Death and resurrection

LEADERS NOTES®

Julie Moser





Dear Youth Leader,

Welcome to Effective Youth Ministry Press free leader's notes!

These leader's notes are for the Youth Bible study booklet Death and Resurrection that is for sale from www.effectiveyouthministry.com

These notes are designed to assist your in preparation and enable you to get the most out of your Bible study time.

You may share this resource with others, however, the downloading of this resource is with the agreement that it will not be sold, uploaded to a website or made available in any other format.

Copyright and distribution of all parts of this document remains the property of Ken and Julie Moser.

Regards,

Effective Youth Ministry Press Team www.effectiveyouthministry.com

Death and resurrection - leader's notes: $study \ 1_{\ensuremath{\text{\odot}}}$

let's get started

Open discussion by asking every person to answer the sharing question.

Ask each person to read the list of facts about the death and resurrection of Jesus and check the facts they believe are the correct ones. Once everyone has checked their answers, go through each fact one at a time, with you reading them the answers found on page 42.

going deeper

The Last Supper

Ask for a few volunteers to read Luke 22:7-23.

Looking at vv. 15-16 and 21-22, Jesus shows he is aware of what will soon take place because: he anticipates suffering (v. 15), he will not eat the Passover feast with the disciples again (v. 16), he predicts that he will be betrayed (vv. 21-22)

When we celebrate the Lord's supper:

We eat the bread to remember how Jesus body was put on the cross as a sacrifice for us (v. 19). We drink the wine to remember how Jesus blood was shed for us and established a new covenant with us (v. 20).

Why do you think it is important to regularly remember Jesus' sacrifice? Have the youth share how remembering Jesus' death is important for them. Some key thoughts: When we remember that Jesus died for us we: are thankful, we love him, we give our lives to him daily, we remember that we are members of a new covenant between God and all believers.

Read aloud (or ask a volunteer to read aloud) the information in FYI "Did you know..." to the group. You do not need to look up the bible passages - they are there for reference only.

The New Covenant

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 22:20 again.

Read the short definition of a covenant then ask the group for some examples. Here are a few suggestions: a marriage, a rental lease, a contract between an employer and employee, a mortgage contract.

Note the major covenants referenced under the heading "God made covenants with people in the past" and encourage the group members to look them up in their own time at home. "For your eyes only" at the end of the study will cover these in the Personal Bible Reading section.

Ask a volunteer to read Jeremiah 31:31-34

Why didn't the old covenants work according to Jeremiah?

God was faithful to his promises but all of the covenants of the past failed because people failed to keep their part of the covenant and were unfaithful to God (v. 32).

So God planned a Covenant that we could not break through Jesus.

How is the new Covenant with Jesus different from the old ones?

God provides a permanent solution to our disobedient hearts and minds. He gives us new hearts and minds and forgives our sin in the one-time sacrifice of Jesus.

See also Hebrews 7:23-8:13. The author describes the permanency of Jesus' sacrifice in contrast to the daily offering for sin by the old priesthood. The author quotes Jeremiah 31 and deems the old covenant "obsolete". It would be helpful for you to be familiar with this passage as you describe the new covenant through Jesus.

Brought near to God

Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:11-13.

Read the definitions for "Gentile" and "Circumcision" in the FYI text box. Then ask the group to underline the words that describe the Gentile's relationship to God and Christ from the passage. When finished ask them to share their answers. Key words to note: Separate, excluded, foreigners, without hope, without God, once far away.

What does Jesus' death do for us? (v. 13) Through Jesus' blood we are "brought near" to God.

What does this say to the Christian person who feels far away from God? Even if you feel far away from God, your status as a believer is that you are now in relationship with God through Jesus. You are "brought near" even when you don't feel it.

getting active

Ask the group to answer to give their answers to the three questions. Here are some suggested answers.

How does the death of Jesus prove God's love for us? We have been brought near to God

How can we help each other to remember what Jesus has done for us?

How can we help each other when we feel that our past sin hinders our friendship with God?

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today's study and for understanding as they study the death and resurrection of Jesus in the coming weeks. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

Stay tuned Next week we will look at the beginning of the fulfillment of the God's plan with the arrest of Jesus.

Encourage the young people to use the personal bible reading plan including learning the memory verse. You may like to offer a prize next week to all who can recite the memory verse.

StUdy 2_®

See if anyone used the personal bible-reading plan from last week. Ask them to share about what they read and if they have any questions about it.

Check to see if anyone can recite the memory verse from last week (1 Peter 1:18-19). You can do this by asking them to recite it altogether OR, by writing down on pieces of paper and them reading their answer OR, by asking them one at a time to recite it. You may like to ask those who are confident to go first – repetition will help everyone to learn/remember it better. You may also like to have a prize for everyone who can say it.

let's get started

Ask the group to circle their responses to doing tasks they don't want to do. Once everyone is finished ask every one to share his/her answer then ask volunteers to share about a time they had to do something they didn't want to do.

going deeper

Praying in Gethsemane

Ask one or two volunteers to read Luke 22:39-46

What did Jesus pray for? Jesus prayed that he would not have to experience the suffering that was about to take place. However, he still prayed that God's would be done (v. 42)

Ask the group to suggest ways that Jesus' prayer is an example for us. Suggested answer: Like Jesus, we can pray earnestly for what we desire but, also like Jesus, we need to pray that God's will be done. Jesus shows that we can be real with God in how we feel but that we must also trust God that he knows what he is doing.

How would you describe this time for Jesus in light of verse 44? Ask the group to look at v. 44 and describe what this time was like for Jesus. The night in Gethsemane was clearly a difficult time for Jesus. What he was about to suffer caused him great anguish.

Why do you think Jesus was so disappointed when the disciples fell asleep? Suggested answer: this was a time when Jesus needed them and their prayers and probably felt very alone. See also Matthew 26:36-46.

How does this section prepare us for the death of Jesus? (What does it tell us about what Jesus is about to go through?). Suggestions: we see that what Jesus is about to suffer is going to be severe, we see that even those closest to him did not understand or stand by him, Jesus understood the severity of what he was about to suffer and yet was willing to do it.

The arrest of Jesus

Ask one or two volunteers to read Luke 22:47-54.

Why do you think they arrested Jesus in the middle of the night? The arrest of Jesus was clearly an underhanded act that needed to be done under the cover of darkness (vv. 52-53).

The disciples responded to Jesus' arrest with violence (v. 49-50) but Jesus told them to stop and he reversed their actions and healed the man they had attacked (v. 51).

Peter's denial

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 22:31-34 and a volunteer to read Luke 22:55-62 Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus (his best friend) - what was he so worried about? Peter very likely feared that association with Jesus would mean arrest for him also.

Ask the group to share if they have also had situations where they avoided speaking up or openly denied Jesus because they feared association with Jesus would bring suffering onto them.

Ask the group to choose their answers about where they find it hard to stand up for knowing Jesus then discuss their answers.

The next two questions will help with advice on how to deal with the situations the group has just discussed so be prepared to take some time for this. Below are some suggested answers to the questions.

What will help you to be strong when you are tempted to be ashamed of Jesus? Prayer (see Luke 22:46), encouragement in the faith through regular fellowship with other believers, knowing what the Bible teaches on suffering and persecution.

What can you do when you are faced with a situation that tempts you to be ashamed of Jesus? Say a quick prayer and ask for strength and wisdom. Try to be prepared in advance of what to say or do (discussing suggestions with other Christians and reading what the Bible teaches can help you do this). There will also be some advice on this topic in this week's "For your eyes only" personal devotions at the end of this study.

Réad the "FYI Did you know...". You do not need to look up Bible passages about Peter getting it wrong - they are for reference only. However, you may want to ask a volunteer to read: John 21:15-19 if you have time. Then ask a volunteer to read 1 Peter 4:12-16 and ask the group to work out how Peter's attitude changed after the resurrection. Suggested answer: Peter no longer feared suffering because of his faith. He saw it as a badge of honor to be recognized as a follower of Jesus and saw it as something to praise God for.

getting active

Have the group share ways they can help each other in dealing with fear. Below are some suggested responses.

How can we help each other when we feel afraid to acknowledge that we follow Jesus? Pray for each other, share honestly about struggles and failures, talk about forgiveness when someone fails.

How can we build each other up to be confident and courageous about our faith? Pray for each other, commit to regular fellowship with each other, remind each other about what the Bible teaches.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions as well as any other matters the group shares.

CTAY TUNES Next week we will look at the trial of Jesus.

Encourage the young people to use the personal bible reading plan including learning the memory verse (Romans 5:19).

Study 3_®

See if anyone used the personal bible-reading plan from last week. Ask them to share about what they read and if they have any questions about it.

Check to see if anyone can recite the memory verse from last week (Romans 5:19). See suggestions on how to do this from the beginning of Study 2 leader's notes.

let's get started

Begin group discussions by asking the three "What would you do if...?" questions. Follow this with the two discussion questions about injustice and being treated unfairly.

going deeper

Jesus before the Council of elders

Ask one or two volunteers to read Luke 22:63-71.

What happened to Jesus before his trial began (vv. 63-65)? Jesus was physically and emotionally tortured.

What would happen today if the law courts mistreated or tortured someone before he/she even went to trial? Suggestion: the trial would be considered unfair and may even be dismissed. In many countries a person is not punished as guilty person until they have had a fair trial.

What does this tell you about Jesus' trial? It was not conducted in a fair and legal manner.

What did Jesus reveal about himself in his answers to the questions by the council of elders? (vv. 67-70) Jesus was the Son of Man (this is a special title identifying him as God's chosen one - see Daniel 7:13-14 and Matthew 16:13-16) and the Son of God.

What did the council of elders agree upon as the crime of Jesus? (vv. 70-71). Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. This was considered blasphemy.

Jesus before Pilate

Ask one or two volunteers to read Luke 23:1-7.

The three accusations of Jesus were (v. 2)

- 1. Subverting the nation.
- 2. Opposes paying taxes.
- 3. Claims to be a king (as opposed to Caesar).

Did any of these accusations match the interrogation of Jesus in v. 67-71? The crime of Jesus decided on in verses 67-71 was blasphemy (a religious matter). The crimes presented to Pilate were rebellion against the government. The council of elders probably created the three crimes listed to Pilate (v. 2) in order to make Jesus guilty of crimes punishable by the state.

What accusation does Jesus acknowledge to Pilate? (v. 3) Jesus acknowledges that he is the king of the Jews.

Why do you think Pilate handed Jesus over to Herod? (vv. 4, 6-7) He had trouble finding any reason to punish Jesus so he deferred the case to Herod who had jurisdiction of Jesus' home-town (Galilee).

Jesus before Herod

Ask one or two volunteers to read Luke 23:8-12.

Suggested answers to the questions in this section: Jesus probably refused to answer Herod because he knew Herod was only interested in being entertained (v. 8). The elders were probably continuing to accuse Jesus of the crimes presented to Pilate (v. 10). Herod treated Jesus in the same way the council of elders treated him (emotional and physical torture).

What can you say about Jesus' trial so far? The trial of Jesus continued to be unjust, even when taken through the proper authorities.

If you have time, look at Isaiah 53:7 in the "FYI Luke" section. You do not need to read the 1 Peter verse as occurs in the following section.

Jesus before Pilate (again)

Ask one or two volunteers to read Luke 23:13-25.

What was the final verdict of Pilate and Herod? (vv. 14-15, 22) He was innocent of the charges and had done nothing deserving punishment.

Why do you think Pilate eventually gave in to the crowd? Pilate seemed to want to please the crowd (v. 24). It may be helpful for your preparation to read Matthew 27:24 and Mark 15:15 and John 19:1-16.

What was so wrong about the release of Barabbas in place of Jesus? (What was Barabbas guilty of, v. 19?) Barabbas was guilty insurrection and murder. He was guilty while Jesus was innocent (substitution of the innocent for the guilty is what Jesus' death was all about).

- **1 Peter 2:23-25** Jesus bore our sin through his suffering and death. Though his sacrifice we have been freed from sin and drawn near to God.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** Jesus was innocent yet bore our sin. This was so that we could receive his righteousness.

What is unfair about the substitution of Jesus for the unrighteous? We deserve punishment but Jesus was innocent.

How is the unfair treatment of Jesus great news for us? (See Romans 3:22-24) We are all guilty of sin and all of us deserve punishment. Jesus death provides the way out and removes out sin and guilt.

Jesus' trial gives us an example of how to deal with injustice done to us. Ask the group to think of times when we can we be like Jesus and turn the other cheek. (See also instructions to slaves in 1 Peter 2:21-23).

getting active

•Ask the group to suggest ways they can help each other in their response to Jesus' sacrifice for us. This could include encouragement to show their lives are changed by the good news or for some it could be to turn to Christ for forgiveness for the first time.

How should we treat each other, in light of the fact that Jesus freely forgave us? Suggestions: We need to recognize that we are all in need of forgiveness through Jesus' death, we need to accept each other as people who are forgiven by God, we need to be willing to be forgiving of each other just as Christ forgave us.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions as well as any other matters the group shares.

STAY TUNED Next week, we will learn about the death of Jesus by crucifixion.

Encourage the young people to use the personal bible reading plan including learning the memory verse (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Study 4_©

See if anyone used the personal bible-reading plan from last week. Ask them to share about what they read and if they have any questions about it.

Check to see if anyone can recite the memory verse from last week (2 Corinthians 5:21).

let's get started

As the group members to share examples of times they had the blame for something they didn't do. Then choose from the list that describes how they feel when this happens. When they are ready discuss their answers.

going deeper

The crucifixion

Ask for one or two volunteers to read Luke 23:32-39

Three times Jesus asked to save himself:

- v. 35 let him save himself
- v. 37 save yourself
- v. 39 save yourself and us

Jesus was told three times to save himself. The whole point was that he had to sacrifice himself in order to save us.

Ask for two volunteers to read the two verses, then write down who Jesus was interested in saving:

John 3:17 the world

1 Timothy 1:15 sinners

Ask for two volunteers to read the two passages: Isaiah 53:3-10 and Psalm 22:7-8, 12-18.

Jesus knew his death would be a brutal experience. What does that say to you about him? Ask the group for their opinions. One observation is that he had a deep love for us.

A criminal is saved

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 23:39-43.

What was the important different between Barabbas and the criminal? (Hint: v. 41-43) The criminal recognized that he was guilty and deserved punishment and that Jesus was innocent. He asks for Jesus' help and Jesus promises him life.

Jesus' death

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 23:44-49

Have the group look at Psalm 31:1-5. By quoting this Psalm Jesus shows that he was trusting God for his deliverance.

The centurion concluded that Jesus was a righteous (or "innocent") man after:

- v.·34 He hear Jesus forgive those who crucified him
- v. 38 He saw the sign above Jesus calling him the King of the Jews
- vv. 42-43 He saw the criminal trust Jesus and Jesus promised him paradise
 - v. 44 He saw a period of darkness
 - v. 46 He saw Jesus commit his spirit to the father before he died

Read the "FYI The sign of darkness" to the group.

You do not need to look up the passage from Amos, it is for reference only. If you do not have time to look up the passages from Romans you can skip over this and encourage the group members to read them in their own time. Romans 4:25, 5:15-16, 6:23, 8:1-2 show us that Jesus dies for our sin and take our punishment/judgment.

The temple curtain temple is torn in two (v. 45)

Read the paragraph about the holy of holies to the group. You do not need to look at Hebrews 9:3, this is for reference only.

Ask a volunteer to read Hebrews 10:19-22.

How are we to view our relationship with God? (vv. 19-22) Ask volunteers for answers based on this passage. Some suggestions are: we have direct access to God, God has made us clean through Jesus' death in order that we may approach him with confidence, we approach God with confidence and free of guilt.

Ask volunteers to give responses to the following statements. Below are suggested answers.

"God feels far away": You have direct access to God through Christ whether you feel it or not.

"I need a priest or a saint to speak to God for me": Jesus is our great high priest and we approach God through him.

"I can't believe that God can forgive me for everything I have done in the past": Jesus death has made you clean, his death is sufficient for your sin.

Have someone read Hebrews 10:23-25. Ask the group to discuss how a direct relationship with God should influence the way we live based on this passage. Answers should include: hold on to our faith, encourage each other to love and to do good deeds, meet regularly in Christian fellowship, encourage each other to persevere.

getting active

How can we help each other when we doubt our relationship with God? In what ways can we "encourage each other as we see the Day approaching" (Heb 10:25)?

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions as well as any other matters the group shares.

Stay tuned Next week we will look at the great news that Jesus arose from the grave!

Encourage the young people to use the personal bible reading plan including learning the memory verse (1 Peter 2:24).

StUdy 5_©

See if anyone used the personal bible-reading plan from last week. Ask them to share about what they read and if they have any questions about it.

Check to see if anyone can recite the memory verse from last week (1 Peter 2:24).

let's get started

Ask the group members to individually choose up to three beliefs from the list popular views about life after death then discuss their answers. Then discuss why they think many people are afraid of death.

going deeper

The burial and resurrection of Jesus

Ask some volunteers to read Luke 23:50-24:12.

What did they do with Jesus' body? (vv. 50-54)

They gave it to a man called Joseph who took down the body, wrapped it in cloth and put it in a tomb cut out of rock and put a large stone in front of it.

Luke shows that the women went to the right tomb and found it empty.

Luke 23:55: The women followed Joseph and watched him put the body in the tomb. Luke 24:12: After hearing the women's report, Peter ran to the same tomb (without the women guiding them there) and the tomb as they described it (empty with the strips of linen lying there).

What was the message the two angels brought? (vv. 5-7) Jesus was alive not dead. Remember that Jesus told you that he would be crucified and raised again.

How did the women respond to the message? (vv. 8-9) They remembered Jesus' words and then went and told everyone.

Did the disciples believe what Jesus had taught them earlier about the resurrection (Luke 9:22 and 24:7)? (vv. 10-11). No. If they did, the women's words would have immediately made sense.

It is not clear why Peter then ran to the tomb. He may have thought what the women first thought (John 20:10-15 - that they had stolen his body). He may have just wanted to see the women had not made a mistake or he may have had some hope that what they said was true. John 20:8-9 said they believed (probably that they the women's story) when they saw the empty tomb but they still did not understand about Jesus and the resurrection.

Why was the resurrection important?

The resurrection was necessary because,

Acts 17:30-31: it is proof that Jesus is the man God appointed as judge over the earth.

Romans 1:1-4: it was the declaration with power that he was the Son of God.

Romans 6:5: it is the pattern of what will happen to us.

1 Peter 1:3: it is the means by which we are given new birth into a living hope.

If you have time look at 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 and notice the implications for us if Jesus had not been raised.

Discuss the two questions about the implications of the resurrection for us based on what you have just studied. Some suggested answers are:

The resurrection validates who Jesus is and shows us that his death achieved its purpose of removing our sin.

The resurrection gives us confidence that Jesus has paid our penalty in his death and also sets a pattern of what will happen to us when we die - that we will be rise again.

Jesus death was necessary to deal with our sin. Through his death he became our substitute taking the punishment for our sin and crediting his righteousness to us. The resurrection is the proof that Jesus he was the Son of God and really did what he said he would do!

The resurrection and you

Ask for three volunteers to each read the three passages. As a group work out what the Bible says will happen to us when we die.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53: We will be changed, we will be raised imperishable and immortal.

Colossians 3:3-4: We will appear with Christ in glory.

Hebrews 9:27: After we die we face judgment. REMEMBER that through faith in Jesus' death we have been judged and given his righteousness so judgment will not be something we fear.

getting active

Have the group answer the two questions based on the last two sections of the study.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions as well as any other matters the group shares.

stay tuned

Next week, we will learn about two people who met the resurrected Jesus.

Encourage the young people to use the personal bible reading plan including learning the memory verse. You may like to offer a prize next week to all who can recite the memory verse (1 Peter 1:3).

In this week's personal devotions there are three arguments against the resurrection with Bible passages that refute these arguments. You may like to give people the option of breaking into pairs/small groups and meeting together at another time during the week to research the answers and then present them to the group next week.

StUdy 6 ©

See if anyone used the personal bible-reading plan from last week. Ask them to share about what they read and if they have any questions about it.

Check to see if anyone can recite the memory verse from last week (1 Peter 1:3).

let's get started

Open discussion by asking each person to answer the two sharing questions.

going deeper

Jesus appears to two travelers

Ask a few volunteers to read Luke 24:13-27.

The two travelers believed Jesus was a prophet powerful in word and deed and they had hoped he would redeem Israel. They were probably sad because he had been killed and so their hope was destroyed.

What evidence did the two travelers have about Jesus' resurrection?

- Verse 21: It was the third day since Jesus had died (see 24:6-7).
- Verse 22-23: The women said the tomb was empty and angels told them he was alive.
- Verse 24: Some other disciples went to the tomb and confirmed the women's story.

Note how obvious the evidence of the resurrection was to the two travelers. Discuss why you think they didn't believe.

What does Jesus say to them in response? (vv. 25-27) The prophets predicted the Christ would suffer and then enter glory. He taught them what all of scripture predicted about him. See the FYI about "Moses and the Prophets".

Proof of the resurrection

Ask one or two volunteers to read Luke 24:28-35.

What made the two travelers recognize Jesus? (v. 31. See also v. 16). Their eyes were opened so they could recognize him (they had been kept from recognizing him).

Ask the group to choose from the list provided about the kind of proof people often want in order to believe in Jesus. Discuss their answers.

Why do you think they rushed back to Jerusalem (seven miles in the dark) to see the disciples? Ask the group to discuss their answers. Suggested reasons: the two travelers saw that this revelation was important, exciting and urgent!

Ask the group to share about situations where they have told someone some news but the person needed confirmation from someone else. You may want to think of some examples of this.

Have the group choose from the list provided about why they think people doubt the

resurrection of Jesus today. Then discuss their answers.

Have the group share what they would say to someone show doubts the resurrection of Jesus. It would be helpful to remind them about last week's study and also the arguments presented in the previous week's personal devotions.

FYI not just a theory...

Ask a volunteer to read: Romans 6:8-14.

What does this passage say to someone who says "it is okay to believe in Jesus and behave however I want"? If we are dead to sin we should not give ourselves over to sin or be mastered by it. The Christian life described here is one where we reject sin and offer our lives to God.

getting active

Ask the group to discuss how the Emmaus story helps them in their faith in the resurrection. Then ask them for suggestions on how they can help each other to live in light of the truth of the resurrection. You could give practical applications to the previous passage (Romans 6:8-14).

let's pray gran

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions as well as any other matters the group shares.

Encourage the young people to use the personal bible reading plan including learning the memory verse (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). You may like to offer a prize next week to all who can recite all of the memory verses from the last six studies.

Other recommended resources for your youth ministry:

SMAIL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

Starting Out By Ken Moser

Foundations for Christian Living

By Ken Moser

Work Rest Play
By Ken Moser

Big Issues For Today's Youth

By Ken Moser

Young Men By Ken Moser

Death and Resurrection

By Julie Moser

Studies 2 GoBy Julie Moser

More Studies 2 Go

By Julie Moser

Luke: Who is Jesus?

By Ken Moser

Luke: Jesus' Parables

By Ken Moser

Luke: Carry Your Cross

By Ken Moser

resources for leaders

Programs 2 GoBy Ken Moser

Changing the World through Effective Youth Ministry

By Ken Moser

Creative Christian Ideas for Youth Groups

By Ken Moser

Youth Evangelism: Reaching Young People in a Way

that Honours God

By Ken Moser

