

WEEK 7: DEATH AND RESURRECTION

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Big Picture

This is where we're going... the big ideas you want people to understand more deeply during this session.



- Substitutionary atonement—Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
- Forgiveness of sins
- Jesus is Lord over sin and death
- Jesus is Lord over all!
- Is Jesus Lord over your life?

Set the Training Tone

You will not need to repeat this list every week, but be aware of these and reestablish the right tone as necessary.

- We are here to learn and change (not just a social time, but we also desire to grow closer and build community)
- Have fun, keep things moving and participatory.
- Welcome a challenge from me or others in the group (let's give each other permission to challenge us—probe, ask questions etc.).
- Strive to be honest and vulnerable and we should honor that by keeping what is shared in confidence.
- We are going to try and answer questions as much as possible from within the Story found in the Bible. Everything we need to learn about God and humans can be found right here in his Story!

Review Last Week's Story

-  **Last Week...** We looked at how Jesus lived his life. Everywhere he went crowds flocked to him and he performed many miracles, healing everyone who came to him.
- We saw that Jesus has the authority to forgive sin, and has power over the creation, and has authority over the demons, and can raise the dead back to life.
- We also learned a lot about the Kingdom of God and that this is a kingdom of the heart.
- We also saw a powerful picture of God as a loving Father who is waiting for his sinful children to come home so he can shower them with forgiveness and blessings.
- And we saw that the only way to the Father is through Jesus.
-  **What are one or two big take-aways for you from last week?**

THE STORY & DIALOGUE

Scene 1 ~ Death and Resurrection

Story from Matthew 26–28; Mark 14–16; Luke 22–24; John 13,17–20

Jesus and his disciples traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. Everywhere he went he had compassion on people and met their needs. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders were becoming increasingly upset with Jesus and his claims.

He continued to tell people that he could forgive their sins. This enraged the Jewish leaders—they saw this as the ultimate disrespect to God. They looked for ways to trap Jesus into saying something they could arrest him for, but Jesus was too wise for them.

Many of his stories pointed out the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders. Jesus said, *“When the Pharisees and teachers share with you God’s commands, listen to them—but don’t follow their example. They don’t live out what they teach.”*

The High Priest met with these leaders to discuss capturing Jesus and putting him to death. *“We can’t arrest him during Passover,”* they agreed, *“or it will create a huge riot.”*

Jesus and his 12 disciples met together in a home to celebrate the Passover. During the meal Jesus picked up some bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Giving it to his disciples he said, *“Take this and eat it, this is my body given for you.”*

Then Jesus picked up a cup of wine and thanked God for it. He gave them the cup and said, *“All of you, drink this. It is my blood given for you—a new covenant between God and his people. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many. Remember me when you continue to eat and drink these things together.”*

Jesus told them, *“When you see what happens tonight you will all abandon me. It is part of God’s plan that I will be betrayed and die. But don’t fear, I will rise again from the dead!”* He knew that his disciple Judas would betray him, bringing Jewish soldiers to capture him later that night when no one was around.

After the meal, when it was dark, Jesus went to pray. Filled with pain and sorrow, he pleaded with God, *“Father, if there is another way besides my death, please let that happen—but I will do whatever you ask.”*

Just as he had finished praying, Judas showed up with an armed mob. He greeted Jesus with a kiss—a sign to show the guards which one they should arrest.

Jesus said to them, *“Am I a dangerous criminal that you need weapons to capture me?”*

Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple where I’ve been teaching everyday?

No! This is part of God’s plan, just as the prophets predicted long ago.”

When the guards arrested Jesus and dragged him away, the disciples ran away and hid. The guards beat Jesus and brought him before the Jewish leaders for questioning.

They asked, *“Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”* Jesus answered, *“I am, and you will see me seated next to God in power—coming back on the clouds of heaven.”*

When Jesus said this, the High Priest tore his clothing in horror and said, *“Any man who claims to be God must be put to death.”* Then they slapped Jesus in the face and spit on him.

Jesus was brought to the Roman governor, Pilate, since Jews could not execute anyone without official approval. The Jewish leaders stirred up the crowds and pressured Pilate to have Jesus put to death. They shouted, *"CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!"*

Pilate feared a riot would break out, so he handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified. Crucifixion was the most cruel and humiliating way to die. Jesus was brutally beaten and whipped by the soldiers. They put a crown of sharp thorns on his head and a purple robe around his shoulders. *"Hail the King of the Jews!"* they laughed. All night, the Roman soldiers continued to beat Jesus and mock him.

When morning came, they led Jesus to a place called Skull Hill. Like a criminal, Jesus was nailed to a heavy wooden cross between two thieves. Hanging there, he cried out, *"Father, please forgive them, they don't know what they're doing."*

At noon, darkness filled the skies—blocking out the sun for three hours. Suddenly, the thick curtain hanging in the Temple tore down the middle! At that moment Jesus shouted, *"Father! I give you my life... it is finished."*

Then Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

The soldiers broke the legs of the criminals crucified next to Jesus to speed up their death. When they found that Jesus was already dead, they didn't break his legs. To be sure, one of the soldiers stabbed him in the side with a spear—blood and water poured out.

Late Friday afternoon, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in long strips of cloth, and buried in a rich man's tomb. A large stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb and Roman guards were posted to make sure nothing happened to his body.

(Pause for a moment...)

Early on Sunday morning, some of the women who followed Jesus went to prepare his body for burial. When they arrived at the tomb, they saw the stone rolled away and the soldiers were gone!

Suddenly, two angels appeared. They said, *"Why are you surprised? You are looking for Jesus, but he is not here, he's been raised from the dead."*

The women were excited but afraid and hurried to tell the disciples the amazing news. Some of them ran back to the tomb and looked inside for themselves...

Jesus was not there!

In fact, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times over the next 40 days. They touched him, saw him eat food and perform miracles again. Jesus reminded them of his teaching about the kingdom and opened their minds to understand how the whole Story has led up to him. Over 500 people saw him alive.

Scene 1 Dialogue ~ Death and Resurrection

Remember **this is a dialog, not a quiz**. The “answers” below each question are there to help you as a leader guide the discussion toward some key ideas.

- 1. Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem? What do we know about this celebration?**
- 2. How does the Passover story we heard earlier remind you of Jesus’ death?**
You may need to guide the discussion toward:
 - *Jesus is the Passover Lamb that takes away the sins of the world...*
- 3. Why do you think the Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus?**
- 4. What did Jesus mean when he said, “Take this and eat it, this is my body given for you” and “...drink this. It is my blood given for you—a new covenant between God and his people?”**
- 5. What was God’s Old Covenant with his people? What do you think this “New Covenant” is?**
 - *The covenant was originally given to Abraham...I will be your God and you will be my people.*
 - *I will be your God AND I will enable you to be my people. To keep your end of the covenant. God will keep both sides of the new covenant.*
- 6. Why do you think the curtain in the Temple tore in half? What did the curtain separate?**
You may need to guide the discussion toward:
 - *Sinful people from God and his presence.*
- 7. How did Jesus fulfill the prophet’s predictions about the coming Messiah?**
Use this question only if you have time or people are questioning Jesus being the Messiah.
You may need to guide the discussion toward:
 - *He would fulfill every promise God made to Abraham, Isaac and their descendants.*
 - *He will be beaten, whipped, and wounded*
 - *He will be put on trial and thrown in prison.*
 - *His hands and feet would be pierced.*
 - *He will be killed like a criminal and then buried in a rich man’s tomb.*
 - *God will lay the punishment and guilt for all of our sins on him.*
 - *His life will be made an offering for us.*
 - *Because of Him, many will be made right with God.*
- 8. Do you remember what Jesus said when he was hanging on the cross?**
You may have to remind them...
 - *Father forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing!*
- 9. How could Jesus possibly forgive those who were killing him?**
- 10. Do you believe that God can forgive what you have done in your life?**
- 11. Do you believe he has forgiven you?**

12. How is Jesus being raised from the dead significant? What does it show us about him?

You may need to guide the discussion toward:

- *He conquered death—the results of human sin and rebellion! He didn't just exchange his life for ours to atone for our sins, he also secured new life for us!*

13. From what we now know of Jesus and what he taught, how could humans be set free from the penalty of sin... set free from death and separation from God?

- *By putting their faith and trust in the work of Jesus' death and resurrection on behalf of them. To allow Jesus atone for their sins and exchange his righteousness for their unrighteousness.*
- *To move from a life lived determining right or wrong for ourselves and turning to God, through Jesus, trusting in his ways for our life.*

We've spent the last 7 weeks looking at this story...it is the true story. This is a story about a Holy God that has pursued sinful and rebellious humans with the desire of restoring them to a close and loving relationship.

14. If that is NOT your story... what is your story?

 **Is the story primarily about you or about God?**

 **Which story do you currently live by?**

 **[Resting Slide]**

>> Pause here for a moment to reflect <<

EXTENDING THE DIALOGUE

We talked last week a lot about the Kingdom of God, and that Jesus was the perfect king, the only king that always did was good, right and perfect.

Another word that the Bible uses for Jesus as king is Lord. In fact, the word LORD is used thousands of times referring to God and Jesus throughout the Bible.

Let's review some of what we have seen that Jesus is in fact king or Lord over:

Summarize Jesus' Lordship: *What is Jesus Lord over...?*

Lord Over Demons

All Authority/Dominion in Heaven and Earth is given to me (Matthew 28:18)

 **What does his Lordship over the demons mean for our lives?**

Lord Over Humanity

Jesus was the "Perfect Adam", the only perfect man!

☞ **What does his Lordship over humanity mean for our lives?**

☞ ***Lord of Righteousness***

Because he perfectly did what we do not do (obey and submit to the Father), he sits as the righteous Judge—he declares what is righteous and is alone perfectly righteous so that makes him the only perfect Judge as to right and wrong—what is righteous.

☞ **What does his Lordship over righteousness and judgment mean for our lives?**

☞ 2 Cor. 5:20-21 We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. He gives us his righteousness in exchange for our sin.

☞ John Stott Quote: "The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. We put ourselves where only God deserves to be; God puts himself where we deserve to be."

☞ John 12:46-48 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. **The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.**

What kind of judge is Jesus ?

Gentle, loving, forgiving savior. But absolute—sin will be judged by Jesus' words, commands.

☞ ***Lord of Salvation***

The only Way to the Father through his sacrifice and offering

☞ John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

☞ **What does his Lordship over salvation mean for our lives?**

☞ ***Lord over Sin and Death***

In Him we can overcome sin and death

☞ **What does his Lordship over sin and death mean for our lives?**

☞ *We see that Jesus is Lord over ALL things and people!*

☞ Which area of Jesus' Lordship that we just discussed is hardest for you to submit to?

The key question before us then is:

☞ Is Jesus Lord over your life?

**☞ Do you submit to his reign
and accept his righteousness in exchange for your unrighteousness?**

This can begin today, you can receive his forgiveness for a life of self-rule and ask Jesus to be Lord and King in your life from this point forward. Ask him to fill you with his own Spirit that will lead you into all the ways of truth.

☞ WALKING IT OUT

The Walking It Out handout is tool to help us engage the Story individually and with others during the week. This session alone is not nearly enough for someone to be saturated in the Story and begin living out the implications of the Story in everyday life with a community.

As you distribute them...

point out a few key things from the handouts you as a leader have already found meaningful.