

**Philippians 2:6-8 NLT**

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

<sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privilege he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

**John 3:16-18 NLT**

<sup>16</sup> "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him.

**1 John 4:9-10 NLT**

<sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup> 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.

**GODS PLAN:**

- Before time began, God knew we would sin, missing the mark.
- He knew we would choose to walk away from Him.
- God is life itself, and the opposite of life is death.
- He knew we would choose evil and ourselves, bringing harm to God, others, and even our own souls.
- So God, in His love, made a plan.
- He sent His one and only Son to die on a cross for us.
- Jesus came to pay the full price for our sin.
- He lived every moment in perfect obedience on our behalf, so He could give us His righteousness.
- God the Father sent His Son, Emmanuel, "God with us."
- This was His plan: the Great Exchange
- Jesus takes our sin, and in return, gives us His perfection. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**JESUS' MINISTRY:**

Jesus was born and grew up and started His public ministry.

- He performed miracles that proved He was who He claimed to be (Fulfilling over 300 prophecies)
- These included details like where the Son of God would be born and events completely outside of human control

**ALL ALONG THE WAY THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY:**

- He had face to face interactions
- Showing that while He came for the world, He also cares about every single person
- The woman at the well
- Nicodemus
- Zacchaeus
- The woman who fought through the crowd to reach Him
- Peter

## HE WAS CRUCIFIED:

- He was whipped, beaten, and forced to carry His own cross
- They put nails through His hands and feet
- Father forgive them (Luke 23:34 (NLT))
- “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”
- As more unfolded, He was placed in a tomb
- The worst possible thing seemed to have happened, Jesus, the Messiah, was dead
- It looked like the greatest defeat in human history
- But little did they know... Sunday was coming

## HE ROSE:

- The empty tomb (Luke 24:1-9)
- They rushed back to tell the others, but it sounded like nonsense to them
- Throughout the rest of the story, Jesus revealed Himself to them, proving He was alive
- He had many face-to-face interactions throughout the Gospels
- Doubting Thomas: “My Lord and my God” (John 20:24-28)
- He tells them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go and make disciples of all nations.”
- He ascends into heaven
- The disciples stand boldly at Pentecost and proclaim the amazing Gospel
- Offering forgiveness in Christ, repentance, and the gift of new life through baptism
- Jesus died for our sins so that we might be reconciled to God
- He appears to over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)
- The simple Gospel is clear: He paid the highest price (1 Peter 1:8-21)
- There is only one way to the Father (John 14:6)
- He wants none to perish (2 Peter 3:9)
- Salvation is a choice (Revelation 3:20-22)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does it impact your faith that Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies before His birth?
2. What emotions come to mind when you think of the empty tomb?
3. Why did the disciples struggle to believe Jesus was alive, and how does that relate to our own doubts?
4. What does Jesus’ personal attention to people like the woman at the well and Zacchaeus teach us about His love?
5. How does the Great Exchange—Jesus taking our sin and giving us His perfection—change how you live?
6. What does it mean to you that Jesus paid the ultimate price for your sins?
7. Why is it important that Jesus is the only way to the Father?
8. Salvation is a choice (Revelation 3:20-22). What step can you take this week to respond to Jesus or help someone else do the same?

