

OF FIRST IMPORTANCE

CHRIST'S DEATH

Week 1

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Describe an important event you recently witnessed or experienced. Give your thoughts about what happened.
- Is there a time when something you had been waiting on finally happened? Tell us more about it.
- Have you ever experienced not being reprimanded despite a mistake you made? How did you feel?

WORD

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures . . .

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

(Read also 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-2, 4-8.)

The story of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection is one of love and hope, and it was all a part of God's original design. The gospel message is not an afterthought. That is to say, God does not consider us an afterthought. Knowing and appreciating how God saved us enables us to approach Him without embarrassment or fear, and it also serves as a reminder that we have a message to share and a testimony to share. Today, we'll examine how Christ's suffering and death atone for us and offer us the chance to share the message He has given us.

1. CHRIST DIED.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures ...

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

Even though it was cruel and agonizing, Christ's death was an act of love that many people saw. His death on the cross actually happened; it is not a fable. Jesus lived on Earth as a real person, suffering unjustly on the cross despite being innocent. Redemption would not have been achieved without His death. What does the death of Christ entail for you? What does Luke 23:48 have to say about the people who were present when Jesus was crucified?

2. CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS.

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures . . .

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

(Read also 1 PETER 3:18.)

When Jesus died, much more than just anguish and suffering occurred. He made a difference for us by dying on the cross. He was "pierced for our transgressions, and he was crushed for our iniquities," according to Isaiah 53:5. He dealt with our shortcomings and our shame on the cross. To set us free from our sins—even those that seem too large to forgive or too painful to overcome—he took our place and underwent the death that we deserved. How has Jesus' love, which was manifested on the cross, altered the way you view others and yourself? How should we spend our lives in light of Christ's sacrifice, according to 1 Peter 2:24?

3. CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures . . .

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

Even in the Old Testament, there are echoes of the significance of Jesus' death. God promised to send a Savior through the prophet Isaiah who would take on our sins and endure suffering in our stead. (Isaiah 53:4). In full obedience to God, Jesus came hundreds of years later and underwent the most torturous death so that we might get the most priceless gift. We can be confident that God will accomplish His work in us and His plans and purposes for us in the same way that He completed His redeeming work through the death and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. Why do you suppose Jesus died at that particular time? How does this increase our appreciation for the gospel?

APPLICATION

- How has the understanding of Jesus' death and suffering changed you? What can you do to let others know the depth of God's love for us?
- Pause and give some thought to how much God has forgiven you. How can you extend forgiveness to someone who has hurt you in the past?
- To whom can you share this message of salvation with this week? Ask God to give you the grace to obey what He is prompting you to do.

PRAYER

- Thank God for the message of the gospel. Praise Him for the opportunity to receive and share His love and grace with others.
- Ask God to give you the grace to release yourself from your past guilt and shame. Pray that you will always choose forgiveness over hatred and bitterness.
- Seek God as you minister to others and point people to Him. Surrender every aspect of your life as you walk in obedience to His will.



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