

SESSION 17

Why did Jesus have to be born into this world, die on the cross, and rise again?



Pre-DCOMM Activity

Activity

Go through your house and find your favorite action figure, toy, or stuffed animal from when you were younger. Think about the first time you were given this special toy and how significant it was to you as you grew up. Now imagine that your younger sibling or friend found a way into your room and “accidentally” broke the head off of this special toy. How would you feel? What would you do to fix it? Would you put different clothes on the doll to distract from the missing head? Or would you look for solutions on how to reattach the head to your special friend? Write down your most creative solutions for the headless toy problem to share with the group this week.

Session

Hebrews 2:14-18 • Colossians 2:13-15 • Hebrews 10:12-14 • 1 Corinthians 15:17-20

Main Point: *Jesus had to be born, die, and rise again to defeat sin, death, and Satan.*

Part 1

I hope everyone had a fun stroll down memory lane this week as you remembered your favorite toy from when you were younger. I bet it was hard to imagine that toy mangled by a younger sibling or friend!

What were some of the solutions you came up with to restore your headless buddy?

All our best ideas probably aimed at how to fix the problem of the missing head. Upgrading your toy in other ways like better armor or cuter accessories would not help because the toy would still be missing a noggin! That is the real problem!

When Jesus came to save us from our sin and brokenness, He didn't just generally come. He came in intentional ways to address very specific problems. If He skipped any part of the plan, it would not have been enough to bring us back to God. **Jesus had to be born, die, and rise again to defeat sin, death, and Satan.**

Part 2

The first thing necessary for Jesus to rescue us was being made like us. Have you ever thought about God putting on flesh so that He could go through the world like you and me? Before Jesus became a man, there was no way for people to look at God without falling down dead!

But Jesus became the fullness of God in bodily form. And it wasn't just a random decision

He made like a last-minute Halloween costume; it was on purpose. Jesus HAD to be like us so that He could experience the same temptations and hardships we do and show us how to be faithful.

Hebrews 2:14-18

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- 1 Why does Jesus have to be born in the flesh like us?
- 2 How does it make you feel that God became like you so that He could not only save you but also understand and help you?
- 3 How does this passage help you turn toward Jesus when you are tempted?

Part 3

There was more work for Jesus to do once He came to the world as a human. The next thing He had to do was live His entire life in perfect obedience to the will of God. For Jesus to earn righteousness, He had to live a life without any sin at all.

Have you ever thought about how hard it would be to trust God perfectly all of the time? Because Jesus was able to do it, He became the first and only person to ever earn the right to be in heaven. But Jesus didn't keep that prize for Himself. Once Jesus lived a perfect life, He laid it down for us by going to the cross to pay for our sins. The perfect life He lived is the one He laid down for us. He had to be both perfectly obedient and lovingly sacrificial for us to be right before God AND with Him for all eternity.

This act was like Jesus running an impossible race to get the greatest prize and actually winning! But rather than accepting His prize, He gave it to someone who couldn't finish the race at all. Jesus made a way for you to do the impossible: be reunited with God forever, without shame or guilt. Because of Jesus' life and death, you don't ever have to wonder if you have done enough to be accepted and loved by God. Your acceptance isn't based on you; it is based on what Jesus did for you! **Jesus had to be born, die, and rise again to defeat sin, death, and Satan.**

Colossians 2:13-15

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Hebrews 10:12-14

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- 1 How does the first passage describe us before God made us alive with Christ?
- 2 In Colossians what does Jesus do with the long list of our mistakes against God?
- 3 What does Hebrews tell us about Jesus' sacrifice?
- 4 How do you struggle to live like Jesus has paid for all of your sins with His sacrifice?

Conclusion

After Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, and died the death we should have died, there was only one last thing for Him to do. Do you know what it was? Jesus had to come back from the dead. Have you ever wondered why that HAD to happen? It wasn't just a really cool party trick Jesus wanted to do before He went back to be with His Dad. Jesus' resurrection proved He had defeated sin and death.

Before Jesus rose, dead people stayed in their graves forever. But when God raised Jesus to new life, He was showing everyone that everything Jesus came to accomplish actually happened. Because Jesus conquered sin, death, and Satan, He didn't have to stay in the grave. He was raised to live in eternity with God!

And Jesus isn't the only one headed to eternity with God—all those who believe in Him for salvation are, too! His resurrection is a testimony that all of His followers are no longer under the penalty of sin and will be raised to new life with Him. The grave could not hold Jesus, and because of His sacrifice, it won't hold any who believe and trust in Him. **Jesus had to be born, die, and rise again to defeat sin, death, and Satan.**

1 Corinthians 15:17-20

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- 1 Ask each person, "What would be different if Christ was not raised from the dead?"
- 2 How does all Jesus did for you change the way you will live?

Father, thank You for sending Jesus and for making a perfect plan for us to get back to You through Him. This week, I pray we remember all that You have done and how much you love us in Christ.



Homework

We learned this week that God created the perfect plan, the greatest solution to our biggest problems, so that we could know and love Him. We got a close-up look of all that Jesus did to make sure we had a way back to relationship with God.

For homework this week, spend some time reflecting on the gift Jesus purchased for you. Take 30 minutes to consider the unimaginable blessing of getting to know God and learn from Him. Journal a prayer thanking Him for this gift and for Jesus who made it possible. Also read the passage below and write down what God shows you about His beloved Son through His Word.

Colossians 1:15-23

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 18 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- 1 What does this passage tell you about Jesus?
- 2 How does this passage deepen your love and appreciation for Jesus?
- 3 How does this text provide hope for what you're walking through in life right now?
- 4 What do you think God wants you to see from this text? How does He want you to change?