



- **GOD SENT JESUS TO PAY OUR DEBT AND GIVE US LIFE**

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son.”

Romans 5:8-10 NLT

- **WE HAVE A CHOICE TO RECEIVE JESUS AS OUR SAVIOR**

“Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12 NIV

“For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood... God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus.”

Romans 3:25a-26b NLT

BOTTOM LINE:

- **JESUS DIED FOR US SO THAT WE CAN LIVE FOR HIM**

“...Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NLT

NEXT WEEK: EASTER 2019

What Difference Does The Resurrection Make?

WATCH THIS MESSAGE ONLINE | CDs AVAILABLE THROUGH NEXT STEP BOOKSTORE

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?

Mark Hadley | April 14, 2019

WHY JESUS CHOSE TO DIE FOR US

- **WE OWE GOD A DEBT WE CANNOT PAY**

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23 NLT

“For the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23a NLT

“It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore.”
Isaiah 59:2 NLT

“For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will.” Romans 8:7 NLT

- **GOD’S LOVE AND CHARACTER REQUIRE JUSTICE**

“He is the Rock; His deeds are perfect. Everything He does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright He is!” Deuteronomy 32:4 NLT

“But the LORD reigns forever, executing judgment from His throne. He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness. The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.” Psalm 9:7-9 NLT

“The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, ‘Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty.’” Exodus 34:6-7a NLT



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to explore why Jesus had to die on the cross.

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: (optional) Let's briefly check in with one another. How are you doing?

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: What is a favorite memory of Easter? When did Easter become more about Jesus for you and less about chocolate, eggs, and bunnies?

BECOME like Jesus:

1. On Sunday, we looked at another profound topic; why Jesus had to die. What new thing did you learn? What previous understanding was reinforced or clarified?
2. The Bible's central theme is God's plan to redeem His creation, a plan built around Jesus' death and resurrection. What do these verses say about Jesus' death? John 3:14-16, Romans 6:23, 1 John 2:1-2. What did Jesus' death accomplish?
3. Three of Jesus' parables are found in Luke 15 – the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. How do these parables show us the Father's heart toward lost people? Now read Luke 19:10 and Romans 5:6-8. How do these verses describe God's love?
4. Read Hebrews 2:14-15, John 12:27-32, 1 John 3:8, and Colossians 2:13-15. A third facet of Jesus' death involved a battle with Satan. What is the power of Satan that has been destroyed at the cross, and how should that affect our lives? What is our role in destroying the devil's work?

5. In the Exodus Passover story, sacrificing the Passover lamb and applying its blood to the doorposts in the shape of a cross is a picture of Christ's atoning work on the cross. In fact, Jesus revealed this picture to His disciples just before His death. See Luke 22:19-20. What is the significance that Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God? See Isaiah 53:6-7, John 1:29, 1 Peter 1:18-21.

BLESS others:

If we want to engage our culture with the significance of Jesus, we need to draw on the whole range of pictures that Scripture uses. We've looked at Jesus as an atoning sacrifice; Jesus as a redeemer, reconciling the world to God; Jesus as the one who overcame sin, death, and the powers of darkness; and Jesus as the Lamb of God. Which of these resonates most with you? Which might be effective with an unbeliever you know?

BUILD God's Kingdom:

It is common for people to say that Jesus was a great teacher and a good example, but then reject His claims of deity and the importance of His death and resurrection. Being willing to admit our need for Jesus and being willing to submit our life to Him are barriers for many to receive salvation. Are there times when people might be more open to Christ than others? What can we learn from this?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

A few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, His formerly confused and terrified disciples were preaching boldly about the resurrection of Jesus. Read Acts 2:36-41. How can we have Peter's faith and confidence in what God has done?

PRAYER: What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?



April 14, 2019

Get a copy of this Study Guide and other message resources at www.twincities.church