

Module Three: The Easter Solution- Talk Outline



Recap

1 The Orthodox View of Sin

2 Our Response

Point 1 Sin breaks our relationship with God

Point 2 God punishes sin *because* he loves us

Point 3 We all deserve judgement for sin

Point 4 Look at the Cross

3 Why did Jesus die?

Options:

1 All People Die

2 Evil forces overcame Jesus

3 Jesus *intentionally* died

Why did Jesus die a *cursed* death?

"if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing"
Galatians 2:21

Did Jesus do enough?

Module Three: The Easter Solution- Group Time

The Orthodox View of Sin and the Cross	What do our Orthodox friends need to hear?
• Sin damages us • Sin impedes our spiritual journey • It isn't sin but failure to be like Him that incurs God's judgement • Therefore, Jesus isn't needed to die as a sin substitute • Instead Jesus defeats the power of sin, Satan and death for us	Discuss what you would say to them

1 How would you answer the question of "Why did Jesus die?" Do you have any favourite verses? Discuss in pairs

2 God's View of Christ's Death in Hebrews

- Hebrews is a powerful description of what Christ's life, death and resurrection achieves.
- The author emphasises the completeness of Jesus' work
- He examines three perspectives on Jesus' death that assure us that Jesus has completely paid for his people's sins, *once for all time*

Read the following passages from Hebrews and complete the table below

9:11-14

10:11-14

7:24-27

Jesus' Sacrifice	
Jesus' High Priesthood	
Jesus' Intercession	

3 Exercise: Words, words, words

Sometimes the same words convey different meanings to different hearers. For instance, our Orthodox friends might understand "belief" or "faith" in Christ as the conviction that Jesus existed or that he was God and man or was raised again.

In pairs, explain to one another what the Bible means when it speaks of "faith" in Jesus. Do you have any favourite verse or illustrations?

4 Share your friend's names. Pray that they will grapple with the question of why Jesus had to die. Ask God to open their minds to their urgent need for forgiveness.

Before Session Four

Ask your friends about how they celebrate Easter (if they do). Why do they think these events are celebrated? Why do they think Jesus had to die?

Use the Hebrews passages above as the basis for your discussion with them.

Chapters 6-8 of *Certainty For Life: An Invitation* discuss these same passages to see how Jesus' atonement was sufficient and how as heavenly High Priest he lives forever to apply his sacrifice and intercede for us before God forever.

You could also read Chapter 10 of *Certainty For Life* which argues that the evidence of God's love in the cross of Christ provides us with complete confidence in our salvation.

Questions you might be asked (Information to aid evangelistic conversations)

Q: Orthodox people are often warned about cults, especially Jehovah's Witnesses. You may be asked directly if you are a "Jehovah". How do you answer?

A: Agree with Orthodoxy that the doctrine of the Jehovah's Witnesses is false.

The root of their error in insisting that Jesus is not fully God is that his death cannot substitute for the many. As a result, Jesus' death does not take away sin and Jehovah's Witnesses must work to secure their salvation.

Alternatively, as Orthodox agree, if Jesus is God, then his death is sufficient to pay completely for our sin.

Why don't we examine together what God's word has to say is the significance of the death of Christ?

Module Three: The Easter Solution– Leader's Notes

The Orthodox View of Sin and the Cross	What do our Orthodox friends need to hear?
- Sin damages us - Sin impedes our spiritual journey - It isn't sin but failure to be like Him that incurs God's judgement - Therefore, Jesus isn't needed to die as a sin substitute - Instead Jesus defeats the power of sin, Satan and death for us	Discuss what you would say to them 1 The question: why did Jesus die? 2 The need for Jesus' death in our place shows: - The seriousness of sin - There is no other way - The Love of God - The Certainty of Salvation 3 Did Jesus do enough to pay for all your sins?

1 How would you answer the question of "Why did Jesus die?"

Do you have any favourite verses? Discuss in pairs

here are some:

1 Peter 2:24, Mark 10:45, Rom 5:6-10, 1 John 2:2
John 3:16, Col 2:14, 1 Peter 3:18

2 God's View of Christ's Death in Hebrews

- Hebrews is a powerful description of what Christ's life, death and resurrection achieves.
- The author emphasises the completeness of Jesus' work
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Read the following passages from Hebrews and complete the table below

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7:24-27

Jesus' Sacrifice	Fitting substitute (human, not animal) 9:12 made in the heavenly rather than earthly Temple 9:11 Perfect and complete to forgive sins forever 9:12, 10:12, 14 once for all- doesn't need repeating 7:27
Jesus' High Priesthood	can apply his sacrifice for his people forever 7:24 In heaven and sinless- so can approach God directly 7:26 sinless=doesn't need a sacrifice himself 7:27

Jesus' Intercession	he advocates to God for us, assuring us that we are saved completely both now and in the future 7:25
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3 Exercise: Words, words, words

Sometimes the same words convey different meanings to different hearers. For instance, our Orthodox friends might understand "belief" or "faith" in Christ as the conviction that Jesus existed or that he was God and man or was raised again.

In pairs, explain to one another what the Bible means when it speaks of "faith" in Jesus. Do you have any favourite verse or illustrations?

Two passages are Gal 2:20; 1 Peter 2:24- no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me- we have died to sin and now can only live for him
My favourite illustration is to consider describing belief in a surgeon. It is more than believing the surgeon exists; it is more than even acknowledging their qualifications; it is placing your life in their hands, so that you will allow them to cut you open while you sleep and remove pieces from your body. Belief in a surgeon means trusting them with your life- that is the same when you put your faith in Jesus.

4 Share your friend's names. Pray that they will grapple with the question of why Jesus had to die. Ask God to open their minds to their urgent need for forgiveness.

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