

Colors of the Church Year

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain”
Levels I and II
Teacher’s Notes

Lesson 1 “The Soldiers Mock Jesus”

Mark 15:6-20

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 1 “The Soldiers Mock Jesus”

Read Mark 15:6-20.

Read and know the **INTRODUCTION**.

Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.

Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.

Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.

Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.

Read and know the **APPLICATION**.

MATERIALS:-colored paper or construction paper in the following colors: purple, black, white, red, green
-picture of Jesus on the cross (for the Application)

INTRODUCTION

Hold up the colored pieces of paper for the whole class to see. If you suspect some children do not know their colors, spend the first few minutes of class showing each piece of paper and telling them the color of the paper.

-**Look at the papers in my hand. What do you see?** (Colors)

-**Colors are very pretty. God made colors for us to look at and enjoy.**

-**What is your favorite color?** (Answers vary.)

-**Colors can mean different things. Some colors can make us feel happy, but other colors can make us feel sad.**

Hold up the colored pieces of paper.

-**Which color looks happy and makes us feel happy?** (Answers vary.)

-**Which color looks sad and makes us feel sad?** (Answers vary.)

-**This week we are going to talk about each one of these colors. We are going to talk about how each color tells us something different about how we feel or how God feels toward us.**

-**Today’s color is purple.**

-**How does purple make you feel?** (Answers vary.)

-**Purple is a color that stands for a king. It is the color of royalty which means a color that shows a king rules.**

-**But purple is also a color that makes us feel sorry.**

- What does it mean to feel sorry? (Answers vary.)
- Sorry means we feel bad about something that we have done.
- Everyday we do things that God and our parents tell us not to do. These are called sins.
- We sin when we say, "no" to our mom and dad or when we lie or hit or take something that isn't ours.
- God doesn't want us to do this, and He tells us we should say we are sorry for these sins.
- To whom should we say we are sorry? (The people we sin against and God.)
- God wants us to pray to Him and say we are sorry for all the sins that we have done.
- What does God do with these sins we have done? (He takes them away.)
- Why? (Because Jesus died for us.)
- Jesus died on the cross to take away each sin we have done.
- Purple is a color that reminds us to say we are sorry for what we have done, but purple also tells about all the pain Jesus had to go through to take away our sins.
- In today's story we are going to hear how much pain or suffering Jesus had to go through to take away our sins.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following background information about Jesus:

Jesus, the Son of God, was sent to earth to save all people from their sins.

Jesus was very busy preaching God's Word to people, teaching His disciples, and doing miracles.

Jesus went to Jerusalem where He was arrested and put on trial by the Jewish leaders.

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus because they didn't believe Jesus was the Son of God.

Early Good Friday morning the Jewish leaders took Jesus to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate to get permission to kill Jesus.

Jesus willingly allowed himself to be arrested, put on trial, and brought in front of Pontius Pilate.

Jesus did all this because He loved us and wanted to take away our sins.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

- Mark 10:32-34 In going to Jerusalem, Jesus knew He would suffer many things. He went willingly to save us from our sins.
- Isaiah 52:13-15 Jesus was the Sin-Bearing Servant who suffered to save us.
- Isaiah 53:2-8 The Son of God became man to be the sacrificial lamb who willingly suffered, gave up His life, and bore our sins to give us peace.

Purple tells us to feel sorry for our sins because Jesus suffered many things to take our sins away.

APPLICATION

- What happened to Jesus in our story? (He was hit, made fun of, and whipped. A crown of thorns was crushed on His head.)
- How did the soldiers make fun of Jesus? (They put a purple robe on Him and pretended to worship Him as their king.)
- What did the soldiers put on Jesus' head that looked like what a king would wear? (Crown of thorns)
- The soldiers did this to make fun of Jesus and pretend He was King of the Jews.
- Was Jesus a king? (Yes)

Show picture of Jesus on the cross.

- He doesn't look like a king. **What kind of a king was Jesus?** (Jesus was a heavenly king.)
- Jesus wasn't an earthly king with a fancy robe, an expensive crown, or lots of soldiers to protect Him.
- Jesus is the heavenly king who came to this earth.
- Why did Jesus, the heavenly king, come to this earth? (He came to take away our sins.)
- What are sins? (The bad things we do that God tells us not to do.)
- Because we sin, Jesus had to come to this earth, **suffer all this pain** (*point to picture*), **and die on the cross.**
- This should make us feel sorry. **It was our sins that made Jesus suffer all this pain** (*point to picture*).
- This is what the color purple reminds us of. (*Show purple piece of paper.*)
- The color purple tells us to feel sorry for our sins, and it shows us how much Jesus suffered to take away our sins.
- Even though we are sorry and feel bad about our sins, we should feel happy and thank Jesus every day for taking away our sins.
- When we die, where will we go because Jesus took our sins away? (We will go to heaven.)
- The color purple tells us that Jesus, the heavenly king came to suffer and die to take away our sins.
- Let us pray to Jesus telling Him we are sorry for our sins, ask Him to forgive us our sins, and thank Him for suffering for us.

Say a prayer saying we are sorry for our sins, asking Jesus to forgive us our sins, and thanking Him for suffering for us.

Lesson 2 “Jesus’ Crucifixion” Matt. 27:45-47, 51-54; John 19:28-30a; Luke 23:46,48

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 2 “Jesus’ Crucifixion”

Read Matthew 27:45-47, 51-54; John 19:28-30a; Luke 23:46,48.

Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.

Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.

Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.

Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.

Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.

Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

MATERIALS:-colored paper or construction paper in the following colors: purple, black, white, red, green
-picture of Jesus on the cross
-nail

INTRODUCTION

Hold up the colored pieces of paper for the whole class to see.

-Which color did we talk about yesterday? (Purple)

-What happened to Jesus in our story yesterday? (He suffered. He was hit, made fun of, and whipped. A crown of thorns was crushed on His head. The soldiers put a purple robe on Him and pretended to worship Him as their king.)

-How did the color purple make us feel? (It made us feel sorry.)

-Why? (We sinned.)

-What is a sin? (A sin is when we do something that God tells us not to do.)

-What does the color purple tell us about Jesus? (He had to suffer all that pain.)

-Why should the color purple make us happy? (Jesus suffered as our King to take away our sins.)

-Today’s color is going to make us feel sad. Which color other than purple makes us feel sad? (Black)

Show the color black.

-Today we are going to talk about the color black.

Hold up the picture of Jesus on the cross.

-What is happening to Jesus in this picture? (He is dying on the cross.)

-Why is Jesus dying on the cross? (He is dying to take away our sins.)

-Jesus was on the cross because we sinned.

-Jesus loved us so much He wanted to die to take away all our sins.

-The color black tells us about our sins. It also tells us that Jesus died to take them all away.

-This happened on a special day called Good Friday. This is the day Jesus died to take away our sins.

-In today’s story we are going to hear how Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about Jesus:

Jesus was put on trial in front of Pontius Pilate early Good Friday morning.

Jesus was whipped, beaten, mocked, and sentenced to be killed.

Pontius Pilate ordered that Jesus should be crucified.

Jesus had to carry a wooden cross, but He was too tired to do it.

Another man (Simon of Cyrene) carried it for Jesus.

At 9:00 in the morning Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross, and Jesus was raised up on the cross.

(Show students where the nails would go by having them touch their hands (wrists) and feet. Act out how Jesus would have been lifted up on the cross.)

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

- Psalm 22 These are the prophetic words of David depicting the suffering events of the Messiah on Good Friday.
- Heb. 9:11-28 Jesus, the Great High Priest, offered Himself once on the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.
- I John 3:8 Jesus came to die on the cross to destroy the works of the devil.
- Gal. 4:4-5 When God's time was right, Jesus, true God, was born as a man to redeem the world that we might become God's children through faith in Jesus.

**Black tells us that we have sinned, and
Jesus had to die to take our sins away.**

APPLICATION

Show the nail to the cross.

- Imagine having this nail go through your hands and your feet.**
- How would that feel?** (It would hurt.)
- What other painful thing happened to Jesus?** (He died on the cross.)

Show picture of Jesus on the cross.

- These were two very painful things that happened to Jesus, but there was something else that happened to Jesus that was more painful.**
- What was it?** (Answers vary.)
- The most painful thing that happened to Jesus was when God put all of my sins, your sins, and the sin's of everyone in the whole world on Jesus.**
- What did Jesus say when God put all these sins on Jesus?** (My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?)
- Why was this the most painful thing for Jesus?** (God was punishing Jesus for our sins instead of punishing us for our sins.)
- God was punishing Jesus for our sins. Jesus was suffering the punishment of hell for us.**
- What does the word punish mean?** (Answers vary.)
- Punished means that we get in trouble because we do something bad.**
- Did Jesus ever sin or do anything bad?** (No)
- Then why did Jesus get punished?** (Jesus wanted to take our place and in so doing take away our sins.)
- Jesus loved us so much that He wanted to get punished instead of us so our sins would be taken away.**

-This is what the color black tells us.

-The color black tells us that we have sinned.

-In order for our sins to be taken away, Jesus had to die on the cross and be punished for us.

-The color black tells us something sad: Jesus died, but the day Jesus died is called Good Friday.

-We call it "Good" because when Jesus died He took all our sins away. It means we are forgiven.

-What will happen to us when we die? (We will go to heaven.)

-Let's pray to Jesus thanking Him for being punished for us, taking away our sins, and dying on the cross so we can be with Him forever in heaven.

Say a prayer thanking Jesus for being punished for us, taking away our sins, and dying on the cross so we can go to heaven.

Lesson 3 “Resurrection” Matthew 28:1-10

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 3 “Resurrection”

Read Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-8.

Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.

Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.

Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.

Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.

Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.

Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

MATERIALS:-colored paper or construction paper in the following colors:
purple, black, white, red, green
-picture of Jesus on the cross
-picture of empty tomb s

INTRODUCTION

Hold up the colored pieces of paper for the whole class to see.

- Which color did we talk about yesterday? (Black)
- What happened to Jesus in our story yesterday? (He died on the cross.)
- How did the color black make us feel? (It made us feel sad.)
- Why? (We sinned and Jesus died.)
- What does the color black tell us about Jesus? (He died for us.)
- Why should the color black make us happy? (Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins.)
- Today’s color is going to make us feel happy. Which color makes us feel happy? (White)

Show the color white.

- Today we are going to talk about the color white.

Hold up the picture of Jesus on the cross.

- What happened to Jesus? (He died.)
- What does it mean to die? (Answers vary.)
- When someone dies, they can’t walk or talk or move. They can’t breathe or think or do anything.
- They look like they are sleeping.
- If you shook someone who has died, would they wake up? (No)
- How does it make us feel when someone we love dies? (It makes us feel sad.)
- Yesterday we heard how Jesus died. He couldn’t walk or talk or move. He couldn’t breathe or think or do anything.
- How does that make us feel to hear that Jesus died? (It makes us feel sad.)
- That is why we had the color black yesterday. It was a sad color.
- But today everything is different. We have a happy color. Something special is going to happen to Jesus in our story today that made all Jesus’ friends happy and makes very happy.
- This is why we have the color white today. It is a happy color because Jesus came alive.
- Even though He was dead, He came alive. He could walk, talk, move, breathe, and think.
- This happened on a special day called Easter Sunday.
- In today’s story we are going to hear about this happy, special event. Jesus is alive!

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about Jesus:

Jesus died at 3:00 in the afternoon on Good Friday.

Jesus' friends, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, took Jesus' body and buried it in a tomb.

They wrapped Jesus in a linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which was carved out of a rock. It was similar to a cave.

Some women (Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph) followed to see where they buried Jesus.

Jesus' burial was done in a hurry in order to finish before the sun went down on Friday evening. Saturday was the Sabbath Day when they couldn't work.

The women were planning on coming back early Sunday morning to put spices on Jesus' body to finish His burial.

A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb.

Because the Jews thought the disciples might take Jesus' body and say He rose from the dead, they wanted the tomb guarded.

Pontius Pilate ordered the tomb to be sealed and guards to be posted to watch the tomb.

Early Sunday morning the women returned to the tomb wanting to finish the burial of Jesus.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

- Isaiah 1:18 Our sins make us dirty, but the Lord makes us white as snow through Jesus' resurrection.
- John 14:19 Because Jesus rose from the dead, we will rise also.
- John 11:25-26 Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we will not spiritually die.
- Acts 1:3 Jesus showed Himself alive to His disciples for forty days. He was preaching and strengthening them.
- Romans 1:4 Jesus is the Son of God and has the power to rise from the dead.
- Romans 4:25 Jesus was raised from the dead so we could be declared "not guilty"- justified.
- Romans 6:4 We were buried with Jesus, so that through His resurrection we will be resurrected also.
- I Cor. 15:12-23 Jesus has been raised. We are not in our sins. Death has been destroyed.
- I Cor. 15:50-58 We shall all be raised and receive a new body. Death has been swallowed up. It has no sting because of Christ's victory for us.

White tells us that Jesus rose from the dead and has made us pure by taking away our sins. Jesus will raise us from the dead also.

APPLICATION

- Raise your hand if you like to get dirty.
- What makes you dirty? (Dirt and mud makes us dirty.)
- When you get your clothes dirty, how do your parents feel? (Mad)
- Why? (It is hard to get our clothes clean.)
- How do your parents get your clothes clean? (They wash them.)
- Are you dirty right now? (No)
- But we are. We are dirty with something worse than dirt or mud. We are dirty with sin.
- What is a sin? (Answers vary)
- Sin is when we do things that God tells us not to do. We sin when we say "no" to our parents. We sin when we complain or tell lies.
- These sins make us dirty. We need to be clean.
- God tells us there is a way to get rid of our dirty sin.

-Jesus did it for us.

-How? (Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.)

-When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He took away our dirty, black sin.

-Can you guess what color God says we have become because Jesus died and rose from the dead to take away our sins? (White)

-Yes, God says we are white like snow. We are clean. Our dirty sin is gone.

-That makes us happy because now we don't have to worry about our sin or death.

-What happened to Jesus in our story today? (He rose from the dead.)

-Jesus promises us that because He rose from the dead, we will rise also.

-That makes us very happy.

-Where will we go when we rise from the dead? (We will go to heaven.)

-This is what the color white tells us.

-The color white tells us that all our dirty sins are gone.

-In order for our sins to be taken away, Jesus had to rise from the dead.

-The color white tells us something happy: Jesus rose from the dead, and when we die, Jesus will raise us as well.

-Let's be happy and shout together, "Jesus is risen!" (Jesus is risen!)

-Let's pray to Jesus thanking Him for taking away our dirty sins and rising from the dead, so we can rise from the dead and go to heaven.

Say a prayer thanking Jesus for taking away our sins and rising from the dead, so we can rise from the dead and be with Him forever in heaven.

Lesson 4 "Pentecost" Acts 2:1-13

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 4 "Pentecost"

Read Acts 2:1-13.

Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.

Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.

Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.

Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.

Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.

Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

MATERIALS:-colored paper or construction paper in the following colors: purple, black, white, red, green
-picture of fire

INTRODUCTIO

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Hold up the colored pieces of paper for the whole class to see.

-Which color did we talk about yesterday? (White)

-What happened to Jesus in our story yesterday? (He rose from the dead.)

-How did the color white make us feel? (It made us feel happy.)

-Why? (Jesus rose from the dead.)

-Why should the color white make us happy? (Jesus rising from the dead means our sin is gone, and we will rise from the dead to go to heaven.)

-Today's color is going to make us feel excited and want to get busy. Which color makes us feel excited? (Red)

Show the color red.

-Today we are going to talk about the color red.

Hold up the picture of fire.

-Raise your hand if you have been next to a campfire? (Answers vary.)

-What does fire give to us? (It gives us light and heat.)

-What would happen to us if we touched the fire? (It would burn us.)

-Should we ever touch it? (No)

-But in our story today flames of fire are going to appear on top of the disciples' heads, and they aren't going to get burned.

-The fire was a sign that the Holy Spirit was giving the disciples a special power.

-Who is the Holy Spirit? (Answers vary. The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of God.)

-The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of God. There is God the Father, God the Son - Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

-We say that God the Father created us. God the Son, Jesus, died on the cross and rose from the dead for us. What does God the Holy Spirit do for us? (Answers vary. He creates faith in our hearts.)

-The Holy Spirit creates faith in our hearts to believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the

cross and rose from the dead to save us from our sins.

-The Holy Spirit gets us excited to learn more about Jesus every day.

-The Holy Spirit also helps us to get busy and tell others that Jesus died for them.

-What is our color today? (Red.)

-This is what the color red makes us feel.

-Red makes us feel excited and want to get busy.

-The Holy Spirit makes us excited to learn about Jesus and to get busy telling others that Jesus died for them.

-In today's story we are going to hear how the Holy Spirit helps Jesus' disciples to be excited and tell others how Jesus died to save them from their sins.

-This happened on a special day called Pentecost.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about Pentecost:

Jesus rose from the dead.

Because many people did not believe Jesus was alive, He appeared to them showing He was alive.

Jesus showed Himself fifteen different times to His disciples and other believers.

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He was going to leave His disciples to return to heaven.

Before leaving, Jesus commanded His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them.

After receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were to preach about Jesus to everyone in the world.

Ten days after his Ascension, fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were gathered in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

-Joel 2:28-32 The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was prophesied in these words of God through Joel.

-John 14:16-17 Jesus promised His disciples that they would receive the Helper (Holy Spirit) in carrying out Jesus' ministry to the world.

-Luke 24:13-35 The Emmaus disciples' hearts burned while Christ opened the Scriptures up to them.

-I Cor. 12:3-11 The Holy Spirit gives faith and gifts to His believers for the furtherance of the Gospel.

-II Thess. 2:14 God chose us through faith in the Holy Spirit to believe the Gospel message.

Red tells us that the Holy Spirit creates faith in us to be excited to learn about Jesus and to tell others that Jesus died and rose from the dead to take away all sin.

APPLICATION

Speak the following German sentence to the students.

-Jesus hat meine sünden weggenommen. *Jesus took away our sins.*

-Did you understand what I said? (No)

-I spoke a language called German.

-What would be one way you could understand what I said? (We could understand if we knew the language.)

-What does that sentence I told you sound like? (It sounds like babbling. It doesn't make sense.)

-Why wouldn't it be good if I spoke in German to you all day? (We wouldn't understand anything.)

-Why is it important that I speak in English to you? (We understand what you are saying.)

-In our story today, who spoke in different languages? (The disciples did.)

-How could they do this? (The Holy Spirit gave them power to do this.)

- What were they saying when they spoke in these different languages? (They told others about Jesus.)
 - The disciples were telling others that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - They said that Jesus came to die on the cross to take away the people's sins.
 - They said that Jesus came to rise from the dead.
 - Why was this important for the disciples to do this? (These people needed to know that they were forgiven.)
 - Who helped the disciples do this? (The Holy Spirit helped them.)
 - This is what the color red tells us.
 - The color red tells us that the Holy Spirit gets us excited to learn about Jesus and to get busy telling others that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins.
 - That is what the Holy Spirit did for the disciples.
 - What does Jesus want us to do? (He wants us to learn about Him and tell others.)
 - This is why you are here at VBS. You are learning more about Jesus and what He has done for you.
 - The Holy Spirit is creating faith in you to believe Jesus died for you, and the Holy Spirit is making your faith grow so you can learn more about Jesus.
 - What will we do for other people now that we know that Jesus died to take away our sins? (We will tell others.)
 - The Holy Spirit will help you.
 - The color red tells us that the Holy Spirit will get you excited to learn about Jesus and to get busy telling others that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins.
 - Who can you tell about Jesus? (We can tell our family, friends, and everyone.)
 - Let's pray to Jesus thanking Him for sending the Holy Spirit to create faith in our hearts and for giving us the power to tell others that Jesus died on the cross to take away all sin.
- Say a prayer thanking Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to create faith in our hearts and for giving us the power through the Holy Spirit to tell others that Jesus died to take away all sin.*

Lesson 5 “The Throne in Heaven” Revelation 4:1-11; 5:11-14

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 5 “The Throne in Heaven”

Read Revelation 4:1-11; 5:11-14.

Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.

Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.

Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.

Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.

Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.

Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

MATERIALS:-colored paper or construction paper in the following colors: purple, black, white, red, green
-bring leaves and grass or a green plant
-picture of a lamb (as in Lamb of God)

INTRODUCTION

Hold up the colored pieces of paper for the whole class to see.

- Which color did we talk about yesterday? (Red)
 - What appeared over the disciples’ heads? (Flames of fire appeared.)
 - What special power did the disciples have? (They could speak in other languages.)
 - Who gave them this power? (The Holy Spirit gave them this power.)
 - How did the color red make us feel? (It makes us feel excited.)
 - Why? (The Holy Spirit gets us excited to learn about Jesus and to get ready to tell others that Jesus died and rose from the dead to take away our sin.)
- Today’s color is going to tell us what God does for us. Which color haven’t we talked about this week?

Show the color green.

- Today we are going to talk about the color green.
- Look outside the window. What do you see that is green? (The grass, leaves, and plants are green.)

Show the grass, leaves, or plant.

- These green things grow. They get bigger and are alive.
- That is what the color green tells us.
- Green tells us to grow.
- God is going to help us grow, but we aren’t talking about growing taller or bigger.
- We are talking about growing in knowing about Jesus’ love.
- We are going to learn a new word that the Bible uses for love. It is called grace.
- Grace is love that we shouldn’t get from God because we sin, but God gives it to us anyway.
- Grace is love we don’t deserve. It is a gift from God.
- What do we do to make God sad every day? (We sin.)
- Do we deserve to have Jesus take away our sins when we don’t do what God says? (No.)
- But God loves us anyway. He sent Jesus to take away our sins even though we sin all the time.
- That is grace.
- The color green tells us that God wants us to grow in that grace.

- He wants us to learn more about how much He loves us every day.
- In today's story we will hear that God loves us so much He will take us to be with Him in heaven.
- The color green tells us that we will grow in His grace - learn more about how much He loves us.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information:

Jesus ascended into heaven.

Pentecost was over, and the disciples preached God's Word all over the world.

Most of the disciples were arrested and killed because they preached about Jesus.

Jesus promised that He would still be with His disciples even though they would have troubles.

John was arrested and sent to live on an island.

While on this island, God sent dreams to John showing him what heaven would be like.

These dreams told John that Jesus had defeated the devil, sin, and death.

These dreams helped John feel better even though he was having troubles.

They made John feel better because Jesus the Lamb of God has won the battle and receives all glory, honor, and praise in heaven.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

- John 5:23 The Son and Father are equal. If you don't believe in Jesus, you don't believe in God.
- Rom. 8:19-21 All of creation waits for Christ's return on Judgment Day.
- Phil. 2:6-11 Jesus gave up His throne in heaven to save us by dying on the cross. In doing the Father's work, Jesus received all His glory, honor, and power back again.

Green tells us that God wants us to grow in knowing that He loves us even though we sin and don't deserve His love (grace).

APPLICATION

Show the picture of the lamb to the class.

- What is this? (It is a lamb.)
- Who was the lamb in our story? (Jesus was the lamb.)
- Why do we call Jesus a lamb? (Answers vary.)
- Back in the Old Testament priests would kill lambs as their way to worship God.
- We say they sacrificed the lamb to God.
- God wanted the people to do this because it told them that Jesus would come and be killed on the cross.
- Jesus was sacrificed for us.
- That is why we call Jesus the Lamb of God.
- In our story today what was everyone doing to the Lamb, Jesus? (They were praising Him.)
- Why? (He saved everyone from their sins.)
- Jesus gets all praise and worship because He is the Savior. He saved us from our sins.
- What should we do to thank Jesus? (Answers vary.)
- We should praise Jesus also.
- How can we praise Jesus when He isn't here? (We praise Him when we sing to Him.)
- There are many ways we can praise Jesus.
- We praise Jesus when we:
 - 1) sing songs to Jesus,
 - 2) pray to Jesus,
 - 3) worship Jesus at church
 - 4) and do what God says.

- When we do these things, Jesus is happy.
- But when we praise Jesus, it helps us. It makes us feel happy.
- What color did we talk about today? (Green)
- What did green tell us? (Green tells us that God wants us to grow in His grace.)
- Green tells us that God wants us to grow in His grace.
- What is grace? (God's love for us when we don't deserve it. It is a gift.)
- Grace is God's love for us that we don't deserve because we sin.
- God gives us His grace anyway. It is a gift.
- When we praise God by singing songs to Jesus or praying to Jesus or worshiping Jesus at church or doing what God says, we are growing in His grace.
- We are learning more about what Jesus did for us.
- What did Jesus do for us? (He died on the cross to take away our sins.)
- That is why we want to praise Him. He is the Lamb of God who took away our sins.
- Let's pray to Jesus thanking Him for saving us from our sins, but let's also praise Him by telling Him how wonderful He is for saving us.

Say a prayer thanking Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross as the Lamb of God, but also spend time in the prayer praising Jesus for all the wonderful things He is and does for us.