



Talk 7
Swap on a Cross
(Mark 15:21-39)



Big Idea

On the cross, Jesus was punished for our sin so we can be safe with God forever.



Faith in Kids looks like

Children who love Jesus for taking the punishment for their sin and trust him to save them.

Make in advance: 3 visuals on large sheets of paper:

- a maths test sheet with a few simple sums with wrong answers and big red crosses next to them
- a letter from granny (e.g. 'Dear Johnny, I'm having a lovely holiday at the seaside. Wish you were here! Love Granny xxx')
- a treasure map with a big X on it

You will need: the 3 large visuals, Blu Tack, marker pen, 2 white adult T-shirts (one needs to be perfectly clean), jam, spoon, muddy water/brown paint in a spray bottle, scissors, large piece of woven fabric with 'No Entry' written on it (make a small cut at the top of the fabric so it can be easily torn).

Powerpoint slides: 2 talk points.

Space for notes

(Stick up the 3 visuals.)

Crosses are used for lots of different things.

What do crosses on a test mean? **(Write 'you got things wrong' on the sheet.)**

Space for notes

What do crosses at the end of granny's letter mean? **(Write 'you are loved' on the sheet.)**

What does a cross on a map mean? **(Write 'treasure' on the sheet.)**

There's a very important cross in the Bible - the one Jesus died on. As we hear the story of Jesus' death, we'll find out what we've got wrong (test sheet) and how loved we are (letter). We'll also find out that we can have the greatest treasure ever (map).

We've been hearing stories about Jesus' power and the people he met. He is God and he came to save people like you and me. But some people hated him and wanted him dead. They couldn't see the truth about him. Those people had Jesus arrested. He was laughed at, hurt and nailed to a cross even though he hadn't done anything wrong. We're going to find out what was happening when Jesus was on the cross. The first thing we will see is that the darkness shows us Jesus was punished for our sin.

1. Darkness shows us that Jesus was punished for our sin

(Slide of talk point)

(Watch 'The Easter story animated 2/3')

Why was it strange that it went dark when Jesus was on the cross? **(Take answers.)**

It was the middle of the day when it went dark. **(For a dramatic moment - turn off the lights in the room.)**

In the Bible, darkness is a sign that God is punishing sin. **(Turn the lights on.)**



**Space
for notes**

Remember the cross on the test? It shows us we've got something wrong, we've messed up. It went dark that day because of what we've got wrong - our sin. **(Write 'our sin' on the test sheet.)**

Sin is the things we do wrong, especially the way we treat God - ignoring him or thinking we know how to run things better than he does. Sin is our biggest problem because it stops us from loving God properly and keeps us out of his family. Sin has to be punished.

Jesus never sinned, he is perfect. On the cross he was being punished for sin. But it wasn't his sin, it was ours. Jesus was punished for what we've got wrong.

(Leader comes to the front wearing a clean T-shirt.)

Imagine you're going on a special school trip. Your teacher says your uniform has to be perfect because you'll be on show as a school. But when you eat your breakfast a big blob of jam falls down the front of your shirt. **(Wipe jam down the front of the T-shirt.)**

Then on the way to school you can't resist jumping in muddy puddles. **(Spray the T-shirt with muddy water.)**

You run into school and catch your sleeve on a branch and it rips. **(Cut the sleeve with scissors.)**

By now, your uniform is a mess. Your teacher sees you, gives you detention and says you can't go out with your class. You're in trouble and you're shut out from the trip.

Nothing is hidden from God. He sees, hears and knows everything that we do, say and think. What wrong things do we say, do and think? **(Take answers and write them on the leader's T-shirt with the marker pen.)**

God also knows what you think about him. He knows when you don't listen to him or care about what he

**Space
for notes**

says. He sees every bit of sin, like a big ugly stain on us.

Our sin means we're in trouble with God and shut out from his family. It's right and fair that God punishes sin. But God loves us so much, he sent Jesus to be punished for us. Jesus was on the cross because of what we've got wrong. But he was also on the cross because he loves us.

Think back to the dirty school uniform. You've got detention and you can't go on the special trip. But then your mum arrives at school. **(Another leader comes to the front with a clean T-shirt.)**

She hands you a perfectly clean uniform. **(The first leader swaps the messy shirt for the clean one. Second leader puts on the messy shirt.)**

She goes to the teacher and gets shouted at for the mess you're in. She even sits in detention for you. Imagine that! She knows you messed up badly. But she loves you. And she shows that love by getting what you deserve. **(Leaders sit down.)**

Jesus loves us so much, he died for us. **(Write 'Jesus died for us' on the letter.)**

He got what we deserve. He swapped places with us and was punished so we don't have to be. Like being given the clean school uniform, Jesus gives us his perfect sinless life.

At the cross, we see what we've got wrong but also how loved we are. The cross is also a place of treasure. Remember the pirate map? X marks the spot where the treasure is buried. Jesus died on the cross so we can be safe with God **(write 'safe with God' on the map)** - that is the greatest treasure ever.



Space
for notes

2. The torn curtain shows us that we can be safe with God forever

(Slide of talk point)

'When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple split into two pieces. The tear started at the top and tore all the way to the bottom.' (Mark 15:38)

The temple was a bit like a church. But a special part of it was for God only. The big thick curtain was in front of it like a 'No Entry' sign to keep people out. **(Two leaders hold up fabric.)**

God is perfect and can't be near sin. If a person walked behind the curtain, they'd die. It wasn't safe for people to be near God. But when Jesus died, the curtain was torn in two by God. **(Leaders tear fabric in half from top to bottom.)**

It was a message from him to his people saying, 'Come on in! It's safe to be with me. We can be friends again!'

On the cross, Jesus took our sin away. It can't keep us from God anymore. Like being given the clean school uniform, we've been given Jesus' perfect clean life. No sin stains at all. It's safe for us to be friends with God because our sin is gone. We can be in God's family, safe with him forever. That is the best treasure we will ever get!

The cross shows us we've got things wrong. We all have a sin problem that keeps us away from God. But at the cross we also see how loved we are. So loved that Jesus was willing to swap places with us even though we don't deserve it. We can't ignore what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Space
for notes

Imagine your mum really did sit in detention for you. It would be strange and rude if you got home from your special trip and ignored her. Don't ignore what Jesus did on the cross. Only he can save you. Only he can make it safe for you to be with God forever. So trust Jesus. Ask him to forgive your sin. Thank him for dying for you. Say 'yes please' to his offer to save you. Then, you can know that even though you get things wrong, you're forgiven, you're loved and you're safe with God forever.

Pray to close.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)



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Discussion Time

Talk 7: Swap on a Cross
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Big Idea

On the cross, Jesus was punished for our sin so we can be safe with God forever.



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Children who love Jesus for taking the punishment for their sin and trust him to save them.



Did you spot it?

1. What strange thing happened in the middle of the day?
2. What happened to the curtain in the temple?



Work it out.

1. What was happening to Jesus when he was on the cross?
2. What was swapped on the cross?
3. How can people be safe with God?



Live it Out.

1. What do you think about Jesus having to die to save people? Why?
2. How does it make you feel that Jesus died to save you? Why?



Pray.



Safety: These games involve touching/eating different foods. Keep all packaging so that ingredients and allergens can be checked. If you are aware of any children with very severe allergies/intolerances then talk to the parents/carers first to ensure the safety of their child. Check for food allergies/intolerances with each group of children before starting each game.



Food Swap

You will need: Tarpaulin, objects to create an obstacle course, different foods (eggs, 2 tins of spaghetti hoops, 2 bags of dry rice, a loaf of sliced bread, 2 jars of mayonnaise, 2 bags of flour, 2 large tubs of yogurt), bucket of water, towel, plastic bowls, spoons, paper towels and a timer.

Set up: This is a messy (but silly and fun) game that will need extra time for set up and clean up. Place the tarpaulin on the floor and set up an obstacle course that includes 2 food stations. The first food station is where the children start the course. The second one must be midway

through the course. Choose 3-4 simple obstacles for each leg of the course e.g. crawl under a table, jump over bean bags, walk along a bench.

You will need 2 packs of each food so that matching foods can be placed at both stations. More than 2 eggs will be needed - have extra in case the uncracked eggs are dropped on the course). The foods at station 2 don't need to be opened and can be put back at the station at the end of the game, ready for the next team.

Food station 1 is where children are given a small amount of open/

unpackaged food to hold in their hands while doing the course e.g. a child carries a cracked egg/spoonful of spaghetti hoops/slice of bread in their hands. Have enough spoons to dish out each food.

Food station 2 is where the children swap their handful of food for the matching unopened/packaged item e.g. the child swaps the cracked egg for an uncracked egg/spaghetti hoops for the tin/slice of bread for the loaf. You need plastic bowls at this station for the wet foods to be placed into.

Place the bucket of water and towel at the end of the course so children can clean messy hands.

- The aim is to swap open/unpackaged food with it's matching unopened/packaged food while completing an obstacle course.
- Check for food allergies/intolerances first.
- The children line up at the first food station. Give the first child a handful of food. They then start the obstacle course while trying to carry the food as carefully as possible - this will be more challenging and messy for the children with wet foods.
- Leave a gap between children starting the course so there isn't

- a bottleneck at each obstacle.
- When the child gets to food station 2, they deposit their handful of food into the bowl alongside the food that matches theirs. They take the matching food from the station and complete the course.
- Hands can be washed in the bucket of water at the end of the course. Replace with clean water when necessary.
- Before the next team plays, put the packaged foods that were carried to the end of the course back at station 2. Wipe down the outside of the containers where necessary. Clean the foods out of the bowls at station 2 - you may be able to reuse the dry foods but wet foods will need to be thrown away after each team. Check the course for any spills of wet foods and clean up as required.

Scoring: Time the teams and give points in order of fastest to slowest. Give out bonus points to the least messy teams.

Safety: Wipe up any wet mess on the floor between teams. No running through the course. No food items to be eaten.





Jelly Baby Rescue

You will need: Plastic tablecloth, large bucket/plastic container, jelly babies, baked beans, spoon, paper plates, bucket of water and a towel.

Set up: Set up the plastic tablecloth on the floor. Put the jelly babies and baked beans in the large bucket/plastic container and mix with the spoon. Place the bucket/plastic container, bucket of water and towel on the tablecloth.


- The aim is to rescue the jelly babies from the bucket of baked beans.
- Check for food allergies/intolerances first.
- Children sit around the bucket and place one hand in the baked beans. They must feel around until they get a jelly baby which they must remove from the bucket. Make sure children don't put watches/anything that could be ruined in the baked beans!
- If all the children can't fit at the

bucket at the same time then keep rotating children every 20-30 seconds so they get multiple turns.

- Put the rescued jelly babies on the paper plate so they can be counted for points.
- Use the bucket of water and towel to wash and dry hands at the end of the game.
- After each team, put the jelly babies back in the bucket of baked beans, replace the bucket of water when necessary and wipe up any spilled beans and water.

Scoring: Allocate points for the number of jelly babies that are rescued.

Safety: This game could be a sensory overload for some children - give them a different role in the game e.g. keeping time. Keep the table cloth dry to avoid slipping




Search for the Skittles

You will need: Table, plastic tablecloth, paper plates, Skittles (or other small sweets), squirty cream, wet wipes, a towel/paper towel and a timer.


Set up: Set up the table with the tablecloth and a paper plate for each child in the group. Place the same number of Skittles on each plate. Don't add the cream until they start the game, otherwise it will melt. Make sure you have enough Skittles and cream for every child.

- The aim is to find and eat the Skittles from your plate as quickly as possible without using your hands.
- Check for food allergies/intolerances first. For lactose intolerant children, don't use the cream - instead, they can close their eyes so they can't see where the Skittles are on their plate.

- Children stand around the table, next to a plate of Skittles. Cover the plates with cream.
- To play, they must have their hands behind their backs and can only use their mouths to find and eat the Skittles from their plates.
- Use wet wipes to clean faces after the game.
- After each team, wipe the table before setting out new plates and Skittles for the next team.

Scoring: Time the team to see how long it takes them to eat all of their Skittles. Allocate points in order of fastest to slowest.

Safety: Wipe up any spills on the floor to avoid slipping.






Bagel in a Bucket

You will need: Plain bagels, buckets and masking tape.

Set up: Choose a large open space for this game. Make a large rectangle on the floor with masking tape.

- The aim is to throw a bagel so it is caught in another team member's bucket.
- Check for food allergies/intolerances first.
- Divide the team in two - give one half the buckets and have them stand scattered across the playing space.
- The other half stand on one side of the rectangle and throw their bagels like a frisbee into the playing space where the children try to catch a bagel in their bucket. Children with buckets can move from their spot to catch the bagel. No running

if the rectangle is crowded and that would result in collisions.

- Bagels that aren't caught must be collected from the playing space by the throwers and are then thrown again when the child is back at the starting line. Throwing continues until a bagel is caught.
- Each time a bagel is caught, shout out 'swap' and the whole team must swap roles of throwing and catching.
- Have spare bagels to replace broken ones.

Scoring: Allocate points for the number of times bagels are caught.

Safety: Children must be well spaced in the rectangle so they don't collide when trying to catch the bagels.



Set up: If possible, play this game outside. If not then place the tarpaulin on the floor first. Cut slits in the bin bags for heads and arms so the children can wear them over their clothes.

- The aim is to get members of the opposing team 'stuck' by squirting them with sauce. They can be set free when their chosen team member sprays them with water and cleans the sauce off them.
- Check for food allergies/intolerances first.
- Each team needs to choose a sauce squirter and a sauce cleaner. One team gets the tomato sauce and the other gets the mustard.
- All team members play at the same time. The sauce squirters can squeeze sauce at their opponents front and back midsection to get them 'stuck'. They have to freeze on the spot and wait for the sauce cleaner on

their team to set them free.

- Play 5 rounds of 1 minute. At the end of each round, count the number of children 'stuck' in each team. Choose new children to be sauce squirters and sauce cleaners for each round.
- Children use the bucket of water and a towel to clean off any sauce after the game.

Scoring: The team with the least number of children who were stuck after the 5 rounds is the overall winner.

Safety: Between rounds, wipe the tarpaulin with a towel to prevent slipping. Be clear that sauce must not be squirted into the face/eyes. Have clean water and towels to clean eyes if necessary. Swap children if the one squirting sauce is not playing safely.



Stuck in the Sauce

You will need: Tarpaulin, bin bags (enough for each child in 2 full teams to have one), scissors, tomato sauce and mustard (both

Grand Finale Game Suggestion

in bottles with nozzles - runnier sauce is better), 2 spray bottles filled with water, 2 tea towels, bucket of water and towels.



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