

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

STUMPED

FAITH QUESTIONS YOU STRUGGLE TO ANSWER

WEEK 3: SEPT 3-9

Opening Prayer:
Mysterious, loving God,
today we are wrestling
with a question that
feels really big and hard
to understand. So today
we simply pray- help us
find you in our
questions. Help us find
you in the unknown. Help
us find your love and
grace in our stories and
in the story of Jesus.
Amen.

TITLE: DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:6-11

6 While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. 7 It isn't often that someone will die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good person. 8 But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us. 9 So, now that we have been made righteous by his blood, we can be even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. 10 If we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son while we were still enemies, now that we have been reconciled, how much more certain is it that we will be saved by his life? 11 And not only that: we even take pride in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the one through whom we now have a restored relationship with God.

GETTING STARTED

- Welcome each other.
- Inquire as to anyone who is missing. Is follow-up needed?



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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Today we're exploring the question "Did Jesus have to die?" and talking about the theological subject of atonement. What comes to mind when you hear that word "atonement"? How have you encountered this question in church or communities of faith?
- In the sermon, we explored several different atonement theories. Which of these resonated with you? What impact does our belief about atonement have on our faith? What questions do you have that you would like to explore on your own or with the group?
- Re-read this week's Scripture. What does this Scripture tell us about the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection? What do we learn from what Paul has to say here?
- How does Jesus' death help us understand God's love for us?
- One of the main points of the message is that we may not be able to find a definitive answer to the question at hand, but what we know for sure is that Jesus did die and resurrect, and that truth has the power to shape how we live our lives and relate to God. Spend some time exploring this idea as a group and share how Jesus' death and resurrection impacts the way you live out your faith.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY- "I LOVE MY CITY"

Is your small group looking for a way to GIVE BACK this fall? I Love My City is just for you! St. Lukers from the North campus, Midtown and online communities will work together on September 23 and 24 to serve in our communities and make a difference. We have projects on-site and at various locations around our city. We'll be serving inside and outdoors. We'll bundle diapers, help at local food pantries, beautify our neighborhoods and schools and much more. Whether you are 3 or 93, we need your small group to join alongside hundreds of St. Lukers for this Day of Service to our communities.

Check out the service project ideas, order a Tshirt, and roll up your sleeves. This day is going to make an IMPACT! Visit stlukesumc.com/ilovemycity.

PRAYER REQUESTS