Preschool–Grade 5

Good Friday Craft

Pop-up cross card · Luke 23:33–53 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



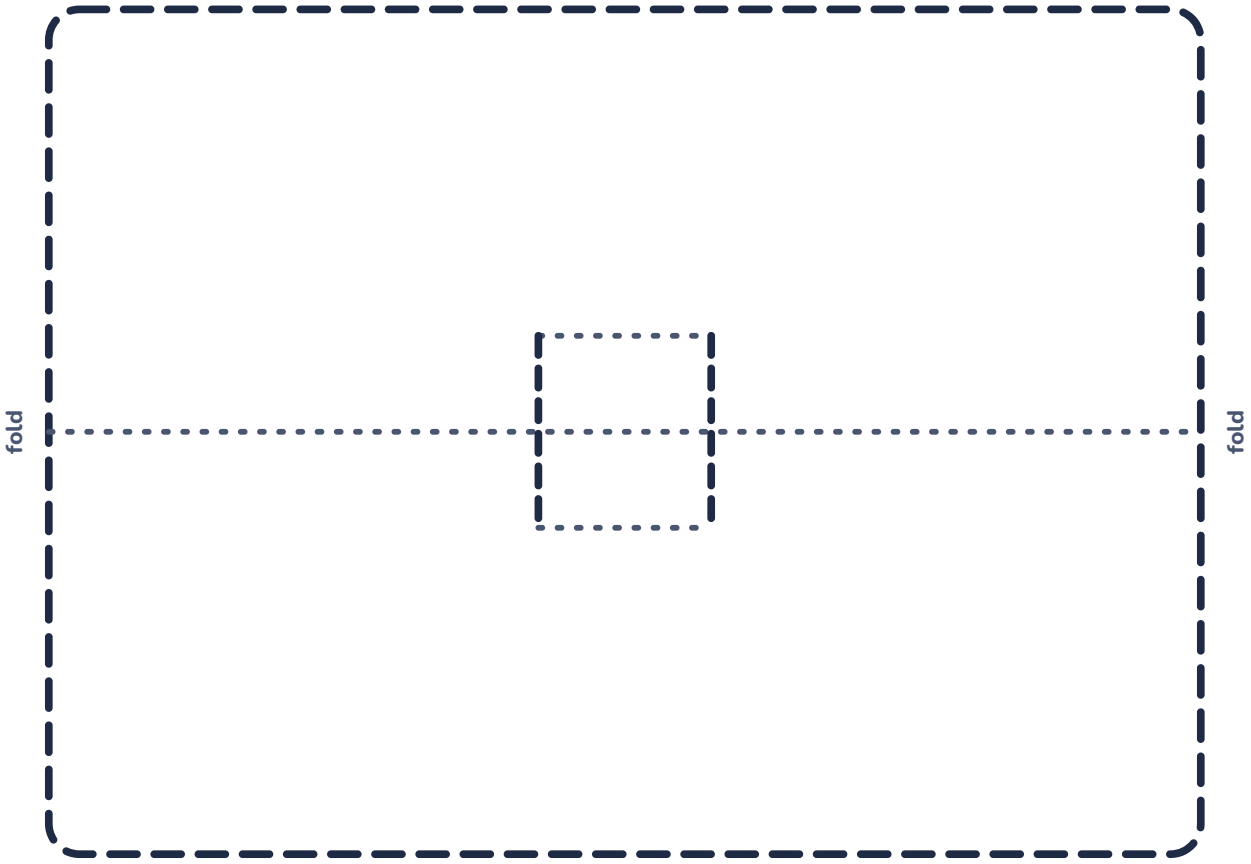
Harder

Both levels are a pop-up card opened like an L: a dark blue evening sky standing up behind, brown ground lying flat, and a plain brown empty cross standing on a pop-up step in the middle. Medium (left): one cross. Harder (right): the three-cross card from page 3, with two smaller crosses on the left and right for the two men crucified with Jesus (Luke 23:33).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

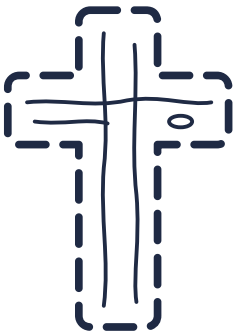
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Pop-up card: top half (the sky) dark blue · bottom half (the ground) brown

Fold on the long dotted line, then cut the two short dashed lines in the middle, starting at the fold.



Cross: brown

Glue its bottom on the front of the pop-up step.

Verse card

Glue it on the back of the card's bottom half.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Name: _____

✂ Harder level



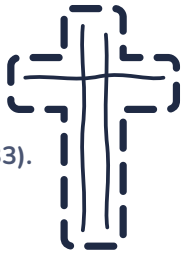
Three-cross card: sky dark blue · ground brown · three pop-up steps

Fold on the long dotted line, then cut all six short dashed lines, starting at the fold.



Two small crosses: brown

for the two men crucified with Jesus,
one on the right and one on the left (Luke 23:33).
Glue them on the two small side steps.



How to make the harder level: use this card instead of the card on page 2, with the big cross and the verse card from page 2. Color it, fold it, cut all six short dashed lines and pop up all three steps. Glue the big cross on the middle step and a small cross on each side step. Glue the verse card on the back.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/the-cross-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), dark blue and brown crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's card, cross and verse card. Fold each card, cut the two short slits, and pop up the step. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out, fold and pop up each card as above. Kids color the sky dark blue and the ground and cross brown, then glue the cross on the step and the verse card on the back with your help. Read the verse together, or just "Christ died for us."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, fold the card, cut the two short slits, pop up the step, glue the cross on the step and glue the verse card on the back. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** kids use the three-cross card on page 3 (the card on page 2 is a spare). They cut six short slits, pop up three steps, and glue Jesus' cross in the middle and the two small crosses on the left and right, for the two men crucified with Him (Luke 23:33). They say Romans 5:8 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why the cross is empty: the craft never shows Jesus or anyone on a cross. It shows the cross at even, after Joseph of Arimathaea took the body down, wrapped it in linen and laid it in the sepulchre (Matthew 27:57–60; Luke 23:53). Tell the kids what the Bible says: Jesus died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3), and He said, "After three days I will rise again" (Matthew 27:63).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the top half of the card dark blue for the evening sky and the bottom half brown for the ground. Color the cross brown. The wood lines will show through.
2. **Cut:** cut out the card, the cross and the verse card on the outside dashed lines.
3. **Fold:** fold the card in half on the long dotted line, with the colored side inside.
4. **Slits:** with the card still folded, cut the two short dashed lines in the middle, starting at the fold. Fold the flap between the cuts forward and back to crease it well.
5. **Pop up:** open the card. Push the flap through to the inside so it pops out into a little step. Close the card and press it flat.
6. **Cross:** open the card like an L, with the sky standing up. Put glue on the bottom of the back of the cross and press it on the front of the step, with the bottom edges lined up.
7. **Verse:** turn the card over and glue the verse card on the back of the bottom half. Read it together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- What was the place called where Jesus was crucified? *(Calvary, Luke 23:33. Matthew calls it Golgotha, "a place of a skull," Matthew 27:33)*
- What did Jesus pray for the people who hurt Him? *("Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," Luke 23:34)*
- Point to the dark sky. What happened to the sun that day? *(It was darkened, and there was darkness from the sixth hour to the ninth hour, Luke 23:44–45)*
- Why is the cross empty? *(That evening Joseph took Jesus' body down and laid it in a sepulchre, Luke 23:53)* What had Jesus said He would do? *("After three days I will rise again," Matthew 27:63)*

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** commendeth = shows; sinners = people who have done wrong; crucified = put on a cross to die; Calvary = the place where Jesus died; even = evening; sepulchre = a tomb cut out of rock.
- **What the Bible says:** Jesus was crucified at "the place, which is called Calvary," with two others, "one on the right hand, and the other on the left" (Luke 23:33), so the harder card has three crosses with Jesus' in the middle. The Bible doesn't say the place was a hill, so the card shows flat ground. The sky is dark blue for evening, when Joseph came for the body (Matthew 27:57). No one is drawn on the card, and the crosses are empty.
- **Preschool:** cut, fold and pop up every card ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Pop-ups:** cardstock pops up best. Crease the flap hard before pushing it through. If the top of the cross peeks out when the card is closed, trim a little off the top of the cross.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jesus on the cross Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/the-cross. The next week, teach the resurrection: He is risen!

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post