24. **A man took Jesus’ body and buried it in a tomb. Very early on the third day, some women “took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb” (v. 1). What do you think they found? Invite kids to respond. That’s right—Jesus wasn’t in the tomb! He had risen from the dead!**

*Tech: Cue Resurrection image.* **Jesus is God, and just as He said He would, He rose again on the third day! The disciples didn’t believe it until Jesus appeared to them. They had forgotten that Jesus had told them He would rise again. But Jesus showed Himself to them, and they were amazed!**

**It’s the most amazing news ever: Jesus is alive! He really is the perfect sacrifice to take away the sins of the world. With His blood He began the new covenant, in which you and I can be welcomed into a relationship with God! Tell the story of how you came into a relationship with God because of Jesus’ death and resurrection.**

**No longer are we separated from God. No longer do we have to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus is our perfect sacrifice, and you and I have a new story to tell—that we’re saved by grace, that we’re friends of God.**



**SMALL GROUP**  
SECTION**RESPOND//** 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

**Reflect: God Restores Relationship**

Encourage children to look up the following verses in their Bibles.

**Questions for Younger Kids**

- **What is a sacrifice?** Psalm 66:15
- **Why did Jesus die on the cross?** John 3:16; Romans 6:23
- **What is a perfect relationship?** John 15:15; 16:27
- **Do any of you have stories of when you came to be in relationship with God?**
- **Do any of you want to begin a relationship with God today?**

**Questions for Older Kids**

- **What is a sacrifice?** Psalm 66:15
- **Why did Jesus die on the cross?** John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 3:18
- **How did The Big God Story lead up to Jesus' death and resurrection?** Luke 24:44
- **Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?** 1 Corinthians 15:14
- **What is our part in His death and resurrection?** Romans 6:6–12
- **Do any of you have stories of when you came to be in relationship with God?**
- **Do any of you want to begin a relationship with God today?**

**BLESS//** 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

**SUPPLIES**

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bible

**RELATE**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. Then open a Bible and read 1 Corinthians 15:57–58:

**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear**



**brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

Invite the children to stand up, plant their feet, and put their fists on their hips in a “You can’t knock me over” stance. Then bless them with the following words:

**May you know that Jesus has defeated sin and death so you can have a relationship with Him. May you be blessed with the joy and hope that comes from knowing Him.**

