

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Core Strength - Part 4

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Introduction

The most fundamental tenet of our faith is that Jesus died for our sins. The entire truth of the gospel (that theologians refer to as the redemption, forgiveness and remission of our sins) is based on the understanding of Jesus's death and resurrection.

Jesus said He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matthew 5:17). The religious laws in the book of Leviticus provided a pathway for God's plan to redeem mankind through Jesus. Why is His death so significant and central to our faith? How should this understanding impact the way we live today?

Read Isaiah 53:10-11

Discuss

1. Do you have a recent account of someone who lost their life trying to help another person? Share the story and consider how their heroic act impacted the community.
2. Read Romans 6:23. Jesus was the 'sin offering' sacrificed for the sins of the world. Why did it have to be Jesus, the son of God, who died for our sins? Why could it not be any other good or heroic person?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What does becoming "the righteousness of God" mean? How does it impact the way we see ourselves today in terms of our new identity in Christ?
4. Read Leviticus 17:11. Jesus was also the "Passover Lamb" whose blood was shed when God judged Egypt. Why did Jesus have to die a bloody death as opposed to dying without bodily injury? Why was blood required?

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5. Read Romans 5:6-8 and Colossians 1:10. Given that Christ died for all while we were yet sinners, how then can we “walk worthy of the Lord”? Note the three aspects of this in the scriptures provided.
6. The Gospel, by definition, is about spiritual transformation through the death of Jesus. What are some changes in our lives when we became a “new creation in Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:17) in the areas of our identity, our wellbeing and our purpose?

Respond

If we continue to rebel against God after he has forgiven us, we are effectively like those who first crucified Christ (See Hebrews 6:4-6). Yet through repentance, God can forgive us time and time again (1 John 1:9). Take a moment to see what areas in your life need repentance and spend time in prayer about this. Share this with a trusted and mature Christian if possible.

Additional Notes on Select Questions

Question 2: Only Jesus could be the perfect sin offering because He was/is sinless. This meant He could atone for the sins of the world. Any other person would die solely because of their own sin, as “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

Question 4: Jesus had to shed His blood because the only way to atone for sin was by penalty of death. Blood represents life, and life blood needed to be shed as a payment for people’s sin. Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins for all time. Blood represents the covering and washing away of sin.

Other Considerations

- Can you volunteer to facilitate a Going Deeper discussion for your Life Group? Speak to your Life Group leader or coordinator about this.
- Do you know of any families and persons who do not have a Life Group? Why not invite them to yours?
- Do you have an idea for an activity for your Life Group (such as a picnic spot, day trip, local mission opportunity, community project to serve, games night, help out at Youth, etc)? Offer to organize it for your Life Group.