

LEVEL 3, QUARTER D

Additional Activities

Triumphant Over All

1. Faithfulness

Zacchaeus (20 minutes)

This drama activity recreates the story of Zacchaeus. Supplies: Bible-times dress-up clothes, something to climb safely

Explain that Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector in Jericho. He was very rich and very dishonest. Most of his money came from overcharging the taxpayers and putting the extra money in his own accounts. The poor people hated him because they knew how dishonest he was, but they could do nothing. Have the students act out the story of Zacchaeus as a volunteer reads Luke 19:1-10. Follow up with discussion questions such as, **What caused the change in Zacchaeus' heart? How did he show that his repentance was true? How did Zacchaeus go from being a selfish consumer to an investor in God's kingdom?**

Eternal Rewards (20 minutes)

This discussion activity explores the parable of the Servants and the Minas.

Share a little Bible history with the class. The Roman kings had to actually travel to Rome to receive their official title as King over a specific Roman province. Even Herod the Great had gone to Rome to be given his kingdom. This parable illustrates how Jesus would depart (by His death and resurrection) to receive His kingdom and one day return to rule over all the earth. Read Luke 19:11-27 and discuss how this parable reflects the history of the Roman kings. Point out verses 13-14. This portion actually reflects what happened to Archelaus, a son of Herod the Great. When he went to Rome to receive his rule over Judea, a delegation of Jews traveled there as well to protest. Caesar Augustus refused them, however, and made Archelaus king anyway. However, Archelaus was such a poor ruler that he was replaced quickly. Pontius Pilate, who was ruling at the time Jesus told this parable (and at Jesus' death), was the fifth person to be appointed after Archelaus had been removed.

After explaining this history, discuss the parable as it related to Jesus' life and the ways we are to invest in God's kingdom. **Who do you think the master in this story was? (Jesus) What did Jesus mean when He talked about putting our gifts to work until He comes back? What things does this parable teach us about how God rewards those who invest their lives in His kingdom?**

Cross-Reference Training (15-20 minutes)

This Bible activity highlights the richness of Scripture. Supplies: Bibles with cross-references

Make sure that each child has access to a Bible with cross-references. (Several can group together with one Bible.) Explain how they can further their knowledge of the Scripture by cross-referencing (looking up other verses that relate to the verse they're reading). Luke 18:31-33 is an excellent passage on which to practice. Help kids find the references that tell of Jesus being handed over to the Gentiles, mocked, insulted, spat on, flogged, and killed. Find Old Testament prophecies that predicted these things. Finally, have children find references that describe Jesus' resurrection.

2. The King Arrives

Authority Over All (10 minutes)

This discussion activity identifies areas where people mistakenly think they have authority over God.

Remind the children that God has supreme authority over everything on earth. He created everything! **Some people don't believe in God's authority. Or, they forget that God is in charge and they try to take over instead. What are some of the things people do that shows they are trying to take the authority away from God?** Encourage the children to consider age-related struggles such as striving to be popular, cheating, lying, stealing, or making decisions without asking for God's will. **Why is it so tempting for us to try to control things when we know God should have authority over our lives?** After a few suggestions, encourage the children to spend a few minutes in quiet prayer asking God to help them with specific areas where they often forget to let Him have complete control in their lives.

Passion Week Poster (20-30 minutes)

This craft activity creates an outline of Jesus' final week. Supplies: poster board, markers, glue, other decorating supplies

Help children create a poster that charts the events of the week from Jesus' triumphal entry on one Sunday to His resurrection on the following Sunday. Use a large sheet of poster board and have students decorate the chart with drawings. Use the events listed below. Have volunteers look up references and list them beside each event.

Sunday

*triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Monday

*cleansing of the Temple

Tuesday

*teachings in the Temple and on the Mount of Olives

*Judas agrees to betray Jesus

Thursday

*the Last Supper

*prayer at Garden of Gethsemane

Friday

*betrayal and arrest

*series of trials

*crucifixion

Saturday

*disciples hide in sorrow and fear

Sunday

*Resurrection

3. The King Answers

Tricky Bible Questions (15-20 minutes)

This trivia activity tests children's Bible research skills. Supplies: books of Bible jokes, trivia, riddles, or questions you write

Divide your class into small groups. Take turns attempting to answer some of the trivia or questions you have gathered. Let them use their Bibles as references. If possible, provide other forms of Bible research materials as well. After each question, give the groups one minute to search and write their answer. Share all group responses before giving the correct answer. You may want to keep points, but be careful to avoid making this into a competition. The focus should be on research and study of God's Word.

Design Heavenly Coins (10-15 minutes)

This drawing activity creates a symbol of what heavenly money might look like. Supplies: coin templates, markers/crayons, coins from America and other countries

Draw two large circles of equal size on a piece of paper. Use most of the paper. Make enough copies for each child. Read Luke 20:20-26 again. Show the children some coins from America and other countries. **Roman coins had Caesar's image on them. American money has the faces of past presidents or other important people from history.** Give each child a page with the circles. Ask them if they have ever wondered if there will be money in the Kingdom of Heaven. Challenge them to design the front and back of a coin that would honor God as heavenly money.

Time Teasers (5-10 minutes)

This discussion activity tackles questions about eternity.

Get your kids to stretch their minds thinking back—way back. Use Jesus' question to the teachers of the Law in Luke 20:41-44 to spark discussion about similar mind-boggling concepts. Let students grapple with these questions and others that you think of:

- **How far back does eternity go?**
- **God has no beginning and has always existed into eternity past, so why did He wait to create the world when He did?**
- **Since Jesus is God in bodily form, when God appeared to Abraham (and others) in the Old Testament in human form, did He look exactly like Jesus did thousands of years later?**

4. Signs

Signs of the End (10 minutes)

This discussion activity clarifies that we need to be on the lookout for ending signs.

How do you know when a fireworks show is about to end? What about a play or musical? How can you tell when the pastor is about to finish a sermon? Discuss other scenarios that have signals that the end is near. Explain that there are many things in life with signs for us to know the end of something is coming. **In the Bible, God gave us signs about the end of the world so we could watch for His return. Jesus has promised to return someday soon, and when He does, we will be ready because He has told us things to watch for. As you listen carefully to the lesson, see how many signs and promises Jesus gave to help us watch for His return and feel comforted about the time He returns to earth.**

Come Again Rap (20 minutes)

This music activity focuses on the signs Jesus predicted. Supplies: notebook paper, pencils, Bibles

Form groups of three or four children. Have each group select a sign from Luke 21:5-36 to create a rap. Reassure the kids that their raps do not need to rhyme. In fact, writing a poem instead of a rap is fine if that is easier for some. Include ample time for each group time to rehearse their composition. Then, let each group perform their rap (poem) for the class.

Fulfilled Prophecy Contest (one or two weeks)

This research activity challenges children to find ways that Bible prophecy was fulfilled.

Challenge kids to compile a list of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus by a specific deadline. Suggest that they get a parent, pastor, or friend to help them. Their lists should include the Old Testament reference, what the prediction was, and the New Testament reference that tells of its fulfillment. Offer prizes to all who participate, with the prizes increasing in proportion to the number of prophecies on their lists.

5. Judgment Day

Talent Show (30–60 minutes)

This show-and-tell activity encourages children to share their talents as praise and worship to God. Supplies: individual supplies as needed by each child

Children have many talents that often go unnoticed or unused in church. Take time to discuss individual talents, making sure each child has something specific to identify. If any child struggles, provide suggestions based on what you know about the child. Then, choose a time when you can have a class talent show for God. Welcome all types of talents, including live performances, exhibits of things, sharing of accomplishments, etc. Invite parents and friends to join the event. Encourage the children to share how their particular talent can be used for God's glory. If scheduling a time is difficult, try letting one or two kids share their talents each week.

Visitation (20–60 minutes)

This “field trip” brings kids to people who need love and attention.

As a class, plan to visit one or two lonely people in the community. Take freshly baked cookies or some other small gift to the lonely person's home. Relax and enjoy the privilege of simply being with and listening to this person who is so dear to Jesus.

Clothing Collection (10+ minutes)

This charity activity challenges kids to give of themselves to help others.

In response to Matthew 25:36, select one or more families in your community or church to bless with nice clothing. Send a note home with children asking parents to help their kids sort through clothing that no longer fits them. Designate a day and time for clothing to be dropped off. Recruit some volunteers for sorting clothing by size and gender, and others for packaging it. Ask volunteers who have a way with words to write notes to accompany the packages. Finally, select a small delegation of students to go with you to deliver these practical expressions of love.

6. The Last Supper

Make Perfumed Oil (15-20 minutes)

This craft activity connects kids to the story of Mary at Bethany.

Supplies: baby oil, potpourri, baby food jars, cheesecloth

Let each child pour baby oil and potpourri into a glass baby food jar and screw on the lid. Set the jars on a sunny window sill. Provide small bottles for students to decorate with ribbons, glitter, or tempera paint. After two or three days, have students remove the lids from the jars, covering the jars with gauze or cheesecloth. Straining the mixture through the gauze or cheesecloth, help students pour the oil into the decorated bottles and put the tops on the bottles. Present them as gifts of love to friends.

7. Be Fruitful!

Preparations (15 minutes)

This discussion activity focuses on the importance of preparations when going away for a long period of time. **Supplies:** notepaper and pencils

Ask the children to pretend they are preparing for a six-week camping trip. What things would they need to prepare before leaving? What would they like their parents to prepare for them to take along with them? Challenge the children to create a list of as many things as possible. Then, take turns sharing your lists as a group or with a partner. Discuss why certain preparations are so important as we get ready for long trips.

Fun Codes (10-15 minutes)

This game highlights important verses in today's passage.

Have a child write a code on the board, giving each letter of the alphabet a different designation (for example: a=j, b=q, etc.). Have another student select a key verse from the lesson and write it in code on the board. Have the rest of the class race to see who can figure out the verse first.

8. Be Courageous!

Stair-step Booklets (20 minutes)

The students will create a special booklet about the Holy Spirit.

Supplies: construction paper, scissors, stapler, coloring utensils, pencils

Before this activity, cut the construction paper into ten different lengths so that they form a stair-step booklet when put together. Give each child ten different lengths of construction paper. Have them arrange their pages on top of each other from the shortest to longest. Staple together along the top. Tell kids that they will use one term for their booklet—the Holy Spirit. One letter of the term should be written on each page of the booklet, spelling out the term vertically on the pages. For each page, they should think of a word or phrase that uses that letter in some way to describe the Holy Spirit. Write the word or phrase on each page. Illustrate the booklets. Then share together as a whole group.

Holy Spirit Balloons (10-15 minutes)

This object lesson illustrates the way the Holy Spirit fills and empowers believers. **Supplies:** large, white, helium quality balloons

Draw or trace the shape of a dove on the board. Have kids use markers to draw the outline of the dove on their balloons. Hold up a balloon that has not been inflated. Make the analogy that a person is powerless without the Holy Spirit. Blow up the balloon and let it go. Compare the force with which it flies to the Holy Spirit's energizing power in the believer. Let children have fun letting their balloons zoom across the room. Once you have restored order, let kids share other insights about this analogy.

Persecuted for No Reason? (10 minutes)

This discussion activity lets kids express their understanding of persecution.

The disciples faced terrible persecution for standing up for Jesus. Many people, even today, say that Jesus did not exist or that He was not really the Son of God. Why would the disciples suffer hatred and persecution if they were preaching about someone who never existed? If other people threatened to hurt you, would you still stand up for someone you didn't really know or believe in? Discuss this concept for a few minutes until the children begin to see that the disciples knew, without a doubt, that Jesus was real. Otherwise, why would they allow themselves to suffer so much?

Discuss possible ways the children might face persecution in school or among peers if they stand up for Jesus. Encourage them share experiences. Explain that they should not be afraid of being hurt of persecuted because they love Jesus. He sent the Holy Spirit to protect them, just like the disciples. Remind the children that standing up for Jesus is worth the persecution because He is real! Go to Matthew 5:10 and read the verse aloud together. Discuss what the Beatitude promises them if they are persecuted for Jesus' sake. Close with a prayer asking God to give each child courage to stand up for Him, even if they feel persecuted sometimes.

9. Be One!

United We Kneel, Divided We Fall (10-15 minutes)

This demonstration emphasizes the power the Church has with oneness.

Have the children kneel in a circle, facing inward. **Pretend you are kneeling in prayer to God. However, all of you are alone, saying your own prayers, and worried about your own needs. You are not interested in working together. What would happen if Satan attacked a Christian who was trying to do everything alone?** Allow a few ideas, then nudge one of the kids just enough to knock him or her over. Explain that when Christians are divided, they are not following God's will. They can easily fall into the temptations of the world. The child was easily knocked over because the group was not together as one body of Christ.

Now challenge kids to work together to find a way to combine their hands and arms in oneness so that no one will fall over when you push anyone. Explain that even though they may move or shift when you push someone, you should not be able to knock them over. Give them a few minutes to try out different ideas. When they are ready, nudge a child to see if you can cause him to fall over. Parallel this activity to the way

Christians support each other in oneness with God in the world. **Satan tries to tempt Christians to fall away from God and other believers. He knows we are much weaker when we face the temptations of the world alone. We could easily be knocked over by Satan if we are trying to stand alone as a follower of Christ. But, when we have Christian friends who are praying for one another and standing strong in oneness with God, then we can count on each other for support to keep from falling away.**

BB Bonding (10 minutes)

This object lesson illustrates how believers are to live in the world.

Supplies: magnet, BBs, clear bowl of water, laxative tablet, liquid dish soap

In preparation for this demonstration, dissolve the laxative tablet in the bowl of water. Place the BBs into the bowl. Dip the magnet into the dish soap and allow it to dry so that it appears normal. To demonstrate, tell students that the bowl represents the world, and the BBs are people. Explain that the magnet represents God, Jesus, and all true believers. They are "one" in God's Kingdom. Insert the magnet into the bowl. The water solution will turn red, illustrating that Christians should influence the world, not the other way around. As you lower the magnet into the bowl, it will attract some of the BBs, causing them to "unify" with God and His people. Discuss how the way believers live on earth can attract some non-Christians to Christ.

10. Betrayed!

Cross Stamp (10-15 minutes)

This craft activity highlights the significance of the cross. Supplies: potatoes, red ink pad, drawing materials, paper

Before class, make a stamp by cutting a potato in half and carving a cross so that it sticks out from the surface. Provide drawing materials for students. In circles about the size of the potato, tell them to draw pictures that represent sin, death, or punishment. Explain that many signs have show a picture with a red bar crossing it out to symbolize "no left turn" or "no dogs allowed." Press the potato stamp against a red ink pad and stamp a "cross" over the pictures students have drawn. Make sure they understand that the cross put an end to the punishment and death that sin causes.

Charades (20 minutes)

This game challenges kids to act out scenes from today's Bible passage. **Supplies:** paper slips, bag, 30-second timer

Before this activity, select several different verses from today's Passage that are filled with action. Write these verses (or the Scripture reference) on different slips of paper. Drop the papers into a bag or hat. Divide the class into small groups. Take turns having one volunteer from each group select a verse from the bag. The child should act out that verse while the rest of his group tries to guess correctly before the time is over. Continue until all verses are drawn or until everyone has a turn.

11. Crucified, Yet Alive!

Resurrection Eggs (15-20 minutes)

This craft activity creates reminder symbols of Christ's death and resurrection. **Supplies:** plastic Easter eggs, egg cartons, various supplies (see below)

Help children put together twelve plastic Easter Eggs, each one containing a symbol to remind them of Jesus' death and resurrection.

- 1) a small picture of a lamb for "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29)
- 2) a dime to represent 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 27:6-7)
- 3) a rose thorn for the crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29)
- 4) a piece of paper with the words "King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37)
- 5) a nail for the nails in his hands and feet (Matthew 27:35)
- 6) a red bead for his blood (Matthew 26:28)
- 7) a dry, small piece of sponge that was previously soaked in vinegar (Matthew 27:48)
- 8) square of black paper for darkness that fell in midday (Matthew 27:45)
- 9) tissue torn in two to represent the veil (Matthew 27:51)
- 10) a strip of muslin for his burial clothes (Matthew 27:59)
- 11) a small stone for the rock sealing the tomb (Matthew 27:66)
- 12) an empty egg with "He is Risen" written on the inside (Matthew 28:6)

Give the children egg cartons to place their eggs in. You may also want to print out a "cheat sheet" showing the symbols and Scripture verses.

Heart My Cross (15-20 minutes)

This craft activity encourages kids to respond to Jesus' sacrifice.

Supplies: poster board, construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, and markers

We have all seen people "cross their heart" when they want someone to believe what is said. Here's a chance to really make a true statement by "hearting your cross." Cut out a cross of any size from the poster board. Cut out many hearts of all sizes from red, pink, and white construction paper. Glue them to the cross in any arrangement. Be creative. On each heart, write a short message about the love that Jesus' crucifixion displays. Display the cross in a prominent place as a reminder of the greatest love in the universe.

Psalm 22 (10 minutes)

This Bible activity explores the prophecies in Psalm 22 about Jesus' death and resurrection. **Supplies:** Bibles

Jesus cried, "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?" as He hung on the cross. Why did He say this if He and God are One? In the Bible times people did not have books to read. In order to discuss the Scriptures, they had to memorize them. When someone wanted others to recall a specific Passage in the Bible, he would simply recite the first line of the Passage. Then, the people would be able to call to mind the chapter they were to consider or discuss. As Jesus hung on the cross, this is exactly what He did for His followers. His cries were directing them to think of Psalm 22, which they would have all known by heart. This Psalm is filled with prophecies of Jesus' crucifixion. He wanted to remind the people that the Messiah and His crucifixion had been foretold hundreds of years before Jesus was even born. Have the children read Psalm 22 to research the specific prophecies in the chapter. (Verses 1-21 describe the crucifixion, including details of Jesus' injuries. Verse 15 notes that the Messiah will thirst while on the cross. Verse 18 tells of the soldiers gambling for His clothes. Verse 22 tells how the Messiah will speak out to His Father, God.)

12. It's True!

Feeding Time (10 minutes)

This show-and-tell activity stresses Jesus' command to Peter.

Bring a young pet to class, along with its favorite food. A puppy or kitten is fine; a lamb is excellent. Make sure the animal is hungry enough for it to eat when you feed it. Talk about how helpless young pets are and their need for someone to give them loving care. Compare the needs of your pet to the needs of Jesus' "lambs." As you feed your pet, you might want to pass out snacks and feed your kids as well!

Gospel Comics (20 minutes)

This drawing activity emphasizes Jesus' resurrection. **Supplies:** paper, pencils, rulers, markers

Help children create their own comic page centering on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Starting at the top of a page, and using a pencil and ruler, show them how to draw two-inch tall strips across the page. Divide each strip into two, three, or four panels (like they would see in a comic book). A regular sheet of typing paper will hold four strips, leaving about a half inch space between each. Help them remember the sequence of events by listing them on the board in the order they occurred. Get them started in class, but let them take their comic strips home to finish. Encourage them to bring their comic strips back for their classmates to pass around and enjoy.

He's Alive (10 minutes)

This music activity describes the disciples' fear after Jesus' death and their joy after His resurrection. **Supplies:** music to *He's Alive* (by Don Francisco), audio player

Explain that this song is specifically about today's lesson. Invite the children to listen carefully for ways the disciples reacted to Jesus' death and resurrection. Play the song. You may want to provide written lyrics as well.

Video Time (10-20 minutes)

This video activity highlights Jesus' days after His resurrection.

Supplies: video of Jesus' last days on earth (from previous lessons)

If the video you used in the previous lessons includes footage of Jesus' appearances after His resurrection, show this last portion to the children. Use the questions from the *Explore Scripture* as follow-up discussion points.