



THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS

Study 4 Reconciliation

In ancient times people would sacrifice a sheep in order to heal their empty feeling of separation from God. Intuitively people knew that things were

not right with him and something needed to be done. Today is not much different except that our sacrifices are of a different kind. We think that, if we do enough good things we will somehow please him.

But the ancient law said, *“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22 NIV)* God wanted to drive home to us in a stark and unmistakable way that only life could pay the ransom for another’s life - only the innocent could die for the guilty. It was called ‘substitution.’ People used to understand this.

During the time of Christ there was a strange prophet by the name of John. One day while speaking to a large crowd he pointed out past them and called, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29 KJV)* The people turned and stared. It was Jesus.

We know now that Christ’s death on the cross is how he took away the sin of the world. Certainly, it was more than just a sentimental story.

As you read from your Bible, Mark 14:43-72 to 15:1-39, it would be worth remembering that the giant heavy curtain hanging in the temple represented the ‘barrier’ separating God from man. But what happened to the curtain when Jesus died?



The message of the cross has been called the gospel, the good news and the ‘greatest story ever told.’ It is recorded by four separate writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But what makes Mark’s account especially amazing is that Jesus **knew all along** that he had come into the world to die. He knew why he had to die. He knew how he had to die.

From the answer page, read some of the things Jesus knew in advance were going to happen to him. Write the appropriate verse reference next to the correct statement. (Note: Some references may be the same)

- He accurately predicted his betrayal. _____
- He understood in advance how he had to die. _____
- He knew exactly where he was going and why. _____
- He claimed he would rise after three days. _____
- He knew the Jewish leaders would reject him. _____
- He predicted the role of Gentiles in his death . _____

So why did Jesus do it?



Here's why!
1 Peter 3:18

The purpose of the cross was to **reunite us with God!** Isaiah explains the problem frankly,

"It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away." (Isaiah 59:2)

Then, when we try to reach God on our own, nothing bridges the gap. Even our best efforts fall far short of Him. Write Romans 3:23 here.

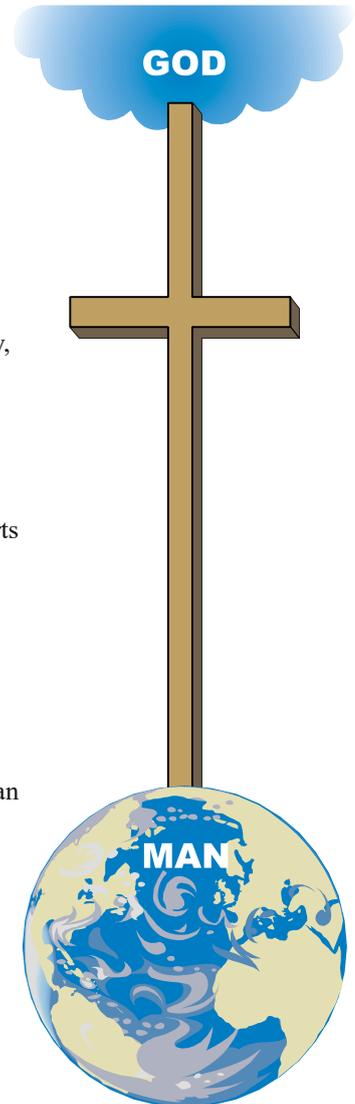
This is why Christ provided the sacrifice that paid the penalty of our sin, so that we can enter uncondemned into a new relationship with God. Write 1 Peter 2:24.

Fill in the missing line from Colossians 1:19,20

"For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."

THE CROSS WAS
NOT JUST A SAD
ACCIDENT.



THE CROSS WAS
A SACRIFICE !

**Find the answers on this page to
THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS**



THE CROSS IS NOT JUST A PIECE OF JEWELLERY.

Read from your Bible Mark 14:43-72 to 15:1-39

**Jesus predicts his betrayal.
Mark 9:30-32 (NIV)**

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

**Jesus knew where he was going and why
(Mark 10:32-34 AMP)**

³²Now they were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were perplexed [at what Jesus had said], and those who were following were alarmed and afraid.

And again He took the twelve disciples aside and began telling them what was going to happen to Him, ³³saying, "Listen very carefully: we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed and

**Jesus knew how he had to die.
Mark 8:31-33 (NASB)**

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

handed over to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and hand Him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴They will mock and ridicule Him and spit on Him, and whip Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise from the dead."

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NLT)

Again Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away.

**The Cross was the purpose of God
(John 12:27-33 KJV)**

²⁷For this cause came I unto this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. ²⁹The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

Romans 3:23 (KJV)

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

³⁰Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

³¹Now is the judgment of this world:

THE CROSS WAS NOT JUST A SAD ACCIDENT.

Romans 5:8 (NRSV)

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

now shall the prince of this world be cast out. ³²And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. ³³This he said, signifying what death he should die.

1 Peter 3:18 (GNT)

For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God.

