



PLANTED

Why did Jesus die?

1. Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do, or had someone else take the blame for something you did? What was that like?
2. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 that "Christ crucified [is] a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."
 1. Why do you think Paul says this?
 2. Do you think Jesus' death might be a "stumbling block" or "foolishness" to people today?
 3. What does the cross mean to you?
3. Read Romans 5:6-11. Identify every description of us or our action. Then identify every description of God or His action. What do you notice?
4. How does the cross express God's holiness and love, fulfilling Psalm 85:10? "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other."

1 Peter 2	Isaiah 53
He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.	He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.
They hurled their insults at him.	He was despised and rejected by others.
He himself bore our sins.	He bore the sin of many.
By his wounds you have been healed.	By his wounds we are healed.
You were like sheep going astray.	We all, like sheep, have gone astray.

5. Jesus' death fulfills both prophecies made hundreds of years earlier and God's plan to reconcile us to Himself. How do you respond to John Stott's chart below?¹ Which statement is most impactful for you today?
6. Read, sing, or listen to the lyrics of Stuart Townend & Keith Getty's hymn "[In Christ Alone](#)." How do you respond, especially to the second verse?

Going Deeper

7. Theologian Bruce Demarest argues that "the cross liberates from the power of sin, propitiates God's wrath, washes away the guilt and stain of sin, reconciles believers to God, and achieves a cosmic victory over deadly spiritual foes." But he also claims that "Christ's example of suffering on our behalf releases a new moral power that transforms our attitudes, motives, and conduct."²
 1. How have you been personally transformed by the cross?
 2. Where do you still need repentance, growth, grace, prayer, or action?

¹ John Stott, *Basic Christianity* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), 116.

² Bruce Demarest, *The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation from Foundations of Evangelical Theology*, ed. John S. Feinberg (Wheaton: Crossway, 1997), 196.