

SESSION 6

GREATER LOVE

the amazing story of hope and redemption

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SESSION 6

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



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OPEN

As you open up today, consider this; Why does it often take drastic measures or life-threatening upheavals to bring people to their senses and persuade them to follow Christ?

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

INTRODUCTION

So, why did Jesus have to die on the cross in this way?

We will see that what the Jewish leaders meant as evil God intended for good! They wanted to take His life away to continue to exercise their control but Jesus' authority would not be denied! Jesus' life was not taken He gave it freely!

What is YOUR response to the Jesus who was nailed to the cross because of the sins of all people?

Answers will vary

READ

READ Matthew 27:45-54

What was one of the final words that Jesus gave on the Cross?

A darkness had settled over the land, after this darkness had been present for quite some time, Jesus cries out to God the Father: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" This cry from Jesus is nearly an exact quotation from Psalm 22:1, again pointing to Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

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Why do you think that Jesus felt abandoned in that moment.

We have to understand that the father in heaven IS abandoning Jesus! Jesus is drinking the cup of the wrath of God poured out on sin. This is the cup of wrath that Jesus prayed about in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is absorbing the punishment of sin. As He is doing so, God the Father turns away from the horrific sin that Jesus is enduring and taking on. This may seem confusion to us but we have to remember that God tolerate sin in His presence!

Verse 50 says, "But Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit." What is significant about this verse?

Even in His death, Jesus was in control. He decided it was time to breathe His last breath, and so He did. This is the moment of the death of Jesus. It is clear by the events that accompany the death of Jesus that He was no ordinary man.

When Jesus gave His life on the cross, several supernatural occurrences on highlighted Jesus' deity, what were they?

the darkness and earthquakes, but also the tearing of the curtain in the sanctuary and the resurrection of the dead.

Why is this significant?

The timing of these supernatural occurrences clearly point to the reality of the sovereign hand of God at work. God is bringing all of this together to magnify the fact that Jesus was no ordinary man and His death was something special

With the way you are living now, will you be able to, like Jesus, give the victor's shout that you have finished the work God gave you to do?

Answers will vary.

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What was significant about the tearing of the Curtin in the temple?

The curtain that was torn in the temple was no ordinary curtain. It was a very large curtain, measuring 60 feet high and thirty feet wide. It would've been about 6 inches thick and could've required three hundred men to lift it. As this curtain was torn from top to bottom, sixty feet up in the air, the only explanation would've been a supernatural occurrence!

What did this tearing if the curtain in the temple symbolize for us?

this was a vivid demonstration that access to God is now wide open because of the work of Jesus. Mankind does not need to go through a priest any longer. Jesus, the Great High Priest, opened wide the door to God.

What other significant event took place that day?

The description of the tombs of the dead opening up and their resurrected bodies walking into the city. A great darkness over took the land, then a huge earthquake happened and opened tombs all over the face of mount sinai and then the people who have been resting in those graves were resurrected and entered into the city and were wandering around.

How can we use this passage to equip us as followers of Jesus?

Answers may vary.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Have you forgotten the wonder and splendor of Jesus death?
- Have you forgotten the access that Jesus death gives us to the father in heaven?
- Have you come to God by the work of Jesus?
- Have you taken part in this wonderful reality accomplished by the death of Jesus?



