**Artrageous**

**Jesus’ Power over Sin and Death**

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**BIG IDEA: Jesus has power over sin and death, so we can call on Him to be saved.**

**BIBLE BASIS: Luke 24:13-35; Romans 1-10**

**KEY VERSE: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13 (NIrV)**

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**LEADER DEVOTIONAL**

I can’t think of a time in my life that didn’t involve going to church. When I was little, every Sunday my mom would pile my sister, a few neighborhood kids, and myself into her yellow station wagon and drive us to church. One of my most vivid memories from Sunday School involves a conversation I had with my small group leader, Ms. Patty, in second grade. That Sunday, she was teaching us how to become a Christian. I remember interrupting her and proudly proclaiming that I already was one. She asked me how I knew and I told her it was simple—my Mom was a Christian. Trying to really convince her, I let her know that it was also because I went to church, said my prayers before I went to bed, and sang worship songs. She asked me a question that has always stuck with me. “*When, did you ask Jesus to be your forever friend?”* I was stumped. I had never done that. I just thought I was automatically a Christian because of my family. That day, Ms. Patty shared a few verses from the book of Romans with me and I recognized that I needed to *personally choose* Jesus to be a part of my life.

As you help the kids in your group today understand how God desires to be in a relationship with us, make sure you explain that they need to choose to ask Jesus into their hearts. A saving relationship with God doesn’t happen because their parents are Christians or because they attend church.

My favorite thing about God is that we don’t have to earn our salvation. It’s not something that we inherit or have to try to achieve. We just get to choose Him and He responds to us with open arms full of forgiveness.

*Sandy Riggs*

GO! Contributor

**LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING**

***How to Create a “Moment” that Draws Your Audience In***

Wouldn’t it be great if you could keep kids laser focused on every word you said during a lesson? *(Answer: Yes! That would be a super power greater than both invisibility and flight!)* Unfortunately, that’s often times not the case. No matter how dynamic a lesson is, most kids can only stay laser focused for so long. Part of being an effective communicator is choosing the most important “moment(s)” within a lesson and using your voice and body to package it in a way that draws in your audience. Here are a few tips on creating a “moment” so you can be certain your audience hears what matters most:

**Choose your “moment” wisely:** Any given lesson probably has one or two moments where you really want to draw their attention. Often times, the best place to look for that moment is at or near the end of the lesson when the “Big Idea” is being hammered home. The “Big Idea” is usually the moment the whole lesson has been leading to.

**Don’t make the “moment” too long.** For a kid, you might want to keep your moment to 2 or 3 high impact sentences.

**Pause before the “moment.”** A well placed pause can be very powerful. That short moment of silence can communicate to a kid that something different and interesting is about to be said or done.

**Use your voice.** One way to create a moment is to slow your pace down—give each word just a little extra emphasis. In addition, lower the volume of your voice to just above a whisper. A whisper can grab attention even more than shouting.

**Use your body.**  Using movement and levels can also help to create a powerful moment. As your voice begins to slow down and become quiet, move close to the kids. You may even choose to place yourself in the middle of your audience. Sit down or kneel so that you put yourself almost eye to eye with the kids. Slow down your body movement and hand gestures to match the pace and volume of your voice.

**SET UP INSTRUCTIONS**

Shhh…listen carefully. Do you hear that voice coming from inside of you? Does it have a slightly French accent? If so, it’s probably your inner artist. God has put one in all of us (maybe without the accent) and it’s screaming to get out! That is—until now! During “Artrageous,” kids will have a chance to unleash the artist inside of them by using all kinds of super fun art to tell the Easter story and to picture the outrageous love that Jesus has for us.

**Special “Artrageous” directions:**

* During the “Artrageous” storytelling, kids will be encouraged to use their artistic talents to create whatever comes to mind while listening to the Bible story. They’re free to create the people, the environment, or some special words.
* Below are suggestions for different artistic media to use during the “Artrageous” series. Choose one for each week. You can have the kids use the same medium every week or provide a different medium from week to week. Do not feel limited by the list. Feel free to choose any artistic medium that you can think of.

**Suggested artistic media:**

* Markers on paper
* Crayons on paper
* Colored pencils on paper
* Water color on paper
* Chalk on black construction paper
* Rainbow color scratch paper
* Playdough. (See Resource Folder for a DIY playdough recipe.)
* Pipe cleaners
* Wax Craft sticks
* Temper paint on canvas
* Add ons: stickers, stamps, craft sticks

**Do the following ahead of time:**

* Determine which artistic medium you’ll be using ahead of time and gather the materials.
* If you’re artistic medium uses paper as a “canvas,” consider what kind of paper you would like to use. Here are a few options:
	+ Give each kid their own piece of blank 8½ x 11 paper.
	+ Give each small group one or two pieces of poster board for all of the group to draw on.
	+ Have all of the kids in the room gather around one or two large pieces of butcher block paper to create one giant piece of story art.
	+ Other options include paper plates, brown bags, or construction paper
* Determine how you will display the art made during the lesson. Will they take home their art or do you want to display them for the duration of the unit?
* Create an “Artrageous Mystery Box” by cutting the flaps off of a cardboard box. Print out the “Artrageous Mystery Box” sign and tape it to the box. Decorate the box in any other artistic way that you would like. When finished, hide the day’s art supplies underneath until the big reveal.
* Place a large paper pad or marker board in the teaching area along with a marker.
* Choose which of the GO! DEEP Reflect and Respond stations you would like to make available. Set out the appropriate materials for each of those stations.

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**CG: “Artrageous” title graphic**

**Sound: PLAY upbeat music as kids move to large group area**

**ARTRAGEOUS INTRO**

**Large Group Leader:** Hello everybody and welcome back to our very last week of “Artrageous!” During “Artrageous,” we’re using all kinds of super fun art to tell about the outrageous love that Jesus showed us during the very first Easter. I know, I know—Easter was *last* weekend! But there’s still one more VERY important part to the Easter story.

We’ll get to that part of the story in just a minute, but first I want to ask you a question. Have you ever heard some news that was so big that *everyone* was talking about it? Maybe your favorite sports team was playing in the championship game, or a huge storm was on the way. Maybe a purple unicorn broke into the cafeteria at school and demanded everyone give him their tater tots. Okay—maybe not that last one, but you get the point. Sometimes we hear news that’s so big that everyone knows about it. That’s what happened in our story for today. There was some big news, *huge* news, GIGANTIC news, and everyone knew about it. Everyone except this one guy—or so it seemed. That’s what our story for today is about. *(Walk to the “Artrageous” mystery box.)*

I think it’s time for us to get a little bit artrageous! Let’s count down from 5, then I’ll reveal what today’s artrageous art supply will be. *(Countdown from 5 then lift the box to reveal the day’s artistic medium.)*

**CG: “Big Bible Story” graphic**

**THE BIG BIBLE STORY— JESUS ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

When you’re ready to begin, distribute the art materials to the kids. **Tell the kids that unlike previous weeks, they will be asked to draw/create 4 specific pictures instead of drawing whatever comes to mind.** If they have limited room on their “canvas,” tell them to leave room enough for all 4 drawings.

In the Bible, in the Book of Luke, there’s a story about two followers of Jesus who were walking down the road toward a town called Emmaus *(pronounced uh-may-us*.*)* The whole time they walked, they couldn’t stop talking about the big news—the news about Jesus rising from the dead. Then, something amazing happened. Jesus showed up and started walking with the men, but God kept them from recognizing Jesus. They thought the man was just a stranger.

As Jesus was walking with the men, He asked them, “What are you guys talking about?” The two men couldn’t believe it. “Are you the only person who hasn’t heard?” they said. “Heard what?” Jesus said back. “Heard about Jesus,” they said. Then, without realizing who they were talking to, the two men went on to tell Jesus everything that had happened over the last 3 days.

The two men talked about the dark day that Jesus was arrested. He was whipped, and beaten, and made fun of. And then He was sentenced to death. I think it’s time to draw/create something! Take a moment to draw a picture of the darkness. *(Pause for a short art break. While the kids are creating, draw your own picture of darkness in one quadrant of a large paper pad or marker board. When kids appear to be finished, continue with the story.)*

Now take a moment to create a cross. *(Pause for another art break. Draw your own picture of a cross in another quadrant. When ready, continue with the story.)* The men on the road said that Jesus was hung on a cross and that He died. After that, He was placed in a tomb and covered by a rock.

Now take a moment to create a present or gift. *(Pause for another art break. Draw your own picture of a gift in a third quadrant. When ready, continue with the story.)* The two men told Jesus that 3 days later, Jesus’ mom and some other women brought gifts of perfume and spices to put on Jesus’ body. But when they got there, they saw an angel who said that Jesus wasn’t there, that He was alive.

Now take one last moment to create a mouth or many mouths. *(Pause for a final art break. Draw your own picture of a mouth in the final quadrant. When ready, continue with the story.)* The two men on the road said that the women rushed back to tell Jesus’ friends the good news. When they heard about it, they went to see the tomb for themselves. When they got there, it was just like they had been told. The stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty.

As Jesus listed to the two men tell their story, He couldn’t believe how surprised they were that all of this had happened. As they walked, Jesus said to them, “Why are you so surprised by this? Moses and the prophets said a long time ago that this was going to happen.” Jesus then went on to explain how He was the Savior that Moses and all of the prophets had been talking about in the Scriptures.

Later that day, when they reached the town of Emmaus, Jesus and the two men sat down to eat together. As the two men began to munch on their bread, God finally allowed them to recognize Jesus. They couldn’t believe it—that whole time they had been talking with Jesus! But as soon as they realized it, Jesus disappeared. The two men immediately found the disciples and told them the whole story. They said, “It’s true! The Lord has risen!”

**CG: “Big Bible Story Questions” graphic**

**BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

At the end of the Bible story have the kids turn briefly to their small groups and discuss the following questions: **For Younger Kids: What was your favorite part of this story? If you were one of the two men, how do you think you would have reacted when you recognized Jesus for the first time? For Older Kids: Why do you think God kept the two men from recognizing Jesus? Why do you think it’s so important that Jesus died and was raised from the dead?** After a few minutes, draw their attention back to the teaching area.

**CG: “Artrageous” title graphic**

**THE ROMANS ROAD**

Take a look at your 4 pictures. There’s 2 really cool things about them. First, they tell the story of Jesus. *(Point to your “darkness” picture.)* There was a dark day when Jesus was arrested and sentenced to death. *(Point to your “cross” picture.)* Jesus died on a cross and was buried in a tomb. *(Point to your “gift” picture.)* Three days later, some women brought gifts of perfume and spice to the tomb, but an angel told them that Jesus wasn’t there—He had risen from the dead. *(Point to your “mouth” picture.)* The women went and told everyone the good news that Jesus was alive.

But that’s not all these pictures do. The pictures also take us through a book of the Bible called Romans—they tell us why the story of Jesus is so important. Let’s read some verses from Romans so you can see what I’m talking about. Romans 3:23 says…*(read Romans 3:23 aloud.)*

**CG: “Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory.” Romans 3:23**

That verse goes with the “darkness” picture. The darkness represents sin. Sin is when you disobey God and break His rules. This verse tells us that *everyone* has sinned—you have, I have, even the nicest person in the world has. The next verse has some good news, though. *(Read Romans 5:8.)*

**CG: “But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8**

That verse goes with the “cross” picture. God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. Here’s why that’s so awesome! *(Read Romans 6:23.)*

**CG: “When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That’s because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.” Romans 6:23**

That verse goes with the “gift” picture. Because of our sin, we deserve to be forever dead and separated from God. But Jesus died for our sins, so now we have the gift of forever life with God in heaven. The only thing we have to do is to accept that gift. Here’s how. *(Read Romans 10:9.)*

**CG: “Say with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord.” Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.” Romans 10:9**

That verse goes with the “mouth” picture. If we say with our mouth that Jesus is our Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, then we’ll be saved from our sins. And here’s the best part—anyone, and I mean ANYONE, can be saved from their sins. In fact, that’s what our Bible verse for today says. Take a look.

**CG: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13**

It doesn’t matter who you are or what kind of bad things you’ve done in the past. When you call on Jesus to save you from your sins, He answers.

**THE ABCs OF SALVATION**

Have you ever done that before? Have you ever called on Jesus to save you from your sins? If you haven’t, it’s as easy as ABC. Let me explain. **CG: Admit.** The “A” stands for “Admit.” You have to admit that you sin and ask God for forgiveness. God loves you so much He’ll forgive you no matter how much you’ve sinned. **CG: Believe.** The “B” stands for “Believe.” You have to believe in Jesus and that He died on the cross for your sins. When we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can be forgiven. **CG: Choose.** The “C” stands for “Choose.” You have to choose to follow Jesus for the rest of your life. Choose to live your life the way He wants you to instead of how you want to. That’s how you become a Christians—a follower of Jesus. If you’ve never done that before, you can talk to Jesus and do that *right now.* I’ll even lead you through it.

As you lead the kids through the salvation prayer, it’s important they say it for themselves as opposed to just reciting the words after someone else. To do this, prompt the kids to silently pray on their own. After each prompt, give the kids 10-15 seconds to respond. Begin by asking the kids to bow their heads and prompting them to silently **admit** to Godthat they’ve sinned and ask Him for forgiveness. Next, prompt the kids to silently tell God they **believe** that Jesus died for them and washed away their sins. Finally, prompt the kids to silently tell God they **choose** to follow Him. Close the prayer by thanking God for the amazing gift of His Son.

Following the prayer, explain to the kids which of the GO! DEEP Reflect and Respond Stations will be available. Remind them to move about the stations very quietly. Tell them they are free to respond to God in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads them, but if they need suggestions, some of the stations will give them ideas for how to pray, write, or draw. Give each child one “GO! Home” sheet and instruct them to take it with them to the stations. Place small group leaders at the different stations to quietly help the kids. The stations listed below are just the ones that have prompts that are specific to today’s lesson. For more instructions on how the GO! DEEP Reflect and Respond Stations work as well as a full list of possible stations, see the “GO! Guide.”

**CG: “Artrageous” title graphic**

**Music: (Optional) Play quiet reflective music**



**Prayer Station prompt:** Write a prayer to Jesus. Praise Him for taking your sins away.

**Journal Station prompt:** Imagine you took a walk with Jesus like the 2 men on the road to Emmaus. What kind of questions would you ask Jesus? What would you say to Him? Write about it.

**Bible Station prompt:** Read it for yourself: Luke 24:13-34. Draw a picture of the story or write to God about your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you liked it.

**Art Station prompt:**  How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is alive and has forgiven your sins? Draw a picture of it.