**ON THE CROSS**

 **PREP**

Purchase a small nail for each preteen and a few hammers. Construct a large wooden cross out of 2x4 lumber and place it at the front of your teaching area. For this lesson, it may be easier to hammer the nails if the cross is lying on the floor.

**DEMONSTRATION**

 **Say:** Today, we’re celebrating Easter. Easter is our time to remember what Christ did for us on the cross. As we begin, I want to give each of you a small object. Be very careful with these objects, but hold them in your hand as we read two passages of Scripture.

*Pass out a small nail to each preteen. Have them hold the nail as the passages are read, but remind them to be careful.*

**OBJECT LESSON**

*As preteens hold the nails in their hands, read the following passages of Scripture. Read the passages with inflection and conviction.*

***Read Luke 23:32–49***

**Say:** Why do you think Jesus had to die on the cross? (Pause for responses) As you hold that nail in your hand, think about the sin in your life. The Bible says that we all sin—we all disobey God.

The truth is, our sin nailed Jesus to the cross. It was for you and me that Jesus died. The Bible says that our sin leads to death—which means separation from God. The holiness of God cannot be near our sin. So, what do we do?

God loved us so much that he sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sin. Jesus took our sin to the cross, and he took our punishment. He was separated from God so that we don’t have to be. Our sins nailed him to the cross.

***Read 1 Peter 2:24-25***

Our sins nailed Jesus to the cross. Jesus suffered so that we did not have to suffer. His wounds are our healing. Jesus died for our sins so that we could receive eternal life. As we wrap up this morning, let’s take a moment to put these nails where they belong. These nails represent the sin in our lives, so I want to invite you to come and nail those sins to this cross.

***Lead preteens in a salvation response.***

**WRAP UP**

**Say:** As you see the Cross this Easter, remember that our sins nailed Jesus to the Cross. His wounds have healed us!