

## Eight Weeks of Conversation Cafe    Week Five:

### Bible Topic- The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

While Jesus was on the earth, He was teaching God's Word to people, healing the sick, performing miracles, and confronting the religious leaders about their hypocrisy. These leaders dressed like respectable people, but really, on the inside, they were full of greed and envy.

The religious leaders hated Jesus for a number of reasons. When Jesus healed the sick and forgave their sins he demonstrated that his authority over life was greater than theirs. They could not heal the sick nor could they forgive sins. The religious leaders worried that more people would follow Jesus than would follow them. Many of the religious leaders were more interested in promoting themselves than truly helping other people. Jesus, on the other hand, demonstrated compassion for those who suffered.

After three years of public ministry, Jesus was betrayed by one of his own disciples and handed over to the religious authorities to be killed. The religious rulers accused Jesus of blasphemy (to speak evil of God) and then sent him to the Roman authorities who could give Jesus the death penalty. He was mocked, tortured, and finally faced a painful and shameful death by crucifixion.

The Old Testament says, "cursed of God is the one who has been hanged on a tree."  
(Deuteronomy 21:23)

- *Explain in your own words why Jesus was hated by the religious authorities of his day.*
- *Tell how their hatred led to Jesus' death.*

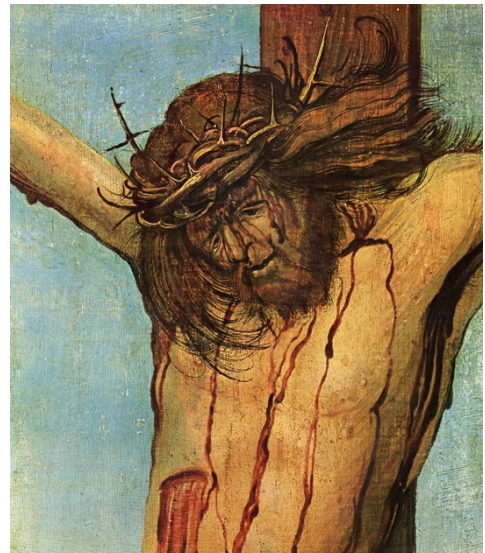
**Although it looked like Jesus was a victim of injustice, his death had greater meaning.**

1 Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

*Explain this verse in your own words.*

*The word, "substitute," describes what Jesus did for us on the cross. Define substitute and give ordinary examples of it.*

*In what way do you think Jesus could be a substitute for mankind?*



Albrecht Altdorfer. Christ on the cross, 1512.  
Oil on panel, 101.5 x 116 cm. Gemaldegalerie  
Alte Meister, Kassel, Germany

## Resurrection of Jesus

After Jesus was crucified on a cross he was buried in a tomb, a cave used for burial. The following story tells how the resurrection of Jesus was discovered. (Resurrection is when the body comes to life after death.)

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words. Luke 24: 1-8

- *Tell the story in your own words.*
- *How do you think the women felt when the angels appeared to them?*

The New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell of how Jesus appeared to his followers after his resurrection. This story from Luke 22 helps us understand what resurrection is. It also helps us understand how his disciples felt.

<sup>36</sup>While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>37</sup>They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."<sup>40</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate it in their presence.<sup>44</sup>He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.<sup>46</sup>He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 23:36-47

- *Describe the body of Jesus as he appears to his disciples.*
- *The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one thing that makes Christianity different from other religions. Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus so important to Christians?*