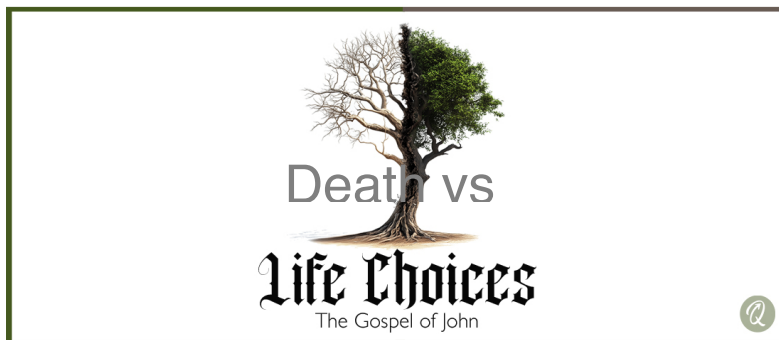




- Faith in Jesus will always lead us to the cross of Jesus.

Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." John 2:4

23 Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. John 12:23

Why Jesus had to die on the cross:

- The cross is where God's glory is put on display.

19 And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name,....

20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Exodus 33:19-20

6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Exodus 34:6-7

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NIV)

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, 26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. Romans 3:25-26

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:17

- The cross shows us the holiness of God.

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. Isaiah 53:6

God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 1 Peter 1:18-19

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23

- The cross shows the love of God.

18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. John 10: 18

"God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10

"If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11

- When we follow Jesus to the cross, it's there we find life.

25 Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. 26 Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. John 12:25-26

Galatians 2:20; Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1

VISION:

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

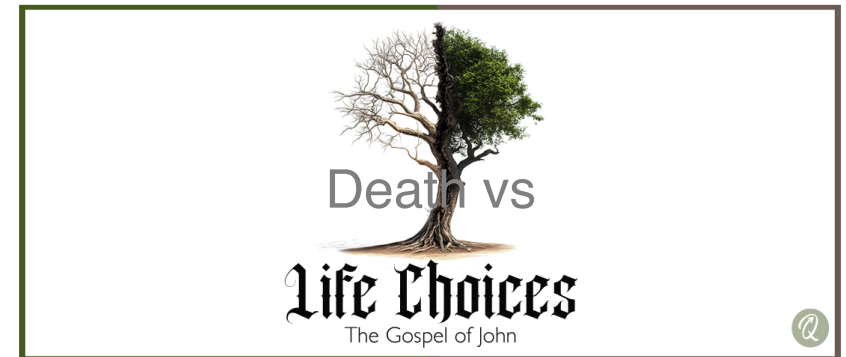
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Jesus says in John 2:4 that His hour had "not yet come," but in John 12:23 He says, "Now the time has come." What changed between these moments, and what does this teach us about God's timing and purpose in Jesus' death?
- Why do you think faith in Jesus always leads us to the cross and not around it? How does this challenge common ideas about faith being mainly about comfort, blessing, or self-improvement?
- In Exodus 33-34, God reveals His glory through His goodness, compassion, and faithfulness. How do these same qualities show up most clearly in Jesus' death on the cross (see John 1:14)?
- Romans 3:25-26 says the cross demonstrates that God is both "just and the one who makes sinners right." Why is it important that God is both loving and fair? What happens if we emphasize one without the other?
- Romans 6:23 and Genesis 2:17 both connect sin with death. How does understanding the seriousness of sin help us better understand why Jesus had to die on the cross?
- Isaiah 53:6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21 describe Jesus taking our sin upon Himself. How does this show us God's holiness, and why does holiness matter for our relationship with God?
- 1 Peter 1:18-19 says we were redeemed with the "precious blood of Christ." How does the cost of our salvation shape the way we see our worth and the way we live our lives?
- Jesus says in John 10:18 that He willingly laid down His life. How does knowing that the cross was Jesus' choice—not an accident—change how you understand God's love (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10)?
- John 12:25-26 and Galatians 2:20 teach that life is found through dying to self. What does "dying to self" look like in everyday life—at home, work, or relationships?
- Romans 12:1 and Luke 9:23 call us to live surrendered lives in response to the cross. What is one area of your life where Jesus may be inviting you to take up your cross and trust Him more deeply?

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Today's Talk..



Why the cross was necessary (Part 1)

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Sunday, February 8th, 2026