

**POINT ➡ WE ACCEPT  
GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

Open your Bible to Luke 23, and show kids the words. SAY: **We're going to learn from the Bible, God's special book.** Teach kids the following phrases and motions:

- Simon passed (walk in place)
- Women cried (pretend to cry)
- Soldiers laughed (a big belly laugh)
- The crowd spied (hands above eyes)
- A criminal teased (point and laugh)
- A criminal asked (place hands on heart)
- Jesus forgives (outstretched arms)

As you read, lead the kids in doing the above motions during the pauses.

SAY: **The Bible tells us that *Simon passed* (pause) as soldiers looked for someone to carry the cross for Jesus. So they asked Simon to carry it. *Women cried* (pause) as**

**they saw Jesus. They were sad to see that *soldiers laughed* (pause) at Jesus. The *crowd spied* (pause) Jesus walk up the hill. The crowd heard *Jesus forgive* (pause) the soldiers as they laughed at him.**

**The soldiers put Jesus on a cross between two criminals. A *criminal teased* (pause) on one side. But on Jesus' other side, a *criminal asked* (pause) Jesus to remember him, and the crowd heard *Jesus forgive* (pause). Jesus died on the cross, and *Jesus forgives* (pause) us, too.**

ASK: **What do you think of the different ways people treated Jesus?**

**What does it mean to you that Jesus died for you?**

SAY: **Because Jesus died on the cross, God forgives us. And ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS. Let's remember that by saying a rhyme and acting out what happened.** Repeat the rhyme a few times, pausing after each phrase to do the motions.

**Simon passed, women cried,  
Soldiers laughed, the crowd spied,  
A criminal teased, a criminal asked;  
Jesus forgives our sin—future and past.**



## POINT ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

Form pairs.

SAY: **You've probably gotten presents for your birthday or Christmas. Tell your partner about the best present you ever got.**

Allow children time to talk to their partners. Then SAY: **Now tell your partner about the best present you've ever given to someone else.**

After kids have had time to share, have kids ask their partners: What present would you like to get right now? Hand out the *Rainbow Clay*, and have kids shape the clay to represent what their partners would like to get as a present. (It's okay if the sculptures aren't recognizable.) Have partners exchange gifts.

ASK: **Why do you want the present you asked for?**

**What makes something a good present?**

SAY: **Imagine the *Rainbow Clay* you're holding really is the present you want the most right now. Jesus gave you an even better present than that! God's present of forgiveness is the best present ever, and you can get it anytime! ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS when we say we're sorry.**

Pretend to hand each child a gift, and SAY: **God gave you the gift of forgiveness.**

## POINT ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

SAY: ➡ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.** The Bible says in John 3:16: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son."

SAY: Let's learn this important verse by singing it to a song.

Play ● "Do Lord" (instrumental) (track 6) on the CD twice while you sing the words below (you'll end up singing the song four times). The first time you sing it, lead the children in clapping to the beat. Sing it again, jumping to the beat, then waving your hands in the air, and then once more tapping your feet.

SING:

**God loved, oh God loved, God  
loved the world so much.  
He gave, yes he gave, his one and  
only Son.  
God loved, oh God loved, God  
loved the world so much.  
He gave his o-only Son.  
(Repeat.)**

SAY: Jesus died so we could live forever with him. That's why

➡ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

ASK: What's something you'd like to do forever?

Why does living with God forever make you feel like jumping and singing?

SAY: Living forever with Jesus will be more awesome than anything we can imagine. That's why ➡ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

## POINT ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

Tell children that you're going to take a walk and look for crosses. Think outside the box. Look for anything that makes a cross shape, even things like tree branches or chair legs.

Carry a sheet of paper, and make a mark on the paper each time a child finds something that has a cross shape. At each cross you find, make observations about what the cross is made out of, whether it's painted or carved, whether it's a picture or part of furniture, and so on.

Return to your room, and lay the paper down near the children. Help the children count your marks to discover how many crosses they found. Discuss what the children observed about the crosses they saw.

**ASK:** What do you think about when you see crosses?

**What's important about the cross?**

**Why does a cross remind us of God's forgiveness?**

**SAY:** Keep looking for crosses all week. Every time you see a cross, remember ➡ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

**POINT ➡ WE ACCEPT  
GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

Give children paper and *Pip-Squeaks Markers*. Have children draw things they've done wrong or times they didn't do something they were asked to do.

**ASK: Tell about a time someone was mean to you and you forgave them.**

**Tell about a time someone forgave you for doing something mean.**

**SAY: ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.** When we tell God we're sorry, we know that he always forgives us.

**You can tell God about anything you've done wrong. God wants to forgive you.**

Give children about 10 to 20 seconds to silently ask God for forgiveness for the wrong things they've done.

**ASK: What do you think about God's forgiveness?**

**Why do you need God's forgiveness?**

**SAY: Jesus died on the cross to forgive us for all the bad things we've done. ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

Have children tear up or crumple their papers and throw them away, as a symbol of forgiveness.

**PRAY: Jesus, thank you for forgiving us. We love you so much. In your name, amen.**