

THE WAY: WEEK 2 // LESSON OUTLINE

BIG IDEA

Jesus made His way to the cross so that we could have a way to the Father

BIBLE

Matthew 27:15-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:4-5

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Because of sin, we were deserving of a punishment. But, God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die in our place. This week, we'll take a look at a man named Barabbas to illustrate how Jesus took on the punishment we deserved in order to give us a way back to God.

WHAT?

Have you ever been on the other end of a deal that wasn't fair? Maybe you got in trouble for something you didn't do. Well, as we look at the Gospel story, we learn that what happened to Jesus wasn't really fair, but He chose to do it because He wanted us to have a way to a right relationship with God.

SO WHAT?

In Matthew 27:15-26 we see the story of Jesus and a man named Barabbas on trial before Pilate. The verdict? One of them would be set free and one of them would face death by crucifixion. Verse 16 told us that Barabbas was a well-known prisoner. He had a long rap sheet and everyone knew it, but Jesus was completely innocent, yet when the people chose to send Jesus to die instead of Barabbas, Jesus didn't argue. He didn't fight back. He didn't try to prove His innocence (even though everyone knew He didn't do anything wrong). He willfully went to the cross and took on the punishment that Barabbas deserved.

Imagine you were Barabbas. You're standing up there next to Jesus and you have no way how you're going to get out of the situation. You know what you've done wrong. You know what punishment you deserve. And you know that Jesus actually is innocent. All the cards are stacked against you and this seems like the end, but then Jesus goes to die in your place. This is what happened for each and every one of us on Good Friday. **Jesus made His way to the cross so that we could have a way to the Father.**

NOW WHAT?

Maybe you've never thought about this like this before, but now that we've talked about it together, it's important to know that this great act of love from Jesus now requires a response from us. We can choose the life and freedom that He offers and accept the sacrifice He made in our place, or we can continue going on in our sin, hopelessly pretending to live. But Jesus offers us a way back to our original design. He offers us a relationship with God that isn't based on what we've done, but based on what Jesus did on the cross for us. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says that Jesus took on the punishment we deserved so that we can be viewed as righteous in God's sight. All we have to do is accept the invitation.

- **ADMIT:** Admit the ways you've sinned against God and all the ways you've tried to live life on your own.
- **BELIEVE:** Believe that Jesus is Lord. Hand Him the keys to your life and give Him all control. Allow Him to call the shots.
- **CONFESS:** Now, we want you to share with someone. *(For this step, student pastors determine how you want to handle the response time. Consider connecting with your first impressions team if your campus has a lightbulb wall or some other way to celebrate salvation at your campus.)*

