



# WHAT WOULD JESUS UNDO?

## WHAT WOULD JESUS UNDO, PART 5: DEATH

Lots of people all over the world appreciate, respect, and even follow the teachings of Jesus without believing he rose from the dead. But the people who recorded his story and teachings wouldn't recommend that. Their message was clear: Jesus rose from the dead. He is *Savior* and *Lord*. And He came to defeat death!

**BIG IDEA: Jesus came to undo death, because you are made by God to last forever.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where were you when Elvis died? John Lennon? Michael Jackson? Where were you when September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 happened? Why do we remember events like this?
2. What are some of your greatest fears? (*fear of spiders, fear of failure, fear of public speaking, fear of snakes*) Why do you think so many people have the fear of death as their greatest fear?
3. Why are Easter services some of the most frequently attended services of the year?
4. Chris said, "*Death was never a part of God's Original Plan.*" We are eternal beings. What event in the Bible that we talked about in the message changed all that and brought sin, sickness & death?
5. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Luke 23:39-43 out loud.*

*<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? <sup>41</sup> We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

*Luke 23:39-43 (NLT)*

6. Picture yourself listening to the exchange between Jesus and the criminals and discuss why one might be prideful and why one would be humbled by Jesus dying on the cross. Which one do you identify with and why?
7. Discuss the response to the criminal that asked Jesus to "remember me." Talk about the response from Jesus and note how it was immediate, certain, implies relationship with him, and confirmed the criminal would be in paradise forever. What does this mean to you?
8. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 2:21.*

*"Anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved." Acts 2:21 (LB)*

9. Think about the criminal's response in Luke 23:42-43. What is it that keeps us from asking for Jesus' mercy? Why is this so hard for non-believers? How would you explain to someone how to accept Jesus' mercy?

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10. *Open the Bible and read Isaiah 30:18 aloud.*

*The LORD God is waiting to show how kind he is and to have pity on you. The LORD always does right; he blesses those who trust him.*  
*Isaiah 30:18 (CEV)*

11. God created you so that you would have trust in him, and in return, he could bestow mercy upon you. Can you present some ways that will let God know that you trust him implicitly? What lessons have you or your friends learned in life when you did not put your full faith in God and thought you could go it alone?

## MOVING FORWARD

If there was no resurrection, we're being good for nothing. We should abandon all things Christian. But if Jesus did rise, he's the only man in history who predicted his own death and resurrection and then pulled it off. He defeated death once and for all, and He's worth following.

What's keeping you from trusting in Him for eternal life today?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.*

1 Corinthians 15:3–5

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