

Why Did Jesus Die?

1. Opening

- *When you think of Jesus' death on the cross, what words or ideas come to mind?*
- *Why do you think His death matters personally to you?*

Explain that tonight's study will help uncover how God's **justice, mercy, grace, and love** meet perfectly in Jesus' death.

Pray briefly for open hearts and understanding.

2. God Is Just

Read aloud: Romans 3:23-26

Leader explanation:

God is perfectly righteous and cannot overlook sin. The cross shows that every wrong has been taken seriously - but instead of us bearing the cost, Jesus does.

Discuss:

1. What does this passage show about God's sense of justice?
2. Why is it important that sin is dealt with rather than ignored?
3. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus satisfied God's justice for you?

Key truth:

God's justice means sin has consequences - but His justice was fulfilled in Christ's sacrifice, not in our punishment.

3. God Is Merciful

Read aloud: 1 Peter 2:24

Leader explanation:

Mercy means *not getting what we deserve*. Jesus bore our sins in His body so that we could be spared the penalty and live in freedom.

Discuss:

1. How does this verse help you understand God's mercy?
2. What difference does mercy make in your relationship with God?
3. How might showing mercy to others reflect what you've received from Him?

Key truth:

God's mercy doesn't ignore sin - it removes it from us through Christ.

4. God Is Gracious

Read aloud: 2 Corinthians 5:19 and Ephesians 2:8

Leader explanation:

Grace means *receiving what we don't deserve*. God doesn't just forgive - He reconciles, restores, and gives us new life through Christ.

Discuss:

1. What does grace add to our understanding of salvation?
2. Why is grace so hard for people to accept or believe?
3. How can we live in the freedom grace brings rather than trying to earn God's approval?

Key truth:

Grace turns forgiveness into new creation - we are not just pardoned, we are made new.

5. God Is Love

Read aloud: John 3:16-17 and Galatians 2:20

Leader explanation:

Love is the motive behind it all. God's justice, mercy, and grace flow out of His deep love for each of us. The cross is where love was demonstrated most fully.

Discuss:

1. What do these verses tell us about the kind of love God has?
2. How does knowing "*the Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me*" affect your view of yourself?
3. In what ways can we reflect that same love to others?

Optional reflection quote:

"God loves us as if there were only one of us." - Augustine

Key truth:

God's love is personal, sacrificial, and unshakable - it is the reason Jesus died.

6. Bringing It Together

Summarise:

- Jesus died because God is **just** - sin had to be dealt with.
- Jesus died because God is **merciful** - He withheld our punishment.
- Jesus died because God is **gracious** - He gave us forgiveness and new life.
- Jesus died because God is **love** - He gave Himself for us.

Ask the group:

- Which of these four truths speaks to you most deeply right now, and why?
- How can these truths shape the way you see God this week?

Close in prayer:

Thank God for His justice, mercy, grace, and love shown in Jesus. Invite members to respond with short prayers of thanks or commitment.