

Holy Week and Easter Science

Scripture Reference: Matthew 21:1–11, 27:32–66, and 28:1–10

Lesson Focus: Faith is a powerful tool!

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Holy Week and Easter Storytelling

Supplies

- Bible
- Pencils

When something is bothering you, do you feel heavier? (yes) For a lot of people, when they are sad, worried, or afraid, they walk slowly, with their shoulders hunched over. Some people say it looks like the weight of the world is on their shoulders. Demonstrate and have kids act it out as well.

In today's story, Jesus has plenty of weight on his shoulders, in more ways than one. His faith in God and in the importance of his mission carried him through the pain he endured. Read these two stories aloud, and invite kids to figure out what type of weight Jesus is carrying.

What weight is Jesus carrying? (the weight of the cross, the weight of our sins) Did anyone help ease his burden? (Simon helped carry the cross. People took care of his body after he died.)

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Power Play

Supplies

- Bibles
- Wooden yardsticks, 2
- Building blocks, rectangular wooden
- Levers—butter knife, crowbar, tweezers, tongs, scissors, bottle opener, stapler, hammer, etc.
- Grocery bag or towel

Set Up: Gather your supplies, putting a few "levers" in a grocery bag (or cover with a towel) so the rest of your family can't see them.

Instructions

Jesus had to carry a very heavy cross. Trying to lift heavy things takes a lot

of effort, unless you're allowed to use your brains more than your body.

A long time ago, people started inventing tools to make their work easier. What are some tools that you know? (*hammer, saw, drill, wrench, pliers*)

We're going to experiment with a very simple but powerful tool today. The lever.

- 1. We use levers all the time. Hold onto your Bible with one hand. Put that lower arm down on the table [or floor]. Lift your Bible toward your shoulder. That is the action of a lever. Your legs can act as levers; so can your jaws. Have kids bend and flex their knees, and open and close their mouths.**
- 2. Levers let you move big things without having to work very hard. There are three parts to every working lever. The load is the part you are trying to move. What was our load just a minute ago? (*our Bibles*) If you are playing soccer, what would the load be? (*the ball*) What is the load for your jaws? (*food*)**
- 3. The second part is the fulcrum. The fulcrum is the part that doesn't move. What do you think the fulcrum was in our Bible lift? (*our elbows*) The fulcrum when you kick a soccer ball? (*your knee*) The fulcrum when you eat? (*the back of your jaw*)**
- 4. The third part of a lever is the effort, or energy you have to use to get the work done. How much energy does it take to lift your Bible? (*not much*) Do you think it would be easy or hard for a baby to lift your Bible? (*hard*) Why? (*because they are small and don't have many muscles*) How about a very strong adult? Would it be easier or harder for them to lift your Bible? (*way easier*)**
- 5. Let's see how you can use your knowledge of levers to make work easier. Put your Bibles on the floor. Now slide your little finger under the Bible and lift it using just your one little finger. How many Bibles do you think you could lift with just one little finger?**
- 6. Levers can help even the smallest among us lift more.**
- 7. Put the yardstick on the floor. Put the Bible on top of one end. Try to lift the Bible using one finger. What is the load? (*the Bible*) What is the fulcrum? (*the end of the yardstick under the Bible*) How much effort did you have to use to lift the Bible? (*not very much*)**
- 8. You still are using more energy to lift the Bible than you need to. Put a block under your yardstick, between the book and your hand. What is the load? (*the Bible*) What is the fulcrum? (*the block of wood*) Now see how much effort it takes to lift the Bible. (*It's very easy.*) Does this lever remind you of anything? (*a seesaw/teeter-totter*)**
- 9. Experiment with your levers. Move the block of wood to different places along the yardstick. Try adding more books. See what you can discover. Experiment and talk about what you find as a family.**
- 10. There are many other levers we use. See if you can identify the three**

parts of each lever that I have here. Uncover the levers.

Wrap Up

Today we learned that levers make lifting heavy loads easier. Sometimes, it can feel like a heavy load to do the right thing. Jesus helped make that job easier by dying on the cross for us and rising again to new life. He also modeled a way for us to live and taught us how to pray. These are all tools of faith we can use in our faith journey. The gift of faith given us by God is powerful!

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We learned today that there are many tools that can help us. Physical tools like levers help ease our physical effort. Faith is a tool you give us. Help us to use our faith when we are struggling. Help us discover just how powerful faith is by calling on you in tough times.

Amen.