



## A Gospel Presentation for Children

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### Substitute - Taking the Punishment



Purpose of Activity: To understand that Jesus took the punishment that I should have received, and that I can ask Him to be Lord of my life.

#### Objects to Collect:

1. Three small "people figures (ie. faces drawn on stones, three sticks with faces, Lego).
2. One little square or chair-like object that one of your figures will sit on.
3. Two sticks with a string (that you can wrap together during your presentation in the shape of a cross).
4. Have the following verse marked in your Bible: Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8; ask a child to be ready to read them to the group.

#### Presentation/ Activity

1. Gather into a circle as a group.
2. Place the three figures and the "chair" in the middle of the circle.
  - Say: "OK, time to use your imagination. What do you think these three figures might remind us of today?" (Allow for answers.)
  - Explain, "One is you, one is your brother or sister, third is your mom or dad."
  - Ask: "What rules do you have in your house?" (Allow for answers.)
  - Ask: "What punishments do you receive when you break a rule?" (Allow for answers.)
3. While moving the figures appropriately:
  - explain: "Let's say that you choose to (pick breaking a rule that someone mentioned) and your mom or dad comes along and tells you, "for breaking this rule, you must have the punishment of a time out on this chair in your bedroom."  
Before you have chance to sit down, along comes your brother or sister who says, "Don't punish him, punish me instead - send me to my room!" Can you imagine your sibling doing that for you? Would you do this for them?"
4. Wrap the two sticks and the string together to form a cross.
  - While you are doing this, ask, "Did you know, Jesus did just that?"
  - Ask: "What are some of God's rules?" (Allow for answers.)
  - Ask: "What is God's punishment when we break one of His rules?" Ask a child to read Romans 6:23. Explain that "the wages, or the punishment for sin is death. Each of us deserves the punishment of death if we have broken even one of God's laws."



- 5 Place your cross upright if possible or hold it.
  - explain: "But Jesus loves us so much, He said, 'No, I don't want you to have to take the punishment of death, so I will take the punishment for you. He let men nail him to the cross. He died there and took the punishment that should have been ours.'"
  - Have a child read 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 and then explain, "He took the punishment for us. But the good news is, three days later He came back, alive again!"
6. Give the invitation.
  - Explain: "We have broken God's laws and deserve death. But when we admit our sin, accept that Jesus took the punishment for us on the cross, and invite Him to come into our lives, He does! He makes us clean and new when we choose to give Him control of our lives. When we choose to make Jesus Lord of our life, He promises that we will live with Him forever!" If you want to talk to me about how to ask Jesus to be Lord of your life, you can come and sit beside me (give invitation time and location).
7. Later - display the figures somewhere nearby to remind your children of the learning activity and the message of the Gospel.