

Week 4: Undeserved Wrath

Message Overview: This week explains **Jesus' sacrifice**. Rather than focusing on Jesus' relational nature (Week 3), this message focuses on **the weight of sin and the necessity of His sacrifice**. Students will be challenged to understand that **God's justice required punishment, but Jesus took that punishment for us**.

Key Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-28

Key points:

- Introduction
 - Illus: talk about a time someone took the blame for something they didn't do (or ask students if they've ever seen it happen)
 - Our natural reaction is to avoid punishment at all costs
 - Jesus took our punishment – HE CHOSE TO - even though he was innocent
 - Hebrews 9 explains how Jesus paid for our sin once and for all. He became our final sacrifice, taking the wrath of God for us.
- The need for a perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-14)
 - The Old Testament system required sacrifices for our sin (vv 11-12)
 - Jesus entered the Most Holy Place once for all, offering His blood as a permanent sacrifice.
 - Jesus, as the perfect sacrifice, secured our eternal redemption. His blood cleanses us completely (v 14)
 - Illus: the old system was a temporary fix (like putting a band-aid on a deep wound). Jesus' sacrifice was like surgery to completely heal the wound, once and for all.
- Jesus' death secured a new covenant (Hebrews 9:15-22)
 - Jesus' death established a new covenant between us and God (vv. 15) Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant.
 - Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins (v. 22)
 - Application: Jesus' death wasn't just an example – it was **necessary for our salvation**.
- Jesus' sacrifice was final (Hebrews 9:23-28)
 - Jesus' sacrifice was once and for all (v. 26)
 - We all face judgment – Jesus took that judgment upon Himself.
 - He will come again, not to die, but to bring salvation to those who believe (vv 27-28)
 - Illus: Imagine owing a huge debt – one you could never pay back. Then someone pays it in full, not just covering part of it, but erasing the whole thing. That's what Jesus did on the cross.
- How should we respond?
 - Live in gratitude – Jesus paid a high price for us. Don't take salvation for granted.
 - If someone saved your life, wouldn't you be grateful every day?
 - Stop taking sin lightly – sin required Jesus' blood
 - If we treat sin as "not a big deal", we minimize the sacrifice Jesus made.
 - Share this good news – this is the greatest act of love in history.
 - Who in your life needs to hear this message?
- Closing point: Jesus endured God's wrath so we could receive God's mercy.
 - The cross isn't just a good story – it was our only hope.

- **Gospel Proclamation:** Jesus' sacrifice means nothing if we don't receive it by faith. Don't try to earn God's love – put your full trust in Jesus' finished work.

Key question/application: Do you truly understand the weight of your sin and what Jesus has done for you? How can you live with gratitude for what Jesus has done?

Community Group questions:

- Read Hebrews 9:11-14. Why did Jesus' sacrifice have to happen?
- Spend some time sharing what you are grateful for. What are the big and small blessings in your life because of Jesus and His sacrifice?
- What does it look like to live with gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice, instead of taking it for granted?
- Who in your life needs to hear this good news? How can you share it with them?