



Dgroup Discussion Guide for March 27, 2016

Why?

Scripture: *Luke 23, 24*

Following Jesus' arrest, He was brought before Pilate under numerous accusations: that He was misleading the people, discouraging tax paying and falsely claiming to be Christ. Even though the crowd was determined to find fault in Jesus to justify punishment, neither Pilate nor King Herod could see guilt in Him. Regardless of this, the crowd was insistent on having Him crucified. In order to pacify the increasingly irate crowd, Pilate agreed to have Him crucified.

Why did Jesus have to go through this? Isaiah 53:5-6 says, ***But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.*** For sins we commit both—according to society—small and large, Jesus was crucified. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, ***He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

Salvation isn't free, because Jesus Christ paid for us to have it. Through His sacrifice—in Christ Jesus—we have eternal life, according to Romans 6:23. In the same way, if you are not *in* Christ, you cannot claim to have eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 says, ***For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*** This is the good news—the Gospel.





Even more important than Christ dying on the cross for our sins is His resurrection, which is highlighted in 1 Corinthians 15:14-17, where Paul writes, ***If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.*** If He had not been raised from the dead, then He is but a human being, one who is just as guilty as we are of sin. But, He rose again just as He had promised.

Why did all of this take place? John 3:16-17 says, ***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*** Jesus was sent to die so that through His sacrifice, we might be reconciled with God. This is the grace of God: that we not only spared from the punishment that we deserve, but that we receive something in addition to that.

The tomb may be empty, but that doesn't mean anything if your heart is not in turn filled with Jesus. Romans 10:8-10 says, ***But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*** In order to be saved, we must first confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that He was raised from the dead. All of this begins in the heart. Jesus died and rose again for us so that we could live for Him.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: What does the Resurrection of Jesus mean to you personally? How are you living out your salvation?</p>
	<p>Family: Talk about John 3:16. What does the Resurrection mean to your spouse and your children. This is an opportunity to intentionally disciple your family and to make sure that your children understand the gospel.</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Discuss with your disciple/ accountability partner how you can live out your salvation.</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.