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**STUDY GUIDE**  
*WHY DID JESUS DIE?*

*life  
groups*



**STUDY GUIDE**

# WHY DID JESUS DIE?

## **Q. Why did Jesus have to die?**

Understanding and appropriating (taking for one's own use) Jesus' sacrifice for us which provided forgiveness for our sins is the centre of our faith. The more we can apply it, the easier it is to live the life intended for us.

**SIN** = Falling short of God's will (for our personal lives)

Rom 3:23 says "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"

**Consider reading 2 of the Gospel narratives (*Matt 26:47 to 28:10 or Lke 22:47 to 24:12 and Jhn 18:1 to 20:21*) and/or watching the *Passion of the Christ* (Mel Gibson's movie) in your Life Group together prior to doing this study.**

Father God's will was for Jesus to win back the hearts of man by serving them in the most amazing way possible - by dying on a cross to pay the penalty for all the sins of mankind and breaking Satan's hold over man (*1 John 3:8*).

*(Note: Some say He died on a stake not a cross, as a cross is a pagan symbol. This does not make sense as Jesus was killed by pagan Romans using their refined torture method, crucifixion on a cross).*

*Jesus gave all mankind a way out. He was able to pay the price of sin for all sinners because He never sinned Himself, and so His death was deemed acceptable by God as a just and sufficient payment for the sins of all of us. It is like someone else choosing to pay the fine for your speeding ticket. You broke the law, but someone else pays your penalty so you do not have to anymore. Isn't our Jesus wonderful and merciful?*

- Born 4 BC

*Why does blood play such a significant role in the Bible? Primarily because the Bible tells us that life is in the blood (Lev 17:11). Medical science confirms that fact. So it was the 'life' of Jesus that was spilt to give us life - for the healing of our body, soul and spirit. It's like a blood transfusion which can save the life of a sick person. Jesus was not actually killed by the crucifixion, but chose to die for us. At any time He could have called upon armies of angels to protect Him from His torturers, but He did not, and remained obedient to God's will. Jesus could not, in fact, die naturally, because death is the penalty of sin (Rom 6:23) and only those who have sinned - fallen short of God's will and that is all of us - have to die eventually and Jesus never sinned. So He actually released His own spirit from His battered body into God's care.*

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*Heaven is a perfect place and sin, those in disobedience to Gods will can not dwell there. Jesus remains our entry to Heaven to be with Father God. And if you want some more good news, Jesus said there are rooms in Heaven for us all (Jhn 14:2). So do not worry if you do not get to live in a beautiful place here on Earth because you will live in one in Heaven. Jesus mentioned this to His disciples when He declared to them that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life and that nobody can come to the Father, except through Him, Jesus (Jhn 14:6).*

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We believe in:

(iii) The Lord Jesus Christ - His humanity, deity, virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death for the sins of the world, resurrection for our justification, ascension to the Father's right hand, and personal return to reign upon earth.

- COC Statement of Faith



# STUFF TO TALK ABOUT

## — HEAD —

<b>YOUNG</b>	<p>Why did Jesus need to suffer and die?</p> <p><b>Rom 6:23, Isa 53:5, Heb 9:22, Col 1:22, Eph 2:8-9</b></p>
<b>GROWING</b>	<p>When did Jesus die?</p> <p><b>Rev 13:8</b></p> <p>Is this important? Why?</p>
<b>MATURE</b>	<p>What does atonement, redemption, reconciliation and justification mean? How do they apply to your life?</p>

## — HEART —

<b>YOUNG</b>	<p>What did it mean to God to let His son die?</p>
<b>GROWING</b>	<p>In Baptism we “die with Christ” - what does this mean about how you should feel when you sin?</p> <p><b>Rom 6:3-8</b></p>
<b>MATURE</b>	<p>How would you help someone who was consistently depressed about the sin in their life?</p>

## — HANDS —

<b>YOUNG</b>	<p>What does Jesus death and resurrection say about how God wants to treat me now?</p> <p><b>Rom 8:32</b></p>
<b>GROWING</b>	<p>What does Jesus death and resurrection say about how we should act towards those who don't know Him?</p>
<b>MATURE</b>	<p>How would you explain the importance of Jesus death and resurrection to someone who had never heard about it before?</p>



## STUFF TO DO

Spend some time praying together, thanking Jesus for His sacrifice for you and how it is affecting your life.

Pray for someone that you can share His amazing love with.

## PRAYER POINTS & COMING UP

**THE BIG 3** - See the BIG 3 flyer for more info

**PALM SUNDAY** - Sunday 17th April

**PASSOVER PRAYER MEETING** - Tuesday 19th April

**GOOD FRIDAY** - Friday 22nd April

**EASTER & FAMILY SUNDAY** - Sunday 24th April

**EASTER MONDAY** - Monday 25th April



# STUFF TO THINK ABOUT

## **ATONEMENT**

'Atonement' originally meant "at-one-ment", i.e. being "at one", in harmony, with someone. Atonement originates with God who "was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Cor 5:19), and whose love gave Jesus to redeem sinful men (*Jhn 3:16; Rom 5:8, etc.*). In all atonement in the Old Testament and New Testament the initiative is of God who not only devises and reveals the way to reconciliation, but applies the means of atonement and persuades men to accept the offered reconciliation.

Atonement is a doctrine that describes how human beings can be reconciled to God. The atonement refers to the forgiving or pardoning of sin through the death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion, which made possible the reconciliation between God and creation. There are, historically, four main theories for how such atonement might work: the **ransom theory**, the **satisfaction theory**, the **penal substitution** theory and the **moral influence** theory.

**Ransom** - Jesus liberates mankind from slavery to Satan and thus death by giving His own life as a ransom.

**Satisfaction** - mankind owes a debt to God himself. The insult given to God is so great that only a perfect sacrifice could satisfy and Jesus, being both God and man, was this perfect sacrifice (Jesus saves us from an angry God).

**Penal substitution** - sees sinful man as being subject to God's wrath with the essence of Jesus' saving work being His substitution in the sinner's place, bearing the curse in the place of man (Jesus saves us from an angry God).

**Moral influence** - Jesus' death on the cross demonstrates the extent of God's love for us, and, moved by this great act of love, humankind responds and is transformed (Jesus unites us with a loving God).

## **REDEMPTION**

The metaphor of redemption includes the ideas of loosing from a bond, setting free from captivity or slavery, buying back something lost or sold, exchanging something in one's possession for something possessed by another, and ransoming. Deliverance of humankind from its state of alienation from God has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Christ (*Rom 4:25; 2 Cor 5:18-19*).

In the New Testament, redemption requires the payment of a price, but the plight that requires such a ransom is moral not material. Humankind is held in the captivity of sin from which only the atoning death of Jesus Christ can liberate.

An important text with regard to Jesus' understanding of His redemptive work is Mark 10:45, in which Jesus declares that His mission not only includes self-sacrificial service, but also involves giving His life as a "ransom" for many. Thus, Christ's death is portrayed as the payment price for the deliverance of those held captive by Satan (the ransom metaphor must be understood in the light of Jesus' offering of Himself in obedience to the Father, however, and not interpreted as a payment to Satan). As the means of redemption, the death of Jesus provides a deliverance that involves not only forgiveness of sin (*Eph 1:7; Col 1:14*), but also newness of life (*Rom 6:4*). Even though Christ's redemptive work is perfect



(Heb 9:25-28), the redemption of the believer will not be complete until the return of Christ (Lk 21:28, Rom 8:23, Eph 4:30).

## **JUSTIFICATION**

**Justification** - just as if I hadn't sinned.

Justification is the declaring of a person to be just or righteous (in right standing with God). It is a legal term signifying acquittal - Jesus righteousness causes us to become acceptable to God.

"Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" (Rom 5:19).

It is plain from the New Testament teaching throughout that justification comes to the sinner by the atoning work of Jesus and that this is applied to the individual sinner by faith. That God pardons and accepts believing sinners is the truth that is enshrined in the doctrine of justification by faith.

## **RECONCILIATION**

**Reconciliation** - the results of atonement.

The end of the estrangement, caused by sin, between God and humanity.

It is part of the message of Salvation that brings us back together with God. God is the author, Christ is the agent and we are the ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Cor 5). The separation caused by sin has been removed, and the broken relationship has been restored. Our sin no longer separates us from God and we are back in the relationship with God that He originally intended.

Notes taken from: R. David Rightmire & Leon Morris, *Bakers Evangelical Dictionary*, Born 4 BC, *Wikipedia*, *COC Statement of Faith*.





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