

Why did **Jesus** have to die?

LEADER NOTE:

- * *Make sure to give enough time for praying and talking through the weekly practice!*
- * *If you are short on time, prioritize questions 5-8 after you watch the video.*

1. **Debriefing the Weekly Practice from Last Week:** The Weekly Practice last week was to go on a 20-minute prayer walk around your neighborhood. How did that go for you? What was encouraging? What was a struggle?

Here are some additional questions that may be helpful:

- *While on the walk: Did you talk with any of your neighbors? Meet any new neighbors?*
- *Did you become aware of any needs that you could pray for?*
- *Did you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to pray for your neighborhood? If so, how?*

Prayer walking may be new for many in your group. They may have felt awkward or unsure what to do. Help them process their experience. They will learn from each other as they share.

As with all of our Weekly Practices, we may need to help people work through feelings of shame or guilt for not doing them or not doing them as well as they think they should. Remind them that Jesus paid for all shortcomings and failures. There is no condemnation for those in Jesus (Rom. 8:1). So, we can now boast in our weaknesses because Christ's power is perfected in our weakness (2. Cor 12:9-10). As a facilitator, you'll need to model sharing about your own weakness.

That said, continue to encourage your group to take these Weekly Practices seriously. If you don't do them, they won't. As we take steps of faith, God will move, and your group will be inspired! This series is primarily oriented around action and obedience, not just learning and discussing.

Weekly Practice

Find your "third place" and go there once this week. Be available to meet or talk with someone.

PLAY WEEK 3 VIDEO

- 2. If a friend asked you why Jesus had to die, how could you respond in words and ideas that he/she could understand? How could you use the story of Maximilian Kolbe volunteering to die in place of a stranger? How could verses like Romans 3:23 and 1 Peter 2:24 assist you?**

Consider breaking group members into pairs to briefly role play that conversation. If the group needs to remember important points from Nicky's teaching, remind them that 1) sin separates us from God; 2) Jesus' death and resurrection provides our forgiveness and secures our eternal future with Him; 3) the cross expresses God's love in action through Jesus bearing our sins, making us right with Him (justification) and enabling us to become more like Him (sanctification).

- 3. Imagine you're the prison guard in Corrie Ten Boom's story, asking for her forgiveness. How would receiving her forgiveness change your life? How does that story provide more perspective on God's forgiveness of you?**

Corrie's story helps us gain greater clarity on how Jesus' forgiveness ultimately helps us deal with our guilt ("feeling bad about the stuff we've done") and shame ("feeling bad about who we are") in addition to reconciling us to God.

- 4. Corrie acknowledged that she was only able to forgive the prison guard because God's love was "streaming" through her. How have you experienced God empowering you to forgive someone?**

This story beautifully illustrates the supernatural life-change that God can make in our lives to forgive people, which we can share with spiritually-seeking friends.

- 5. Aaron introduced the "Coffee - Dinner - Gospel" strategy to help us build relationships with non-believers. Why do you think this progression is so important? In Week 5, you'll**

have an opportunity to invite someone from your Week 1 list to coffee (or something similar). Thinking specifically about a particular person on your list, what are some questions you could ask to express interest in their personal life before you get into spiritual issues?

Coffee - Dinner - Gospel is all about long-term investment and growth in a relationship. It's not immediate; it's an ongoing process over time.

6. Aaron talked about how people can feel uncomfortable in discussing their personal beliefs (Sacred/Secular divide). Over time, have you ever been able to move a conversation with a friend into spiritual questions? If so, how?
7. ***Weekly Practice:*** Think about the “third place” concept from the training video. This week, plan to identify and then visit a third place (e.g., neighborhood, gym, park, coffee shop, grocery store, Home Depot, etc.). Pray that you’ll be attentive to what the Holy Spirit might be saying to you about the people you might meet or observe. Don’t hurry. Be available to talk with someone. Ask the Holy Spirit how you can pray for people. Ask Him to grow your own heart with compassion for their needs. Feel free to write down any observations. Be prepared to share your experiences with the group next week.
8. Now, as a group, spend about 5 minutes in individual prayer asking God to move in your heart as you prepare to visit your third place. We encourage you to journal your thoughts as you pray. Then, after sharing the location of your third place with the group, wrap-up your time together by praying for each other.

Encourage the group to continue praying for the people from their Week 1 list.