
Teacher BIBLE STUDY

Why did Jesus have to die? Why couldn't God just say, "You are forgiven"? God is just and requires due payment for sin. To simply forgive sin without requiring a payment would be unjust. According to God's Word, the payment of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23) But not only is God just, He is also loving. That is why Jesus was willing to die in our place. He loved us.

God's law for the people was plain. Read Deuteronomy 6:5. But God's people, and all people, have broken the law. We have loved other things more than we love God. That is sin.

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to save us from our sin. (Matt. 1:21) Jesus came to die to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus came to die so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus came to die to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God toward sin. Jesus' resurrection proved that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice. If Jesus had died but not been raised up, He would have been like other military leaders who died without a throne. (Acts 5:33-37) But Jesus conquered death, just as He said He would. (John 2:19-21)

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for our resurrection. (Rom. 6:5) And Romans 8:11 says that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life.

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the climax. Everything that was written about Jesus in the Old Testament and spoken by the prophets was coming true. As you teach kids this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done.

Older Kids BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:36–28:10

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.

Key Passage: Luke 24:46-47

Unit Christ Connection: God's plan for redemption is fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Small Group Opening

Welcome time

Activity page (5 minutes)

Session starter (10 minutes)

Large Group Leader

Countdown

Introduce the session (1 minute)

Timeline map (1 minute)

Big picture question (1 minute)

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Sing (5 minutes)

Key passage (5 minutes)

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes)

Small Group Leader

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36–28:10

Jesus came with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He became very sad and troubled. He said to them, “I am overcome with sadness; I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake with Me.”

Jesus went a little farther. He fell facedown and prayed to God, “Father! If it is possible, take this suffering away from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan.” Jesus came back and found the disciples asleep. He asked Peter, “Couldn’t you stay awake with Me for one hour?”

Again, Jesus went away and prayed to God. Then He found His disciples sleeping. He said to them, “Are you still asleep? Get up, for it is almost time. Someone is going to betray Me.”

Suddenly Judas arrived. A large crowd carrying swords and clubs was with him. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. Jesus asked, “Am I a criminal? All of these things that are happening are fulfilling what the prophets wrote.” Then all of Jesus’ followers ran away.

The men who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest. The priests and high council were trying to find a reason to kill Jesus, but they could not. The high priest asked, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Jesus replied, “Yes, that’s right.” The high priest said, “Ah ha! He has spoken against God.” Caiaphas and the council did not want to believe Jesus was God’s Son. They said Jesus was lying, but Jesus cannot lie! The crowd answered, “He deserves to die!” They spit in Jesus’ face and beat Him.

The next morning, the chief priests and elders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. “Are you the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked.

“Yes, that’s right,” Jesus replied. The men accused Jesus of various crimes, but Jesus said nothing.

“What should I do with Jesus the Messiah?” Pilate asked the crowd.

They all answered, “Crucify Him!” Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over to them and said, “Do whatever you want.”

The governor’s soldiers took off Jesus’ clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him. They made a crown out of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him, “Here is the King of the Jews!” Then they beat Him and led Him away to be killed.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above His head that said: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Him.

From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covered the land. Then Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus shouted again with a loud voice and then He died. Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus’ body said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

That evening, Jesus was buried in a rich man’s tomb cut into a rock. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus’ body.

Three days later, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake as an angel of the Lord came to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. The guards were so afraid that they fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He is not here. He has been resurrected, just like He said He would. In fact, He is going ahead of you into Galilee.”

The women left the tomb quickly and with great joy. They ran to tell the disciples the news. Just then Jesus met them. “Good morning!” He said. The women worshiped Him. “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told them. “Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee. They will see Me there.”

Christ Connection: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. He was the blood sacrifice made once and for all for the forgiveness of sin. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12)

Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:36–28:10

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.

Key Passage: Luke 24:46-47

Unit Christ Connection: God's plan for redemption is fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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- Bible (optional)

Welcome time

Collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group during this time. Ask kids to tell you in their own words the definition of the word *sinner*. You may choose to read Romans 3:23 and 6:23 to review what the Bible says about sin.

- "Resurrection Code" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide boys and girls to complete the "Resurrection Code" activity page. (*Answer: promise of new life*)

Say • Today we are celebrating Easter. Easter is the time Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Easter is also the time we remember the sacrifice Jesus made by dying for our sins. We have the promise of new life because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. What is one way you or your family celebrate(s) the resurrection of Jesus?



- paper
- pen
- Write tasks on slips of paper.

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Can't say no

Allow kids to take turns drawing a task to perform. No one should say no to performing their task. To prevent kids from

feeling embarrassed, allow kids to volunteer to participate. Remember the goal is for kids to perform a task, so keep all tasks attainable.

Sample activities:

- Tie a friend's shoe.
- Find a friend and sing the ABCs.
- High-five two people.
- Turn around and sit down.
- Sing "Jesus Loves Me."
- Do three jumping jacks.
- Count backward from 10 to 1.

- Say**
- Do you think Jesus ever said no to doing what God wanted Him to do? (*No!*)
 - Jesus never said no to following God's plan. Even as He gave His life for our sin, Jesus always desired to do God's will.
 - Jesus always said no to sin but yes to God.

• small rocks or
similar item

Option 2: Easter create it

Select a volunteer to use the objects provided to create an item related to today's Bible story. Challenge the remaining kids to guess what the item is. Give the volunteer a 30-second head start before anyone can guess.

Challenge kids to create the following items: a cross, a sword, the temple curtain, and the angel of the Lord.

- Say**
- Each of the items you created is found in today's Bible story. Today we will see God's plan to rescue people from sin forever. Does anyone know why we are using rocks to create our items? A very large rock is also in today's Bible story.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:36–28:10

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• countdown video

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (1 minute)

[Prior to large group, completely clear the stage. The teaching area should be as empty as possible without compromising your ability to teach. Remove the kids' seats to create a large empty space. Try to extend the "empty" effect to the entire room by removing anything you can.]

Leader • What happened to our room? Where are your seats? Where is ...? And that is missing too? Everything is missing! Do you all know what happened? You don't? Can you guess who does know what happened? I do!

OK, everyone have a seat on the floor, and I will help you solve this mystery. Have you ever seen our room so empty before? Do you think this has anything to do with our Bible story today? Yes. You do. Then you need to consult the timeline map to see what our Bible story is.

• Timeline Map

Timeline map (1 minute)

Leader • Last week we heard the Bible story of Jesus

entering Jerusalem. *How did people act when they saw Jesus? People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.* The people were very excited about Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. How did the religious leaders respond to Jesus? Right! They were upset and did not like how the people praised Jesus. Our story today starts a few days after Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • Our big picture today is, *What did Jesus do for sinners?* We have been talking for a long time about God's plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. Today we are going to see how Jesus paid the price for our sin. We will discover, *What did Jesus do for sinners?*

- "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection" video
- Bibles
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26 and tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection."

Leader • The religious leaders decided that they wanted to get rid of Jesus. They were tired of the people praising Jesus and following Him. So they created a plan and paid one of Jesus' disciples to betray Him.

The religious leaders refused to accept who Jesus truly was. When Jesus told them He was the Son of God, they didn't believe Him. They proclaimed Him guilty of blasphemy. *Blasphemy* is an attitude of disrespect for God. They believed that Jesus had committed a crime by claiming to be fully God, but Jesus hadn't.

Is Jesus the Son of God? YES! Is Jesus fully God? YES! But the religious leaders didn't believe it. They convinced the crowd that Jesus should die. Sadly, in less than a week people went from praising Jesus to hating Him.

Jesus knew it was time to provide the way for people to be forgiven of their sins. Why did Jesus have to die? The Bible tells us that sin requires a payment, a blood sacrifice. To fully pay for our sin, Jesus had to be our blood sacrifice. Jesus could pay the price for us because He did not sin.

To be crucified was the worst way to die during that time. But Jesus was willing to pay that price to follow God's plan. Jesus was willing to die for us—to redeem us.

The people thought crucifying Jesus was their idea for getting rid of Him, but Jesus' death had been God's plan all along. His death would save sinners.

What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life. For Christians, the death and resurrection of Jesus is a time of remembrance and celebration. We remember the sacrifice Jesus made to pay for our sin. We remember the pain He suffered for us. But we celebrate that Jesus defeated sin and death. We celebrate that we can be forgiven of our sin. We celebrate that Jesus is alive and we will see Him one day. We celebrate that we have the promise of new life. We celebrate that we can be free from sin and spend eternity with Jesus.

We are so blessed to know the entire story, but the followers of Jesus weren't sure what was happening. The followers of Jesus did not understand what Jesus told them about His resurrection. Imagine the surprise and the joy the women felt when they heard that Jesus was alive. It was wonderful news to hear the angel announce that Jesus was alive. God had raised Jesus from the dead. What an even bigger surprise for the women to actually see Jesus! What do you think the women felt? The women probably felt all of those emotions. What do you feel

when you think about Jesus' resurrection? I am grateful that Jesus came and died in my place.

- "Jesus Saves" song

Sing (5 minutes)

Leader • Let's celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by singing our theme song. Jesus is alive! Because He died and rose again, we can sing and tell the world that Jesus is our Savior! Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Lead kids to sing "Jesus Saves."

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- "Luke 24:46-47" song

Key passage (5 minutes)

Leader • Our key passage this unit tells the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. When I give the signal, everyone on the left half of the room should read the key passage. I'll give the signal again and everyone on the right side will read the key passage.

Lead the boys and girls to read the key passage. Sing "Luke 24:46-47."

- Bible

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Leader • *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.* God is just and must punish sin. That is why we are grateful that God graciously sent His Son to pay for our sin. God loves us and provided the way for us to be forgiven of our sin.

Using Scripture and the plan provided, review how to become a Christian. Give kids the opportunity to respond.

Be sensitive to kids who may be emotional following today's Bible story. Urge counselors to allow the kid to direct the conversation. This will help them determine what each kid needs.

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

Leader • Why do people celebrate Easter? Someone tell me why you celebrate Easter. Good answers. Check out this video and we’ll talk about it afterward.

Show the “Unit 7 Session 2” discussion starter video.

Leader • Interesting answers. What do you think?

Allow a few kids to respond.

Leader • Why do Christians celebrate Easter? Do

Christians and non-Christians celebrate Easter in different ways? Do they celebrate for different reasons?

Who remembers our big picture question? *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus’ death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.* Does your answer to the question about why you celebrate Easter change when you think about the big picture question?

Allow a few kids to respond and close the discussion when kids have arrived at a good conclusion.

Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader • Have you figured it out yet? Do you know why our room is so empty today? Yes! Our room is empty to remind us that the tomb—Jesus’ tomb—is empty. Jesus is alive! Shout that phrase with me. *Jesus is alive!*

We are blessed that God demonstrated His grace and His love for us when He sent His Son to die for our sins. *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus’ death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.* After I pray, watch your small group leader for your signal to go to small group.
Close in prayer. Thank and praise God for sending Jesus.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

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Key Passage: Luke 24:46-47

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- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- tape
- small pieces of paper or index cards
- marker

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Write the names of various Bible people from today's Bible story on separate pieces of paper. Tape a Bible person's name on each kid's back. If you have more kids than names, assign some kids the same name. Instruct kids to ask only yes-no questions to discover what names are on their backs.

After boys and girls have discovered all the Bible people, invite boys and girls to ask any questions they have about the Bible story. Review the Bible story.

Say • *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.*

- Who made the blood sacrifice once and for all?
(*Jesus made the blood sacrifice once and for all for the forgiveness of sin. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Jesus.*)

Lead boys and girls to read Acts 4:12. Explain that Jesus is the only way of salvation.

As time allows, you may choose to review the gospel plan with boys and girls. Be sensitive to the emotions kids may

be feeling after today's Bible story. Provide kids with an opportunity to respond without pressure.

- **God rules.** God created and is in charge of everything. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:16-17)
- **We sinned.** Since Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
- **God provided.** God sent His Son Jesus to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9)
- **Jesus gives.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again so we can be welcomed into God's family. (Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18)
- **We respond.** Believe that Jesus alone saves you. Repent. Tell God that your faith is in Jesus. (Rom. 10:9-10,13)

- Key Passage Poster chart paper
- marker

Note: Challenge adult and teen helpers to memorize the key passage too.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Allow kids to create a code for the key passage. Guide kids to replace key words or phrases from the passage with a symbol from today's story (cross, tomb, disciple, temple, and so forth). Record their code on chart paper.

Say • Next week is our last week to work on our key passage. Practice the passage at home this week and next week we'll see how many of us can quote it.



- small foam ball
- scissors
- masking or painter's tape

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Roll away the stone

Cut small pieces from a small foam ball to make it more rock-like. This will also make it roll funny. Create a set of tape lines on a tabletop or on the floor. Assign point values to each tape line with the highest point value the farthest from the start line.

Review the Bible story by allowing kids to answer a review question. When a kid answers a review question correctly, she may “roll away the stone” to earn points. Sample questions:

1. Who went with Jesus to pray in the garden?
(*Peter, James and John—the sons of Zebedee; Matt. 26:36-37*)
2. What did the disciples do when Jesus was praying?
(*slept; Matt. 26:40,43,45*)
3. Who did the crowd demand to have released?
(*Barabbas, Matt. 27:21*)
4. What did the religious leaders do to prevent Jesus’ body from being stolen? (*sealed the stone and had the tomb guarded, Matt. 27:62-66*)
5. When did Jesus rise from the grave? (*the first day of the week after the Sabbath, the third day; Matt. 28:1,5-6*)
6. Who told the women that Jesus was alive? (*the angel of the Lord, Matt. 28:5-6*)
7. ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus’ death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.***
8. Who made the blood sacrifice once and for all?
(*Jesus made the blood sacrifice once and for all for the forgiveness of sin.*)

Say • Next week we will study what happened to Jesus’ followers after His death and resurrection.

- markers
- construction or tissue paper scraps, various colors
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Option 2: Modern art drawings

Guide boys and girls to recreate today’s Bible story picture in a modern art style. Kids may use any combination of straight lines, circles, triangles, squares, and other geometric shapes to create the scene. Allow kids to cut the shapes and glue them to a piece of paper.

Option: Guide kids to create separate scenes from the Bible story: empty cross on Calvary, closed tomb, empty tomb, and so forth.

Help kids create a title plate for their work of modern art by cutting a small rectangle piece of construction paper. Instruct boys and girls to write on the title plate a caption or title for the picture and the artist's name. Allow kids freedom to be creative in creating their pictures.

Say • *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.*

- Your picture depicts the Easter story. Do you have a friend or family member who doesn't understand that Jesus came to pay the price for his or her sin?

This week, spend time praying for that friend or family member. Ask God to help you share the story of Jesus' death and resurrection with that person.

- pencils
- journals
- Bibles
- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- "Gospel Coin Drop" activity page, 1 per kid
- coins, 1 per pair

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Guide kids to write a prayer to God in response to the Bible story and big picture question. Review the big picture question.

Say • *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.*

Review Acts 4:12 and explain that knowing and loving Jesus is the only way we are forgiven. Remind kids that you are available to answer any questions they have about how to become a Christian.

As time allows, lead kids to choose a partner and play the game on the "Gospel Coin Drop" activity page.

Easter

Key Passage: Luke 23:46-47

Session 1: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

*Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44;
John 12:12-19*

Session 2: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36-28:10

Session 3: Jesus Appeared to Many

People

*Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29;
Acts 1:3, 9-11*



**He [Jesus] also said to them,
“This is what is written:
The Messiah would suffer and rise
from the dead the third day, and
repentance for forgiveness of sins
would be proclaimed in His name
to all the nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

**And [Jesus] said to them,
“Thus it is written, that the Christ
should suffer and on the third
day rise from the dead, and that
repentance and forgiveness of sins
should be proclaimed in his name
to all nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

**And [Jesus] said unto them, Thus
it is written, and thus it behoved
Christ to suffer, and to rise
from the dead the third day:
And that repentance and remission
of sins should be preached
in his name among all nations.**

Luke 24:46-47

**He [Jesus] told them,
“This is what is written:
The Christ will suffer and rise
from the dead on the third day,
and repentance and forgiveness
of sins will be preached in his name
to all nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

**Then He [Jesus] said to them,
“Thus it is written, and thus it was
necessary for the Christ to suffer
and to rise from the dead the
third day, and that repentance and
remission of sins should be preached
in His name to all nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

What did Jesus do for sinners?

Jesus' death and
resurrection paid
the penalty for sins
and provided the
promise of new life.



Resurrection Code

Instructions: Draw an X over each item that does not belong in the picture. (skateboard, window, net, fish, mirror, rose, frog, pie, lock) Using the first letter of each item, unscramble and fill in the missing letters of the phrase below.

— o — i — e o —
— e — — i — e

Gospel Coin Drop

Instructions: Play this game with a friend. Drop a coin, button, or bead onto the paper. Explain to your friend how you would tell a non-Christian what the piece means that your coin landed on or near. Try to drop the coin on each piece only once.

God Rules



Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11;
Colossians 1:16-17

We Sinned



Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

God Provided



John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus Gives



Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 5:21;
1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9

We Respond



John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10, 13

