

A: Admit your sin. Admit that you do, say and think wrong things. Tell God you are sorry. Ask him to forgive you and help you to change. There will be some things you will have to stop doing. There are some things you will have to start doing.

B: Believe that Jesus is God, and that he died to take the punishment for your sin. Believe that he came back to life, and that he is alive today. If you are not sure, you may need to find out more about Jesus. You can do this by talking to the person who gave you this leaflet. Or visit www.christianityexplored.com.

C: Come to Jesus as your rescuer, and give up trying to save yourself. Jesus said that he came to save sinful people by dying on the cross. You can trust him.

D: Do what Jesus wants – not what you want. Jesus is God’s Son, and Lord of everything and everyone in this world. He proved this by coming back to life. If you want Jesus to rescue you, you must give control of your life to him. If he is your ruler, he will make you God’s friend.

If you are ready to speak to God about these things, then talk to him now. This prayer may help you:

*Dear God,
I have done and said and thought things
that are wrong.
I am really sorry. Please forgive me.
Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me.
Thank you that he came alive again.
I give my life to Jesus as my Lord and rescuer.
Please help me to live as one of your friends. Amen*

WHAT NEXT

Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to him. If you have come to Jesus, then he has saved you. Your sins are forgiven. That’s great news!

When you are forgiven by God, you become his friend for ever. He loves you and will always be with you.

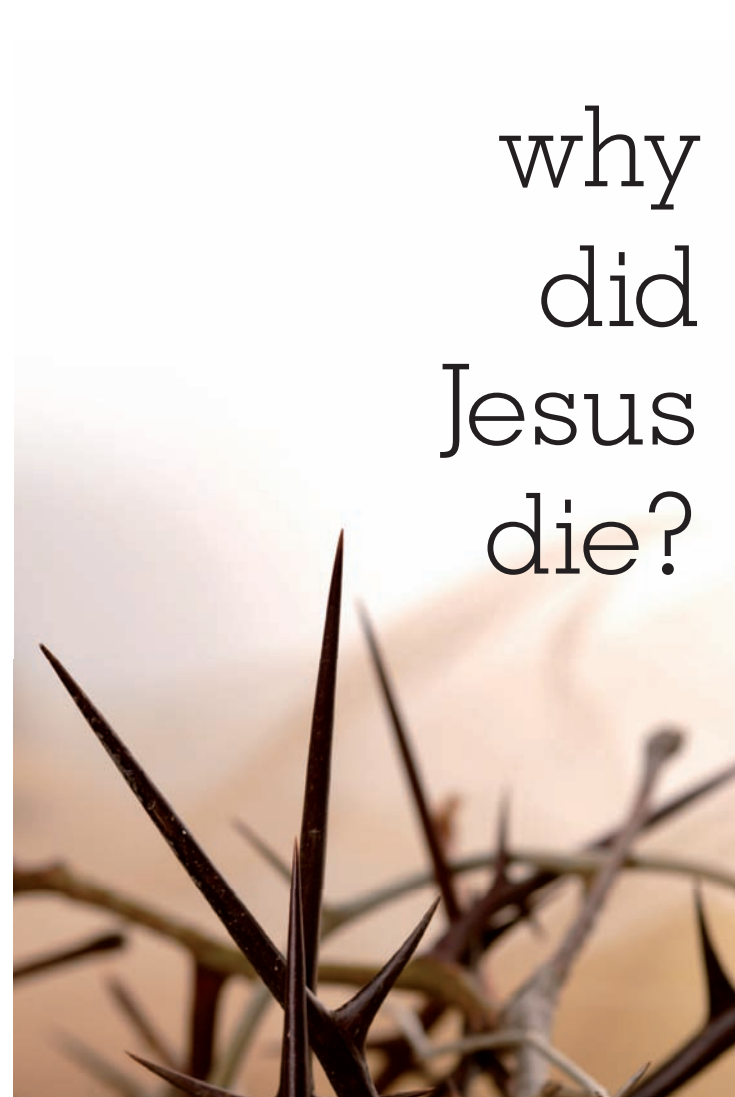
That’s why the day that Jesus died is called Good Friday!

It will not be easy to give your life to Jesus. Your friends and your family may not like it. It may be hard to change some things in your life. But God will help you to change and to live as one of his friends.

Meet with some of God’s other friends – Christians. They will help you. You can learn more about Jesus together.

See if you can join a group at a local church where the Bible is taught, or ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Tell them that you have become one of God’s friends too.

why
did
Jesus
die?



We call the day that Jesus died Good Friday – an odd name! Jesus died a horrible, painful death – so why do we call it good? And what exactly happened when Jesus died?

Imagine watching someone being killed. How would you feel? Shocked? Scared? Angry? Perhaps all these things and more as well.

The Roman soldiers who nailed Jesus to a cross were used to watching people die. It was their job. Even so, when Jesus was crucified, some unusual things happened that really surprised them. Read what happened. Look out for four surprises.

At noon, darkness covered the whole land. It lasted three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" This means "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

Some of those standing nearby heard Jesus cry out. They said, "Listen! He's calling for Elijah."

One of them ran and filled a sponge with wine vinegar. He put it on a stick. He offered it to Jesus to drink. "Leave him alone," he said. "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

With a loud cry, Jesus took his last breath.

The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom.

A Roman commander was standing there in front of Jesus. He heard his cry and saw how Jesus died. Then he said, "This man was surely the Son of God!"

Mark chapter 15 v 33-39

1. A STRANGE DARKNESS

Even though it was the middle of the day, Mark tells us that the land was covered with darkness.

Why did this happen?

The darkness was a picture of God's anger. God was angry because of sin. We all like to be in charge of our own lives. We do what we want, instead of what God wants. This is what the Bible calls sin.

Sin separates us from God. It stops us from knowing him and stops us being his friends. The final result of sin is death.

Jesus came to rescue people from the terrible problem caused by sin.

2. A SURPRISING CRY

Jesus always lived close to God. He called God his 'Father'. Jesus is God's Son. He lived a perfect life. He never sinned. But as he hung on the cross, he cried out that God had deserted him. *Why did Jesus say this?*

As Jesus died, all the sins of the world (all the wrongs people have done) were put onto him. This cut him off totally from God his Father.

When Jesus died on the cross, he was being punished—not for his own sin, but for the sin of the whole world. Jesus took all of our sin onto himself. He died in our place, taking the punishment we deserve, so that we can be forgiven.

3. A TORN CURTAIN

Mark tells us how a curtain in the Temple was torn in two. This wasn't a window curtain! This curtain separated the

rest of the Temple from the bit in the middle—where God sometimes chose to come. Only the high priest could go in once a year! No one else was allowed.

This curtain was a picture of what sin does. It reminded people that sin separated them from God. But what happened when Jesus died? The curtain was torn in two. *Why did this happen?*

When Jesus died, he dealt with the problem of sin. That's why the curtain in the Temple was torn in two, to show there is nothing to separate us from God any more.

4. A SHOCKING STATEMENT

The Roman commander had watched many criminals die. But look at what he said this time: "This man was surely the Son of God." *Why did he say this?*

The way Jesus died convinced the soldier that Jesus wasn't like any other man. He now believed that Jesus was God's Son.

But Jesus didn't stay dead! After three days God brought him back to life. This shows that God accepted Jesus' death as the way for us to be forgiven. Jesus is still alive today. We can know him as our friend and our loving, perfect ruler.

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE AS GOD'S FRIEND?

Being a Christian is not about trying to be good. That's great news. None of us can ever be good enough for God!

Being a Christian is about becoming God's friend by accepting what Jesus did on the cross to rescue you. But how can we be forgiven? How can we accept what Jesus did for us on the cross? There are four things: