



## Relationship with God - Session 3: Why Did Jesus Have to Die the Way He Did?

**\*{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

**Opening Prayer:** Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us. We will read two readings today. One from the old testament and one from the new. As they are read, consider how elements found in the story of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son foreshadow the details of Jesus' death in the Gospel of John.

**Read: Genesis 22:1-18 and John 19:1-42**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer: (Said together as a group): Dear Jesus, You willingly died for me. Your sacrificial love is beyond my comprehension. Through Your life and death on earth You have forever connected divinity to humanity. For this gift, I am both awestruck and humbly grateful. Thank You for Your gift of pure love and Your desire for me to be with You in heaven for eternity. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What elements did you find similar in both of the readings? Why do you think/feel God stopped Abraham from killing his son but allowed His own son to die?

**YouTube Video:** Why Did Jesus Have to Die the Way He Did? by Bishop Barron (4:37 Min) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtcKV65-9uY>

### Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Do you think/feel Jesus would have been received differently if He were not born of humble origins?
3. How does Jesus continue to awaken resistance within you and within the broader culture?
4. Bishop Barron points out examples of human opposition to Jesus (forms of human dysfunction):
  - Explicit betrayal of Judas (turn your back on your mentor)
  - More subtle forms like Peter who denies that he knows Jesus
  - The disciples who fall asleep at his moment of truth (sloth)
  - Pontius Pilate who knows the truth but won't follow through on it
  - The incredible brutality of the temple guards or Roman guards (physical abuse)
  - Those who would mock him even as he hangs dying
  - Betrayal, Denial, sloth, injustice/disorder, turn from truth, physical abuse, mockingWhich forms of betrayal resonate with you? Someone you know? Our world?
5. Jesus says "Shalom" and "peace" to those who abandoned Him. We killed God and he still loves us. What does that say about how we should treat our brothers and sisters?
6. What does the cross mean to you? Did your thoughts change after watching this video?

### Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Through Christ a perfect sacrifice has been given for our salvation. Evaluate how you living God's example through forgiveness of others and displaying His love through sacrifice?
- Read the following Catechism of the Catholic Church sections: CCC 456-460, 595-623. {Leaders may want to show members how to reference sections in the CCC – these can be found online at well at <https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM> }

**Closing Prayer:** (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, and the loving relationship we can have with Him. Help us to choose Him as our "Lord and our God" today and every day going forward. Guide us as we grow stronger in our faith and live as devoted examples of Your peace, strength, and grace in this world. Open our eyes to ways we can serve others each day and die to self so that we may know true love and come to understand You better. Amen.*