



PASSION

Studies on the Death and Resurrection of Jesus That Will Change Your Life

Session 2

I'm a Sinner, So What?

OPENING

What bad habit do you wish you could break?

BIBLE STUDY

1. A friend says, "I've heard people say that Jesus died for my sins. What does that mean? I may have done some things wrong, but so what? First of all, they're my sins not his so why does he die for them? Secondly, my sins aren't bad enough to warrant the death penalty. So, I don't get it."

How would you explain what sin is to this person and why Jesus would have to die for it?

2. What do the following passages teach us about sin?

- Mark 7:20-23
- Romans 8:5-8
- Romans 3:10-12

Read Psalm 32:1-5

3. What is the physical and emotional price we pay for the sin in our lives? Would anyone be willing to share a personal example of how they have experienced this in their life?
4. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Read the following passages. What do these verses teach us about what it means to say "the wages of sin is death?" Why does sin result in death?
 - Habakkuk 1:13
 - Isaiah 6:1-5
 - Revelation 20:14-15
 - Revelation 21:22-27

5. We can always find someone whose sins seem worse than ours and in comparison we think, "My sins aren't so bad." Based on what you've just studied, how would you respond to that kind of thinking?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:22-25

6. Was the crucifixion necessary? Explain. Why is Jesus the only one who could die for our sins? Would this make him the only way to God?

APPLICATION

1. What does the crucifixion say about the seriousness in which God views sin? Do you view your sin in the same way?
2. If you were to picture Jesus on the cross every time you were being tempted to sin, what impact would it have on you?
3. Sin does enormous damage in our lives. It is critical that we take our sins seriously and remove it from our lives. Romans 8:12-13 says, "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."

The Spirit's tool for removing sin from our life is confession. 1 John 1:9-10 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives."

Confession is not taking our sins lightly and saying, "Oops, I'm sorry." Confession fully recognizes the severity of our sin and says, "I am wrong." Confession also means turning away from our sinful habits. If you're not willing to turn away from sin, then you haven't fully grasped the severity of your sin and you do not fully believe that what you're doing is wrong.

Do you take your sin seriously enough to confess it rather than ignore it or excuse it? Then this week, sit down with a blank sheet of paper. Pray, asking God to reveal sins in your life needing to be confessed. As sins come to mind write them down. After you finish your list pray the following prayer of confession. Continue this practice whenever God brings to mind an area of sin needing to be removed from your life.

A Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, I have done (Specific Sin). I admit that it is wrong and a sin against you. I now choose to turn away from (Specific Sin) and live in obedience to you. Thank you for forgiving me and cleansing this sin from my life. Fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit that I may resist future temptation in this area and keep my eyes focused on you. Amen.

4. The first step to dealing with sin is to receive Jesus' forgiveness. If you have not received Jesus' salvation you can do so now by praying a prayer like the one on the next page.

Lord Jesus Christ,

I know I have done wrong in my life and need your forgiveness. I confess... (Take a few moments to ask forgiveness for anything that is on your conscience). I believe that you died on the cross to forgive these sins. I believe that you rose from the dead and will now give me new life. I believe that you are God. I now turn away from everything that I know is wrong. I commit all of my life for the rest of my life to you. Please come into my life to be with me forever. Thank you for dying on the cross so that I can be forgiven and set free and thank you for the gift of new life through your Spirit. Amen.

If you prayed the prayer of salvation, please let the group know so that they can celebrate with you and support you in your new life in Christ. If you do not feel comfortable sharing with the group, definitely take the leaders aside or call them to let them know of your decision.

PRAYER

Take time to share your prayer requests. Prayer is a powerful way to support each other. When you pray for others you unleash God's power on them.