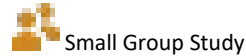


LEARN • VOLUME 3 • SESSION 2

Group Session



Small Group Study

Volume Overview

Who is Jesus?

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

We know that the Bible gives us insight into who Jesus is and what that means for us. But why is it important for us to know who Jesus is? Imagine following someone that you don't know. Knowing Jesus as the Perfect Sacrifice invites us to know Him as our Lord and Savior and ultimately as our God.

You Will Need

- Table
- Spoons, one per student
- Something to play music on
- Candy or small prize for the winner

Getting Ready

- *First time leading Learn for Youth? Look here for the Facilitator Guide.*

To access the Bible Engagement Project library from a computer, visit App.BibleEngagementProject.com.

Engage

Welcome

Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.

QUESTION

What is one strange thought you had today?

Opening Prayer

Prayer thoughts: Thank God for each of the students who came this week. Ask the Lord to use this time to speak to each of them in a unique way. Thank Him for His Word, and ask Him to give each one insight and wisdom as it is studied together.

Introduction

Today, we'll be talking about how Jesus is the Perfect Sacrifice for everyone in the world. Because He chose to die for you and me, and we accepted Him, His sacrifice brings forgiveness into our life. None of us would be able to live the way we do without Jesus choosing to sacrifice His life on a cross. Let's dive into this truth today!

Group Activity

Spoon Sacrifice

You Will Need

- *Table*
- *Spoons, one per student*
- *Something to play music on*
- *Candy or small prize for the winner*

Getting Ready

No prep needed.

Similar to the game Musical Chairs, we're going to play a game where each student tries to grab a spoon when the music stops. Each round, we'll have one less spoon than there are students who are playing. One student will be eliminated after each round until there is one winner left at the end of the game.

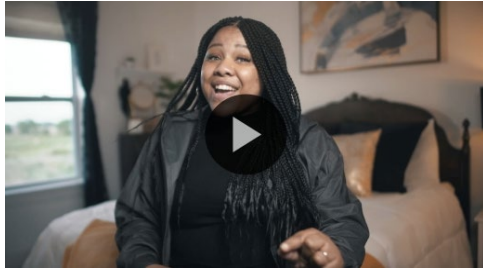
- *Sit students in a circle around a table with a pile of spoons that is one less than the number of students. (Depending on the size of your group, you can play smaller games divided between girls and guys or older and younger.)*
- *Play music for a short period of time, and stop it without warning.*
- *Remove the student without a spoon from the circle.*
- *Return the spoons to the middle of the table, and remove one spoon per round.*
- *Continue playing until only one student remains. Give that winner candy or a small prize.*

QUESTION

If no one had been eliminated, would there have been a way for someone to win the game? Why or why not?

This game connects to what we're talking about today. The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned, and our sin has a price. Like this activity, we should all be eliminated from a relationship with God because our sin separates us from Him. But Jesus, because of His great love for us, gave up His life to pay the price for our sin. Let's find out how it all happened.

Watch



Consider What the Bible Says

Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.

Now, let's look at one of the most important stories in the Bible—Jesus giving His life for us. As we unpack this story, know that the Holy Spirit wants to speak to us and show us the truth about Jesus that will impact our life.

Jesus Was Innocent, Yet Judged

The Bible tells us that before Jesus was arrested, many false witnesses spoke against Him. He was unfairly accused of things He didn't do. Then instead of being set free because He was innocent, Jesus was crucified.

Read Mark 14:56.

QUESTION

Why do you think it's important for us to know that the people who accused Jesus contradicted each other?

QUESTION

Why do you think people were told to lie about what Jesus said or did?

Jesus was judged unfairly, not by Roman rulers, but by the Jewish religious leaders. As a Jewish religious teacher himself, these were Jesus' peers and people who should have connected with Him. Instead, they turned their back on Him.

QUESTION

Was there ever a time that you felt you were unfairly accused by others, either from a distance or by someone close to you? How did this make you feel?

Read John 19:1–6.

QUESTION

What were some of the things that people in these verses did to Jesus?

The Roman soldiers mocked and whipped Jesus. But the Jewish leaders ultimately did not think that was enough. Unlike Pilate, who found Jesus innocent, they wanted Jesus killed. And they weren't looking for a humane execution. They screamed for Jesus to be killed in one of the most painful and shameful ways possible in that culture.

QUESTION

Why do you think Jesus voluntarily allowed this to happen to Him?

Jesus was God in flesh, and He had the power to do anything. He could have removed himself from the situation, but He didn't. He had every right to escape since He was innocent, but Jesus chose to remain.

Jesus Was Righteous, Yet Ridiculed

Read John 19:16–19.

Even though Jesus was innocent, He was crucified on a cross like a criminal. To add insult to injury, He was hung between criminals with a sign posted over His head to mock Him. The crown of thorns and sign calling Jesus a king were a joke to people who didn't understand that this was the spiritual King of all God's people.

QUESTION

Imagine being made fun of while trying to help someone. How could that make the ridicule hurt even worse?

Jesus chose to die out of His love for people, including us. All the pain and the crucifixion that Jesus endured had purpose.

QUESTION

Do you believe that Jesus loves everyone in the entire world? Why or why not?

QUESTION

Jesus endured the Cross even though He knew some people would mock Him rather than receive His gift of salvation. Why do you think Jesus endured all He did knowing this?

QUESTION

Why do you think people who know what Jesus did for them still reject Him?

QUESTION

How should knowing that Jesus died for us change how we live for Him?

Jesus Is Victorious over Death

Read John 19:28–30.

QUESTION

What was Jesus' mission that He completed by dying on the Cross?

QUESTION

What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished"?

QUESTION

How does the devil attempt to get our eyes off Jesus as the Perfect Sacrifice for our sins?

Jesus paid the price as the Perfect Sacrifice for our sins. He was victorious in this moment because He completed the main task He came to earth to do. Nothing would keep Him from finishing the mission of taking care of the sin problem.

The Bible tells us that sin has a price (Romans 6:23), and not one of us is without sin (Romans 3:23). Because of this, Jesus fulfilled His mission by taking the punishment for every sinner who makes Him their Lord. But the enemy, the devil, doesn't give up easily. He will attempt to remind us of our sin, bringing shame and guilt into our mind.

QUESTION

How does the enemy use shame and guilt against us?

QUESTION

Why does he do this?

The devil wants to keep everyone from a personal relationship with Jesus. The good news is that Jesus died not just to bring us salvation, but to free us from the shame and guilt of sin while we're on earth, too. This makes His sacrifice for us perfect in every way. His death can bring us victory in life and in the afterlife!

Did You Know?

Jesus' popularity probably inspired the religious leaders to try to catch Him in a sneakier way. Rather than publicly arresting this beloved Teacher and risk outrage, they plotted to seize Him at night. To do this, they needed someone close to Jesus to betray His location. They paid one of His disciples, Judas, to be the informant. This attempt to keep the death of Jesus in secrecy was a massive failure. His death is one of the most well-known executions in human history.

Reflect

Jesus Is the Perfect Sacrifice

It takes a truly selfless act of love to be willing to die for someone else. Jesus made the greatest sacrifice of love when He was willing to die on behalf of the sin of the entire world. Even before any of us loved Jesus back, He already loved us enough to die for us. It's amazing to think about the amount of love that Jesus has for us when we remember what He was willing to endure on the Cross for us.

Listen to God

Let's take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in Jesus as the perfect Sacrifice. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

- *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

QUESTION

How does knowing that Jesus died for you change your view of God's love for you and others?

None of us deserves the love God gives us. Jesus' death on the Cross was the greatest act of love because it was done as a selfless sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life regardless of what any of us could have done to deserve it. His sacrifice wasn't based on us. It was based on His love for us.

Activate

As you reflect on what we learned today, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a better grasp on the great love of Jesus for you and the whole world. The more we understand His love for us, the more we want to be a part of His great plan. He wants everyone to know about the opportunity to receive salvation through Him.

But the devil doesn't want that for anyone! So anytime the devil attempts to remind you of your past sin and guilt, whisper, "Jesus said, 'It is finished. Let the enemy of your soul know Jesus is your Perfect Sacrifice."

Salvation Opportunity

Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Following Jesus starts with choosing to have a relationship with Him. God sent Jesus as the Perfect Sacrifice to save you and me because of His love for us. He knows everything about us, including the decisions we've made, even our most sinful choices. Despite our sin, He still wants a relationship with us.

Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?

Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as we close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.

Conclusion

Jesus is the Perfect Sacrifice because He voluntarily gave His life for us. Jesus was perfectly innocent, yet He was mocked and judged. Jesus was without sin, yet He was ridiculed as if He were in the wrong. Jesus was killed, but He reigned victorious over death. Jesus fulfilled the mission that He set out to fulfill because He took the place of every one of us on the Cross. Because of Jesus, we can live in freedom now and be with Him forever.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for giving me and the whole world the ability to know You through a personal relationship. Thank You for choosing to die for me so that I can be a part of Your great plan. Help me remember the love that You have for me that helps me to grow in You each day. In Your holy name I pray. Amen.

Next time we'll talk more about how we can live for God by celebrating that Jesus is alive because He defeated death. Don't forget the personal devotions provided for you on your app. These allow you to have time with Jesus as you grow in your love and devotion to Him each day.