



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – Holy Cross Sunday

Holy Cross Day (Year C) – Readings: Num 21:4b-9; Ps 98:1-6; 1 Cor 1:18-24; Jn 3:13-17

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for **young children** (ages 4–8) based on the **Revised Common Lectionary readings for Holy Cross Day (Year C)**. This lesson emphasizes the **love of God shown through the cross** and helps children connect biblical stories to Jesus' sacrifice in an age-appropriate way.

Theme: God's Love Shown Through the Cross

Key Verse: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”* – John 3:16a (simplified)

Scripture Readings (Simplified for Children)

1. **Numbers 21:4b-9** – The Israelites grumble, get sick from snake bites, and God tells Moses to lift a bronze serpent on a pole to heal them.
 2. **Psalms 98:1-6** – Sing to the Lord a new song for His wonderful deeds!
 3. **1 Corinthians 1:18-24** – The cross may seem foolish to some, but it is God's power to save us.
 4. **John 3:13-17** – Just like the bronze snake was lifted to heal, Jesus was lifted up on the cross to save the world.
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Lesson Plan Outline

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Greet each child warmly.
 - Short prayer: “Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to show your love. Help us learn more about your love today. Amen.”
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2. Circle Time – Introduction (5 minutes)

Ask:

- “Have you ever been hurt and someone helped you?”
- “How do you show someone you love them?”

Introduce the idea: God showed His love for us by sending Jesus, and Jesus was lifted up to help everyone, like the snake on the pole in the Old Testament.

3. Bible Story Time (15 minutes)

A. Tell the Story (Use props or visuals if possible)

- Briefly explain the **bronze serpent** story (Num. 21:4–9) using visuals of Moses and the snake on a pole.
- Connect it to **Jesus on the cross** (John 3:13–17): Jesus was “lifted up” too—so we could be healed from sin.
- Emphasize: God loves us so much that He sent Jesus.

B. Psalm 98:1-6 – Use tambourines or rhythm instruments. Sing a simple song or make up a joyful noise to God together!

4. Activity Options (15–20 minutes)

Option A: Craft – Make a Cross of Love

Supplies: Craft sticks, glue, markers, stickers, red hearts

Instructions:

- Glue two craft sticks in a cross shape. (You could also use sticks found in nature.)
- Decorate with red heart stickers.
- Write (or help children write): “God Loves Me” or “John 3:16” on the cross. (If using sticks you may have to have labels to put on the crosses.)

Option B: Snake Pole Craft (Numbers 21)

Supplies: Pipe cleaners, straws/popsicle sticks

Instructions:

- Twist pipe cleaners into snake shapes and wrap them around a stick.
- Talk about how people looked up and were healed—just like we look to Jesus.

5. Snack & Story Reflection (10 minutes)

While eating:

- Talk about ways we can show love to others like Jesus did.
- Ask: “What do you think it means that God loves the world?”

6. Memory Verse Game (5 minutes)

Verse: “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.” – John 3:16

Game: Clap once for each word as you repeat it together; then try it faster or in a whisper.

7. Closing Prayer & Take-Home (5 minutes)




















Prayer: “Thank you, God, for sending Jesus. Help us to share your love with others.”

Take-home idea: A small paper heart with John 3:16 on it, and a simple note for parents about what was learned today.

Teacher's Notes

- Emphasize **God’s love and healing** more than judgment or punishment.
- Use **visuals** and **interactive storytelling** to engage young children.
- Keep theological points simple: "Jesus was lifted up to show us God’s love."

Name _____

 **For God**
so loved  
 **the world that**  
He gave His one
and only Son  
 **that whoever** 
BELIEVES
in Him shall not perish 
 **but have** **ETERNAL** 
 **LIFE.** 
    **John 3:16**