

LIFE Talk • February 11, 2026

UNDERSTANDING ATONEMENT

Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18



TODAY'S TOPIC

Why Did Jesus Have to Die? Part 2

The Christian faith is rooted in a common affirmation of the atoning work of Christ on the Cross—his suffering, death, and resurrection. Christians through the ages, however, have had, and continue to have, different interpretations of this core belief, with implications for the Gospel's proclamation in words and action.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTER



Rev. Michael Carlson has been St. Andrew's Lead Pastor since 2014. He attended the University of Minnesota and completed a MDiv at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Prior to St. Andrew's, he served several congregations in northern Minnesota and the Twin Cities as a youth minister and pastor.

Replay videos available at saintandrews.org/LIFEU.

LIFE Group Sheet

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GETTING STARTED

Share in a spiritual practice, discuss an igniter question, and/or begin with prayer.

Creator God, thank you for the opportunity to gather with each person here, to grow in faith and knowledge together, and for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Bless our time, our conversation, and how we care for one another. Amen.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Briefly share (in pairs or 3s) your initial reaction to what you heard in the LIFE Talk.

Prompts: What stood out to you? What is stirring inside of you? What are you thinking, feeling, or wondering about?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What part of the conversation about atonement has been most interesting to you?
2. How do you think about $A+B+C=D$
3. Where do you see how atonement matters in living out your faith?

CLOSING PRAYER

Offer a prayer to draw your time to a close, using one of your own or the one below.

God of wisdom and beauty, thank you for this time together. Help us as we live out our faith this week and share what we have learned. Make us instruments of your peace and healing love, as we grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

To join a LIFE Group, contact Sue Lennartson at slennartson@saintandrews.org