Good Friday

Jesus gives himself in faithful love

Ages about 7-11 | Video 3:47 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Jesus endures betrayal, unfair treatment, and the cross, freely giving himself for our salvation.

Learning goals Recall the connection between the Last Supper and the cross; identify Jesus' faithful love; and choose a safe act of care or prayer.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Explain that Good Friday remembers Jesus' saving love, not a rule that children must accept harm. Watch the link with his gift at the Last Supper.

Watch and notice

Notice the friends' fear, Jesus carrying the cross, the connection with his Body and Blood, and the concluding prayer.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What made the disciples' friendship difficult that night?
Betrayal, fear, denial, and running away. The reflection names human weakness while focusing on Jesus' faithful love.

2. How does the cross connect with the Last Supper?
The same Jesus who gave himself in the Eucharist gives his life on the cross. His love is one self-giving gift.

3. Why do Christians remember this hard day?
Jesus' death belongs to God's saving work, leading to the Resurrection. We remember his mercy and love.

4. Does following Jesus mean accepting abuse?
No. Children must seek safety and tell a trusted adult about harm. A safe response today may be prayer, truthful speech, or helping someone.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

Good Friday

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw a simple cross as a sign of Jesus' love, without graphic injury. Then draw a safe act of care for someone in need. Accept an oral explanation.

Read & Write Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

A cross of caring responses | Optional 4 minutes

Draw a simple cross on paper. At its center write Jesus loves us. At the four ends add Pray, Tell the Truth, Help, and Ask for Safety. Choose one caring response for this week. Keep the focus on love and support; do not imitate suffering or violence.

Look for understanding Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to the passion and jesus' saving love.

Closing prayer Jesus, thank you for your saving love. Stay near all who suffer, and help us care for others safely and truthfully. Amen.

At home Choose a quiet Good Friday prayer with an adult and talk about the hope of Easter.

Handout answer notes The Last Supper. Jesus gives his life for our salvation. Responses should name safe prayer or care, never accepting or causing harm.

Teach with care

Preview the arrest, suffering, and death themes. Avoid reenactments or demands that children describe personal pain. Plan quiet space and questions. The Passion is not an invitation to seek harm, conceal abuse, or imitate Jesus' unique sacrifice. The falls are traditional Stations of the Cross imagery, not narrated in the Gospels. Avoid collective blame of Jewish people; human sin is the theological context.

Words to explain Passion: Jesus' suffering leading to his death. Salvation: rescue from sin and death through Christ. Cross: the sign of Jesus' self-giving love.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English transcript

Background: Luke 22: the Last Supper and arrest

Background: John 19: the Passion and death of Jesus