

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan for Jesus to Die

Matthew 27:31-61

Opening

Gathering: When have you seen someone willingly take abuse for the sake of others?

Today's Focus: The pain, suffering and death that Jesus endured was a critical part of God's plan to bring us back to Him eternally.

Key Verses: *Now My heart is troubled, and what should I say? "Father, save Me from this hour?" No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.* John 12:27

This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels (*John 12:27*)

Were the sufferings and death Jesus experienced on Good Friday a surprise?

Matthew 16:21

Did knowing what would happen make it any easier for Jesus to go through with it?

Matthew 26:38-39

Did being God make it any easier for Jesus to go through with it?

Hebrews 2:18

Was Jesus tempted with any opportunities to back out?

Matthew 26:50-54 (*Matthew 16:22-23*)

Since He could have easily *called 10,000 angels to set Him free*, why didn't He?

John 12:27

Jesus' Purpose (*Matthew 20:25-28*)

Didn't Jesus come to show us God and to be worshipped? Why was death His purpose?

Matthew 20:25-28

How could His death buy (ransom) the lives of many?

Hebrews 2:14

Why did He have to become human to pay the price for the Father's children?

Hebrews 2:17

The Wages of Sin (*Romans 6:23*)

Atonement - "At One Ment"

What standard do we have to achieve to be at one with God?

Matthew 5:48

What should we expect if we cannot quite meet that standard?

Romans 6:23

What percentage of humans can we expect to fall into each category?

Romans 3:10-12, 23

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Becoming At One With God (*Galatians 3:10-14*)

Can't we at least get close to God by trying to obey His Laws and being as good as we can?

Galatians 3:10-12

Is there any way we can get out from under this curse?

Galatians 3:13-14

How could Jesus take our curse just by dying on a cross?

2 Corinthians 5:21

In summary, how are we made *at one* with God and righteous before Him?

Romans 3:20-22

Jewish Atonement (*Leviticus 4*)

What about the Jews? Were they able to be *at one* with God because He had chosen them?

Romans 3:9

Before Jesus, how were the Jews able to become *at one* with God?

Leviticus 5:5-6

How would the sin offering be used to make atonement?

Leviticus 4:32-35

Was there any other way to be cleansed of sin besides the shedding of innocent blood?

Hebrews 9:22

Why is the shedding of blood so important to become *at one* with God?

Leviticus 17:11

What about sins that are committed without knowing? Do they need to be atoned for?

Leviticus 5:17-19

With so many people and so many sins, how could Israel hope to be *at one* with God as a nation?

Leviticus 16:34 (16:1-34)

Yom Kippur

Jesus' Great Atonement (*Hebrews 9-10*)

What happened on *Yom Kippur*, the annual Day of Atonement?

Hebrews 9:1-7

Did this sacrifice cleanse the worshippers once and for all?

Hebrews 10:1-4

How did Jesus change this annual sacrifice?

Hebrews 9:11-12

What is the Most Holy Place that Jesus entered by His blood?

Hebrews 9:24

Why did God have a Most Holy Place in the temple for the High Priest to mediate for the people?

Hebrews 9:8

What is this way into the Most Holy Place of heaven under the new covenant?

Hebrews 9:15

How was this way into the Most Holy Place revealed when Jesus died?

Matthew 27:50-51

Note: Curtain tore top-to-bottom by God, not side-to-side by weight

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'Cause God Said So (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Was Jesus making atonement once and for all a new concept or part of God's original plan?

Isaiah 53:10-11

How do we remind ourselves in our creeds that God planned atonement through Jesus?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Events of Holy Week Promised

Where do we first see that Jesus' last week occurred *according to the Scriptures*?

Zechariah 9:9

Where do we see the fulfillment of this prophecy?

Matthew 21:4-9

What simple prophecy was also fulfilled by the praiseful welcome He received?

Matthew 21:15-16

Was the fact that He would be rejected by some foretold by the prophets?

John 12:37-41

Betrayed by Judas

Was His rejection and betrayal by a close friend a surprise?

John 13:18-26

How would a close friend dare to betray the Messiah?

Zechariah 11:12-13

What was this prophecy pointing to?

Matthew 26:14-15

What about the second part of throwing the money into the temple to the potter?

Matthew 27:3-8

What other prophecies were fulfilled by this story?

Matthew 27:9-10

Jesus' Trials

What had David written about how Jesus would be tried?

Psalms 35:11

What did Isaiah's Great Servant Song about Jesus' Passion say about His trials?

Isaiah 53:7-8

How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

Matthew 26:59-63a; 27:12-14

Jesus Abused

How was Jesus treated by His accusers?

Matthew 26:67-68; 27:26-30

How was this prophesied?

Isaiah 50:6

How did Isaiah refer to the flogging that Jesus received?

Isaiah 53:5

How did Peter later describe the reason for the abuse Jesus received?

1 Peter 2:21-24

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Jesus Crucified

What was the Jewish form of execution for blasphemy and other major crimes?

Leviticus 24:13-16

Since Jesus was charged with blasphemy (Matthew 26:65-66), why was He crucified?

John 18:31; 19:16

How did David's great song of Jesus' Passion foretell this strange execution?

Psalms 22:14-17 (Zechariah 12:10)

What other unique prophesy did David add?

Psalms 22:18 (John 19:23-24)

Did the prophets tell that He would be executed with common criminals?

Isaiah 53:12

Jesus On the Cross

What did David say about the way the Messiah would be treated during His execution?

Psalms 22:7-8 (Matthew 27:39-44)

How did David foretell the drugged wine vinegar Jesus was offered on a sponge?

Psalms 69:21 (Matthew 27:34, 48)

Jesus had died before the soldiers came around and broke legs. How was this foretold?

Psalms 34:20 (Exodus 12:46)

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

What had Isaiah said about the Messiah's grave?

Isaiah 53:9 (Matthew 27:57-60)

What is one of many prophecies that the Messiah would be raised from the dead?

Psalms 16:10

What did David say would happen to the Messiah after He rose?

Psalms 68:18 (Psalm 110:1)

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Would I be able to lay down my life for the sake of others?
(Matthew 26:37-42; Mark 8:34-37; John 12:24-27; 15:12-13; Romans 5:6-8)
2. When and how have I betrayed a close friend?
(Job 19:14-19; Psalms 41:9; Proverbs 16:28; 17:9; 18:24; 27:10; Matt. 26:47-50; John 13:18-30)
3. When and how have I falsely accused someone?
(Exodus 20:16; Psalms 27:12; Isaiah 53:7-8; Jeremiah 9:3-6; Matthew 26:59-63; Acts 6:11-15)
4. When and how have I wrongly mocked or abused someone?
(Proverbs 9:12; 17:5; 22:10; Isaiah 50:6; Matt 26:67-68; 27:26-30; 2 Tim 3:2-5; 1 Peter 2:21-24)
5. When have I remained quiet and without retaliation after being mistreated?
(Isaiah 53:3-12; Matthew 26:62-63a; Luke 6:27-36; Hebrews 11:24-26, 36-40)