

Teaching Plan

Do You Know This Man? Session 3—The Saving God

THE QUESTION

Why did Jesus have to die?

THE POINT

Jesus died to reconcile us to God.

Matthew 26:36-46; John 10:14-18; Colossians 1:21-22

GET STARTED

> Everyday, there are things we do—some we have to do, some we want to do, and even some we wish we could do. What are some things you do because you have to do them? Record responses on the board. > After a list is compiled, ask (and probe/push students to drill into the responses): Why do you have to do these things (what's the point or purpose)? What is your attitude as you do these activities? What is your motivation behind doing these things? What would happen if you did not do these things? (Really focus on the Why and What questions here. Push students to get past the superficial responses and really analyze why they have to do things and what would happen if they didn't.)

INTRODUCE THE QUESTION

> Prior to the session, create a list of people in your church who have died in battle. What did these people die for? (You might also consider finding images on the Internet showing the Arlington National Cemetery.)
> Explain that these people gave their lives for our freedom. In essence, they died for us.
> How did they die for us?
> Discuss great achievements that have impacted our lives using the list on pages 20-21 in the *KNOWN* student book. **See Activity A.**
> How have these achievements impacted your life or made your life better? What would your life be like had each thing not been achieved?

APPLY LIFE PRINCIPLES

Use the following Scriptures and bulleted teaching ideas/statements to communicate each of these life principles related to the question for this session.

A. God planned it.

> Have you ever planned an activity that you knew would bring you pain? Explain. Why would someone do that?
> **Read Matthew 26:36-46.** God planned for His Son, Jesus, to die for our sin. *See the online Insights.**
> Describe Jesus' attitude and actions in the garden.
> How difficult do you think it was for the Father to hear Jesus cry out in this way?
> Why did God will Jesus to die? *See the online Insights.**
> Discuss the Billy Graham quote found on page 20 in the *KNOWN* student guide. **See Activity B.**
> This wasn't a spur of the moment decision. This was God's plan from the beginning, even knowing the pain it would cause Him. Discuss the passages found on page 20 in the *KNOWN* student book. **See Activity C.**
> Why is it important for us to understand that it was God's will for Jesus to die for us?

B. Jesus chose it.

- > Are you willing to make great sacrifices for others? Why or why not? What's the greatest sacrifice you've ever made?
- > What's the greatest sacrifice you've ever seen (or known) someone else make?
- > Discuss the sacrifices as described on page 21 in the *KNOWN* student book. **See Activity D.**
- > **Read John 10:14-18.** Describe the analogy of the good shepherd. *See the online Insights.**
- > Why was Jesus willing to give up His life? Discuss the Max Lucado quote on page 20 in the *KNOWN* student book. **See Activity E.**

C. We need it.

- > Do you know anyone who is an organ donor? Do you know anyone who has received an organ transplant? (Enlist an organ donor from church to tell his or her story.)
- > Point out the organ donor statistics on page 21 in the *KNOWN* student book. **See Activity F.**
- > Discuss the fact that if you need a transplanted organ—especially something like a heart or eye—it must be compatible. You needed someone to die to provide the organ you need. Not just anyone. The right One.
- > **Read Colossians 1:21-22.**
- > Why were we far away from God? Why were we His enemies? *See the online Insights.**
- > What does it mean to be reconciled? How were we reconciled to God? What benefits do we receive from being reconciled to God?

WRAP IT UP

Use these ideas to drive home the point for this session. Challenge students to act upon the truth of this study during the coming week.

- > Discuss the quotes from Hank Parker and George W. Bush on page 21 in the *KNOWN* student book. **See Activity G.**
- > How do these quotes illustrate our need for Christ, and His salvation? Why is it important for us to understand that Jesus gave us His life willingly?
- > Instruct students to write their own sentence testimony of what knowing Christ means to them. Allow volunteers to share their statements.
- > Share that all of us are in need of salvation in Christ. No one is exempt. Share the plan of salvation (from the inside-back cover of the *KNOWN* Leader Guide or student book) and provide students the opportunity to accept Christ.

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