

Cross + eyed

Eight sessions on the power of the cross



**Primary
School**



Lunchtime Group Resource

Cross+eyed

Eight sessions on the power of the cross



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 8 sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide an aim, fun activity, guidelines for an interactive talk, as well as prayer and song ideas.
- 2 colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage Independent schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital before each meeting to read the Bible passages and adapt the talk to the specific needs of your group.
- A variety of extra resources are used in this series. These can be accessed from the Web Extras section of the Crusaders website:

www.crusaders.edu.au/ministry/resourcewebextras

- Unlike most CRU group resources, this resource does not contain a specific outreach week. This means you can choose which topic will work best as an outreach at your school. All the topics are suitable as they all explain an aspect of the gospel. We hope you will still run an outreach week while using this resource because...
 - > it encourages students to be outward looking and invite their friends
 - > it attracts new students to the group that may not normally come
 - > students hear the gospel clearly explained.

So have a look at the topics and choose the one you think would work best at your school. You can find some tips for running a good outreach week at Web Extras.

- All suggested songs are linked to the theme of the talk and are used with permission. The intention of including a wide variety of songs from different CDs is so that you have options if your group enjoys singing – please do not feel it necessary to buy every CD listed. The CDs listed are available in Christian bookstores and most include sheet music.
- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:28–29*

Cross+eyed

Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	Four, Three, Two, One...	Colossians 2:15a	Jesus' death beats Satan , showing that Jesus is stronger than anyone.
2	He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not	Galatians 2:20b	Jesus' death shows God's love , setting us free from feeling unloved and worthless.
3	Scull! Scull! Scull!	Luke 22:41-44	Jesus' death takes away God's anger , setting us free from His judgment.
4	The Spiritual Scale	2 Corinthians 5:21	Jesus' death makes us acceptable to God , setting us free from trying to work our way to God.
5	Clean Hearts	1 John 1:7	Jesus' death cleans us from every sin , setting us free from our shame.
6	I Forgive You	Ephesians 4:31-32	Jesus' death gives us complete forgiveness , setting us free to forgive others.
7	Hook, Line & Sinker	Romans 6:17-18	Jesus' death breaks the power of sin , setting us free from the hold of sinful habits.
8	I'm Not Afraid Of...	Ephesians 3:12	Jesus' death means we can look forward to meeting God.

Four, Three, Two, Colossians 2:15a

AIM

For students to know that Jesus is stronger than Satan and beat him at the cross.

FOCUS VERSES

1 John 3:8b

^{8b}Jesus came to destroy all that Satan has done.

Colossians 2:15a

^{15a}At the cross, Jesus beat all powers and forces.

PREPARE

- ❑ Familiarise yourself with the content and context of the focus verses. Pray for students to grasp that if they are on Jesus' side they do not need to fear anyone.
- ❑ Use the Web Extras video clip 'Thumb Wrestling Championship' to advertise the group to all students in assembly/chapel.
- ❑ Bring prizes for the Thumb Wrestling Champions.
- ❑ Print double-sided the Web Extras document 'Jesus beats Satan'.
- ❑ Use a texta to write the word 'Jesus' down the inside of one thumb and the word 'Satan' down the inside of your other thumb.
- ❑ Bring extra textas for students to write on their thumbs.

FUN ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to get students thinking about being stronger than an opponent.

Thumb Wrestling Championship - in pairs, students hook the four fingers of their right hands together so that they are clasped tightly. They then yell the thumb battle cry before wrestling:

*Four, three, two, one
Who will be the strongest thumb?*

The winner is the first person who can pin down their opponent's thumb and count to 3 (if neither student wins within 1 minute, they both lose). The winner then moves on to challenge another opponent, while the loser becomes the winner's cheer squad.

TALK

Yell the thumb battle cry together and then ask for a show of hands to indicate those with the...

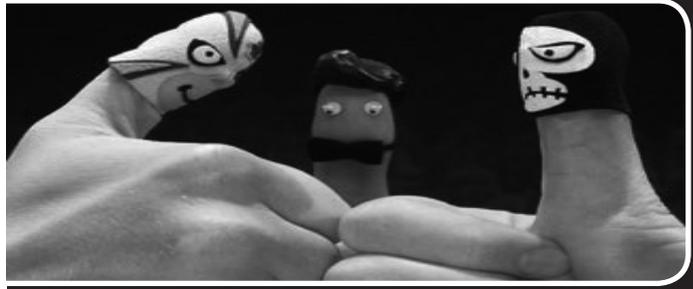
- weakest thumbs (no wins)
- stronger thumbs (a couple of wins)
- strongest thumbs (Thumb Wrestling Champions).

Get the Thumb Wrestling Champions to show off their strong thumbs. Highlight, however, that even our champions would be crazy to think they are stronger than the Thumb Wrestling World Champion (yes, there is a world champion).

A. Jesus is stronger than anyone

- Holding up your 'Jesus' thumb, highlight the awesome strength of Jesus in comparison to even the Thumb Wrestling World Champion.
- The Bible says Jesus (along with His Father and the Holy Spirit) made all the galaxies by His fingers (Psalm 8:3) and can fit them in His hand (Isaiah 40:12). No one can stop His hand (Isaiah 14:27)!
- Emphasise how great it is to be on Jesus' side. If we are, we will always be on the winning side because Jesus is stronger than anyone.

One...



B. Some people try to battle against Jesus

- Point out that (as crazy as it sounds) there are people who try to battle against Jesus instead of joining His side.
- Ask: *People don't battle against Jesus with their thumbs! But what are some ways in which people show they are against Jesus?*
- Sometimes people battle against Jesus openly - they say He does not exist, or that they do not care what He says. Other times people battle against Jesus quietly - they say they believe in Him but in their hearts they do not love Him.
- Holding up your 'Satan' thumb, explain that there are also real supernatural beings who battle against Jesus. Their leader is called Satan and the Bible says he is strong (Matthew 12:29) - he tries to stop people from being on Jesus' side.

C. Jesus is stronger than Satan

- Read 1 John 3:8b, pointing out that Jesus came to earth to beat Satan. Holding up both your thumbs, emphasise that though the thumbs might look the same size, Jesus is actually far stronger than Satan and was always going to beat him.
- Ask: *What are some ways that Jesus showed He is stronger than Satan?*
- Jesus showed He is stronger than Satan by:
 - doing powerful miracles
 - not giving in when Satan tempted Him
 - always living to please His Father

D. Jesus beat Satan at the cross

- Using Colossians 2:15a, point out to students the very surprising way in which Jesus finally beat Satan:
 - > at the cross it looked like Jesus had lost the battle because He died. Visually illustrate this by briefly pinning your 'Jesus' thumb down with your 'Satan' thumb.

- > yet Jesus knew that by dying He would actually beat Satan. This is because by dying, Jesus made it possible for us to be on His side. Visually illustrate this by pinning your 'Satan' thumb down with your 'Jesus' thumb and counting to 3.
- Emphasise again that Jesus is stronger than anyone. This means that if we are on His side, we are on the winning side and do not need to be afraid of anyone - even Satan. You may like to explore some scenarios in which remembering that Jesus is the strongest will bring students comfort (e.g. when we are scared/bullied, when things seem out of control).
- Finish by getting students to hold up their thumbs and say together the new battle cry:

*Four, three, two, one
Jesus has the strongest thumb!*

PRAY

Encourage students to praise Jesus aloud for being stronger than anyone and anything. They may like to each say "Thankyou Jesus for being stronger than..."

SING

James 4:7 ('Baa Baa Doo Baa Baa' album, Colin Buchanan) - a fun, upbeat song.

Jesus Rocks the World ('Jesus Rocks the World' album, Colin Buchanan) - a fun, upbeat song.

FINISH

Get all students to write 'Jesus' with texta down the inside of their thumb to remind them that Jesus is stronger than anyone.