



The Atonement

Week of March 20, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Share Your Experience This Week #SevernRun

Series Recap:

In looking at the history of God, there was a purposeful creation, The Fall which caused separation from God, and there is redemption—a way come back to God. There are three parts to redemption. The first is the Incarnation. Second is Atonement.

Message

Read Romans 3:25a and Matthew 27:27-45

The Atonement is the act of Jesus offering himself as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. His death for our life. Why does it matter? As humans, we are a downward spiral in every aspect of life. We are pulled down by sin and death to live defeated meaningless lives. But Jesus' death changes that. Jesus defeats the gravity of The Fall. He proves you are lovable and worth saving, and this becomes life's only way forward. Connecting your life to Jesus' death means you choose to die to sin and the tyranny of self every day and instead, by faith, surrender to the love of God sent through Jesus and proven in his death. Connecting your life to Jesus' death means you now live a victorious life filled with purpose in the love of Jesus.

Pray

Because you died, Jesus, you have given me life. Abundant life, full life. I surrender to your love and I claim the cross for a victorious, purposeful life in you.

Getting Started

- What is one goal you would like to accomplish during your lifetime?
- Jesus' goal was to become an atonement for our sin; how is Jesus' death different than any other death?

Listening Deeply

1. Look up atonement in the dictionary and discuss it's meaning.
2. Read Hebrews 7:26-28 and discuss how Jesus' atonement solved the sin problem once and for all.
3. "The death of Jesus was the most meaningful murder in all of history." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
4. How does Jesus' death defeat the gravity of "The Fall"?
5. Why does Jesus' death prove the you are lovable? Do you believe it?
6. In what way does the death of Jesus become life's only way forward?
7. Read Galatians 2:20 and explain how this verse teaches how to connect your life to Jesus' death.
8. How can you live differently from here on out knowing that your life is so intimately connected to Jesus' death? How can you show that it matters to you?

Living Wide in Jesus

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) Jesus didn't wait for us to become worthy before he atoned for our sins. Instead, he walked among us and willingly followed God's purpose for him to become our atonement sacrifice. This happened once and for all so that, despite our sin, we could find a way back to God. As soon as we accept Jesus as the atonement for our sin, we are forgiven. We no longer have to live defeated. Instead, we can choose every day to connect with Jesus' death by dying to our own sin, giving up our own will, letting go of the life of this world, so we can have the victory of eternal life because of the sacrifice of Jesus. How will you connect your life to Jesus' death?