

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
26/10/25

TITLE:	Why did Jesus die?
THEME:	Christian Foundations
AIM:	To understand God's plan in sending Jesus to die on the cross, and what His death and resurrection mean to us today.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

From the very beginning, God's desire has been to have a close relationship with people. But sin—our choices to go against God's ways—creates a barrier between us and Him. Throughout the Old Testament, people made animal sacrifices to cover their sins, but these were only temporary solutions that pointed forward to something greater.

When Jesus came, He lived a perfect, sinless life and offered Himself as the final and perfect sacrifice. His death on the cross was God's way of dealing with sin once and for all, making it possible for us to be forgiven and restored to relationship with Him. Through His resurrection, Jesus showed His power over sin and death, offering eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.

This session helps young people understand *why* Jesus died — not as an accident or tragedy, but as part of God's loving rescue plan for the world. It explores sin, justice, and forgiveness in a way that connects with real life and invites them to respond personally.

WARM UP

Beat the banker.

Each player gets 5 coins. The banker gets 10. Players need to buy into the game with 1 coin. Banker will flip a coin. Each player calls what they guess (can do this by turning the paid in coin either way). Winners get 2 coins. Losers lose their coin.

Can anyone beat the banker?

Purpose: To get the group thinking about fairness, justice, and reward. In the game, some win and some lose—it's all about chance. But God's justice isn't random. He is fair, and He has provided a way for everyone to be "made right" through Jesus.

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1:

Question: Have they ever been punished before? What was it like?

In groups come up with punishments for these crimes:

- A person who lies to their friend
- A person leaves their room in a mess
- A child who steals a penny sweet.
- A person who cheats on their exams
- A person who is caught speeding
- A person who is caught drink driving
- A person who kills someone because of drink driving
- A person who kills a man
- A person who disobeys God

Look up Romans 3:23. Discuss sin. Some sins often seem bigger than others because we see the consequences more obviously – but all sin cuts us off from God, who is completely without sin, and ultimately leads to death (Romans 6:23).

Question: What can we do about the problem of sin - how can we stop sinning?

Teaching point: Sin isn't just "doing bad things"; it's a heart problem that separates us from a holy God. We can't fix it ourselves—every sin, big or small, cuts us off from Him. The problem of sin needs a solution, and that's why Jesus came.

Activity 2: Sin as a virus.

Thinking about sin as a virus. Play virus tag!

Outside in the garden. One person is patient zero. They can 'infect' others by tagging them and using stickers. All those who are infected and infect others until you are all out.

Questions:

How quickly did the virus spread?

Was anyone able to avoid it?

What would have helped to prevent the spread?

Discuss how this is similar to sin.

Read:

John 3:16, Romans 3:23-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Explain terms: sin, Justified, Righteousness, Eternal life.

Questions:

How is Jesus like a cure?

What does it mean that He was immune to sin?

How can we accept the cure?

How does knowing Jesus is the cure change the way we live?

Teaching Point: Sin spreads like a virus—no one is immune. But God sent Jesus as the cure. He took our sin, gave us His righteousness, and made a way for us to be healed and restored to God.

Activity 3:

Play this video:

This Ancient Ritual Helps Explain Jesus' Death

Questions:

- What was the point of the animal sacrifices in the old testament?
- What did the animal sacrifices point towards?
- What 2 rituals did Jesus encourage his followers to continue with?
- What did they represent?

Teaching Point: From the beginning, God showed that sin requires a sacrifice—a cost. Animal sacrifices pointed forward to Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, who took away the sin of the world. His death ended the need for further sacrifices and brought complete forgiveness.

Activity 4:

Give out lolly sticks and string. Get them to write down the verse Romans 5:8 on it and then make it into a cross. They can then leave it somewhere they can see it and reminds them of what we have learnt.

Teaching Point: The cross reminds us that Jesus died not because we were good, but because we needed saving. His love is personal and powerful—He died *for us*.

Activity 5:

https://youtu.be/8Z_SMrnEial

Teaching Point: Jesus' death was not the end, but the beginning of new life for everyone who believes. His sacrifice shows God's justice and love working together—sin is punished, but sinners are forgiven. Because of Jesus, we can know God now and forever.

TAKEAWAY

EXTRA INFORMATION