

# Necessary Good

*Scripture and Background Information for April 23-29.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Most of us are familiar with things that we call “necessary evil.” Things like laundry, exercise, or in some cases things like war and taxes. In this series we’re going to look at 4 things that are necessary for Good to triumph over the evil in our world and in each of our lives. Why did Jesus live? Why did Jesus have to die? Why did Jesus rise from the dead? And why did Jesus leave? The Bible has more to say in answering each of those questions than most of us have thought very deeply about, even if we have an answer we would give. They all relate to the Necessary Good your Heavenly Father is restoring in the world, and wants to bring into your life as well.

## **Background for Passage Romans 5:6-11:**

Romans is a letter in which Paul focuses on what salvation through Jesus Christ truly is and what it looks like in the lives of those who have accepted this salvation. In Romans, Paul writes about salvation from many different angles, offers up practical implications of the salvation that is offered to us, and addresses some major questions that naturally arise from his claims about salvation. Some call Romans Paul’s most complete work detailing the salvation that God offers to us in Christ and there are many theological insights regarding our salvation included in this letter.

This week, we are answering the question, why did Jesus have to die? In Romans 5:6-11, Paul continues his overall discussion of salvation by focusing on Jesus’ death. Jesus’ death is an important part of the salvation that God offers to us because Paul notes that it is His blood that saved us from our sin and the wrath of God. We all have sin in our lives and are helpless to overcome it. However, as the passage says in Romans 5:8, “God demonstrates His love for us in this that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Therefore, we know from this passage that Christ had to die for us to be saved.

## Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. How does Jesus’ death demonstrate God’s love for us? If Jesus was willing to die for humanity even though we have sinned against Him, what does this say about how much God values us?
2. Throughout this passage humans are described as helpless, sinners, and enemies of God. Do you believe these terms accurately describe our lives before being saved? Why or why not? What words would you use to describe us after we have put our faith in Jesus?
3. How can Jesus’ death save us from our sin? What about our relationship to God changes after we have accepted the salvation that He offers us? Who in your life needs to hear about the love of God and how do you plan on telling them?
4. Our series is titled “Necessary Good”. How does the death of Christ allow good to triumph over evil? In what ways have you seen that take place in your own life?