

- Why Did Jesus Have to Die? –

Ice-Breaker:

- Share a time when you willingly took the blame for somebody else's actions.
  - How did that event affect you, personally?
  - How did it impact the person you stood in for?

Discussion:

1. Read Mark 10:45; Ephesians 1:7.
   - Discuss the concept of Christ *paying a ransom* for us.
   - Discuss the concept of Christ *redeeming* us.

2. Read John 3:16; Luke 23:42; Luke 23:47. Discuss how Jesus' death is the ultimate demonstration of God's love for us.

3. Read I Peter 2:21; Ephesians 5:1-2. Philippians 2:4-8. How is Jesus' death an example for us to follow?

4. Read Hebrews 2:14-15; Colossians 1:13; Colossians 2:14-15; I John 3:8. Discuss how Jesus' death on the cross was a victory over the devil.

5. Read Romans 9:28; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:8; I Peter 3:18. How would you describe the fact that Jesus was our substitute (took our sin upon Himself) to an unbeliever?

Application:

As we reflect upon Christ's sacrificial death on the cross for us, we should have three responses…

1) Hate sin. 2) Love Jesus. 3) Share the message with lost people.

Which of these do you struggle with the most?
What action steps might you take to overcome this?