

Adventures with GOD!

THE CRUCIFIXION (B.1.SPRING.8)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 26:32-66
Key Verse	John 15:13, John 14:6
Key Concept	Jesus died on a cross, forgiving me of my sins because I am a sinner. Jesus wants to forgive my sin and wants to be my friend.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk about what they feel when they think about Jesus' death 2. Explain what happens when we receive the gift of forgiveness that Jesus wants to give us 3. Express (verbally or in a picture) their thanks for the salvation that God gives

Life Application

Each person, whether child or adult, needs to know that sin has separated us from God. Only through the death and resurrection did Jesus establish a way, a bridge, between us and God. Each individual has to decide if they will follow Jesus and live in relationship with God. The children today will have the opportunity to say yes to Jesus and to God's salvation.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, illustration	15 minutes
Prayer		10 minutes
Craft	Scrolls, pens, markers	5 minutes
Craft	Paper, scissors, glue, stones, beans, pasta	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Craft: The symbol the children will make today is that of the cross. They can color it and write the Bible verse(s) on the picture.

Bible Story: Instead of giving an introduction today, another disciple should come in suddenly. It should be someone who can tell the story and all it's details. They can talk about what they felt seeing Jesus die on the cross. They can include these other aspects as well:

- The road to Golgotha
- How they hung Jesus on the cross
- The thieves that hung next to him
- The insults
- The blood
- When Jesus talked with John from the cross
- The moment he died
- When Jesus was buried

There are also some illustrations included in this lesson that you can use. Have the disciple ask the children what they feel or imagine after he has told them about Jesus' death.

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Activity: To continue with the theme, show the children a wrapped gift. Talk about the gifts and how nice it is to get one. Ask the what they do when they receive a gift. Offer to open this gift. The first child who volunteers can take the gift, open it and keep what's inside. When the child has opened it to see what's inside (maybe it's a few coins, or a small inexpensive toy), have him or her show the others. Talk about the gift that God offers us: the gift of forgiveness for our sins. Explain that each person has the opportunity to receive this gift because of what Jesus did on the cross. Talk about how each of them react when we are offered gifts. Some people accept them right away and others take their time and enjoy opening the gift. People who don't accept gifts can't enjoy the wonderful things that the gift offers. God has given us a great gift and we have to decide if we will accept it. Ask them if they would like to receive the gift and pray with them. God's gift is the gift of his everlasting love. Jesus is God who came to earth to show us how much God loves us. Even when we make mistakes or sin, God still loves us and will help us to love others. We can accept this gift by accepting this free gift of love from Jesus.

Prayer: Allow a space for several of the children to give thanks to God for the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. Give thanks that through Jesus' death we can be forgiven and follow God, becoming a part of God's family. Give thanks for God's everlasting love. Then for those who are ready you can lead them in this prayer:

Jesus, I believe you are God
Jesus, I believe you love me always, even when I sin
Jesus, I believe you love me and forgive me
Jesus, I believe you will help me to love myself and others
Jesus, I believe you will love me forever
Jesus, I love you and want to follow you and love others

Craft: Add the following phrase to the scroll: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Craft: Choose your activity. In the lesson there are multiple activities to choose from. Choose one or two to offer the children. Make sure you have all of the materials that are needed.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

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R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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ILLUSTRATION

Jesus carries his cross



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ILLUSTRATION

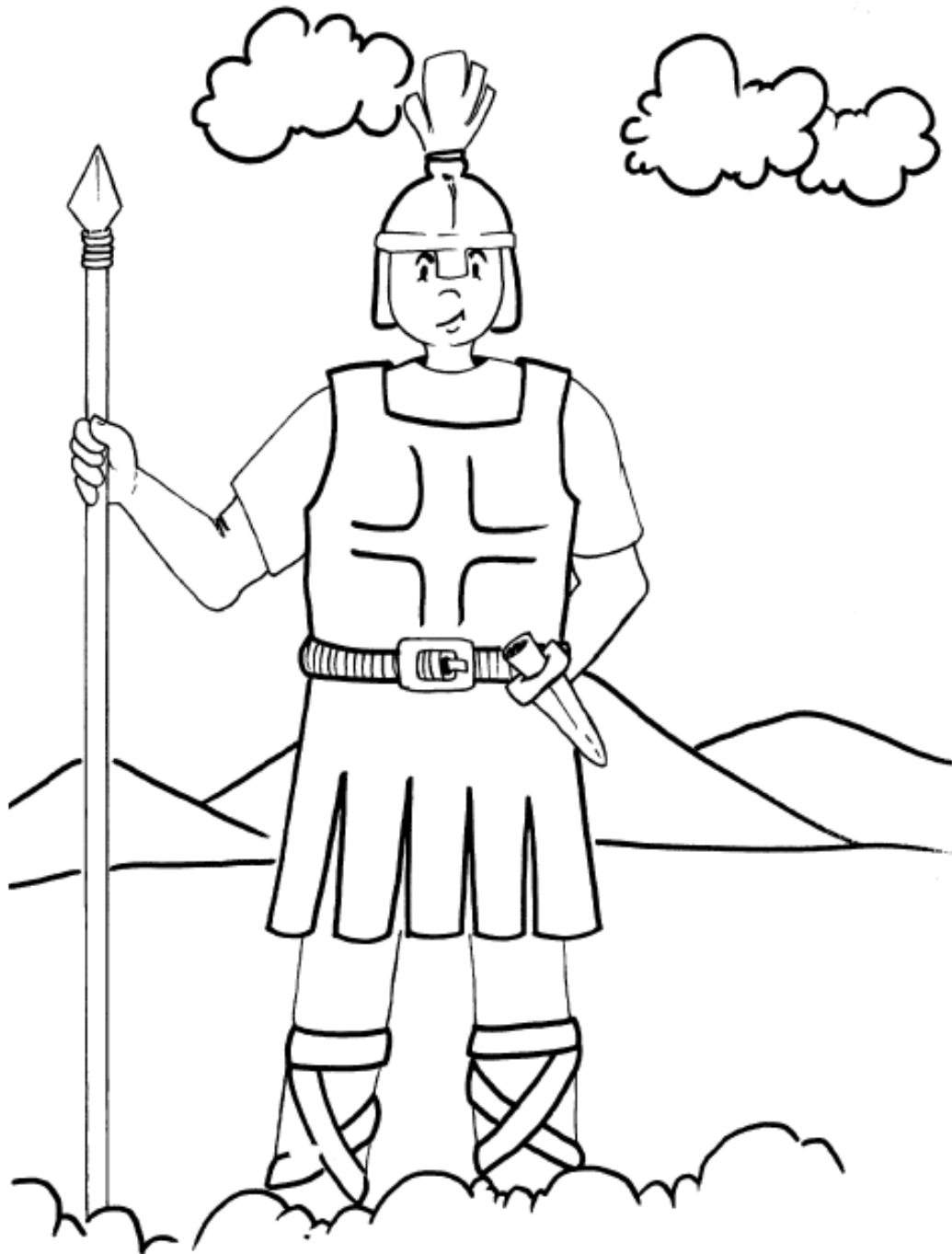
Simon helps Jesus carry the cross



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ILLUSTRATION

Soldier



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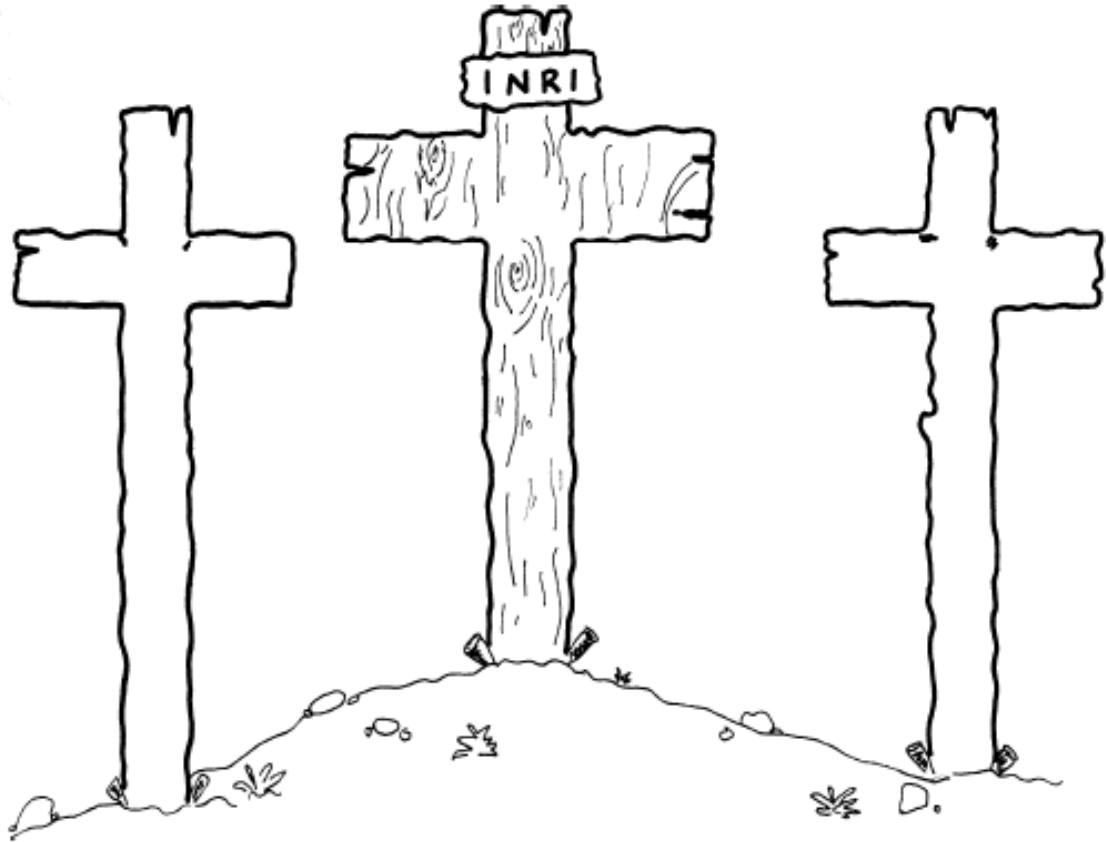
ILLUSTRATION

People at the cross



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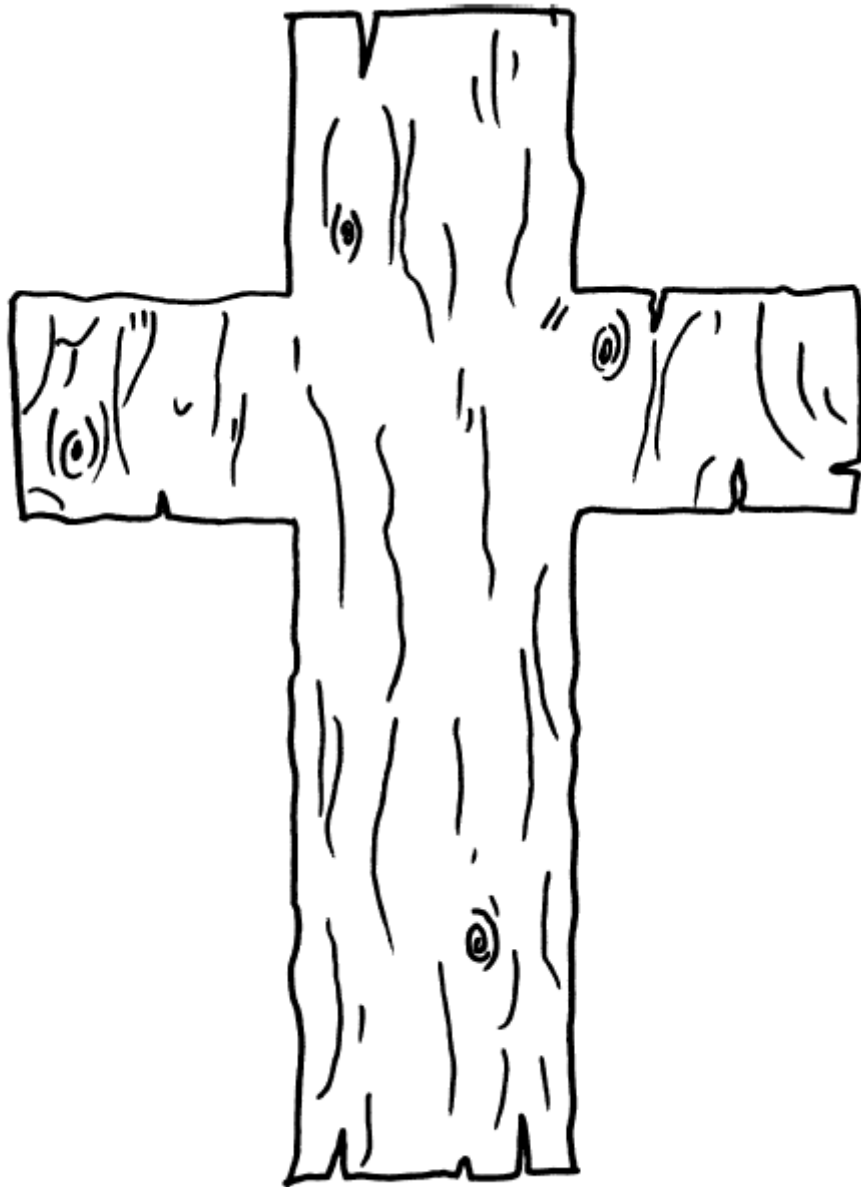
ILLUSTRATION



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SYMBOL

Cross

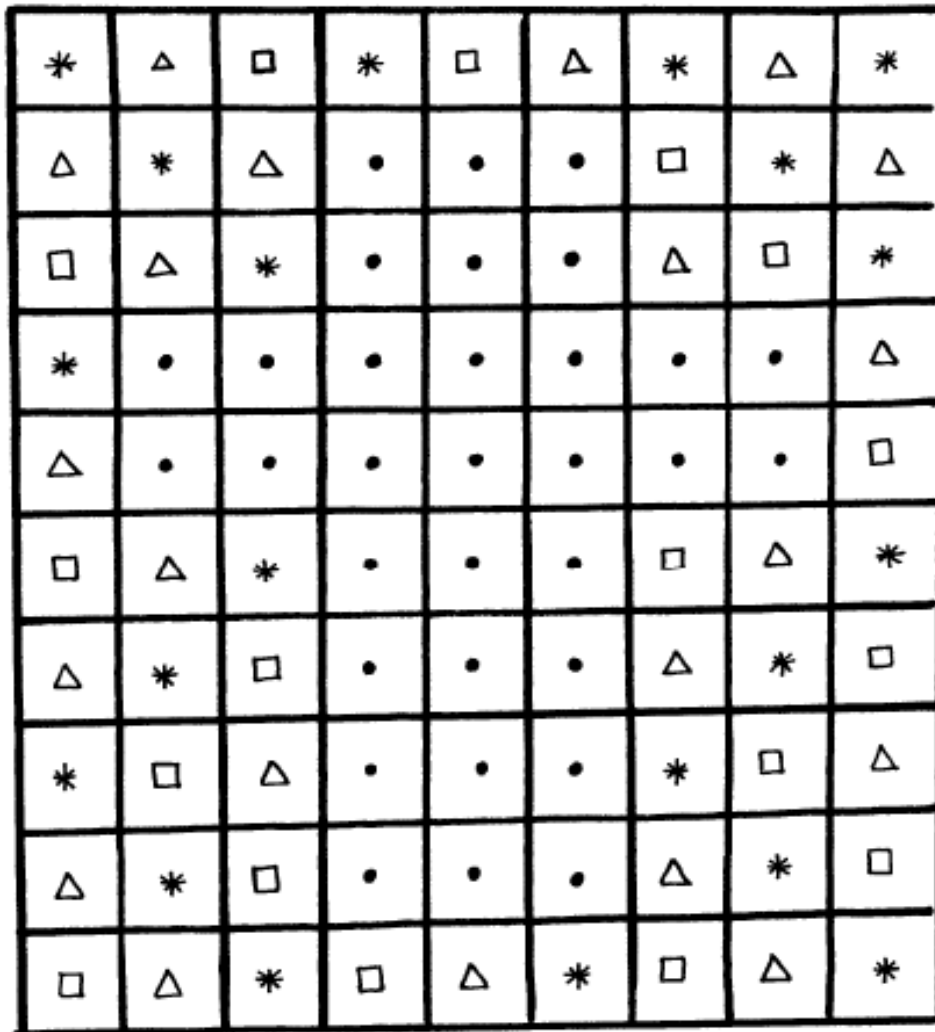


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ACTIVITY

Jesus loves us and cares about us so much that he died so that our sins could be forgiven. Jesus took our sins to the cross and we can receive the gift of forgiveness.

To see where Jesus died, color the areas below that have a dot. Use the color red to color the squares that have a dot. Then glue this paper to a piece of cardstock.



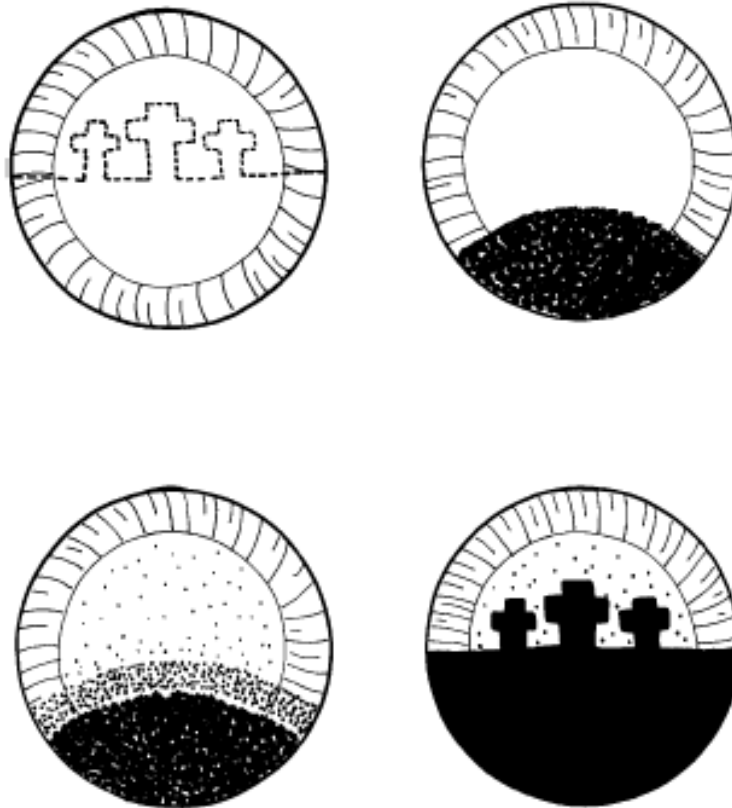
Adventures with GOD!

CRAFT

Materials: 2 paper plates, crayons, pens, scissors, glue

Instructions:

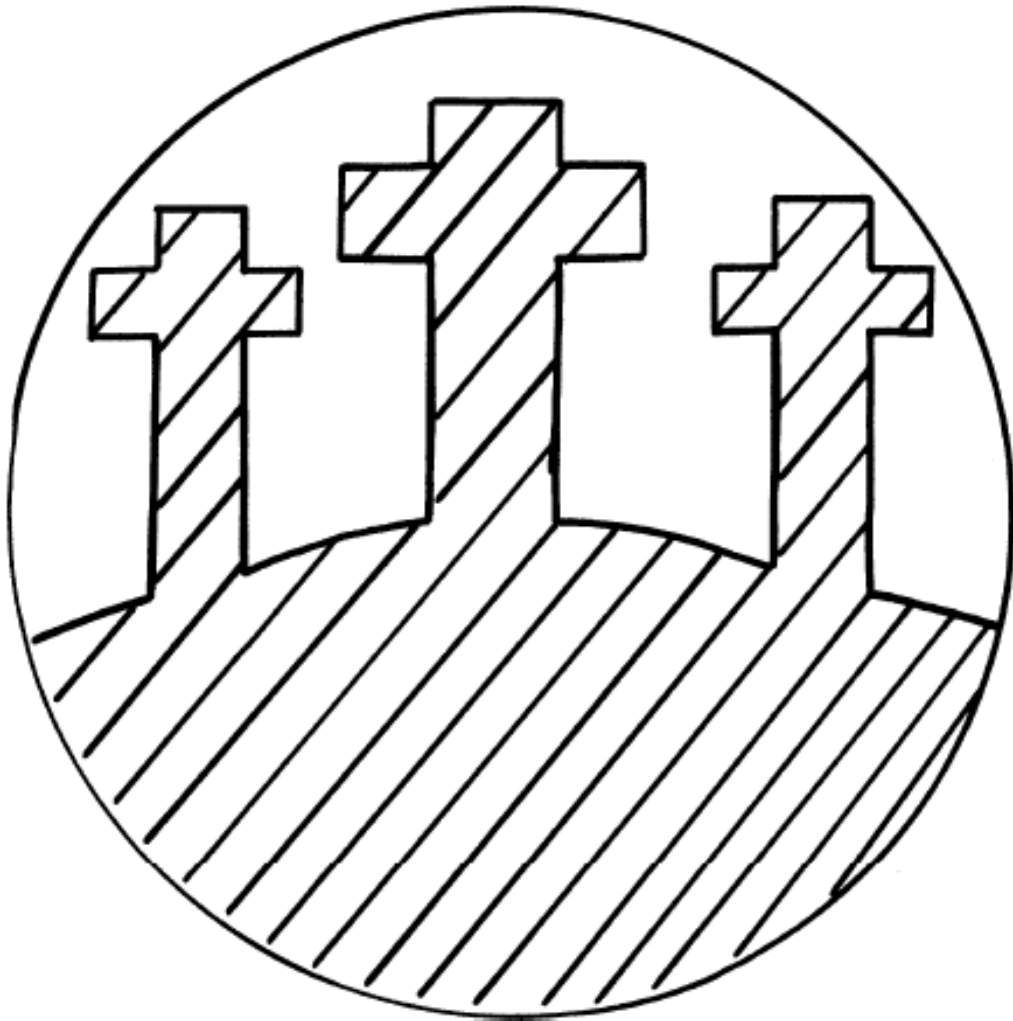
1. Reproduce the image using the pattern on the following page.
2. Trace the pattern onto one of the plates. Cut the plate and color it using the color black or brown for the crosses and green for the grass.
3. Color the other plate (the front side) in this way: the sky like the sun is setting (start with a deep red closer to the bottom and get lighter as it goes up. Use orange and yellow as well).
4. Glue the 3 crosses in front of the sky (glue the border of the plates). Add beans, or anything else on the base of the plate, which represents Golgotha.



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PATTERNS

Three crosses



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CRAFT

Crosses

Jesus was crucified on a cross, next to two thieves. They put up three crosses at Golgotha. To represent these three crosses, make the craft below.

Materials: colored paper, scissors, glue, yarn

Instructions:

1. Cut out three different crosses, using three different colors of paper, and making them each different sizes.
2. Glue them as you see below.
3. Write the words, "Jesus loves me" on the center of the cross.
4. Glue or tape yarn in the form of a loop to the back of the cross.

