

Jesus Died for Us

FOR THE TEACHER:

Part of the preparation of Lent includes getting ready to commemorate Jesus' death on the cross. From a Trinitarian perspective we understand Jesus' death to be the circumcision of our human nature (Col. 2:11) the defeat of the devil (Heb. 2:14) and our liberation from the fear of death (Heb. 2:15). The point is that Jesus' death changes human nature. Depending on what background you are coming from you may think that the Father killed Jesus instead of acting on his desire to kill humanity. For a further discussion of the inadequacy of this view of Jesus' death, in contrast to a Trinitarian understanding of his death, see Pastor Jonathan's sermon "Our Sin and Jesus Death" http://theadoptedlife.org/?attachment_id=535 on *The Adopted Life* website.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: As an illustration of how God the Son became human as the man Jesus have three kids link arms to be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then have the kid playing the Son put on a shirt or jacket with a label saying "humanity". Explain to the kids that the Son "put on" human nature and will never take it off. As a result, we human beings are now a part of the life of God the Trinity.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Hebrews 2:14-15. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

*2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—
2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

**How did Jesus die? He was nailed to a cross by people like us.*

**Why did Jesus die? To destroy sin and death and set us free from them.*

** What happened to us when Jesus died? We all died.*

** What happened to us when Jesus rose from the dead? We all rose from the dead.*

PRIMARY LESSON: When Jesus died he destroyed death and sin so that when we die we can live with the Father forever.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Have one kid act out the role of Jesus. Have the other kids wrap him or her completely up in toilet paper, like a mummy. Explain to the kids

that in Jesus' time people were wrapped in strips of cloth when they died and placed in tombs. Because Jesus is the Son of God death cannot hold him, instead of death destroying Jesus, death is *destroyed by* Jesus. Have the kid playing Jesus bust out of the toilet paper to show that death cannot hold Jesus and that when Jesus dies he destroys death. Let each kid that wants to take turns being Jesus, getting wrapped up, and busting out of it.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to adopt us as your children and destroy death so that we can live with you forever. Jesus, thank you for dying so that death cannot destroy us. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that our Father loves us and that Jesus has taken us with him in his death and resurrection. In Jesus' name, Amen.