

Why Jesus Had to Die on a Cross

Sometimes habits or traditions become so ingrained in our lives that we can go through the motions of them without spending much time reflecting on their meaning. Sometimes, it benefits us to slow down and once again ask, “why?” We’ll begin our Lenten series “The Cross of Jesus” by examining scriptures that help us answer the question, “Why did Jesus have to die on a cross?” Together, we’ll grow in our faith by seeking to understand what went wrong, recalling God’s covenant, and remembering God’s character and love so that we can better understand *why* Jesus Christ’s awful death was necessary.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we’ll cover in the episode.

- Do you observe the season of Lent? If so, how? What does Lent mean to you?
- What does the term covenant mean?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Why Jesus Had to Die on a Cross](#)

READ [Genesis 3:14-15](#), [Romans 5:12-17](#), [Isaiah 10:1-3](#), [Habakkuk 1:2-4](#), [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What did this episode stir in you? Guilt? Hope? Relief? What thoughts or feelings did you notice as you listened?
- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss two reasons why Jesus had to die on the cross: 1) a “situation of cosmic sinfulness and brokenness” that must be addressed, 2) God’s holy, righteous, and just character. Which reason, in particular, do you think you hear about most in church or Bible studies during Lent? Did you learn anything new as Darrell and Scott discussed [Genesis 3:14-15](#) or [Romans 5:12-17](#)?
- In segment 2, Darrell notes our human tendency to compare our moral line with another person’s moral line. When do you find yourself most tempted to compare your moral line with someone else’s? What can you do to remind yourself to focus on God’s moral line and Christ?
- What is your personal experience with what Darrell called the “stupid cycle”? Read [Romans 7:14-25](#). How do the Apostle Paul’s words in Romans help you better understand our human experience? How do they convict you? How do they give you hope?
- What does it mean to you that God loves you enough that he would satisfy the old covenant with the blood of his son Jesus *and* stick around to make a new covenant with you, *AND* put the law inside you and give you his Spirit to help you keep this new covenant?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Romans 3:21-26](#), [Joel 2:28-32](#), [Acts 2:1-41](#), [Romans 7:14-25](#)

CONCLUSION

Close your time of study in prayer. Tell God about the feelings you noticed as you reflected on the last question. Confess any sins you're stuck in and, if you're ready, ask God to break the cycle. Tell him what his love and Christ's sacrifice mean to you.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/why-jesus-had-to-die-on-a-cross>

Printed on March 12, 2025