



SESSION 2

# WHAT DID JESUS DO?

Jesus is worth following because only  
He can solve our deepest problem.



# WORSHIP

## READING PLAN

Read through the following Scripture passages this week. Use the space provided to record your thoughts and responses.

### Day 1

Psalms 34:1-22

### Day 2

Isaiah 53:1-12

### Day 3

John 10:1-21

### Day 4

John 17:1-26

### Day 5

2 Corinthians 5:1-21

### Day 6

Ephesians 1:1-23

### Day 7

Colossians 2:1-23

## OUR PROBLEM

The term *sin* was an archery term in ancient times. It simply means “to miss the mark.” God created us to know Him, love Him, and honor Him in everything we do. But when we sin, we miss the mark of knowing, loving, and honoring God. Simply put, sin is anything that displeases God. When we break God’s commands, ignore His teaching, rebel against His leadership, or put other things above Him in our lives, we sin against Him.

*What questions do you have about sin?*

At the core, sin is a heart issue. Someone once said that when you spell the word *sin*, the letter *l* is in the middle. And when I sin against God it’s all about what I want, what I need, and what I desire. Pleasing myself takes the place of pleasing God. This sin problem beats in the heart of every person.

- Sin corrupts everything it touches.
- Sin destroys everything that’s good.
- Sin perverts everything that’s beautiful.
- Sin is at the core of every social and moral problem we face today.
- Sin is the reason we have prisons and rehab.
- Sin is behind every case of evil and injustice.
- Sin is the root cause of every addiction, enslavement, and abuse.
- Sin is why we suffer.
- Sin is why we feel alone.
- Sin is why we face sorrow, sickness, and death.
- Sin enslaves us and keeps us from God.

*How do you see the effects of sin in our world today?*

*How have you experienced the effects of sin in your own life?*

Much of the Bible addresses this sin problem and what it means for us. Read the following verses and journal your observations in the space provided.

I know, LORD, that a man's way of life is not his own; no one who walks determines his own steps.

**JEREMIAH 10:23**

Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

**JAMES 1:15**

So it is a sin for the person who knows to do what is good and doesn't do it.

**JAMES 4:17**

If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**1 JOHN 1:8**

## GOD'S SOLUTION

The bad news of the Bible is that we have a sin problem. But the good news of the Bible is that God stepped in to solve our problem and to draw us back to Him. He did this by sending Jesus to us.

The New Testament tells us of Christ's coming in great detail—including why He came:

- **Matthew 1:21:** The angel Gabriel tells Mary about Jesus' mission in life.
- **Luke 19:10:** Jesus tells us His purpose in coming into the world.
- **Romans 5:8:** God demonstrates His love for us in Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21:** Jesus came to be sin for us.
- **John 10:17-18:** Jesus went to the cross willingly.

We don't just see Jesus in the New Testament. Seven hundred years before the death of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah spoke about Jesus' death on the cross. Read Isaiah 53:4-6. As you read these verses, think about what Jesus endured on the cross for you.

<sup>4</sup> Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses,  
and He carried our pains;  
but we in turn regarded Him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But He was pierced because of our transgressions,  
crushed because of our iniquities;  
punishment for our peace was on Him,  
and we are healed by His wounds.

<sup>6</sup> We all went astray like sheep;  
we all have turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has punished Him  
for the iniquity of us all.

**ISAIAH 53:4-6**

***How does God's love demonstrated at the cross bring you reassurance and hope?***

But Jesus' death on the cross isn't the full story. Jesus physically rose from the dead. And that is why Jesus is worth following, because no one else has done what He did. No one else paid our penalty for sin, dying on the cross and rising again from the dead.

***Read the following passages and note how each points to God's solution to our sin through Christ's death on the cross.***

***John 5:24***

***Romans 10:9-10***

***Ephesians 2:8-10***

***2 Corinthians 5:17***

Jesus stands head and shoulders above any other religious leader in history. All other religions in some capacity are based on the works and efforts of the individual. Salvation, forgiveness, and reconciliation are dependent on your performance—what you *do*. This includes the prayers you pray, the money you give, and the religious rituals you perform.

But Christianity is based on what has already been *done*. It's all about what Jesus has done for us!

In John 9:4, Jesus says, "We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work." Then in John 19:30 Jesus declared on the cross, "It is finished." His work of reconciliation, satisfying the Father's justice against sin and opening up a way for people to be right with God, was finished. Any good works we do aren't to earn God's approval or to obtain forgiveness, but rather to express love and gratitude for all Jesus has done for us.