

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 = No, Jesus knew His destiny and tried to explain it to His disciples

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

Matthew 26:38-39 = No, Overwhelmed with sorrow, asked to get out of it

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

Hebrews 2:18 = He was just as human as we are and just as tempted

Was Jesus tempted with any opportunities to back out? = 12 legions → 12 x 6000 = 72,000

Matthew 26:50-54 (Matthew 16:22-23) = Yes, Peter tried to defend Him and was scolded

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

John 12:27 = This suffering and death is the reason He had come

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 = His life was to teach us servanthood, His death to be a ransom

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

Hebrews 2:14 = Through His death He destroyed the ruler of death - Satan

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

Hebrews 2:17 = To become our faithful high priest to make atonement for our sins

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

Atonement - "At One Ment" = Being made at one with God

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

Matthew 5:48 = *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect*

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

Romans 6:23 = *The wages of sin is death (but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ)*

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

Romans 3:10-12, 23 = 0 and 100%, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan for Jesus to Die

Page 2

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 = If we rely on obeying the law, we are under a curse

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

Galatians 3:13-14 = Jesus redeemed us from the curse by taking it on the cross

How could Jesus take our curse just by dying on a cross? = *to be a sin offering for us* (see NIV note)

2 Corinthians 5:21 = He was perfect and took our sin in exchange for His righteousness

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

Romans 3:20-22 = *This righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe*

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 = No, they were just as sinful and just as cursed

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

Leviticus 5:5-6 = Confess their sin, bring a sin offering and priest would make atonement

How would the sin offering be used to make atonement? = *...and he will be forgiven*

Leviticus 4:32-35 = Unblemished lamb slaughtered by sinner, blood poured out

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

Hebrews 9:22 = No, *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*

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

Leviticus 17:11 = *life of a creature is in its blood...it is the blood that makes atonement*

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

Leviticus 5:17-19 = Yes, we are still guilty and must make atonement, ignorance is no excuse

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) = High priest annually made atonement for the nation

Yom Kippur = *Yom* - Day, *Kippur* - Atonement; Instructed in Leviticus 16

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

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

Hebrews 9:1-7 = High Priest entered Most Holy Place and sacrificed for sins of people

Did this sacrifice cleanse the worshippers once and for all?

Hebrews 10:1-4 = No, *those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins*

How did Jesus change this annual sacrifice?

Hebrews 9:11-12 = *He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood*

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

Hebrews 9:24 = He entered the Most Holy Place, heaven itself

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

Hebrews 9:8 = To show that the way into the Most Holy Place had not been disclosed

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

Hebrews 9:15 = Jesus is the mediator to set us free from sins under the old covenant

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

Matthew 27:50-51 = The heavy curtain in the temple tore open (between HP and MHP)

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

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan for Jesus to Die

Page 3

'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 = It was revealed through prophets that Messiah would make atonement
How do we remind ourselves in our creeds that God planned atonement through Jesus?
1 Corinthians 15:3-4 = He died, was buried and rose *according to the Scriptures*

Events of Holy Week Promised

Where do we first see that Jesus' last week occurred *according to the Scriptures*?
Zechariah 9:9 = See, your King comes to you, righteous ... riding on a donkey
Where do we see the fulfillment of this prophesy?
Matthew 21:4-9 = Palm Sunday - Words shouted were from Psalm 118:26 and Isaiah 56:7
What simple prophesy was also fulfilled by the praiseful welcome He received?
Matthew 21:15-16 = Psalm 8:2 - *from the lips of children...you have ordained praise*
Was the fact that He would be rejected by some foretold by the prophets?
John 12:37-41 = Yes, Isaiah said He'd be rejected (Psalm 118:22 - capstone rejected)

Betrayed by Judas

Was His rejection and betrayal by a close friend a surprise?
John 13:18-26 = Psalm 41:9 - My close friend, who shared bread, lifted his heel
How would a close friend dare to betray the Messiah?
Zechariah 11:12-13 = Paid 30 pieces of silver, threw it to the potter in the temple
What was this prophesy pointing to? = Exodus 21:32 - Price for killed slave
Matthew 26:14-15 = Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver to turn over Jesus
What about the second part of throwing the money into the temple to the potter?
Matthew 27:3-8 = Judas threw the coins into the temple, used to buy a potter's field
What other prophesies were fulfilled by this story?
Matthew 27:9-10 = Jeremiah's stories in Jeremiah 19:1-13 and Jeremiah 32:6-9

Jesus' Trials

What had David written about how Jesus would be tried?
Psalm 35:11 = False witnesses would challenge and speak against Him
What did Isaiah's Great Servant Song about Jesus' Passion say about His trials?
Isaiah 53:7-8 = He did not open His mouth, Taken by oppression and judgment
How did Jesus fulfill this prophesy?
Matthew 26:59-63a; 27:12-14 = Jesus remained silent to the oppressive accusations

Jesus Abused

How was Jesus treated by His accusers?
Matthew 26:67-68; 27:26-30 = Spit on, hit, mocked, flogged
How was this prophesied?
Isaiah 50:6 = Offered my back to be beat ... didn't hide from mocking and spitting
How did Isaiah refer to the flogging that Jesus received?
Isaiah 53:5 = *By His wounds we are healed* (stripes - KJV)
How did Peter later described the reason for the abuse Jesus received? = stripes - KJV
1 Peter 2:21-24 = No sin, Didn't retaliate, *by His wounds you have been healed*

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan for Jesus to Die

Page 4

Jesus Crucified

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

Leviticus 24:13-16 = Death by stoning

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

John 18:31; 19:16 = Romans had recently took Jews' right to execute, Rome crucified

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

Psalm 22:14-17 (Zechariah 12:10) = Described effects of crucifixion, pierced hands and feet

What other unique prophesy did David add?

Psalm 22:18 (John 19:23-24) = Soldiers would divide His clothes and cast lots for His robe

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

Isaiah 53:12 = *was numbered with the transgressors... made intercession*

Jesus On the Cross

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

Psalm 22:7-8 (Matthew 27:39-44) = Mocked, insulted, shaken heads, deliver yourself

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

Psalm 69:21 (Matthew 27:34, 48) = *They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst*

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

Psalm 34:20 (Exodus 12:46) = No bones will be broken (Exodus talks of Passover lamb)

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

What had Isaiah said about the Messiah's grave?

Isaiah 53:9 (Matthew 27:57-60) = Died with the wicked, buried with the rich

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

Psalm 16:10 = *You will not abandon Me to the grave, nor let Me see decay*

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

Psalm 68:18 (Psalm 110:1) = ascend into heaven to sit on God's right hand

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; Psalm 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; Psalm 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)