



DAY 4 THE RELATIONSHIP RESTORED

Look out a window. Can you see the photons coming at you? Of course you can! They're the most basic particles of light. Produced in the 27 million degree core of the sun, they work their way slowly through its immense mass until they reach the surface. In a mere 8 minutes, they travel 93 million miles to brighten our world ... and their presence generally goes unnoticed. The supernatural absence of light was impossible to ignore on the day the Light of the World died for the world. What do kids need to know about that dark day?

Kids need to know that Jesus was in control at all times. Children are born with a strong, innate sense of fairness. When they hear how Jesus was unjustly accused and brutally treated before and during the crucifixion, that "no fair!" instinct kicks in hard. It isn't unusual for kids to perceive Jesus as a victim. You can help them understand that Jesus set aside His rights and laid down His life on purpose, for a purpose—to restore the broken relationship between God and people.

Kids need to know that Jesus died because He loves them. Eternal, irreversible separation from God is a penalty so severe that He wants us never to experience it! Jesus voiced the pain of that separation in Mark 15:34—why have You forsaken Me? You can help kids recognize that Jesus' death on the cross was substitutionary. That's a big theological word for an even bigger concept, precisely described in 1 Peter 2:21-24. Jesus satisfied the death penalty that all of us deserve because we have sinned.

Kids need to know Jesus personally! Mark's short account of the resurrection (Mark 16) provides proof that Jesus is alive. (Need more proof? Check out 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.) And because Jesus is alive, an everyday, everlasting relationship can be a reality! As you prepare for today's VBS, ask God to help you recognize and assist kids who are ready to receive Jesus as Savior.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

VBS isn't just for kids—it's for you, too! Consider these questions as you prepare to teach:

- Mark is a short, to-the-point storyteller. What details from Mark's account of the crucifixion are especially vivid to you? Why?
- Practice your answer in case a VBS kid asks you, "How do you know Jesus is alive?" or "What does it feel like to be a Christian?"