## **BIBLE STORY SHEET**

<u>Directions</u>: READ the story aloud. When you say the <u>highlighted words</u>, HAVE kids show the **Prop Card(s)** that matches and place it in the middle of the group.

When God created the world, He made people, and He loved them very much. Out of all the people He made, God chose the Israelites to be His special people. But God's people weren't perfect. He had already saved them from a mean Pharaoh after they had moved away from the land God had given them. And still, they sinned again and again. Since God is perfect and always does what is right, their sins had to be punished. But God didn't want the people He loved to have to die for their sins, so He told them to kill a perfect lamb. Its blood would cover their sins for a little while.

Then God made them the best promise ever — one day He would send the Lamb of God to save all people from their sins forever so they wouldn't have to keep doing this. Many years later, God kept His promise and sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth. A man named John knew God's promise was coming true. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sins of the world." John knew that God sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice that would forever pay for people's sins.

Several years later, Jesus and his friends were on their way to Jerusalem, where everyone was getting ready to eat the Passover meal. Jesus was riding a donkey into the city. The people heard that Jesus was coming, and as He entered the city, a huge crowd spread their coats on the road. They also waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna!" which means, "Save us!" They believed that Jesus was the Savior God had promised to send.

At the same time, some Jewish leaders saw how much the people loved Jesus. These leaders didn't believe that He was God's Son and felt threatened by His power and popularity. They made a deal with one of Jesus' followers, named Judas, and he agreed to hand Jesus over to them in exchange for some money.

It was now time for the Passover meal to remember how God had saved His people from slavery in Egypt long ago. As they ate, Jesus thanked God for the bread on the table, broke it, and gave it to His disciples to eat. Jesus told them that whenever they eat the Passover bread from now on, they should remember Him. Then Jesus thanked God for a cup of wine and said, "Each one of you drink some of it. This wine is my blood, which will be poured out to forgive the sins of many."

When the meal was finished, they went out to the Mount of Olives to pray. That's where Judas showed up with a crowd of people who arrested Jesus, beat Him up, and nailed Him to a cross, where He soon died. This seemed like the worst day ever, but God had the best plan ever! God was allowing all of this to happen because Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God, who was going to come back to life and save people from their sins forever!