



LESSON 4

Theme

Easter: A Study of How Much Jesus Knows My Situations

Big Question

Does Jesus Understand Me?

Scripture

John 18–20

Scripture Memory

Hebrews 4:14-16

Focus

JESUS KNOWS YOUR SINS BUT STILL LOVES YOU TO DEATH

Overview

	Section	Students will . . .	Supplies
Pre-Start	Pre-Start Activities (15 minutes before class begins)	build relationships and have fun!	Pre-Start Activities (pp. 8, 9), SuperStart! DVD (Intro Loop), SuperStart! CD, CD and DVD players, TV or projection equipment
Large Group	Get-Started Activity (5 minutes)	try to do a perfect handstand or pose.	SuperStart! DVD (Countdown), DVD player, TV or projection equipment
	Teaching Time (15 minutes)	discover that Jesus knows their sins but still loves them to death.	SuperStart! DVD (Sticky Situations Game Show Clips, Lesson 4), DVD player, TV or projection equipment, small sticky notes, pencils or pens, whiteboard or poster board, dry-erase marker or marker
	Worship (10 minutes)	worship Jesus for knowing their sins but still loving them to death.	SuperStart! CD, CD player
Small Group	Scripture Study (15 minutes)	study the Scripture to discover that Jesus knows their sins but still loves them to death.	SuperStart! magazines, Bibles, pencils or pens, 1 free-standing cross per group
	Scripture Memory Discovery (5 minutes)	learn Hebrews 4:14-16.	Bibles (optional: books or bricks, 1 grocery bag per group)
	Life Application (5 minutes)	share about last week's challenge and discuss a challenge for this week.	(optional: 1 individually-wrapped candy bar or fruit leather per student)
	Recap (5 minutes)	be encouraged to thank Jesus and show His love to others.	none
Extra Time	Extra-Time Activities	further explore the lesson.	Unit 1 Extra-Time Activities (p. 12)

Things to do ahead of time:

1. Set out the supplies for the Pre-Start Activities.
2. Collect supplies for the small groups. Put the supplies in sets, one for each small-group leader.
3. Make sure the DVD and CD players and projection equipment are cued and ready to go.

Pre-Start

(15 minutes before class)

Choose several of the Pre-Start Activities for students to do as they arrive. You can play songs from the CD and show the DVD Intro Loop as students have fun and interact with the volunteers.

Supplies

Pre-Start Activities (pp. 4-6), SuperStart DVD (Intro Loop Countdown, Sticky Situations Game Show Clips, Lesson 4), SuperStart CD, DVD and CD players, TV or projection equipment, small sticky notes, pencils or pens, whiteboard or poster board, dry-erase marker or marker

Before Class

Draw an outline of a large cross on a whiteboard or poster board. If you have a large class, draw two or more outlines. Put small sticky notes and pencils or pens below the cross outline.

Large Group

(30 minutes)

Get-Started Activity, Teaching Time, Worship

Get-Started Activity (5 minutes)

Play one of the Countdowns when you are ready to begin the Get-Started Activity. Have students form pairs and see if one of them can do a perfect handstand while the other is the spotter. If there are some students who don't want to try handstands, ask them to try striking a perfect pose while holding it perfectly still for a full minute. Ask the students to talk with their partners about these questions: What was it like to try to do a perfect handstand or pose? Is it possible to do anything perfectly all of the time? Why or why not?

Teaching Time (15 minutes)

Prepare students for the video by saying, **We've been watching video clips of a fun game show called Sticky Situations. Some of the cast members are Eric, Cassidy, Tony, and Patrick. Someone showed a blooper tape of Eric, the Sticky Situations Game Show host, during the video shoot for the Sticky Situations Game Show. It really hurt Eric's feelings. The cast of the show discovered that there was a phantom lurking around who was probably responsible for the blooper tape. This clip shows what happens as the phantom is caught and the truth is revealed.**

Show the video clip.

After the video clip, ask these questions and solicit one or two answers for each:

- **What was wrong with what Tony did?** *(He showed the tape without asking Eric. He covered up what he had done.)*
- **What does Jesus know about Tony?** *(He knows all about Tony's sins. He knows everything about Tony.)*
- **What could you do that would be so bad that Jesus would no longer love you?** *(I don't know. Something really bad. Nothing.)*

God knows that we're not perfect and that we make mistakes. He knows all about our sins. The Bible tells us it was God's plan for Jesus to come and die for our sins—the big and little things we do wrong. Jesus knows we all sin—that's why He came to die—just for our sins. Jesus didn't die on the cross so we'd owe Him something. And Jesus didn't die on the cross because we earned it. There's no way we could ever be good enough to earn Him dying on the cross.

Ask everyone to stand up. Tell students to step to their left one chair as they think about some little sin they've done. Ask them to step to their left two chairs as they think about a big sin they've done. Last, ask them to step to their left again as they think about any other sin they've done, little or big. Then have everyone sit down where they are. Ask: **How many chairs to the left would you need to move if you moved over one chair for every sin you did over the last week? How about over the last year? I know that, for me, there wouldn't be enough chairs in this whole building. But Jesus died for me anyway. And He died for you too.**

Our big question for the last few weeks has been, "Does Jesus understand me?" We've discovered that Jesus understands each one of us better than anyone else does! Jesus knows all about us including the things we think, do, and say that don't please God. But Jesus still loves us. He loves us so much that He was willing to die on the cross for us. Romans 5:8 tells us that "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Remember—**JESUS KNOWS YOUR SINS BUT STILL LOVES YOU TO DEATH.**

Jesus died on the cross for people in America, the Middle East, Africa—the whole world! And Jesus died on the cross for you and for me. Ask students to come to the cross outline on the board. They should write their names on the sticky notes and attach the notes inside the cross outline.

But it wasn't easy for Jesus. Jesus watched His friends turn on Him. He was treated unfairly. He was bullied and then He was put to death on a cross. He knew this was going to happen before He was even born. He knew He was doing it for you and me. He did it because He loves us!

Let's keep thinking about what an amazing thing it is that **JESUS KNOWS YOUR SINS BUT STILL LOVES YOU TO DEATH.**

Bible Insight

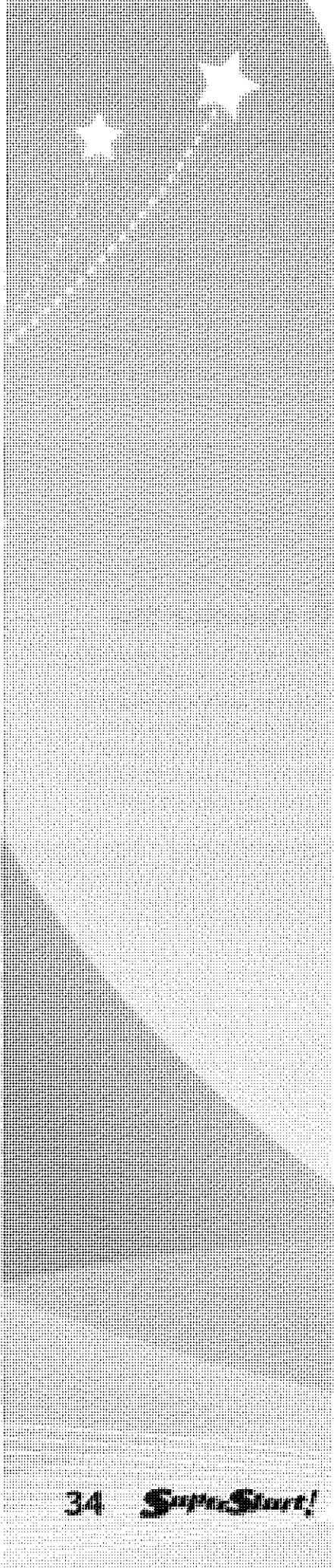
John 18:3, 4, 31, 32; 19:28-31; 20:21-23

Jesus' life was not taken from Him; He willingly gave it up. He knew everything that would happen to Him. Jesus knew His death on the cross would complete His work and fulfill God's plan of providing the only way for people to be brought back to God.



Teacher Tip

If you have time and would like to add more thoughts from Scripture, see these passages: 1 John 4:9, 10; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5. You can also use thoughts from Hebrews 4:14-16, the Scripture memory for the unit.



Worship (10 minutes)

Ask students to join you in praising Jesus for knowing our sins but still loving us to death. Lead in two or three songs from the CD, especially “Paid In Full.”

Lead in prayer by saying two or three sentences thanking Jesus for knowing our sins but still loving us to death.

Have students go to their small groups to go deeper into God’s Word and for relationship building.

Q&A with Eric

If you have time, there are three fun review questions on the DVD for this lesson (Q&A with Eric, Lesson 4). You can pretend you’re doing your own Sticky Situations Game Show by choosing one boy and one girl to be the contestants, or have the boys compete against the girls. Pause the DVD player after each question so students can answer. You can use this fun video clip in lots of ways: at the end of the large-group time, at the end of the small-group time while you’re waiting for parents to arrive, just before the lesson Recap in the small-group time, or during the Pre-Start Activities. It’s one more fun way to help students remember the important concepts in this lesson.

Review Questions

1. Jesus loves us because
 - a. we’re so cute.
 - b. we deserve it.
 - c. **we’re His kids.**
2. Tony learned that he can
 - a. **trust Jesus.**
 - b. fool Eric.
 - c. run fast.
3. Jesus knows all about your sins and
 - a. is going to make sure you pay for them.
 - b. **still loves you to death.**
 - c. is keeping a tally to determine who is better, you or your brother.

Small Group

[30 minutes]

Scripture Study, Scripture Memory Discovery, Life Application, Recap

Scripture Study [15 minutes]

Hand out the *SuperStart!* magazines and pencils or pens. Ask students to turn to page 4 in their magazines. Individually or in pairs, challenge the students to write down at least one thing that Jesus said and/or did to show that He knows our sins, but that He still died for us and loves us. Point out the Scripture references hiding on the phantom's shirts and suggest that each student or pair choose at least one to look up. [John 18:3, 4, 31, 32—*Jesus knew what was going to happen. He predicted He would die on the cross.* John 19:28-31—*Jesus knew He had done what He had come to do.* John 20:21-23—*Jesus explained that God, the Father, had sent Him to forgive sins.*] When students are done, ask them to share the things they wrote down.

Ask the following questions. Encourage all students to participate and be sure to give students time to think about the questions.

- **How hard do you think it was for Jesus to die on the cross?** *(really hard, harder than I can imagine)*

Ask a student to read aloud John 18:31, 32 and tell what the Scripture means. *[Jesus knew what was going to happen. Jesus had told His disciples what would happen.]*

- **Who would you die on a cross for? Explain.** *(no one probably, maybe my best friend, maybe my mom or dad)*
- **How much does Jesus know about your sins?** *(everything)*
- **Since Jesus loved you enough to die on the cross for you and your sins, what does that mean to you?** *(I'm pretty important to Him. I owe Him a lot. He did a lot for me.)*
- **What difference should this make in your life?** *(I should be very grateful to Him. I should try harder to do what is right. I should show Jesus how much I love Him.)*
- **Since Jesus loves you to death, how can you show Jesus how much you love Him?** *(Thank Him. Show love and do good things for others, even people I don't like very much. Make Him a part of everything I do. Get to know Him better.)*

Set a cross in the center of the group and ask students to picture Jesus on it. Give students a minute to pray silently and tell Jesus what they'd say if

Supplies

SuperStart! magazines, pencils or pens, Bibles, 1 free-standing cross per group [optional: books or bricks, 1 grocery bag per group, 1 individually-wrapped candy bar or fruit leather per student]



Teacher Tip

Be sensitive to your students' reading abilities. Ask for volunteers to read aloud or call on those whom you know like to read aloud. Include reluctant readers by asking them to listen as you or others read Scripture aloud and let them answer questions.



Optional Activity

As students put books or bricks (representing sins) in a bag, have them name sins such as lying, cheating, gossiping, and disobeying parents. Then let everyone try to lift the bag. **We have a lot of sins and they are heavy!** Let students take the books out of the bag as they repeat Hebrews 4:14-16.

Reminder

Last week, the students were challenged to help someone dealing with bullies and to let Jesus help them when they are bullied. Celebrate with those who have a good report. Encourage, don't embarrass, those who either forgot or who didn't have a good experience.

Collect the SuperStart! resources for use in the following weeks.

He were right in front of them. Remind them to thank Jesus for knowing all about their sins but still loving them to death.

Scripture Memory Discovery (5 minutes)

Have students find Hebrews 4:14-16 in their Bibles and ask for volunteers to read aloud the verses. Then ask if any of the students would like to say the verses from memory.

■ **How were Jesus' responses to temptations different than our responses to temptations?** (*Jesus never sinned by giving into temptation, but we do.*)

Jesus understands us because we are tempted as He was tempted. But Jesus knows that, unlike Him, we do give into temptation and sin. Jesus will take your heavy load of sins. Even though JESUS KNOWS YOUR SINS, HE STILL LOVES YOU TO DEATH.

Life Application (5 minutes)

Ask students to share how their challenge from last week went. Get their ideas about what they can do this week to show Jesus how much they love Him by showing His love to others. One suggestion you can make is that they do something nice for someone such as leaving a candy bar or fruit leather in someone's desk without letting anyone know. If desired, give each student an individually-wrapped candy bar or fruit leather to give secretly to someone else this week. You may want to let the students enjoy one too! Challenge students to come prepared next week to share how they showed Jesus' love to others.

Recap (5 minutes)

You can be glad that JESUS KNOWS YOUR SINS BUT STILL LOVES YOU TO DEATH! He was willing to watch His friends turn on Him, be treated unfairly, be bullied, and then be put to death on a cross just for me and you. Name a time when you faced a bully, were treated unfairly, or were betrayed by a friend and you needed Jesus' love and understanding.

Jesus understands me and all the things I face, and Jesus understands you and all the things you face. He loves us even when we don't do exactly what's right. Now it's up to us to show Jesus what that means to us—by thanking Him and showing His love to others.

Extra Time

As you have time, let students participate in one or more of the Extra-Time Activities on page 12.