



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

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 27:39-40

The death of God. It's an offensive phrase. How is it possible that God can die? And yet, in the paradox of love, he can die. Jesus suffered and died to defeat suffering and death. Since this doesn't make sense to us, we reject it. Distance ourselves from it. Minimize and dismiss the impact of the death of God. And even still, the ultimate answer to death in the world is the death of God. The death of Jesus is the centerpiece of history, the ultimate clash separating the will of God with the will of humanity. You will either yield to God's will for your life, or ultimately reject Jesus. Until you are yielding every aspect of your life to Jesus, you are actively opposing God's work in the world. You must decide if you will live in the light of Jesus or the darkness of the world. Every time you love the world more than you love Jesus, you keep God out. Every sin we love is the hammer that nailed Jesus to the cross. You can keep Jesus out, or you can let him in when you choose God's will over your own.

Pray

Jesus, I choose you. I choose God's will and God's purpose. I can't live anymore shutting you out in preference for the darkness of the world. I yield every aspect of my life to you. I want to live in your light, and your truth. Forgive my sins and help me always see how to choose your will over my own.

Getting Started

- Share about a time when you've needed help. Did you ask for help? Did someone offer help? What happened?
- Why do you think "The Death of God" is an offensive phrase?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Matthew 27:39-40. Why do people find Jesus so offensive?
2. What are some ways people reject, dismiss, minimize or downplay Jesus?
3. What are the ways people who follow Jesus reject or distance themselves or minimize Jesus?
4. Explain this statement: Until we are actively yielding our will to Jesus, we are actively opposing God's work in the world.
5. How is the cross a portrait of Grace for Christians?
6. Read John 3:19. Discuss ways we love the darkness.
7. Choose your side! How will you do a better job of letting Jesus into your life this week?

Living Jesus

It's time to stop dismissing God. If you are tolerating sin in your life—any sin (because there is no sliding scale with God)—then you are dismissing God and working against his redemption. Let Jesus in! Yield to the joy of the will of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Spend this Easter accepting the death of Jesus as your invitation by Grace into relationship with God. Use the rest of this page or the space on the back to write to Jesus accepting his gift of the cross so you can have life!