

# A series on the cross

Paul said, “I decided to forget everything except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” For four weeks, that’s what we’re going to do. Because of what Jesus has done, the Cross has become the prism through which we see God, ourselves, and everyone else. The Cross is the hinge point of history. The Cross is the divine counter-narrative to the typical script life hands us. The Cross is the greatest offense to a world of people who don’t think they need to be saved, and also the greatest offering of God’s love for that same world. The Cross is the great equalizer among all humankind. The Cross is the triumph of God. The Cross is the decisive victory in the war against sin and death. We are saved and shaped by the Cross.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1 Read John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19; and Hebrews 7:26-27.** These New Testament verses work from the theme of sacrifice in the Old Testament. How does the Christian claim “Jesus was our sacrifice” fit into God’s larger story? Follow up: How would you explain that to a friend?

**2 Read Ephesians 1:7-8 and Romans 8:1-4.** When “Jesus was our sacrifice” comes into my story, the result is that my guilt is gone. What impact does the removal of guilt have on our lives? How would you describe a life free of guilt to someone who is hearing the gospel for the first time?

**3 Read Isaiah 53:2-6 and Luke 23:13-25.** “Jesus died in our place.” In God’s story, why did Israel need a chosen servant who would suffer on behalf of the many? And in Luke’s telling, what does the story of Jesus and Barabbas tell us about the cross?

**4 Read Romans 5:7-8.** Because “Jesus died in our place” **my life is spared.** When you think about your own life being spared by Jesus taking your place, what comes to mind? What do you feel when you reflect on the innocent Christ taking your guilty place?

**5 Read Genesis 3:15; Colossians 2:13-15; and Romans 6:6-7. “Jesus defeated sin.”** Sin is not just an action we take. Sin is a power we are under. The three enemies of Satan, Sin, and Death are among the powers that bring deception, pain, and violence into our lives. How does the cross become God’s victory? If this world still has sin, how we can claim sin has been defeated?

**6** Because “Jesus defeated sin” **my freedom is won.** The cross is how far God was willing to go to set us free. The cross is the greatest act of self-giving love. If the Father was willing for the Son to go to the cross to save us from our sins and the power of Sin, what else could make us question if God loves and cares for us? **Finish by reading Romans 8:31-39.**

**7** As you reflect on this message, in what ways does what Jesus accomplished on the cross not only impact your future but your daily life as well? Why is that so important? Follow up: Share an example of how the cross has impacted your daily life recently.

