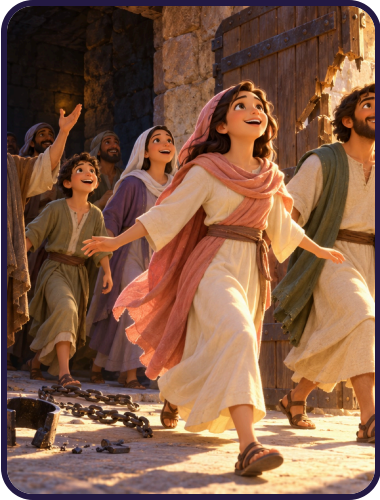


So what?

BIG QUESTION

Why did Jesus have to die?



The Bible says sin doesn't just make us guilty. It takes us captive. Jesus said, "Everyone who sins is a slave to sin," and Paul wrote that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The Greek word for sin was used of an arrow that misses the mark.

In the law of Moses, a relative could redeem someone who had sold himself as a slave: pay the price to buy him back. Jesus said he came "to give his life as a ransom for many." Peter names the price: not silver or gold, "but with the precious blood of Christ." And God raised him, "because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."

To outsiders the cross looked ridiculous. Near Rome's Palatine Hill, around AD 200, someone scratched a picture of a man worshipping a crucified figure with a donkey's head: "Alexamenos worships his god." But Paul wrote that to those being saved, the message of the cross "is the power of God."

 Crack the code

Every letter was moved 3 places forward in the alphabet, so A became D. First write the code letter under each real letter (D under A, E under B...). Then use it to read the message.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

M H V X V S D L G W K H

U D Q V R P W R V H W X V

I U H H

Answers: JESUS PAID THE RANSOM TO SET US FREE

Memory verse

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

Fill it in: “For the _____ of sin is _____, but the _____ of God is _____ life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

I can say it! ☆ ☆ ☆ Color a star each time you say it.

★ Bonus verse

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” **1 Peter 1:18–19**

Think it through

Answer in your own words.

1. Jesus said everyone who sins is a slave to sin. How is sin like being held captive?

2. What is a ransom? Who paid ours, and with what?

3. In Romans 6:23, what is the difference between wages and a gift?

4. Jesus said, “Repent and believe the good news!” What does each word ask you to do?

Talk about it

1. Paul told people who had been thieves and swindlers, “But you were washed.” Is anyone too far gone for Jesus?
2. Why might the cross look foolish to some people and powerful to others?
3. Jesus said, “Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.” What would coming to him look like for you?



Watch the video

Answers will vary. Look for: 1. we can't free ourselves 2. a freeing price; Jesus, his blood 3. wages are earned, a gift isn't 4. turn to God; trust Jesus