

Tough Questions for God

Did Jesus Really Have to Die?

The Easter sermon is typically all about the resurrection of a man who was executed for the sins of the world. But it's clear that Jesus really didn't want to die ... he prayed and pleaded for a Plan B, but there didn't seem to be one. But if God's so powerful, couldn't he have just waved his mighty arms and pronounced us all forgiven? On this Easter Sunday, we're going to look at the question of whether or not Jesus had to die ... and if so, why?

John 8:31-36

Why did Jesus have to die?

1. Because I'm not a _____.
2. Because there's a real _____ going on inside me.
3. Because by default, _____ _____ _____ wins life's battles.
4. Because _____ is what it takes to win the war against _____.

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2. This passage is fairly complex, so you might want to read it from your favorite study Bible *and* from The Message (BibleGateway.com and BibleStudyTools.com both have The Message). This passage deals with what it took to be reconciled, that is to be put right, with God.

1. God “blessed” us with freewill, meaning we get to make choices between doing good and doing not-so-good. Why do you think God gave us that choice?

2. Dr. Bill suggested that, like darkness is the absence of light, evil is the absence of good. Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. Read Romans 7:14–25. Paul, the writer, shares about the “war” that goes on inside him. What do you think it means to be a slave to sin (7:14)?

4. What does Paul say is the solution to the problem of being captured by sin?

5. Dr. Bill used the metaphor of spiritual battle with a sin grenade. In 2 Corinthians 5:14–15, what does Paul suggest Jesus’ death did for us?

6. What do you think it means that when someone who’s “in Christ” they become a “new creature” (v. 17)? What would a “new creature” look like?

7. In 2 Cor 5:18–20, what do you think it means that we are Christ’s ambassadors?
