

Week 5 – The Crucifixion

1 Peter 3:18

So far this season, we learned that we all sin and that our sins separate us from God. And did you know that there is nothing that you or I can do to get rid of our sins? The stain of sin is permanent. We need someone else to make us clean.

And that someone was the Perfect Savior, Jesus. Like we said last week, Jesus was God who came to earth as a man. He was fully God and fully man. He did countless miracles and taught amazing things. But the most important thing that Jesus did when he came to earth was to die on the cross for our sins.

What do you know about the cross? Maybe you have seen people wearing a cross on a necklace or have seen a cross at a church. Do you know what the cross symbolizes?

The cross symbolized death. When Jesus came to earth, he knew that he was going to be killed on a cross in what we call the crucifixion. He knew that they would nail his hands and his feet to this large cross of wood. He knew that it would be painful and that he would die.

But that wasn't the important part about the cross. The important part about the cross was that Jesus took the punishment for *our* sin. He didn't deserve death. He didn't deserve any kind of pain. He didn't deserve to be mistreated, but he chose to undergo all of that because he loved us.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus is the only one that can take away our sins and he did just that about 2000 years ago. 1 Peter 3:18a says, "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God."

God is just and fair. He could not just ignore our sin and let us have a relationship with Him. Someone had to take the punishment for sin, and Jesus stepped in to do that. Jesus came to earth to die the death we deserved so that the punishment for our sin would still be given. Jesus had to die in order to wash our sins clean. And the special part about the death of Jesus was that the story did not end there! More on that next week!

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the cross symbolize?
2. What does crucifixion mean?
3. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
4. What kind of punishment do we deserve?