

### Big Idea

**What happens when a person commits suicide?** Some people believe when someone commits suicide, they commit murder (a sin). Because sin was committed and a life ends, that life had no chance to repent and carries it with them. People who hold this belief typically defend it with the passage found in 1 John 3:15 (Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him). Many biblical figures prayed to die, but the Bible is notably silent on the practice of suicide. As Christians, we have hope in Jesus Christ and know that we do not have to die to end our pain. John 10:10 says “The *thief* comes only to *steal* and *kill* and *destroy*; I have come that they may have *life*, and have it in *full*.”

**Can I lose my salvation?** Perhaps this question is best answered with the question “Why do you need to know?” When we look at our motivation for asking the question, we find ourselves in one of two camps – the “comfortable” or the “afflicted.” The afflicted ask because they feel unsafe because of their actions. The comfortable feel safe because of their actions. The Bible, though, tells us it is by His grace we are saved. Not our works. To continue in sinful behavior is to take advantage of the gift of salvation and Hebrews 10:30 tells us “the Lord will judge His people.”

**What evidence is there that Christianity is the “one true religion”?** Jesus actually died. He prophesied his death and resurrection – and it came true! There are historical eye witness accounts. Women, were considered second class citizens, but it was them who first witnessed the resurrection. Had it been fabricated women would not have been the chosen channel to spread the story. Many disciples saw him many times. They all died defending what they witnessed! No one will die to protect a lie. Matthew was killed by sword; Luke, hanged; James, beheaded; Doubting Thomas, killed by spear; Peter, crucified upside down; Mark, drug by horses until dead; Philip & Andrew, crucified; Bartholomew, whipped to death; Simon, sawed in half; Paul, beheaded with an ax. Finally, the very explanation given by Jesus’s enemies tells His story: “Someone stole his body out of a tomb that was sealed by the roman government, guarded by the roman army, and by the way... can’t find out where they put it.”

**“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you the reason for your hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)**

### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever wondered if your salvation was in jeopardy?
- Would you consider yourself “comfortable” or “afflicted”? What steps can you take to walk more closely with God?
- There is lots of tangible evidence that points to Christianity as the one true religion. What other proof have you found/know of that reassures you?

### Next Steps

- How can we pray for you this week? Write down each person’s prayer requests and make it a point to pray for them and text them with an encouraging word at some point this week.

### Pray

- Pray for those who have suffered from losing a loved one to suicide.
- Pray for Godly hope and vision and life over suicidal thoughts from the enemy.
- Pray for our government officials as they make decisions to loosen restrictions.