



WHY
DID JESUS
HAVE TO
DIE?

THE MEANING OF THE CRUCIFIXION

**SMALL GROUP
STUDY GUIDE**

Week 6 April 5, 2026

“The Victory of Christ”

OPENING PRAYER

Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God Almighty! Righteous and true are your ways. Ruler of all! Through the ages, you have won many battles over sin, evil, and death; and in the dying and rising of your Son, Jesus Christ, you reveal your ultimate triumph over all that opposes your good will. As we gather to study and pray, still waiting for the full and final manifestation of your victory, may your Spirit help us trust your power, know your presence, and share your peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

1 John 3:8 (NIV)

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

John 20:21 (NIV)

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Romans 7:4 (NIV)

So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 6 April 5, 2026
“The Victory of Christ”

INTRODUCTION

Over the past five weeks, we have discovered that there are about a dozen different things that God is trying to say to us through the cross. Each of these is like a puzzle piece. And each week, we looked at different pieces of the puzzle as to how exactly Jesus' death does anything to transform our lives and bring us healing, hope and deliverance. In this message, we looked at the last piece of the puzzle called 'Christ the Victor!' So, what does that mean for our lives?

“Christ the Victor” points toward this epic battle of good against evil in the world. Christ is fighting that battle - it's as if he is stepping into the boxing ring and, in the end, we find that he defeats all the powers of darkness. When Jesus walked out of the tomb, he was declaring that evil, hate, sin and death did not have the final word. If you seek to follow Christ as Lord, and you trust that he defeated the darkness, you will be saved, delivered, rescued, and given hope.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing about the season of spring?
2. Do you believe that there are spiritual forces that seek to lure humans away from what is right and good?
3. One of the reasons Jesus had to die was to demonstrate God's power over the forces of darkness in the world. Do you believe that God has power over the forces of darkness of this world?
4. Jesus is enlisting us to join him in the fight against the darkness. What are some ways we can accomplish that?
5. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus defeated darkness and evil, but he also defeated death. Do you struggle with a fear of death? How does Easter help you overcome that fear?
6. Do you struggle believing that Jesus was raised from the dead? Do you choose to believe it?

FINAL APPLICATION

How can you share the hope of Easter this week with someone you know?