

**Why did Jesus have to die?**

And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." John 12:23-25 ESV

**God created us for relationship with Him.**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 ESV

**Our sin is worse than we admit.**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 ESV

- Sin has broken our relationship with God.

**God is more holy than we imagine.**

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." John 12:26-28 ESV

**God's justice was satisfied on the cross.**

"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out." John 12:31 ESV

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you are healed. 1 Peter 2:24 ESV

**Jesus defeated death on the cross.**

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. John 12:32-33 ESV

**Let's Talk About It**

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells one sweeping story—God's mission to pursue, rescue, and redeem His people. In John 12, Jesus reveals that this mission would be accomplished not through power or conquest, but through sacrifice—like a grain of wheat that must die to produce life. Though God created us in His image and for relationship with Him, our sin has broken that relationship and separated us from a holy God. Jesus willingly embraced the cross, surrendering to the Father's will and bore our sins in our place. What appeared to be defeat was a victory. Jesus resurrected from the dead and broke the power of sin and death. Because of His sacrifice, we can now receive new life and a restored relationship with God.

John 3:16-17; John 12:20-33; Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:23; 1 Peter 2:24

**Discussion questions:**

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read John 12:20-26. What does *surrender* and *losing your life* look like? What might God want to produce in your life as you obey and surrender to Him?
- Read John 12:27-33. Why do you think it's important to understand why Jesus had to die, not just *that* He died? How does that understanding shape the way you see God?
- Read Romans 3:23 and 1 Peter 2:24. Considering God's holiness, how do these verses help you understand both the seriousness of sin and the depth of what Christ accomplished for you on the cross?
- How does knowing that Jesus willingly went to the cross for you change the way you see your worth and identity? In moments of failure or guilt, how does the truth of the cross help you respond differently?
- Because Jesus gave His life for us, we are invited into forgiveness and new life. How does that truth shape the way we live on mission with others?

**Take a Step**

- Who in your life might God want to reach through you—not by force or debate, but through love and sacrifice? How can you intentionally serve them this week?

**Here's My Prayer**

Father God, thank You for loving me first and pursuing me with grace. I confess that I often cling to my comfort and control instead of fully trusting You. Today, I choose to surrender again, believing that what feels like loss in Your hands leads to life and fruit. Thank You, Jesus, for going to the cross for me, in my place, to restore my relationship with the Father. Shape my heart to follow You and use my life for Your glory and Your mission. In Jesus' name, amen.