



Why Do People Die?

Romans 6:23

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Copies of coloring page
- ✓ Coin Purse
- ✓ Camera (does not have to work)
- ✓ Copy of Photo Illustrations
- ✓ Copies of take home overview sheet



Why Do People Die?

Objective of Lesson

To point children to their need of a savior and to remember every time we see death we are reminded the wages sin is death but the gift of God is life.

Scripture Reference

Romans 5: 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lesson Instructions

1. We have gone over this verse before but some recent events have put this verse on my heart and I would like to use it to answer a question a lot of you may be asking right now. That question is why do men, women, and children die? Why does that have to happen? It is a very painful thing to lose a friend or a loved one. Our heart breaks terribly and it is very painful.
2. Today we are going to discuss death. How many of you have had a friend or loved one die? How many of you have been to a funeral? A lot of us already



know what death is. A lot of us already know death is a part of our physical lives. A lot of us know that death cannot be avoided. Every single one of us will die. The moment we are born our bodies begin to die and are steadily walking toward that moment when our bodies will no longer be our earthly homes and our spirit will leave these bodies. The Bible tells us that men and women that are born have very few days, and they do nothing but sin, and then they quickly die. (Job 14: 1-2)

3. Have you wondered WHY we die? There are a lot of things we cannot explain about death but our Father in heaven does teach us some things. This particular verse in scripture teaches us three things. Our verse today not only teaches us the reason for death but it also teaches us the reason for life and who has the power to give it. Can I get a volunteer to read it for me? "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
4. In this one little verse is the entire message of the gospel. Isn't it wonderful how the Lord can take a few simple words and very quickly tell us everything we need to know in the gospel message? I am not that good. I have to type up pages and pages of words to tell someone something, but God is so wise and so kind and patient with sinners that He puts His gospel message, His good news to sinners, in one short little sentence. You don't have to be a brilliant rocket scientist to understand it either! He puts the gospel message in such simple terms that even YOU little children can understand it. What a wonderful God we serve!
5. First, by reading this verse can any of you tell me why men die? It tells us right here. We die because of sin. It tells us, "For the wages of sin is death". Let's talk about that word "wages." How many of you had heard of that word before? Wages is payment for a completed action or job. (Hold up coin purse) In my coin purse I have some money. I earned this money. This money is my wages for a job I completed. I am a photographer. My action was taking pictures, and for that I earned my wages.

- 
6. Let's say I hired you as a photographer. Here is my camera (Hand them a pretend camera or a real cell phone). I am going to hire you to take photos of these two classmates here. If you take pictures of your two classmates your wages will be .25 cents. That means I will pay you .25 cents once your work is complete. (Have them complete the job and receive payment.) We just demonstrated what wages are. They are payment for an action once completed. You can earn payment for all types of actions. In some cases we call them "consequences." If you disobey your parents you also receive wages, but for THAT action you received a punishment - either a spanking, grounding etc... but that is still payment for an action. Let's read the first part of our verse again..."For the wages of sin is death;"
 7. I hold in my hand a description of what God calls sin. To sin means you don't do the following things. (Hold up print-out of the Ten Commandments). From the time you are born into this world and take your first breath, (Hold up the picture of a newborn baby) till the moment you take your last breath, (Hold up the picture of the elderly) IF you do all these commandments and never once break them, then God tell us He will accept you. (John 15: 10, John 14: 15, Leviticus 26:3, Deuteronomy 11:13) This is actually a short list. There are a lot more commandments than this. In the Bible in the Old Testament the Lord actually gave His people rules on everything from eating and drinking to how to dispose of our dead, but we use this short list now because all other laws and rules are based on these. The law was given to show us our need of a savior. (John 14: 21) - Let's take the first commandment listed here and see how it proves we are sinners.
 8. "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." Did you know that anything you spend your time on and value more than God is putting that object before God? If you would rather be fishing than worshipping God, then your fishing pole is your god and you have broken this commandment. If you would rather be taking pictures instead of worshipping God then your camera is your god and you have broken this commandment. If you would



rather play basketball than worship God then your god is that basketball. If you would rather sit and color and draw in church or play on your phone than worship God, then your god is that phone you hold in your hand. It means you esteem or give worth to that thing more than God. That is just the first commandment! We haven't even gotten to the second one yet!! God says if you have broken even one of these laws you have PROVEN you are a sinner, unfit to enter into the kingdom of God. (James 2:10)

9. This brings us to our question, why do men and women die? It is because we cannot keep God's law, and we are sinful creatures. THAT why we die. That's right. We just read it. The WAGES of sin is death. By breaking even one of God's commandments (hold up the 10 commandments) we are PROVING we are sinners. How do we prove it? We prove it in two ways. Did you know if you were a perfect and sinless person then you WOULD keep God's law and never break it? Did you know you would NEVER die if you could keep it perfectly? Every time we hear of someone's death it should remind us all that we are sinners. We die because we are sin. Did you know Adam and Eve, the first humans created, were perfect and they could not die? That is right. They were immortal. That means they were going to live forever, but you remember they didn't live forever. Why? What happened? They fell into sin. They disobeyed God. When they disobeyed God it changed their nature so much that their spirits died and immediately their physical bodies began to corrupt, grow old, and began their quick march toward death. (Show graphic of young man to old man).
10. Dear child, God does not just forgive men and woman of sin because they try their best to keep His law. God does not take your sin and the moment you confess Christ is your Lord, take an eraser and wipe your sins off your record. (Hold up the graphic of wiping the slate clean) No! That is not how it works. The wages of sin is death. Period! If you don't keep the commandments then you MUST die. Either YOU must die to pay for them or they have to be paid by the death of someone else in your place - that is

called a substitute. Those wages have to be paid out in one way or the other.
The wages of sin is death!

11. God wrote His laws in stone. (hold up the picture of the ten commandments. Exodus 24: 12, 13) That means they can't be wiped away. If something is carved into stone, can you wipe it away? No. That is a picture of God's justice. They can't be wiped away. Those commandments must be kept OR the payment is death. The wages of sin is death. Keep it or die to pay for it, so the only way to get rid of sin is to pay for it.
12. Does our verse end there? No! OH gracious Lord, thank you for your gifts! If we just left this class today right now, would you not be broken hearted thinking there was nothing but death waiting for you? Would you not be scared and go home with nothing but the fear of punishment to look forward to? But God not only is honest and just, He is LOVING and MERCIFUL too. It is because God is ALL of those things that we have hope. YES, your sins must be paid for. Yes, it is true God is just and that means he must do the right thing and punish sin, but He is also merciful. OH how merciful He is to His people. After we read the first part of the verse and tremble in fear we can read the second part and receive hope in our hearts and not be afraid.
13. "For the wages of sin is death; but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". God gives gifts! He doesn't just dole out payments! He gives gifts... and guess what!? Gifts are completely different from wages! Do you complete a task to get a gift? No! You are given gifts. You don't have to earn them. Yes we have earned death but God is going to give you life through Jesus Christ our Lord! It's a gift! Gifts are the opposite of wages! God doesn't say, "You have earned death now you have to earn life." HA! NO! He says, "You have earned death but I GIFT you life!" How does God gift life? He gifted us a substitute, to pay for our sin debt. He gifted us His Son, the perfect God-man, who came to this earth and kept God's law perfectly. (Remember that means he is a perfect man and can be accepted by God.)
14. Wait a minute! How could Christ die if He was a perfect man? I thought we

just learned perfect men don't die. AH HA! That is the miracle of God's grace! Christ died not for His OWN sins but for the sins of His people. That is the gift of life! Christ died because God MADE Him to be sin for us. He made Him what I am. He made Him to be sin. Even though Christ did no sin and knew no sin He paid for mine. Why? Because sin MUST be paid for, and if I paid for it I would never come out of the grave. I could die forever and never pay for it, but a PERFECT man can pay for it and still live! (1 Cor. 15: 53-57)

15. All those for whom Christ died don't have to fear death! Christ swallowed up that death in victory!! He died and rose again...defeating death. That grave could not hold Him. Once we die we can't walk out of the grave. Death has a hold of us because of sin, (wrap your arms about you and demonstrate a "hold) but Christ? He had no sin and He paid for ours, so death couldn't hold Him. Do you know where He is right now? He is at the right hand of God in heaven, sitting on the throne (sit down in a chair) and He is waiting for all His children to be brought to know Him. All His children are going to hear this good news just like you are sitting here listening to it, and they are going to rejoice in their hearts and believe and worship their Lord and praise Him for what He has done. Then our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back and He is going to take all those for whom He died and take them home to be with Him. This is not a fairy tale, children. This is real. Christ is a real man! There is a man in heaven...A perfect man...A man who received MY wages for MY sin and HE paid it and HE died. But the good news? He is not still dead. He is alive! That means my sins are gone! They are paid in full!!!! Amen.

Lesson Activities

- Wages demonstration
- Wiping the slate clean demonstration

- Coloring Sheet



Take Home Lesson Overview

Why Do People Die?

Scripture Reference:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lesson Overview:

This lesson was put together to answer the question "Why Do People Die?" We see a lot of death and heart ache in this world and it is important for us to use those pictures of the consequence of sin and point our children to Christ. To use them in their proper light and show them the consequence of sin is of utmost importance. While hearing of the death of a good friend, I was reminded again of the verse Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

A lot of us already know what death is. A lot of us already know death is a part of our physical lives. A lot of us know that death cannot be avoided. Every single one of us will die. The moment we are born our bodies begin to die and are steadily walking toward that moment when our bodies will no longer be our earthly homes and our spirits will leave these bodies. The Bible tells us that men and women that are born have very few days and they do nothing but sin and then they quickly die. (Job 14: 1-2) This particular verse in scripture teaches us three things. Our verse today not only teaches us the reason for death but it also teaches us the reason for life and who has the power to give it. In this one little verse is the entire message of the gospel. IF you do all the Lord commands and never once dishonor God the Bible tells us He will accept us. (John 15: 10, John 14: 15, Leviticus 26:3, Deuteronomy 11:13) The law was given to show us our need of a savior. (John 14: 21) It is because we cannot keep God's law and we are sinful creatures that we die. God does not just forgive men and woman of sin because they try their best

to keep his law. God does not take your sin and the moment you confess that Christ is your Lord, take an eraser and wipe your sins off your record. The wages of sin is death. Period! If you don't keep them you MUST die. Either YOU must die to pay for them or they have to be paid by the death of a substitute - and those wages are going to be paid out in one way or the other. The wages of sin is death! God wrote His laws in stone. That means they can't be wiped away. That is a picture of God's justice. They can't be wiped away. Those commandments must be kept OR the payment is death. The wages of sin is death. Keep it or die to pay for it. So the only way to get rid of sin is to pay for it.

But our verse does not end there - OH gracious Lord, thank you for your gifts! If we had stopped here in our class today, would you not be broken hearted thinking there was nothing but death waiting for you? Would you not be scared and go home with nothing but a fearful looking forward to of judgment? But God is not only just, he is LOVING and MERCIFUL too. It is because God is all of those things that we have hope. YES, your sins must be paid for. Yes, it is true God is just and must do the right thing and punish them, but He is also merciful. OH how merciful He is to His people. After we read the first part of the verse and tremble in fear we can read the second part and receive hope in our hearts and not be afraid.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God gives gifts! He doesn't just dole out payments! He gives gifts! Gifts are completely different from wages! You don't have to earn them. Yes we have earned death but God is going to gift you life through Jesus Christ our Lord! It's a gift! The opposite of wages! God doesn't say "You have earned death now you have to earn life." HA! NO! He says, "You have earned death but I GIFT you life!" How does God gift life? He gifted us a substitute to pay for our sin debt. He gifted us His Son. The perfect God-man who came to this earth, kept God's law perfectly (Remember that means he is a perfect man and can be accepted by God. Keeping God's law proves that).

Wait a minute? How could Christ die if He was a perfect man? I thought we just learned perfect men don't die. That is the miracle of God's grace! Christ died not for His OWN sins but for the sins of His people. That is the gift of life! Christ died because



God MADE Him to be sin for us. He made Him what I am. He made Him to be sin. Even though Christ did not sin and knew no sin He paid for mine. Why? Because sin MUST be paid for and if I paid for it I would never come out of the grave. I could die forever and never pay for it. But a PERFECT man can pay for it and still live! (1 Cor. 15: 53-57)

All those for whom Christ died don't have to fear death! Christ swallowed up that death in victory!! He died and rose again, defeating death. That grave could not hold Him. Once we die we can't walk out of the grave. Death has a hold of us because of sin, but He had no sin and He paid for ours so death couldn't hold Him. Christ is now at the right hand of God in heaven, sitting on the throne and He is waiting for all His children to be brought to know Him. All His elect are going to hear this good news. They are going to rejoice in their hearts and believe and worship their Lord and praise Him for what He has done. Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back and He is going to take all those for whom He died and take them home to be with Him. Christ is a real man! There is a man in heaven...A perfect man...A man who received my wages for my sin and died, but He is not still dead. He is alive! That means my sins are gone! They are paid in full!!!! Amen











