



# Jesus the Savior

## OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand the grace, love and power of God expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

The eternal, all-powerful Creator of the Universe was not satisfied to abandon us to float alone out in space. So what? This God came down to earth in human form (remember God came to us—emphasise the direction), lived among us, showed us the Creator's love in flesh, then died on a cross to take the punishment for our sins so that we could live eternally. So what? Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this truth: Someone died in your place. Someone died to set you free. Someone died to buy you eternity. It was Jesus. So what does this mean?

## FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



**SHARE** highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



**READ** and highlight the theme verse, John 3:16, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com), FINKlink AC04.



**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

### A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

### B. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Open your Small Catechism to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. Circle words that describe Jesus. Write five of them here: Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

## C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

**1. When was the last time you gave someone a gift? What did you give? How did they say thanks?** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Be sure to share your own stories and motivations.

**2. When was the last time someone sacrificed something for you? Why did they do it? How did you say thanks?** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Remind them of Jesus' words, "No greater love has anyone than to lay down his life for his friends." Look up John 15:13 and highlight it in Bibles.

**3. Why did Jesus have to die?** He paid the ultimate penalty for our sins so we wouldn't have to. Refer kids to the Bible verse above.

**4. How would you respond to someone who said, "Jesus was just like every other religious leader who ever walked on the earth"?** Jesus was God. He didn't come as a teacher to set up a code of ethics. He came to restore the world to God. He died willingly for our sins then rose from the dead. He proved he was God's Son.

**D. QUOTATIONS** Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

**E. TERMS OF THE WEEK** Review these key terms and write definitions.

**Christ:** Greek word for "the anointed (chosen) one of God."

**God the Son:** God in human form, Jesus.

**Jesus:** Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, and son of Mary.

**Messiah:** Hebrew word for "the anointed (chosen) one of God."

**Savior:** Someone who saves you. (Jesus saves you from the punishment for your sins.)

## F. GROUP BUSINESS

**1. Servant Event Idea:** Ask everybody in the group to sacrifice the price of a can of Coke (\$1) a day for the next week and donate the money to a local food shelf or a favorite mission.

**2. FAITH5 Home Huddle:** Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

**G. WRAP UP** Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



## PRAY

for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



## BLESS

one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

