

EASTER LESSONS



THE
BIGGEST
STORY
CURRICULUM



EASTER LESSONS

The Biggest Story® Curriculum, Easter Lessons

Text © 2026 by Crossway

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Some of the material in this volume is adapted from *The Biggest Story Curriculum*.

All emphases in Scripture quotations have been added by the contributors.

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CONTENTS

How to Use This Curriculum.....	v
Sample Lesson Plans	x
1. The Loving Lord Who Got Down Low (<i>John 13</i>)	1
2. The Last Supper before the Big Rescue (<i>Luke 22</i>)	11
3. A Really Good Friday (<i>Mark 15</i>)	21
4. From Great Doubt to a Big Shout (<i>John 20</i>)	31
Activity and Coloring Pages	39
Contributors.....	49



How to Use This Curriculum

The Biggest Story Curriculum includes 104 lessons designed to help children understand God’s plan to redeem the world through his Son, Jesus, by leading them through the overarching story of the Bible over the course of roughly two years. Created from the ground up by a team of pastors, children’s ministry workers, and content creators, the curriculum features guided lessons that can be used in Sunday school, children’s church, or homeschooling contexts.

The Biggest Story Curriculum, Easter Lessons, which you hold in your hands, includes 4 new lessons developed specifically for a 4-week season leading to Easter. The content of these lessons is designed to lead children through the final days of Jesus’s life, his sacrificial death on the cross, and his glorious resurrection.

A major strength of this curriculum is its modular design, allowing teachers to pick and choose which components to use based on the age of the students, specific educational goals, or available time.

The chart below shows suggested components for 30-, 45-, and 60-minute class times. For a complete set of sample lesson plans for Sunday school, children’s church, and homeschooling contexts, see Sample Lesson Plans on page x.

		Available Time for Lesson		
Lesson Components		30 minutes	45 minutes	60 minutes
Teach	The Big Picture (5 minutes)		✓	✓
	Tell the Story (5–10 minutes)	✓	✓	✓
	Teach the Story (10 minutes)		✓	✓
	Gospel Connection (5 minutes)	✓	✓	✓
Engage	Discuss the Story (10 minutes)			✓
	Activities (10–15 minutes)	✓	✓	✓
	Crafts (10–15 minutes)			✓

Lesson Components

The lesson components are grouped into three major lesson phases: Read, Teach, and Engage. The Read phase includes a brief set of prelesson prompts including the most important step—reading and meditating on the Bible passage itself. The Teach phase includes all the tools needed to help kids understand the story and how it fits into the grand narrative of the Bible. The Engage phase includes multiple components to help kids thoughtfully, creatively, and physically engage with the story in memorable ways. Below is a description of each component within these three phases.

1

Read

BEFORE THE LESSON

This section highlights the Bible passage that teachers should read and meditate on before teaching the lesson. It also includes a simple checklist designed to guide teachers as they review the lesson and prepare to teach.

2

Teach

THE BIG PICTURE

5 minutes

This section helps the teacher understand and summarize how the lesson connects with previous lessons and the overarching story of the Bible. Teachers are encouraged to review this section ahead of time, summarizing it in their own words at the beginning of the class.

TELL THE STORY

5–10 minutes

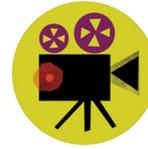
After reviewing how the lesson fits into the preceding lessons and the overarching story of the Bible, teachers progress to telling the current week's story. This can be done in one of three ways: (1) reading the relevant Bible passage out loud to the class, (2) reading the material included within the Tell the Story section, or (3) watching the relevant animated video for that particular story (found at TheBiggestStory.com). In each lesson, these options will be presented to you in the following way:



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read the
Easter Bible story
below



Play *The
Biggest Story*
video

Don't miss the Memory Verse. In the margin next to this section, teachers will find a Memory Verse for the lesson. These verses reinforce the main point of the lesson and are short enough for kids to memorize in a week.

TEACH THE STORY

10 minutes

This section provides some suggested teaching points to emphasize as teachers seek to reiterate the key themes from the story. While this section is written as a script, it can also be used as a launching pad for teachers to unpack the story for their class in ways that will serve their specific students. Don't miss the Big Truth. In the margin next to the end of this section, teachers will find the Big Truth—a short sentence summarizing the main point of the lesson. Consider emphasizing the Big Truth throughout the lesson by saying it together as a class, incorporating it into an activity, or writing it on a craft.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

5 minutes

Similar to the Teach the Story section, this section can be used as a script or as a guide to help teachers show their kids how the lesson connects to the Bible's big story of redemption through Christ. Teachers are encouraged to close the teaching portion of the lesson by emphasizing how the story points to Jesus—the Snake Crusher—and his plan to save people from their sin.

3

Engage

DISCUSS THE STORY

10 minutes

Designed for use in smaller groups, the discussion questions listed in this section are a great way to help kids go deeper in their understanding of the story and why it matters. The questions listed here are intended to foster interactive group conversation between teachers and students.

ACTIVITIES

10–15 minutes

Each lesson includes a number of suggested activities that are designed to pair well with the story. These activities are broken up into two age ranges (K–2nd and 3rd–5th) and include simple instructions along with a list of necessary supplies. Teachers can also use the accompanying coloring pages and activity pages (see page 39), which can be scanned from the back of this book and also downloaded and printed from TheBiggestStory.com.

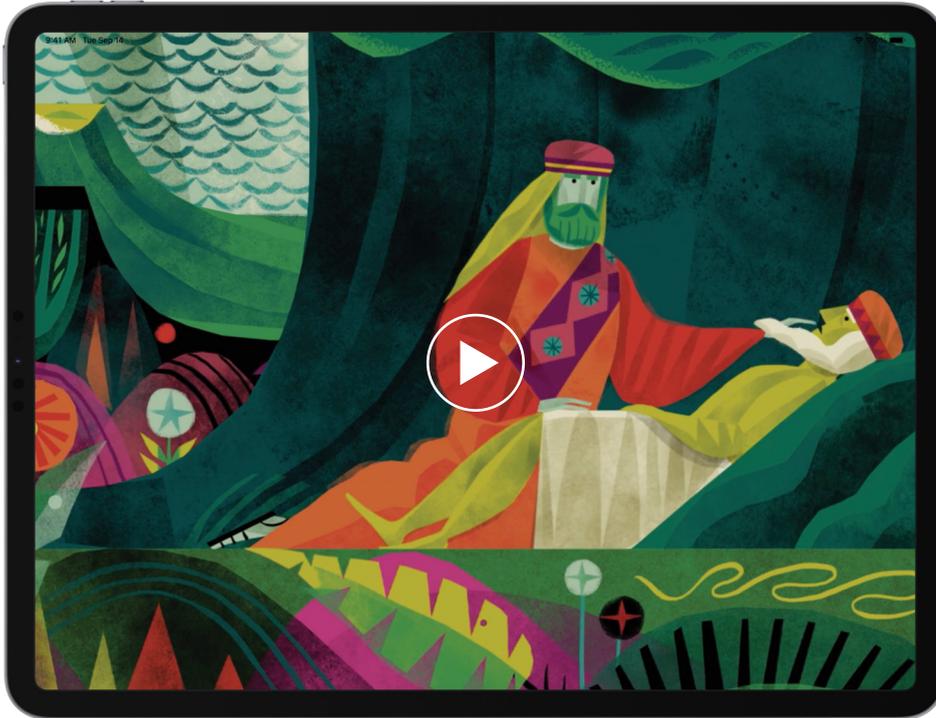
CRAFTS

10–15 minutes

Each lesson includes a number of suggested crafts that connect to the story in some way. These crafts are broken up into two age ranges (K–2nd and 3rd–5th) and include recommended preparation before the class begins, a list of necessary supplies, and simple instructions for doing the craft in class.

A Note on Artwork

Users will notice that the stories within *The Biggest Story Curriculum, Easter Lessons* include pictures of Jesus. The illustration style shows that these are not meant to be depictions of Jesus as he really was on earth. Instead, the artwork used here recognizes that Jesus is indeed the main character of the Biggest Story.



TheBiggestStory.com

TheBiggestStory.com

Visit TheBiggestStory.com to stream or download free materials designed to complement *The Biggest Story Curriculum*.

Featuring beautiful animation and custom sound design, *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook Videos* help bring the Bible to life for children in a home or classroom setting. The videos are available to stream for free.

Downloadable and printable worksheets give kids fresh ways to engage with and review all the Bible lessons from *The Biggest Story Curriculum*. Each activity page encourages children to recap key points from the story, helping them apply what they have learned throughout the week, and the coloring pages give them a creative way to meditate on the story.

Sample Lesson Plans

The Biggest Story Curriculum, Easter Lessons consists of lesson components that can be customized for various church, home, and classroom contexts. The following sample lesson plans are intended to serve as inspiration as you develop the plan that is right for your context. A blank worksheet is provided at the end of this section for you to build your own lesson plan.

● Sunday School: Small Group/Large Group Plan

This 60-minute lesson plan was developed for a Sunday school format that includes small groups led by volunteer leaders and a single large group teaching time led by a primary teacher.

Time/Day	Duration	Lesson Component	Notes
8:30 a.m.	5 min	Welcome, Activity Sheets	Led by small group volunteers
	5 min	Transition to large group	
8:40 a.m.	5 min	The Big Picture	Led by large group teacher
	5 min	Tell the Story	Video or Easter Bible Story
	10 min	Teach the Story	
	5 min	Gospel Connection	
	5 min	Transition to small groups	
9:10 a.m.	10 min	Discuss the Story	Led by small group volunteers
	10 min	Craft or Activity	

● Sunday School: Simple Plan

This 45-minute lesson plan was developed for a one-room Sunday school context. It is simple and fast-moving to help younger kids stay engaged.

Time/Day	Duration	Lesson Component	Notes
9:30 a.m.	5 min	Welcome, Coloring Sheets	Room Leader, Volunteer 1
	10 min	Activity	Volunteer 2
9:45 a.m.	10 min	Tell the Story	Room Leader, Video or Easter Bible Story
	5 min	Gospel Connection	Room Leader
10:00 a.m.	5 min	Snack	Volunteer 3
10:05 a.m.	10 min	Craft	Volunteer 1

● Homeschool or Classroom: Daily Plan

This lesson plan was developed for a daily homeschool or classroom learning environment. Two stories are covered each week and Fridays are used for review and Scripture memory.

Time/Day	Duration	Lesson Component	Notes
Mon	5 min	The Big Picture (Story 1)	
	10 min	Tell the Story (Story 1)	Video or Easter Bible Story
	10 min	Craft or Activity (Story 1)	
Tue	10 min	Teach the Story (Story 1)	
	5 min	Gospel Connection (Story 1)	
	10 min	Discuss the Story (Story 1)	
Wed	5 min	The Big Picture (Story 2)	
	10 min	Tell the Story (Story 2)	Video or Easter Bible Story
	10 min	Craft or Activity (Story 2)	
Thu	10 min	Teach the Story (Story 2)	
	5 min	Gospel Connection (Story 2)	
	10 min	Discuss the Story (Story 2)	
Fri	5 min	Review	
	10 min	Scripture Memory	Choose one of the two verses
	10 min	Bonus Craft or Activity	



EASTER STORY 1

The Loving Lord Who Got Down Low

JOHN 13

BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read John 13.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is, what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

THE BIG PICTURE

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

Who can tell the name of the holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus? How about the holiday that celebrates when Jesus rose from the dead? Christmas and Easter are two of the most important days in history, which is why we celebrate them every year. Christians around the world and throughout history have also celebrated Holy Week. Holy Week ends with Easter, but it begins with Palm Sunday. Do you know what Palm Sunday is? That's when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and people waved palm branches to welcome him as their King. They cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (John 12:13). They shouted "Hosanna"

1

Read

2

Teach

because that means “Save, please!” or “Save us now!” or “Salvation has come!” or “Praise the one who saves!” (Or all the above!) And they were right — Jesus is the Savior. They were also right that Jesus is the King. What they didn’t yet understand, though, was what kind of savior and king he was. They couldn’t imagine a savior who would save by dying on a cross. They couldn’t imagine a king who would be the humblest person on earth. Today we will learn about this unusual, marvelous, humble king.

TELL THE STORY

Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the
Bible passage
together



Read the
Easter Bible story
below



Play *The
Biggest Story*
video

Memory Verse
Love one
another: just as
I have loved you,
you also are to
love one another.

JOHN 13:34

Jesus knew everything. He knew he was heading into Jerusalem to die. He knew he would suffer. He knew the whips on his back would burn. He knew the cross would be heavy. He knew the nails through his hands and feet would feel like the stings of a hundred wasps at once. He knew one of his closest friends—Judas—would betray him; one—Peter—would deny him; and the rest would leave him to die alone. He also knew he was God’s Beloved Son and the King of the Forever Kingdom. He knew that his Father had given him all authority and power and that he would soon return to his Father in heaven. So what did the Sovereign Son of the Father, the Greatest King of All Time, do the night before the biggest events in world history—his cross, tomb, resurrection, and ascension to heaven?

Jesus stood up from the meal with his twelve apostles. He took off his outer robe. He grabbed a towel and tied it around his waist. What was Jesus doing? Was he going to help clean up after the meal? No—something more spectacularly surprising! He poured water into a bowl. Then he got on his knees and started to wash his disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel. Can you imagine! What was the one who is the “heir of all things” and “the radiance of the glory of God,” the one who now sits “at the right hand of the Majesty on high” and who long ago “created the world” and still today “upholds the universe by the word of his

power”—that’s how the book of Hebrews talks about him—what was this one doing on the floor, washing dirty, dusty, disgusting feet? This was the job for the lowest servants, not the greatest King. He was showing his love to his closest friends through this beautiful act of humility. He was also showing them that God’s heaven-sent love bends low. He would soon—the day after—go even lower than cleaning feet with water. He would die for dirty sinners on the cruel cross.

Peter didn’t understand either the cross or the foot washing. That’s why, when Jesus came to wash his feet, Peter said, “Lord, you shall never wash my feet!” He didn’t think it was right for his *Lord* to do such a *lowly* act. But Jesus replied that all his followers should follow his example. He told Peter, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” Just like the apostles’ feet were clean only after Jesus washed them, so they would be clean from sin only after Jesus died for them. Peter may not have understood everything. But he knew he loved his Lord. So he said—and it’s funny—“Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” He wanted his whole body bathed.

We, too, need to be cleaned. Why? Because we are sinners, and all our bad thoughts, words, and deeds make us dirty in God’s sight. Thankfully, we have a loving Lord who gave his life for us. Thankfully, we have a humble King, who can make us forever clean. Are you willing to let the humble King—our loving Lord—clean you?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving and serving us so much. In humility you washed your friends’ feet and died to cleanse us completely. Help us to love and serve like you. Amen.

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

If you were a great king—with lots of power, money, and servants—how would you enter an important city? Maybe you’d land in a private jet and roll through town in a big black limo, with guards all around. Back in Jesus’s day, powerful rulers entered cities on strong, tall horses. Soldiers marched beside them with flags waving and swords drawn. But Jesus? He did something wonderfully different. When Jesus, the King above all kings, was ready to enter Jerusalem, he sent two of his disciples ahead. He said, “Go borrow a colt”—a young donkey that had never been ridden. The disciples found the colt, brought it to Jesus, and laid their coats across its back. Jesus sat on it. The donkey didn’t buck or bolt. It wasn’t trained, but Jesus—who had calmed crashing waves—calmed the little colt too. He showed his power. And he showed something more: humility.

Big Truth
Jesus is the
humble King,
who washed
his disciples'
feet and died
to cleanse us
completely.

Jesus didn't come like a king who wanted to show off. He came like a king who came to save. The humble King! And Jesus didn't just ride low—he got low. After the Passover meal, Jesus stood up, took off his outer robe, tied a towel around his waist, and filled a basin with water. Then he knelt down to wash his disciples' dirty feet. Andrew's feet. James's and John's feet. Thomas's feet. Matthew's feet. Even Judas Iscariot's feet—the very one who would soon betray him! And yes, he washed Peter's feet too. But Peter didn't like the idea. Wasn't Jesus too glorious to do something so lowly? Wasn't he the King of kings? "Lord, will you wash my feet? No! Never!" Peter said. Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Peter quickly changed his tune: "Then not just my feet, but my hands and head too!" What a response! Peter wanted to be all-in with Jesus. And Jesus wanted Peter (and us!) to know that he didn't just wash the disciples' feet to clean off the dirt and dust. Jesus washed their feet to show that he alone can make us clean on the inside. And he calls us to serve others like he did—to follow the humble King.

The king who rode a donkey.

The king who washed dirty feet.

The king who laid down his life to lift us up.

This is the king we worship—the humble, servant King.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.
{5 minutes}

Later that night—the night Jesus washed his disciples' feet—he talked about his death (though in a strange way). He said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him" (John 13:31). Jesus's death on the cross would bring God glory because it was always a part of God's plan to save people from their sins. The humble King descends into greatness. The humble King would receive glory by serving unto death—"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

After speaking about his death, Jesus gave his disciples a command: "Love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34). How did Jesus love his disciples? He washed their dirty, stinky feet. That's love! He also showed the ultimate act of love by dying for them and making them clean. That's super love! "Greater love has no one than this," Jesus said, "that someone lay down his life for his friends" (15:13). What a friend we have in Jesus!

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

- QUESTION:** What did the people do when Jesus rode into Jerusalem? What does their response teach us as we celebrate Palm Sunday today?

TAKEAWAY: We too should celebrate that Jesus is our King and Savior.

- QUESTION:** Jesus rode a young donkey instead of a warhorse. What does that tell us about the kind of king that Jesus is?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus is the humble King.

- QUESTION:** What surprising thing did Jesus do after the Passover meal, and why did he do it?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus washed his disciples' feet because he wanted them to serve one another and he wanted to show them that he would soon wash away all their sins on the cross.

- QUESTION:** What was the command Jesus gave his disciples? How did he love us?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus showed his love for us by dying on the cross.

ACTIVITIES

Use the accompanying coloring pages and activity pages, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Palm Sunday Parade

Supply List: real palm branches (or construction paper, scissors, crayons, and tape), instruments (tambourines or shakers), coats (or fabric scraps and paper), cardboard or a brown towel

Before Class: Gather supplies. If you don't have real branches, create a sample.

Have kids use palm branches and instruments to act out the Palm Sunday story. Create palm branches from construction paper, if needed. Create a cardboard

donkey or use a chair with a brown towel “saddle” and have the students lay down “coats” (or fabric scraps and paper) and wave palm branches, shouting, “Hosanna! Jesus is King!” Remind the children that Jesus came as the humble King.

Option 2: Foot Washing

Supply List: small basins, towels, water, one or more washable dolls

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Set up a foot-washing center where kids can take turns washing a doll’s feet. After the children do so, talk about why Jesus did such a humble thing and how we too should love others by serving them.

3rd–5th

Option 1: The Humble King

Supply List: whiteboard (or large paper worksheet) and markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. If needed, set up a worksheet.

Make a two-column chart: “Proud Kings” vs. “The Humble King.” Have the children brainstorm what most earthly kings and rulers do (wear crowns, have guards), then compare with what Jesus did (rode a donkey, washed feet, died for others). Talk about what makes Jesus so different from the rulers of the world.

Option 2: Holy Week Timeline Puzzle

Supply List: printable cards for key events of Holy Week (include Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the cross, the tomb, the resurrection; optionally include Jesus’s praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Judas’s betrayal, Peter’s denial, and Jesus’s trial)

Before Class: Create and print out cards (Scripture verse and symbol).

Give kids a pile of the cards mixed up and have them work in teams to put the events in order. Once they have them correctly in order, walk through each event. You could also ask a personal question, such as “Which part of Holy Week do you think was hardest for Jesus?” or “Which part brings you the most hope?”

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Footprints of the Cross

Supply List: washable finger (and feet!) paint, large paper, wipes

Before Class: Gather supplies. Draw a cross outline on a large piece of paper. Create an example.

Have the children place one foot in paint and make a footprint at the bottom of the prepared cross outline. After the kids do so, talk about how Jesus washes our feet—and our whole bodies and souls—when he cleanses us from all our sin by dying for us on the cross. Display the paper in the classroom through Easter Sunday.

Option 2: Donkey Ears

Supply List: brown or gray paper strips, donkey ears template, glue

Before Class: Gather supplies. Create an example.

Remind the children that Jesus chose a donkey to show he was the humble King. Using the template, have the children create and cut out donkey ears. Next, have them tape or glue paper strips together to form a circle that fits around the crown of their heads. Glue the donkey ears to the front of the paper circle. Have children put their donkey ears on and walk around the room making neighing sounds.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Crown and Towel Mobile

Supply List: cardstock, crown template, towel template, yarn, hole punch, markers

Before Class: Gather supplies. Create an example.

Have the children create a mobile using the cardstock, yarn, and hole punch. Begin by tracing the crown and towel templates onto their cardstock. Cut out the crown and towel and punch one hole on each end of both images. On each

mobile have the crown and towel hanging together. The crown represents the humble King, and the towel represents our servant Savior. Jesus is the loving Lord who stooped low to serve and save.

Option 2: Holy Week Story Wheel

Supply List: paper plates (two per child), markers, scissors, split pins, story templates

Before Class: Gather supplies. Create an example.

Each child will need two paper plates. Begin by punching holes in the center of both plates. (At the end, the split pin will go through these holes to hold the wheel together.) Next, draw lines on one paper plate to create five equally sized segments (think pizza slices!) that are big enough to fit a Holy Week story. Then invite the kids to draw and color a story from Holy Week in each of the plate's segments. One idea is to draw an image for Palm Sunday (palm branches), the Last Supper (bread and a cup), the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection (an open tomb). Provide story templates; children might want to follow these, or they might want to use their own imaginations! Next, cut out a window on the second plate that is the same size as one of the segments on the first plate, and attach the plates to create the wheel. Spin the wheel and walk through each symbol and key event that they represent.



Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.

