

Jesus'

death for us

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN
FOUNDATIONS

1D

Connect with each other

Discussion Questions

1. What do you remember from our study last week?
2. If you do something wrong, how do you resolve the sense of guilt and shame your action causes?

Introduction

All people are corrupted by sin; no one is perfect. We might look good when compared with other people but not when compared with God.

God is holy and totally pure so our impurity separates us from him. He is also totally just so he cannot ignore sin but must punish it. Therefore his righteous judgement must fall on us all unless there is a solution for our sin because we cannot remove it ourselves.

We will now see how God has provided a solution for us in Jesus Christ. (Jesus also called himself the Son Of Man.)

Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

We will see how and why Jesus gave "his life as a ransom" for us in the following passages.

THE PROPHECY OF JESUS' DEATH

Bible Passage: Isaiah 53: 5-6

Background: This passage is part of a prophecy about the Messiah that God gave to the prophet Isaiah in about 700 BC. In it God revealed some of the details about how God the Son would come as the Messiah and set people free from their sin.

Bible Discussion Question:

1. According to these verses, how will the Messiah remove our sin? Where do our sins go?

THE EVENT OF JESUS' DEATH

Bible Passage: John 19: 16-18, 28-31.

Background: God has confirmed to Jesus that he must allow himself to be killed so that God's purpose will be fulfilled. Jesus has freely allowed the Jews to arrest him (John 18:1-13) and has been unjustly sentenced to death by crucifixion. This method of execution was reserved for the worst criminals. He would be nailed to a cross by his hands and feet and die a slow, very painful death from having to repeatedly push up with his legs to breathe and from exhaustion. If his legs were broken he would no longer be able to use them to breathe.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. Refer back to what we read in Isaiah 53 about what the Messiah will do for us. What do you think Jesus was referring to when he said, "it is finished"?
2. What two things does John record that prove Jesus really died? (v31-33, 34)
3. What do we learn from verses 35-37 and why are they important?

Hear God's Word and understand it

THE MEANING AND EFFECT OF JESUS' DEATH

Bible Passage: 1 Peter 2: 24-25

Background: Peter is writing to Christian slaves who are suffering. The "Tree" in the passage means the cross.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways did Jesus' suffering on the cross restore their relationship with God?
2. What is similar in 1 Peter 2: 24-25 and Isaiah 53: 5-6?

In the next passage we will see how Jesus' sacrifice for us is a powerful demonstration of God's great love for mankind.

Bible Passage: Romans 5: 6-10.

Background: Here Paul is writing to Christians in Rome. "Justified" means made right with God; just-as-if-I'd never sinned. "God's wrath" is his righteous judgement on sin. "Reconcile" means reestablish close relationship.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. What was God's attitude toward us although our condition was so offensive to him? (v8)
2. What did Jesus' death achieve for those people who have put their faith in him? (v9-10)

Jesus' death - The Great Exchange

Bible Passage: 2 Corinthians 5: 21.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

We cannot remove our own sin because of our sinful condition. No sinner can take the sins of another sinner. So God sent Jesus as a sacrifice to take our sins on himself.

Jesus is the only person who can take our sins because he is sinless and perfect. He took our sins on himself when he died on the cross. The result for those who follow Jesus is that their sins are forgiven and so they are now reconciled to God. They can now know God and live in loving relationship with him in this life and forever.

This is why Jesus said that he came to give his life as a ransom. God made Jesus the righteous take the sins of the unrighteous so that through Jesus the unrighteous can become righteous. This is known as "the great exchange."

Apply God's word

Summary

If someone asked you, "Why did Jesus die on the cross?" how would you answer?

Clarification

What surprised you most from today's lesson?

Apply

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus died for you, even while you were still a sinner?