

The Sacrifice of Jesus

A Bible Study on Philippians 2:8

Key Scripture

Philippians 2:8 (NIV)

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

Theme

The Sacrifice of Jesus

Short Explanation

Jesus willingly gave His life on the cross to provide forgiveness, reconciliation, and salvation for humanity. His sacrifice demonstrates the depth of God's love and the power of obedience.

Opening Questions

- What is the greatest sacrifice someone has ever made for you?

- Why does sacrifice often reveal the depth of love?
 - What makes the cross central to the Christian faith?
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Background

Philippians 2 is often called the "Christ Hymn" because it describes the humility and obedience of Jesus. Paul explains that although Jesus was fully God, He willingly came to earth, took on human flesh, and humbled Himself by dying on the cross.

The cross was not an accident. It was God's plan to redeem humanity from sin.

Roman crucifixion was one of the most painful and humiliating forms of execution. Yet Jesus willingly endured it because of His love for us and His obedience to the Father.

1. Jesus Chose Humility

Philippians 2:8

"He humbled Himself..."

Jesus could have demanded honor, power, and recognition.

Instead, He chose humility.

The King of Kings became a servant.

The Creator entered His creation.

The sinless Savior identified with sinful humanity.

Supporting Scripture

Matthew 20:28

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Biblical Example

Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-17

Jesus demonstrated humility by performing the work of a servant.

His actions foreshadowed the ultimate act of service that would occur at the cross.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is humility difficult for many people?

2. How did Jesus redefine greatness?
3. What areas of life require greater humility?

Fill in the Blank

Jesus demonstrated true greatness through His _____.

Answer: humility

2. Jesus Obeyed the Father's Will

Philippians 2:8

"He became obedient to death..."

Jesus did not simply talk about obedience.

He lived it.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus consistently followed the Father's plan even when it involved suffering.

Supporting Scripture

Luke 22:42

"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faced the reality of the cross but still chose obedience.

Biblical Example

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22

Abraham's willingness to obey God points forward to Jesus, who perfectly obeyed the Father.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is obedience often challenging?
2. What can we learn from Jesus' submission to the Father?
3. Are there areas where God is calling you to greater obedience?

Fill in the Blank

Jesus chose God's _____ over His own comfort.

Answer: will

3. The Cross Demonstrates God's Love

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The cross is the ultimate picture of God's love.

Jesus did not die for perfect people.

He died for sinners.

His sacrifice provided forgiveness for every person who places their faith in Him.

Biblical Example

The Thief on the Cross

Luke 23:39-43

A criminal facing death placed his faith in Jesus and received the promise of paradise.

Even in His suffering, Jesus offered grace.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the cross reveal about God's love?
2. Why is forgiveness only possible because of Jesus' sacrifice?
3. How should God's love change the way we treat others?

Fill in the Blank

The cross is the greatest demonstration of God's
_____.

Answer: love

4. The Cross Brings Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Colossians 1:19-22

Through Jesus' death, our relationship with God is restored.

Sin created separation.

The cross created reconciliation.

Because Jesus paid the penalty for sin, believers can experience forgiveness and peace with God.

Supporting Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

God reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

Biblical Example

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-24

The father's welcome illustrates God's desire to restore those who return to Him.

The cross makes that restoration possible.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people struggle to accept forgiveness?
2. How does understanding the cross help us forgive others?
3. What does reconciliation with God mean to you personally?

Fill in the Blank

The cross restores our _____ with God.

Answer: relationship

5. Christ's Sacrifice Calls Us to Follow Him

Luke 9:23

"Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me."

Jesus' sacrifice not only saves us—it becomes our example.

Followers of Christ are called to:

- Live humbly
- Serve others
- Forgive freely
- Obey faithfully
- Love sacrificially

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to take up your cross daily?
2. How can you reflect Christ's sacrifice in your relationships?
3. What is one practical way you can serve someone this week?

Fill in the Blank

Following Jesus requires daily _____.

Answer: surrender

Application

This week:

- Spend time thanking Jesus for His sacrifice.
- Read one Gospel account of the crucifixion.
- Identify someone you need to forgive.

- Look for an opportunity to serve someone sacrificially.
 - Pray for a heart that is willing to obey God regardless of the cost.
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Key Takeaway

The cross was the ultimate act of humility, obedience, and love. Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself so that we could be forgiven, reconciled to God, and given eternal life. His sacrifice not only saves us but also provides the pattern for how we are called to live as His followers.

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:8

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"