

Jesus the Perfect Substitute!

Bible Lesson: Jesus the Perfect Substitute (Psalm 22, Matthew 27:45-51, 54-56, 59-66, Luke 23:33-53)

Main Teaching: Jesus is the only one who can save you **Word Up:** Jesus died for me!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Who is Jesus poster from previous weeks – Small Group
- Recording for “Jump” and “Christ Also Suffered” - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “Jump” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Piece of Paper – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “Jesus the Perfect Substitute” – Bible Lesson
- Prophecy Verse Scrolls – Bible Lesson 4
- The Burnhams Week 4 visual – Missionary Story
- Quiet Time Guide Week 4 - Dismissal
- Coloring Sheet Week 4 – Small Group

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group

INTRODUCTION

Even as Jesus hung on the cross, He showed love to those around Him. This **doctrinal evangelistic** Bible lesson follows Jesus in His last hours of life and emphasizes His substitutionary death. It uses the two thieves hanging on either side of Jesus to show the contrast between a heart open to God’s love and forgiveness and a heart that remains hardened to Him. One thief rejected Jesus while the other called on Him for salvation. Bring out this contrast again during the invitation, asking the children which thief they are like.

Make sure to pay attention to the flashcard order in this series and practice with the flashcard book before teaching. This lesson has you returning to a previous flashcard twice. One of these times is during the invitation, to help the children connect with the thief on the cross as they consider what they believe.

When Jesus died, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, opening the way for mankind to have fellowship with God. During *Wonder Time*, explain what it means to come near to God in prayer, experiencing His mercy and His grace. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we have access to God—our broken relationship with Him can be restored.

**SMALL GROUP****Say Memory Verse**

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

What has Jesus done for you?

Let's look at the things about Jesus that we have been writing down during the last few weeks. *(Discuss what your group wrote in the "Who Jesus Is" notebook or poster.)* We can know everything the Bible teaches about who Jesus is and what He has done is true! He is the Savior who died for the sins of the world. Have you put your trust in Jesus? What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Savior? *(Allow response and write answers.)* If you have believed in Jesus, remembering who Jesus is and what He has done matters. He saved you and you belong to Him. You can think about what you believe every day! You are saved from your sins, given help and power to live for God, and promised a home with God in Heaven someday. Let's thank Jesus right now for all He has done for us. *(Pray with children.)*

**WORSHIP**

To learn songs and motions, go to YouTube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

"Jump"

"Christ Also Suffered"

RULES

Go over the UP Rules

WORD UP!

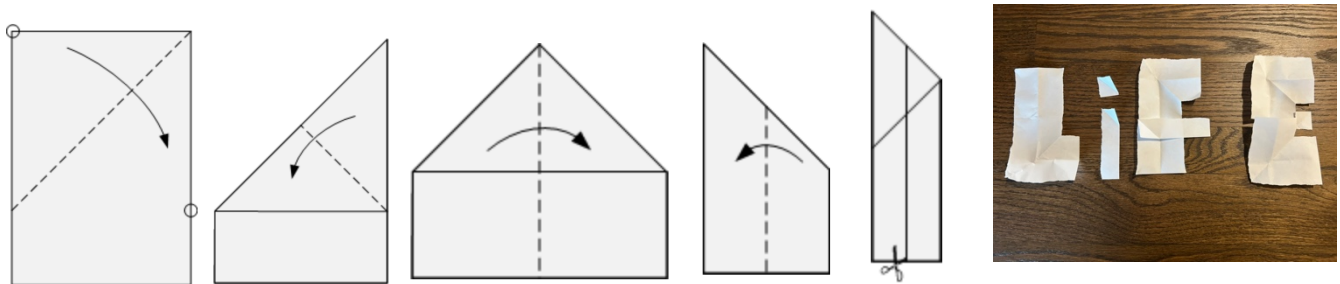
"Jesus died for me"

When Jesus died on the cross, He didn't do it for just a few people; He died for everyone! He died for you! Jesus loves you and He wants you to have a friendship with God. Because Jesus died and came back to life, you can have a friendship with God when you believe in Jesus as your Savior. WORD UP!, **"Jesus died for me!"** *(Say with children.)*

OBJECT LESSON

One Rip Cross

Do you ever wonder what makes people really happy? There was a man who was really rich, but he wasn't happy. He thought to himself if I buy a boat, surely, I'll be happy. So, he went out and bought a boat. (Fold 1). The boat made him happy for a little bit, but soon he was feeling sad again. He thought maybe if I buy a big fancy house to live in, that will make me happy. So, he found a beautiful huge house and he bought it! (Fold 2). But he was still lonely and unhappy. He started traveling all over the world, flying on planes (Fold 3) and meeting new people, but that still didn't make him happy. Finally, he met some people that went to a church where they believed in Jesus (Fold 4). They invited him to come to church, and there he found people singing and praising God. They were happy on the inside, even when hard things were going on around them. They shared with him that Jesus loved him and wanted to have a personal relationship with him. All of the things he owned didn't really matter. (Rip cross on cut line.) Jesus loved him so much that he died on a cross (unfold the cross) and gave his perfect blood to pay the price for this man's sins. If this man believed in Jesus, Jesus would take all the torn and broken and sad parts of his life and give him a new life. He would give him a new life with Jesus that starts right now and will go on forever and ever in Heaven someday! (Use ripped off pieces to spell the word LIFE.)



BIBLE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Have people ever made fun of you? How did that make you feel? (*Allow responses.*) Did you know people made fun of Jesus? They did that and a lot worse on the day He was sentenced to die. Listen closely and see how He responded. Jesus was innocent! Yet because of their hatred for Him, the religious leaders had arrested Jesus and convinced the Roman governor, Pilate, to sentence Him to death. Jesus had suffered much pain as He was beaten and made fun of.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Flashcard 4-1

Soldiers placed the heavy wooden cross on Jesus' shoulders and made Him carry it. They led Him through the narrow streets of Jerusalem.

Many people crowded into the street as Jesus passed by. Some shouted and made fun of Him but others cried when they saw His suffering.

The soldiers led Jesus to a hill called Golgotha (Calvary) outside of the city. They placed Jesus on a cross and put large spikes in His hands and feet, nailing Him to the wood. This was a painful way the Romans put criminals to death.

Flashcard 4-2

Two more crosses were raised into position that day—one on either side of Jesus. The men on those crosses were thieves who deserved to be punished because they had broken the law. But Jesus was innocent. He never did anything wrong—He is completely perfect!



Unlike Jesus, you and I have done wrong things. The Bible says, (*read Isaiah 53:6*). We were all born with a “want to” to go astray, to sin—to go our own way instead of God’s way. Can you name some examples of sin? (*Allow response.*) When you are selfish, unkind, or take things that don’t belong to you, you sin. Even when you are happy that bad things happen to someone you don’t like, that is sin too. The punishment for sin is to be separated from God both now and forever. You deserve to be punished because you have done wrong things.

Jesus was completely perfect—He never did anything wrong—but He was crucified as if He were a guilty criminal. This fulfilled one of the many prophecies about God’s Promised One—the Messiah. Isaiah the prophet wrote, (*have a child read Isaiah 53:12d from scroll.*)

Around 700 years before this terrible day, God said the Savior would take His place among transgressors (sinners). (*Add “Innocent” to Prophecy Poster.*) Many in the crowd wanted Jesus to die. The soldiers joined the people in making fun of Jesus, their voices filled with hatred. Everything was happening just as God said it would. Prophecies were being fulfilled as Jesus was dying on the cross. The many details given in the Old Testament about the Messiah’s death make it clear that Jesus is the promised Savior.

Flashcard 4-3

Around 1,000 years before Jesus was born, King David, one of the greatest kings of Israel, wrote, (*have child read Psalm 22:7-8, 16b, 18 from scroll*). That is exactly what happened. Jesus’ hands and feet were pierced with nails. As Jesus was hanging on the cross, some people were laughing at Him. Others were mocking Jesus, shouting He should come down from the cross if He truly was the Son of God. Even the thieves who were hanging beside Jesus made fun of Him. The soldiers who crucified Jesus (hung Him on the cross) took His robe and cast lots (gambled) to see who would keep it. (*Add “Suffer and die” to Prophecy Poster.*) All the prophecies about the promised Messiah’s suffering and death came true in Jesus.

As Jesus hung on the cross in great pain, He prayed for those who crucified Him. (*Read Luke 23:34a.*) How do you normally respond when people mistreat you or are unjust to you? (*Allow response.*) People usually respond in anger or wanting revenge toward those who are mean to them. But Jesus prayed for God to forgive them. How amazing! When Jesus asked God the Father to forgive these people, He was showing His great love for them. His love didn’t depend on their actions.



Jesus’ love for you doesn’t depend on your actions. You can’t do anything to cause Him to love you more. You can’t do anything to cause Him to love you less. Jesus is God and He loves you more than anyone else ever could. The Bible says, (*read 1 John 4:8b*). Love is part of God’s character—who He is. And because Jesus is God, this is true about Him too! Did you know He brought you here today for a reason? He wants you to hear about His great love and forgiveness. He’s the one who wonderfully created you. He knows everything about you—including your sin—and He still loves you. Jesus is perfect and His love for you is perfect. He loves you even though you sin. His love for you doesn’t depend on your actions.

Jesus' love for those who crucified Him didn't depend on their actions. He loved them even though they were killing Him.

Back to Flashcard 4-2

Jesus even loved the thieves hanging on His left and right. One of the thieves continued to make fun of Jesus, saying Jesus should save Himself and the others who were being crucified. But the other thief spoke up and said, "We deserve to die, but this man has done nothing wrong." He looked at Jesus and said, (*read Luke 23:42*). The man knew the three of them would die on those crosses, but he asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus entered His kingdom. His words showed that he knew Jesus is the promised Savior.

Even though Jesus was in terrible pain, He promised the man, "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise (Heaven)." Because this thief showed his belief in Jesus by calling out to Him, Jesus promised him forgiveness and a place with Jesus forever after he died.

The thief was forgiven! Can you imagine how he must have felt? Though his life on Earth was ending, he would be with God forever.

Flashcard 4-4

Some of Jesus' followers—those who had listened to Him and chosen to follow His ways—were in the crowd, looking on as Jesus was crucified. Jesus' mother, Mary, was one of them, as well as other women who followed Jesus. One of His closest friends, John, was there too. How hard it must have been to watch their friend and Lord suffer so much!

At noon, something strange happened. The sky became dark as night! Is it usually dark in the middle of the afternoon? No. Everyone close your eyes and think about how dark it would be outside without any light from the sun. (*Do with children.*) For three hours the unusual darkness continued as Jesus, God's Son, carried the sins of the world on Himself. The prophet Isaiah prophesied about this moment many years before Jesus was born. (*Have child read Isaiah 53:6 and 11b from scroll.*) Jesus took our place. God laid on Him the sins of us all. Jesus was the perfect substitute, giving His life for you and me to pay for our sins. During those three hours, the Lord Jesus suffered God's anger and judgment against sin. At one point Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Finally, knowing He had taken the full punishment for sin, Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" Jesus had completed all that was necessary for sin to be forgiven.



Your sin can be forgiven because of Jesus! **Jesus is the only one who can save you.** He paid the price for every sinful thing you have ever done. Jesus willingly bled and died on the cross for you **WORD UP!**, "**Jesus died for me!**" (*Say with children.*) Only Jesus, God the Son, could pay the price for your sin because He lived as a perfect man. The Bible says, (*read 2 Corinthians 5:21*). Jesus, who had no sin, took our sin onto Himself so you and I can be forgiven and made right before God. Ever since sin came into the world, a sacrifice was needed to pay for sin. In the time before Jesus, every year people would sacrifice (kill) a lamb without blemish—a lamb that had nothing wrong with it, no spots, sicknesses, or injuries. The death of these lambs showed how awful sin is and that sin required a terrible punishment. When people would sacrifice a perfect lamb to God, they were showing their faith in God's way and God's promise to forgive their sins. The death of a lamb was not the perfect sacrifice. It only pointed to the perfect and greater sacrifice needed—the Savior God would send to take away sins once and for all. Jesus is that perfect sacrifice! Only His death could pay for your sins forever. Jesus knew the only way you could be forgiven was for Him to die as your substitute. God punished Jesus for your sin so you wouldn't have to be separated from God. After Jesus died, He was buried. Then on the third day, He came back to life! This is called His resurrection. Today Jesus is alive in Heaven. His resurrection proves His payment for your sin is complete.

Jesus completed all that was necessary for sin to be forgiven. (*Read Luke 23:46.*) Jesus hung His head and died. A soldier stabbed Jesus' side with a spear, proving that He was dead. Jesus' death was no ordinary death. An earthquake shook the ground as God's only Son died.

Flashcard 4-5

And something even more amazing happened. The heavy curtain in the temple suddenly tore in two from top to bottom! The curtain showed the separation between a holy God and sinful people. Sinful people have no right to come before God or talk with Him as a close friend. Before Jesus died, people would go to the temple to worship God, but the curtain kept them from coming into the special place where God was. Only the head priest could go behind the curtain at certain times of the year. Jesus' death made a way for ordinary people to come near to God through faith in Him. His sacrifice was enough. Now the way to God was open to all!

The way to God is open to you too. Jesus made it possible for you to know God and talk with Him anytime. We know God is everywhere, including where you are right now. But coming near to God is more than you being in the same place as God. It's about you relating with Him personally. I can be in the same room as someone, but if I don't take the time to talk with that person, I would not get to know him. It wouldn't matter that we were in the same room. If you believe in Jesus as your Savior, God is more than just *with* you. He hears you, cares for you, and is always there to help you. You don't have to go to a specific place to be in God's presence. **You can come to God anytime.** Maybe there's something that makes you sad or worried or you feel you can't talk to anyone about. Maybe you did something wrong and you feel bad about it. You can tell God about whatever is on your mind. You can know God will never reject you. He always hears you, He always cares, and He is always there to help you do what is right. Maybe you are having a really good day. You can talk with God about it. He cares about everything in your life. He wants you to have a close friendship with Him. Being near to God—knowing and talking with Him—would be impossible on your own. But Jesus' death made the way for you to come to God. Last week's memory verse reminds me of this. Let's say it together.

(Quote 1 Peter 3:18a with children.) Because of Jesus' death, you can have a close friendship with God!

Because of Jesus' death, the way to God is now open for everyone. It was even open for the Roman soldiers who crucified Jesus. They witnessed the strange events of the day and watched Jesus die. Fear gripped them as they realized there was something very different about Jesus.

CLIMAX

The Roman soldiers exclaimed, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

CONCLUSION

A rich friend of Jesus got permission from Pilate to remove Jesus' body from the cross. This man and another friend wrapped Jesus' body in cloth, took it to a tomb, and placed it inside. A huge stone was rolled into place to cover the opening of the tomb.

Flashcard 4-6

The religious leaders were happy Jesus was dead. To make sure Jesus' body stayed in the tomb, they asked Pilate to seal the tomb and have soldiers stand guard. They remembered Jesus said He would rise again on the third day. They would make sure Jesus' disciples didn't come to steal His body and try to convince people that Jesus was alive.

The tomb was sealed. The soldiers were standing guard. Jesus was dead. But a few days later everything would change.

INVITATION

Jesus died in your place. He took the punishment you and I deserve and then He came back to life! You can be forgiven only through what Jesus did for you.

Back to Flashcard 4-2



Do you remember the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus? One rejected Jesus as the Savior but the other believed and called out to Jesus to save him. Which are you like? Have you called on Jesus to save you? The Bible says, *(read Romans 10:13)*. When you call on the Lord Jesus, you are believing in what Jesus did for you and asking Him to save you from the punishment of your sin and make you right with God. God the Holy Spirit will come to live in you the moment you believe. He will change you on the inside, helping you live God's way and grow in your friendship with God. Will you call on Jesus today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to call on Jesus today to save you from your sin, show me by standing up. *(Acknowledge responses.)* Those of you who are standing may meet me *(designate time and location)* and I will show you from the Bible more about what it means to be saved.



REVIEW GAME

Rock, Paper, Scissors

Divide into two teams. Have a child from each team answer a different question. The two children then face each other and play a round of Rock, Paper Scissors. The winner of each round earns 100 points. The team earning the most points after all six rounds wins.

Rock, Paper, Scissors rules:

Each child makes a fist with one hand and gently pounds it into the open palm of his other hand three times. On the third time each player makes a hand sign: rock (closed fist), scissors (fist with two fingers extended like scissor blades), or paper (hand opened flat, palm side down). The winner of each round is determined as follows: rock beats scissors, scissors beats paper, and paper beats rock.

1. How were the two men crucified with Jesus different than Jesus? *(They deserved to be punished but Jesus didn't; they had sinned; they were thieves.)*
2. What is one of the prophecies in the Old Testament that shows Jesus is the promised Savior? *(Refer to the Prophecy Poster: The Savior would be born in Bethlehem; heal the sick; ride a colt; be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver; be silent [not defend Himself]; be dishonored [be hit and spit upon]; be innocent [not a sinner]; suffer and die.)*
3. As Jesus hung on the cross, what did He ask God to do for the people? *(Forgive them.)*
4. What can you do to cause God to love you more or less? *(Nothing.)*
5. What did the two thieves on either side of Jesus think of Him? *(One made fun of Him and the other believed Jesus is the promised Savior.)*
6. What happened during the three hours of darkness as Jesus hung on the cross? *(Jesus carried the sins of the world; Jesus suffered God's anger and wrath against sin.)*
7. What did the lambs that were sacrificed in the years before Jesus point people to? *(They point to the people's need for a perfect sacrifice who would take away sin once and for all; they pointed them to Jesus who would die for their sins.)*
8. What does the torn temple veil mean for you if you have believed in Jesus as your Savior? *(The way to God is open; He gives His mercy and His grace; it is possible for me to know God and talk with Him anytime.)*
9. Why did Jesus die such a terrible death? *(To make a way for me to come to God instead of being separated from Him; to be my substitute and take the punishment for my sin.)*
10. Why did the religious leaders want to seal and guard the tomb where Jesus was buried? *(They didn't want Jesus' disciples to steal the body and convince people Jesus was alive.)*

11. How are people like the two thieves on the crosses beside Jesus? *(The thieves were sinners, and all people have sinned; the thieves deserve to be punished for their sin and all sin deserves to be punished; people either reject Jesus or receive Jesus; answers may vary.)*
12. What does it mean to call on the Lord Jesus to be saved? *(I am believing in what Jesus did for me on the cross and asking Him to save me from the punishment of my sin and make me right with God.)*



MISSIONARY STORY

The Burnhams

Part 4



In the Philippines, Martin began flying a small, red and white plane in and out of the jungle. What do you think he took to the islands? *(Allow response.)*

Examples include groceries, medical supplies, fuel, mail, missionaries, people going to a doctor, etc.)

Martin was an excellent pilot. It was one of the special skills God had given him. He could take off and land on even the shortest jungle runway with trees crowding in on both sides.

God had the perfect job for Gracia too! Every day she used the shortwave radio to call the missionaries who lived far out in the jungle. She made sure they were okay, took orders for supplies, and arranged for the plane to come when they needed it. Gracia would also call Martin while he was flying so she knew where he was in case of an emergency. She kept track of the weather so she could warn him about dangerous conditions. One day Martin called Gracia and told her something was wrong with the plane's engine! Soon the engine quit, and he was gliding with no power. Gracia prayed and asked others to pray too. At last Martin radioed in. He said, "Gracia, we're on the ground! Everyone is out on the runway cheering!" Can you cheer with me? *(Do with children.)* God answered "yes" to Gracia's prayer and Martin landed the plane safely!

More than 16 years went by. Martin and Gracia had three children by now. They had two boys, Jeff and Zach, and one girl, Mindy. Gracia taught them at home so they didn't have to go away and live at school like Martin did when he was a boy. Every few years the family went back to the United States to visit but they came to think of the Philippines as home.

To celebrate their 18th wedding anniversary, Martin and Gracia went to a resort on the island of Palawan *(point to check mark on map on back of visual)*. They had a wonderful time until one night there was a loud pounding on the door of their beach cabin. *Boom, boom, boom!* Suddenly three men with machine guns burst into their room! The Burnhams and 18 other people were taken hostage by a terrorist group. They were all loaded onto a small boat and taken to another island.

The terrorists were disappointed when they found out the Burnhams were missionaries. They knew no one had money to pay to set them free. "We'll deal with you last," the group leader told them. Martin and Gracia knew they would be held hostage for a long time. It helped to know that other missionaries were caring for their children, but they missed them terribly.

Day after day and week after week their kidnappers forced them to walk through the jungles to keep them from being rescued by the Philippine army. Their feet were cut and bruised from walking so much. They had little food and water and were often sick. Martin was handcuffed nearly all the time. He even had to sleep handcuffed to a tree at night.

If Martin and Gracia didn't cooperate, they would be killed. What will happen? Will Martin and Gracia be safe? Come back next time to find out.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Color Sheet and Discussion

Review the Bible Lesson from today as kids color the picture. Talk about how we can talk to God anytime. Ask the kids for some times they would want to talk to God.

DISMISSAL

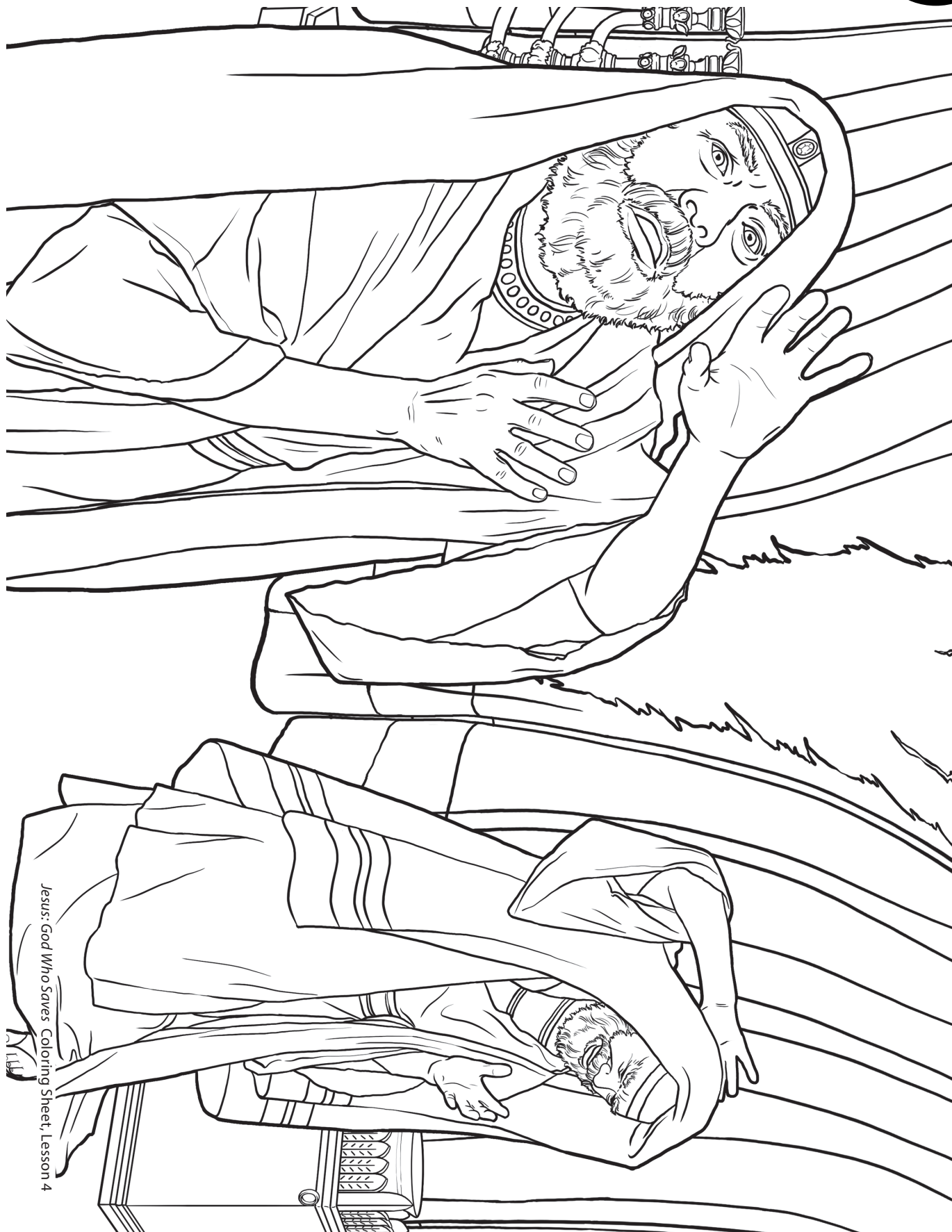
Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 4 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids learned that God cares about them and they can talk to God anytime.

Jesus the Perfect Substitute

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in you Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline	
I. INTRODUCTION	Have people ever made fun of you?
II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS	
A. Flashcard 4-1 (Luke 23:33a)	The soldiers placed Jesus on the cross.
B. Flashcard 4-2 (Isaiah 53:12d; Luke 23:33b)	1. Two thieves were crucified on either side of Jesus. Unlike Jesus, you and I have done wrong things. [Isaiah 53:6]
C. Flashcard 4-3 (Psalm 22:7-8, 16b, 18; Luke 23:34-38)	1. Psalm 22:7-8, 16b, 18 prophecy: "Suffer and die." 2. As Jesus suffered and died, He was mocked, even by the two thieves hanging beside him. 3. Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him. Jesus is God and He loves you more than anyone else ever could. [1 John 4:8b]
D. Flashcard 4-2 (Luke 23:39-43)	1. One thief believed in Jesus. 2. That thief was forgiven!
E. Flashcard 4-4 (Matthew 27:45-51b, 55-56; Luke 23:44-46)	1. Some of Jesus' followers were in the crowd. 2. The sky became dark for three hours as Jesus carried the sins of the world on Himself. 3. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice! [2 Corinthians 5:21] When Jesus completed all that was necessary for sin to be forgiven, He died.
F. Flashcard 4-5 (Matthew 27:51a; Luke 23:45b)	The curtain in the temple was torn in two.
III. CLIMAX	You can come to God anytime. [1 Peter 3:18a]
IV. CONCLUSION	
A. Flashcard 4-6 (Matthew 27:59-66; Luke 23:50-53)	Jesus' body was placed in a tomb with soldiers guarding it.
B. Flashcard 4-2	Which thief are you like? Will you call on Jesus to save you today? [Romans 10:13]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text.
Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.



Jesus: God Who Saves Coloring Sheet, Lesson 4