



When it comes to understanding why Jesus came, we don't have to put words in his mouth. He made a number of very clear statements about the subject. So this series will explore the reasons behind the greatest mission ever.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Take a moment to reflect on the previous lessons in this series. Which of the statements about why Jesus came have resonated with you the most (*to bring the kingdom, to call sinners, to answer doubts, to serve, to defeat the enemy, to disturb the peace*)?

**2** Jesus never wondered why he came. His life started on mission, stayed on mission, and ended on mission. **Read Mark 10:45 and John 10:17-18.** Rick pointed out that “Jesus’ life was not taken from him; it was given by him.” Why is that distinction so significant?

**3 JESUS’ DEATH... was Jesus’ choice.** Jesus understood that he was born to die. **Read Hebrews 10:5-7 and Philippians 2:8.** What stands out to you in regards to how these verses remind us that for Jesus death was “*an intentional act of loving humility*”? What impact should that have on our choice to follow him?

**4 HE GAVE HIS LIFE... to pay our debt for us.** Rick mentioned 3 expressions people use to show they are offended by the cross (“*God is not all that holy*,” “*people are not all that bad*,” and “*Jesus is not all that necessary*”). Which of these have you heard someone express recently? How does the good news of the kingdom respond to statements like these? Follow up discussion: **Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and Hebrews 9:22.** What do these verses emphasize about why Jesus came to give his life?

**5** Religion says men can build their own bridge to God. Christianity says God must build the bridge, pay for the bridge, and then give us access to the bridge for free. **Read Romans 3:22-25.** What does being “*made right with God*” mean to you? What difference has this made in your life?

**6 HE GAVE HIS LIFE... to show the way for us.** Rick said that “*Jesus’s choice to give his life should inform and inspire all our choices.*” **Read Galatians 2:20.** Share some examples of how living a crucified life impacts things like *race relations* (see Ephesians 2:15-16), *sexual stewardship* (see 1 Corinthians 6:20), *reconciliation* (see Ephesians 4:32), and *marriage* (see Ephesians 5:25). What is one area you would like for Jesus to have more impact on in your life right now?

**7 HE GAVE HIS LIFE... to prove God is for us!** Rick reminded us that one reason people often struggle to believe in God’s unfailing love is because all other loves are conditional at some level but God’s love is based on His nature, not ours (see Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:10). **Read Romans 8:31-32, 33-39.** What is significant about each of the words in the phrase “*God is for us*”? What evidence of God’s love do you see in your day-to-day life? How has viewing God’s love through the lens of the cross shaped your life?

