

Unit 24: The Rejection of Jesus

Unit Description: Even though Jesus performed amazing miracles, including raising someone from the dead, the religious leaders rejected Jesus and managed to turn the people against Him too. Their sinful hearts were hard. Even this rejection, however, was part of God's plan to bring salvation to the world.

Big Picture Question: Why do people reject Jesus? People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.



SESSION 1: Jesus Knew He Would Be Rejected

Luke 13



SESSION 2: Jesus Raised Lazarus

John 11–12



SESSION 3: The World Is Against God

Ephesians 6



UNIT 24 | SESSION 1

JESUS KNEW HE WOULD BE REJECTED

LUKE 13

KEY PASSAGE: He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Isaiah 53:3 NIV

Isaiah 53:3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why do people reject Jesus? People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Everyone is invited into the kingdom of God, but not everyone will enter. People are saved only by trusting in Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

As the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth was drawing nearer, large crowds of people followed Him from each town and village. So the question someone raised in Luke 13:23 may seem unusual: “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

Jesus had spent time with the crowds. He had fed them, taught them, and healed them; yet He knew that relatively few would follow Him as true disciples. He knew He would ultimately be rejected by the crowds.

Jesus said that the gate is narrow, and few will find it. Most people will not taste and see that the Lord is good. The simple answer to this probing question is, “Yes, the number of people who will be saved is significantly less than those who will not.” Many people knew about Jesus. They had shared meals with Him and listened to Him, but they did not know Him personally as Lord and Savior.

Jesus was clear that being a Jew by birth or a zealot for the law was not enough to enter God’s kingdom. God’s heart is both for Jews and Gentiles. Jesus’ honest response offers hope to those who will hear. He tells them that no matter the numbers, make every effort to be one who enters that narrow gate. You do not want to be left outside the entrance.

We are surrounded by people who wonder

about this very same thing. Who will be saved? Though we are not armed with the eternal knowledge of God, we do have pictures like this in Scripture that remind us to point to the hope of Christ in all things. We don’t know the future—and it’s not for us to know—but we do know where hope is found. The subject line of our message should be as hopeful as the gospel that saved us. The invitation to God’s kingdom is for all to place their trust in Christ, the One who was rejected and killed on a cross—so that we may be justified and fully accepted by His sacrifice on our behalf.

TERMS TO KNOW

Reject: to refuse to accept, consider, or submit to. **People rejected Jesus and killed Him on a cross. Everyone who trusts in Him as Lord and Savior will be welcomed and accepted in God’s kingdom.**



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “Read All about It!” activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- brown paper bag
- hidden object such as a fruit, toy, or tool



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “Jesus Knew He Would Be Rejected” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 24, Session 1” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- “Bagby Photo” printable
- world map

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “He Was Despised (Isaiah 53:3)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- bandannas, 1 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster
- dry erase board
- dry erase marker

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Retell the Story” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever made a choice that didn’t make sense to other people? How did people respond to your choice? How did their responses make you feel?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Read All about It!” on the activity page.

SAY “Jesus understood what it was like to have people reject Him. But His rejection was not a surprise to Him. In today’s Bible story, we will learn that Jesus came to earth knowing some people would reject Him.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHO IS THE DOOR?



Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with a Bible. Lead the groups to look up the following Bible verses: John 10: 7,9; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:18; 1 Peter 3:18.

Ask kids to think about what all of these verses have in common. Prompt kids to think about the answer to the questions “Who is the door?” and “How does someone get to the Father?” Invite groups to discuss their answers.

SAY “Jesus repeatedly taught that there is only way to God—through faith in Him. Jesus is the door, He is the way, He is how we are brought to God. In our Bible story, Jesus explained that the path to heaven is like a narrow door. Only those who believe in Him will be saved.”

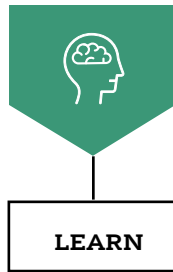
OPTION 2: 20 QUESTIONS

Before the session, place an object such as a fruit, a toy, or a tool inside a brown paper bag. Tell kids that you have placed an object in the bag and that they must guess what it is. Explain that they can take turns asking 20 yes or no questions to help them determine what the object is. Kids can ask questions such as “Is the object a type of writing utensil?” or “Is the object shiny?” Remind kids that they only have 20 questions they can ask. Reveal the object after they guess it correctly or after they’ve asked 20 questions.

SAY “No one had the knowledge to know what I had placed in the bag before you asked the questions. As ordinary humans, we have limited knowledge. However, Jesus is not an ordinary human like us. He is fully God and fully human. In today’s Bible story, we will learn that Jesus knew He would be rejected by people before He even came to earth.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hello! My name is [your name], and I am so excited to be here with you! Did you bring your Bible with you? If you did, hold it up high. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] God’s Word is how we come to know and understand His plan to save us from our sin.

Jesus came to earth to invite people to repent and believe in Him. He taught from the Old Testament and told parables to teach about the kingdom of God. Even with all the truth Jesus taught, not everyone believed. Some who did not believe in Jesus had plans to destroy Him. In our Bible story, we will learn that Jesus knew He would be rejected. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

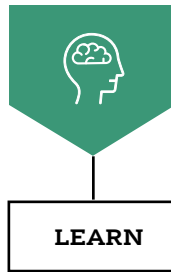
SAY “ Every week, we spend time learning a big picture question. But first, does anyone know what the word reject means? [Allow responses.] Reject means ‘to refuse to accept, consider, or submit to.’

Over the next few weeks, we will learn our big picture question: **Why do people reject Jesus?** The answer is, **People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.** Let us say that answer in four parts to help you remember. I will say a part, and then you repeat it: **People reject Jesus because [pause] all people are born with a sin nature [pause] and want to please themselves [pause] rather than obey God [pause]. ”**

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ We have learned that Jesus performed amazing miracles because He is fully God and fully man. Can anyone point to a miracle we learned about on our timeline? [Allow a volunteer to point to a miracle.] We then learned about the truthful teachings of Jesus as He taught about God’s kingdom using parables. Today, and for the next few weeks we will continue to learn more about the life of Jesus. Our Bible story today teaches us that Jesus came to provide the only way to eternal life in His kingdom but sadly many people rejected Him. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 13. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Knew He Would Be Rejected.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS KNEW HE WOULD BE REJECTED

“**As Jesus traveled, He made His way toward Jerusalem. Jesus stopped in towns and villages to teach. In one of those places, someone asked Jesus, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”**

Jesus said, “Focus on entering God’s kingdom. The path to heaven is like a narrow door. Many people will try to get to heaven, but not many people will.” No one gets into heaven because of the family he is born into or because of his own good works. **Salvation comes only through Jesus.**

Jesus explained that **some people will think they deserve to enter God’s kingdom because they knew who Jesus was and listened to Him. But Jesus will say, “I don’t know you.” People must repent and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior to be rescued from their sins.**

Jesus’ teaching was hard for some people to hear. Jesus said that everyone shut out of God’s kingdom will weep and be sorry. Only people who accept the good news of Jesus can enter the kingdom of God.

Then some religious leaders came to Jesus. They said, “You need to leave. Herod wants to kill You.”

Jesus said, “Go tell Herod that I am still working. On the third day, I will finish My work. For now, I must go to Jerusalem.”

Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. He knew He would be rejected and killed there. “Jerusalem, Jerusalem,” He said, “You kill the prophets and stone God’s messengers. I’ve wanted to help and protect your people—to gather them like a hen gathers her chicks under her wing. But you did not let Me. I tell you, you will not see Me again until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

Christ Connection: Everyone is invited into the kingdom of God, but not everyone will enter. People are saved only by trusting in Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Stand by the door: Open the door and walk through the doorway when you teach that the path to heaven is like a narrow door. Emphasize that the door only opens one way just as there is only one way to Jesus.

Use emotion: Tell the story and emphasize the emotion of sadness as Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Isn’t it amazing that as Jesus traveled to many places, He used every opportunity to tell people about the way to eternal life. Imagine if Jesus was here today and stood in line at the grocery store telling the cashier about God. Or if He was on the school bus telling you to trust in Him and seek first His kingdom. Even though Jesus may not be physically here with us, we do have His Word and can turn to it to be reminded of Jesus’ teachings.

Who did Jesus say will try and get to heaven? Look at Luke 13:23-24. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 13:23-24.]** Jesus said that many people will try and enter heaven, but they will not be able to. The narrow door that Jesus speaks of is Him! Only He is the way into the kingdom of God.

While Jesus was teaching some religious leaders tried to warn Him that Herod wanted to kill Him. Why did Jesus say He had to go on to Jerusalem and finish His work on the third day? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus knew it was not yet His time to do, but that He had come to die on the cross for our sins in Jerusalem. Just as the prophets of the Old Testament were rejected for speaking the truth of God’s Word, Jesus would be rejected and crucified for proclaiming the truth that He is the Son of God.

What did Jesus say He wanted to do for the people of Jerusalem? Look at Luke 13:34. **[Choose a volunteer to read Luke 13:34 aloud.]** Jesus wanted to save them! Like a mother hen protects her chicks, Jesus wanted to offer salvation to the people. Instead, they refused to believe and chose to reject Him.

Everyone is invited to trust in Jesus. We can accept His invitation or reject it. Jesus loves us and will never reject us when we come to Him by faith. He is the way, the truth, and the life. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Everyone is invited into the kingdom of God, but not everyone will enter. People are saved only by trusting in Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 24, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Is reading our Bibles and praying enough to go to heaven? Why not?
2. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and trusting in Jesus to save you?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Bagby Photo” and a world map as you tell the story. Tell kids that Anne Luther made the choice to obey God and serve as a missionary when she was 12 years old. Explain



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

that in 1881, Anne married William “Buck” Bagby and they were appointed as missionaries to Brazil by the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board). **[Point to Brazil on a world map.]** Tell kids that less than two years after they arrived in Brazil, they moved a thousand miles north to Bahia. Share that the Bagbys, another missionary family, and one other Brazilian Christian began Brazil’s first Portuguese-speaking Baptist church in 1882.

SAY “ The Bagbys’ work in Brazil was not easy. Once a local priest sent people to interrupt the worship services and damage lights and furniture of the hall the Bagbys rented for worship services. But soon more people began to come, and some who heard Buck preach about Jesus believed and became leaders of the mission work in Brazil. ”

Tell kids that the Bagbys spent their entire lives helping Brazilians know about Jesus. Pray, thanking God for missionaries like the Bagbys, who told many people in Brazil about Jesus. Thank God for missionaries who still work in Brazil and other places around the world to tell the good news about God’s Son, Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 53:3 together.

SAY “ Our key passage reminds us that even before Jesus came to earth, Isaiah prophesied that He would be rejected. Jesus endured rejection and died for our sin. ”

Instruct the kids to create motions that correspond to the different emotions described in the key passage. Form kids into groups of three or four and allow time for them to create the motions. For example kids could show anger for despised, crying for rejected, and hunched over for sickness. Once the kids determine ways to express these emotions, read the verse aloud a few times while they show those emotions and actions.

Lead kids to sing “He Was Despised (Isaiah 53:3).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

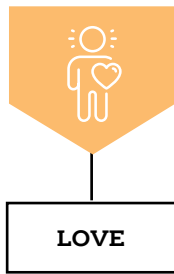
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that He took on the pain of rejection for our sins. We praise You for sending Jesus and providing the way for us to have a relationship with You. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 13. Explain that in Luke 9, Jesus set out to travel what is known as the “Journey to Jerusalem” during His final days of ministry. Consider comparing the New Testament Israel Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem [H5].)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 13:22-23.

SAY “As Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem, He stopped along the way. This verse tells us that Jesus went through one town and village after another. What was He doing along the way? [Allow responses.] Jesus was teaching even as He approached Jerusalem, where He knew He would die on the cross. Jesus’ heart was for all people to hear the only way to be saved. Even when people rejected Him time and time again, He never stopped telling them to believe in Him for eternal life.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Even though Jesus had performed miracles and taught many truths, why did the people reject Him?”

Lead kids to discuss that **people reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.** Tell kids that sin hardens our hearts from believing in Jesus and that when we continually seek to please ourselves rather than God, our hearts become more and more unbelieving.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 4:18.)

SAY “Jesus taught people to seek the narrow door that leads to His kingdom. How do we do this?”

Remind kids that Jesus is the door to heaven and that it is only by faith in Him that we can enter the kingdom of God. Discuss how some people may say they know Jesus, but they have not submitted to Him as King of their lives. Encourage kids to remember that we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 16:30-31)

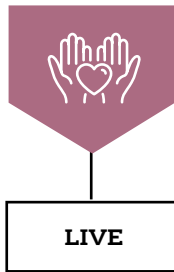
SAY “Will we be rejected like Jesus? Why or why not?”

Discuss how Christians can face rejection for our faith in Jesus. Explain that the gospel is offensive to some people because of their unbelief. Remind kids that Jesus faced the ultimate rejection by being crucified on the cross. Encourage kids to remember that just as Jesus looked forward to the cross with joy, we can joyfully endure rejection for His glory.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 15:20-21.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: BANDANNA BATTLE



Tell kids that we will play a game that children in Brazil might play. Form pairs of kids who will play against each other. Distribute bandannas to each kid. Instruct each kid to tuck one end of the bandanna in their back pockets, belts, or collars. Tell kids that they must cross their right arm across their chest and hold up their left leg. Players face their partners, count to three, and then hop on one leg, and use their free arm to try to get their partner's bandanna. Play several rounds; kids could change partners if desired. (Tip: For younger kids, allow both legs to be on the ground.)

SAY “ While this is a fun game, it is important to remember that many missionaries have worked hard in the country of Brazil to help the people know about Jesus. We can remember to pray for missionaries still serving in Brazil. ”

OPTION 2: SIN NATURE VS. NEW HEART



Create a two column chart on a dry erase board. Title the left column Sin Nature. Title the right column New Heart. Prompt kids to think about ways we act or think that show our sin nature. Then invite kids to share their ideas. Give kids a couple of examples to help them get started such as disobeying parents or being unkind to others. Write down the ideas in the left column.

Prompt kids to think about ways we act or think that show God has given us new hearts through faith in Jesus. Then invite kids to share their ideas. Give kids a couple of examples such as forgiving others or being kind to our enemies. Write down the ideas in the right column.

SAY “ We are all born with a sin nature and want to please ourselves rather than God. We cannot get rid of our sin nature on our own. Only faith in Jesus gives us a new heart that wants to please God because we love Him. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God that Jesus faced rejection so we could be saved from our sin. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Retell the Story” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FOLD



Unit 24 • Session 1

JESUS KNEW HE WOULD BE REJECTED

Luke 13

WHY DO PEOPLE REJECT JESUS?

PEOPLE REJECT JESUS BECAUSE ALL PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH A SIN NATURE AND WANT TO PLEASE THEMSELVES RATHER THAN OBEY GOD.

As Jesus traveled, He made His way toward Jerusalem. Jesus stopped to teach. Someone asked Jesus, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

Jesus said, “Focus on entering God’s kingdom. The path to heaven is like a narrow door. Many people will try to get to heaven, but not many people will.” Salvation comes only through Jesus.

Some people will think they deserve to enter God’s kingdom because they knew who Jesus was and listened to Him. But Jesus will say, “I don’t know you.” People must repent and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior to be rescued from their sins.

Jesus’ teaching was hard for some people to hear. Only people who accept the good news of Jesus can enter the kingdom of God.

Then some religious leaders came to Jesus. They said, “You need to leave. Herod wants to kill You.”

Jesus said, “Go tell Herod that I am still working. On the third day, I will finish My work.

Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. He knew He would be rejected and killed there. “Jerusalem, Jerusalem,” He said, “I’ve wanted to help and protect your people—to gather them like a hen gathers her chicks under her wing. But you did not let Me.”

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**READ IT
HERE FIRST!**

Jerusalem Daily News

SERVING
GOD'S
PEOPLE

MORNING EDITION

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READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Read the Bible verses to help you fill in the blanks with truths about Jesus' rejection.

1. He was _____ and _____ by men. (Isaiah 53:3)
2. His own people did not _____ him. (John 1:11)
3. Jesus was the _____ rejected by the religious leaders. (Matthew 21:42)
4. The people of Nazareth tried to throw Jesus off a _____ . (Luke 4:29-30)
5. The people chose to release _____ over Jesus. (Luke 23:18-20)



Retell the Story

Write today's Bible story in your own words by completing the prompts. Look up Luke 13:22-35 if you need help.

WHO:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHERE:

WHY:

NAME:



theGOSPELPROJECT.

Jesus Knew He Would Be Rejected

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- As Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem, someone asked, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”
- Jesus said that the path to heaven is like a narrow door and not everyone will enter. Only people who trust in Jesus can enter.
- Jesus wept over Jerusalem because He knew He would be rejected and killed there.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Everyone is invited into the kingdom of God, but not everyone will enter. People are saved only by trusting in Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 53:3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why do people reject Jesus? People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.