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# Cross:

## Why did Jesus die?

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Discussion Guide has three parts:

- **Discussion Questions** - The three main questions included in the episode (the moments where you pause for discussion). There are also additional supporting questions to keep the conversation going.
- **Episode Summary** - A short summary that highlights the big ideas, key quotes and scriptures.
- **Tips & Guidelines for Hosting Discussion** - Guidelines for hosts and helpers as they lead discussion each week. Read this at least once and maybe a second or third time during Alpha as a reminder.

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### Q1

## What is the best (or worst) thing you've ever made?

*\*if you haven't already, give everyone a chance to introduce themselves again.*

### SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- What's the best or worst thing you've ever cooked/baked?
- Have you ever made something in school that you (or your parents) have kept?

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### Q2

## How do you see sin in the world around you?

### SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- Where do you see evil in your school, your city, your country, the world?
- How has sin affected you personally?

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### Q3

## What does forgiveness mean to you?

### SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- Think about a time you had to forgive someone. Why did you do it?
- Why do you think the message of forgiveness is so central to Christianity?

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## MORE QUESTIONS

*(Lots of groups leave 10-20 minutes after the episode is done for more conversation.)*

- Did anything from the episode stand out for you?
- What comes to mind when you think about the cross?
- When the hosts talked about the four consequences of sin (partition, penalty, power, pollution), which stood out most to you? Why?
- What do you think about the claim that Jesus is the solution to our problem of sin?
- How did you feel about the scene at the end with the father and the son?

# Episode Summary

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## BIG IDEA

This session is all about the question, why did Jesus die? Although sin has real consequences, Jesus' death and resurrection are the solution to the problem of sin. The cross shows us that God loves us, death has been defeated, the power of sin has been broken and we can have a relationship with our heavenly Father.

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## KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

**The Son of God... loved me and gave himself for me.**

**GALATIANS 2:20**

**...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

**ROMANS 3:23**

**Jesus' death and resurrection are God's solution to the problem of sin.**

**...the Lord has laid on him (on Jesus) the iniquity of us all.**

**ISAIAH 53:6**

**God loves you, Jesus died for you, and through the cross, we are invited into a relationship with God.**

## Tips & Guidelines for Hosting Discussion

Discussion in small groups is the most important part of every Alpha session. Hosting a discussion on Alpha is not about re-teaching any of the content from the episode – the goal is to create a safe place where everyone can share openly and honestly about their thoughts and feelings and ask questions. Remember, the discussion guide is just a guide. Use these questions to spark conversations and bring it back on track when needed.

Alpha is a journey. The more time you spend together as a group, the more people will feel free to open up and share their opinions.

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## GUIDELINES FOR THE GROUP

- You don't have to talk if you don't want to
- You can ask or say just about anything  
*(as long as you aren't putting other people down or making it so others can't talk)*
- Respect each other by listening and welcoming different opinions
- Keep things confidential when you leave the group

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## TIPS FOR HOSTS & HELPERS

- Remember names
- Pray
- Be committed
- Show up early to welcome guests
- Stay long enough to chat with guests afterwards
- Keep the conversation alive and balanced
- Be encouraging
- End on time
- If time allows, debrief with your Alpha team to celebrate wins, chat about challenges and share prayer requests