

Week 6

How Can One Person's Death Pay for Another's Sin?

March 28



(~90 minutes needed)

[In this series, we'll be taking an intentional dive into some of the most important questions we can ask as human beings. They have to do with God, our existence, meaning, purpose, suffering, salvation, and more. For your group discussion to flourish, it is paramount that your people in your life groups access the weekly content and think through the reflection questions ahead of time and even consider some of the resources sent out each week. You'll have time in these guides to give each person reflection time on the questions, but conversation will be best if people do most of their thinking beforehand.]

Begin with 1-3 minutes of silence + prayer (1-3 minutes)

As you begin your gathering, spend a minute or two together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few moments of quiet centering, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.

Read this overview (1 minute)

The cross of Jesus and His resurrection are the central focus of our Christian faith. His death is essential because it made all things right with God and restored our relationship with Him. So, this week we're diving into that event of the crucifixion to wrestle with the notion that one person's death can pay for another's sin.

This raises some other questions: What is the penalty of sin? Why is death necessary in order to pay the debt of sin? What exchange happened at the cross? How is my life redeemed by an event that happened thousands of years ago?

While we won't know all the answers to those questions, when we look at the death of Jesus for what it is, we can trust that our debt is paid because of God's amazing love and grace.

Feel free to share openly and honestly about your own struggles with this question. This is safe space to voice any questions, fears, and doubts that you may have!

Personal reflection (10-15 minutes)

Give everyone about 10-15 minutes to sit with God and reflect on the question, “How can one person’s death pay for another’s sin?” Actually have people write out their thoughts on the questions below. *You’ll want to have some pens and paper ready for people to jot down any thoughts that they have.*

Have people reflect on the following questions:

- Have you personally wrestled with the reality of Jesus’ sacrifice? How so?
- How would you answer this week’s question if someone asked you?
- How does your answer to that question impact your everyday living?

Debrief these questions in triads (30 minutes)

Split your group into smaller triads to share their thoughts on the questions above.

Once the personal reflection time is completed, have everyone come back into a large group to share about their triad discussion, to read Scripture, and to debrief the sermon.

Gather as a large group for discussion (30 minutes)

Once you have debriefed your personal reflection time, spend time in the Scripture below as well as debriefing the sermon from this weekend. *There are lots of questions here, so feel free to pick a couple as you see fit to guide the discussion.*

- What were some of the things that came from your smaller group discussions that stood out?
- How did the sermon this past weekend challenge or deepen how you think about answering the question, “How can one person’s death pay for another’s sin?”
- Have you ever wavered in your trust that Jesus’ sacrifice was enough? What part of it raises questions? How is God inviting you to trust it more?
- How is your relationship with God defined by the sacrifice of Jesus? What does the reality of His atonement do for your day-in-and-day-out walk with Him?
- Look up the following passages: **John 3:16-17; Romans 8:1-4; 1 John 2:1-2.** How do they inform your view of Jesus’ sacrifice?
- **Read Isaiah 53.** What does this prophecy--written about Jesus hundreds of years before He was born--tell you about Jesus’ sacrifice?
- If you were to engage in conversation with someone who asked you this question about the crucifixion, how would you go about engaging with that person? What do you think would be important to emphasize? How would you want to posture yourself if a conversation like this came up?

- What new questions did this message or does this topic raise for you?
- What is one key takeaway from tonight's conversation that you need to do or think more about?

Finish with prayer (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.