

The Cross

TEACHING NOTES

KEY VERSES

Luke 22:7-23:49

KEY THEMES

The death of the Lamb, as payment for sin

Atonement accomplished with Christ's substitutionary death

The death of Christ (Luke 22 & 23)



The death of the Lamb takes away the sin of the world (Genesis 22:8-14)



The Jewish people were expecting a king to free them from the oppressive rule of the Roman government

The substitutionary death of Christ (Leviticus 4:1-4, 5:7-9, 17:11)

The transfer of sin = atonement (at-one-ment)



What Christ's death accomplished (Romans 8:1-4)

Lesson Objective:

To understand what Christ's death accomplished and the forgiveness of sins we have.

PERSONAL STUDY**Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Take a few moments. Be still and quiet. Express to God how you are eager to meet with Him today. Ask Him to reveal to you His Word and to bring clarity to what you are going to study.

**Read Leviticus 5:6**

In your own words, describe the purpose and practice of animal sacrifice in the Old Testament. Turn back to page 69 (Session 10 – Optional Study) in your study notes for review.

The Old Testament sacrifices were a foreshadowing of Christ's death for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Read John 1:29 & Romans 3:23-25**

John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” As a Christ follower it's important to understand what the title “Lamb of God” means in your life. In your own words, describe Lamb of God.

Jesus' death was a payment that satisfied God's penalty for sin. He did what we cannot do. Jesus took our place and His blood restores our relationship with God. He is our atonement (at-one-ment) with God. The perfect sacrifice was made through Jesus- the Lamb of God. How do you view yourself now, knowing that God made a way for complete forgiveness of your sin no matter what's in your past?

Key verse

Put to memory 2 Corinthians 5:21. Place the provided card where you can see it throughout the day.

Prayer time

The Holy Spirit makes known God's truth and His will for our lives. We cannot see God's character on our own, we need the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas in your life that you need to seek more of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Before you start, pause and ask God to help you focus on what He wants to show you today.

What Christ's death accomplished

God revealed the depth of His love for us when He sent Jesus to earth as a human. The incarnation of Christ was designed by God to give us Jesus as a model, a teacher, and ultimately, the final sacrifice for the payment of sins. We can't fully appreciate what it meant to have the Law's system of animal sacrifice for a person's sin replaced with Christ's death as a way to be made right with God.

If you had a co-worker approach you and ask, "I understand that you are a Christian. Tell me what that means to you." What might you say? Would you know the truths to share with them from God's Word that explain the basis for your salvation?

Let's take a look at the key points of God's plan for salvation and how His offer of grace is the answer. Every follower of Jesus needs to be able to know how to share these key truths (see 1 Peter 3:15).

Our problem



Read Romans 3:23

What problem does our sin create?

We need to help people understand their sin has caused a separation between them and God.

God's expression of love



Read John 3:16 & Romans 5:8

What did God do to show how much He loves the people He created?

This is God's grace and it has been offered to anyone who believes in Him no matter who they are and what they have done. People need to know that God's desire is that no one spend eternity in hell, separated from Him. But He has given us the freedom to choose if they will place their faith and trust in what Jesus did for their sin when He died on the cross.

God's solution for our problem

 Read Romans 6:23

What penalty does our sin deserve? What can we do to earn God's gift of eternal life?

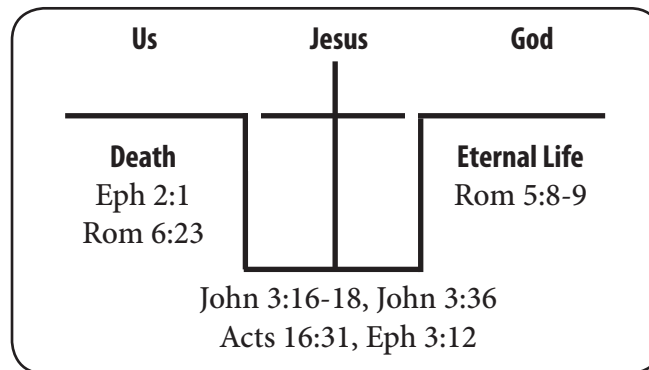
God's gift: salvation, by grace through faith

 Read Ephesians 2:8-9

In your own words, write out what a person needs to know to receive God's free gift of salvation.

We are saved from the penalty our sin deserves when we place our faith in Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross. We trust in God's provision of His Son to be the once and for all payment for our sin. John 1:12 says, "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."

Sometimes a picture can help people grasp concepts better. Here is a picture of the truth about our need and God's solution.

**Key verse**

Continue putting to memory 2 Corinthians 5:21. See if you can write it out from memory below.

Prayer time

In your own words, thank God for sending Jesus to be the final payment for your sin, so you can now be called His child.

OPTIONAL STUDY

As we reflect on Denny's discussion earlier this week, our attention is drawn to the importance of the cross. We are able to see the significance of Christ's death as one of the foundational truths found in the Bible. Apart from creation, the death of Jesus was the single most important event in history for believers. We will take this time to go deeper into what the death of Christ really means for our lives.



Read Romans 8:1-4

From what has the death of Christ set us free? (See verse 2)

What did Jesus do that the law could not? (See verse 3)

What was fulfilled in us by the death of Jesus? What does that mean for our lives? (See verse 4)

According to Hebrews 8:6, Jesus has been given a more excellent ministry than any earthly high priest before Him. Jesus is the mediator of a new and better covenant containing better promises than the Law of Moses. He initiated this new covenant with the shedding of His own blood. By faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we are set free from the law of sin and death and all the righteous requirements of the Law are met on our behalf. Jesus put it best when He said, "So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free." (John 8:36) We are now free to seek and serve the Lord in obedience and holiness by the power of His Spirit.