

(1.10) A Willing Sacrifice

Series: Salvation in Christ

Topic: A Willing Sacrifice

Lesson Focus:

Students will understand that God’s selfless act of sacrificing His Son, Jesus Christ, demonstrates His perfect love for humanity. They will explore how Jesus’ sacrifice is an act of ultimate love and a solution to the dilemma of sin and judgment, inspiring them to respond to this love with gratitude and faith.

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- Whiteboard and markers
- Handouts with key scriptures (John 15:13, John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Luke 22:42, Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 27:46)

Activity	Resources
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Introduction

Introduction: (10 minutes)

- **Opening Prayer:** Open with a prayer to help students understand that God’s selfless act of sacrificing His Son, Jesus Christ, demonstrates His perfect love for humanity. They will explore how Jesus’ sacrifice is an act of ultimate love and a solution to the dilemma of sin and judgment, inspiring them to respond to this love with gratitude and faith.
- **Illustration:** Read Free Christian illustration “A Willing Sacrifice” to students

Free Christian illustration “A Willing Sacrifice”

Body

Understanding the Dilemma: God’s Perfect Love and Justice (15 minutes)

- 1. Key Scripture:**
 - Read and discuss John 15:13: “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”
 - Emphasize that Jesus’ sacrifice is the ultimate expression of love.
- 2. The Problem of Sin:**
 - Explain how sin separates humanity from God (Romans 3:23) and requires judgment due to God’s perfect justice.
 - Ask: “Why do you think God cannot ignore sin?”
- 3. God’s Dilemma and Solution:**
 - Illustrate the tension between God’s justice and love.
 - Share how God, in His love, resolved the dilemma by sending Jesus to take our punishment on the cross (John 3:16).

Bible verses



The Cross: God's Loving Sacrifice (20 minutes)

Key Point:

- Discuss how Jesus willingly laid down His life as a substitute for our sins, satisfying God's justice while showing His perfect love.

Group Activity:

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group one aspect of Jesus' sacrifice (e.g., His willingness, the physical suffering, the spiritual separation He endured).
- Provide each group with scripture references such as Luke 22:42 for His willingness, Isaiah 53:5 for the physical suffering, and Matthew 27:46 for the spiritual separation.
- Include discussion questions like: "What do these scriptures reveal about the nature of Jesus' sacrifice?" and "How does this aspect of His sacrifice demonstrate God's love and justice?"
- Ask each group to discuss what this teaches about God's love and justice.
- Have groups share their insights with the class.

Personal Reflection: Responding to God's Love (15 minutes)

- **Reflection Activity:**
 - Ask students to reflect on how understanding Jesus' sacrifice changes their perspective on God's love.
 - Have them write down one way they can respond to God's sacrifice (e.g., gratitude, faith, loving others).
- **Pair Discussion:**
 - Pair students to share their reflections and discuss how they can live in response to God's love.

Journals

Application: Living in the Light of the Cross (15 minutes)

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Discuss how accepting Jesus' sacrifice leads to eternal life and transforms our daily actions.
 - Encourage students to consider how they can share this message of love and hope with others.

Conclusion

Conclusion: Embracing God's Sacrifice (5 minutes)

Encouragement:

- Remind students that God's sacrifice is proof of His love and His desire for a relationship with them.
- Encourage them to trust in Jesus' sacrifice and share this message of hope with others.

Prayer:

- Close with a prayer, thanking God for His sacrificial love and asking for strength to live in gratitude and faith.

Challenge:

- Challenge students to take one concrete step this week to express their gratitude for God's love (e.g., prayer, helping someone in need, sharing the Gospel)

