

II. The _____ of the cross

"The blood of Jesus cleanses us from every sin." I John 1:7

A. The power of forgiveness

This means _____, whatever _____ done, can be _____ by God.

God says: I want _____ to have _____ to me.

B. The power of reconciliation

"Christ Jesus...has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." Eph. 2:14

When people discover that the _____ at the foot of the cross, _____.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." II Cor. 5:18

When we experience God's _____ and _____ we have the privilege of _____.

Group Discussion Questions

Connecting:

1. During a typical week, when and where do you interact with non-Christians?
2. Do you intentionally build relationships with these non-Christians with the hope of planting a seed of faith? Why or why not? Why is this so hard?

Growing:

3. Read together John 19.
4. The word "Gospel" means "Good News." How is John 19 part of the "Good News?"
5. Discuss why this death was necessary for your life.
6. Rightly so, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is point of emphasis in faith. Why isn't the death of Jesus discussed and emphasized more?

Applying:

7. As you prepare your heart for Easter, in what specific way has Christ impacted your life most?
8. When was the last time you shared this story of Christ's impact in your life with someone who is far from God? What keeps you from doing this more often?

Personal Application Ideas

1. Invite friends, family, and neighbors to Easter services with you! Invitation cards are available at the Welcome Center. Give them out liberally!
2. One of the greatest tools available for your evangelistic efforts is Redeemer's Alpha Course. Invite someone to be your guest to the Alpha preview dinner on **Sunday Night, April 25 at 5:15 p.m.** and to the course starting Wednesday nights on April 28. Invitational brochures and details are available at the Welcome Center.

Daily Reading Plan For Holy Week

Monday – John 15
Tuesday – John 16
Wednesday – John 17
Maundy Thursday – John 18
Good Friday – John 19
Saturday – Psalm 22 – *a song of lamentation*
Easter Sunday – John 20

Memory Verse for Week: John 15: 5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Additional Resources for you or your seeking friends!

1. The God You're Looking For by Bill Hybels. Hybels says, "God is head over heels in love with you!" This book wants to introduce you to the God you're looking for. Not only does this God exist, He passionately yearns to be in a relationship with you.
2. Letters From A Skeptic by Dr. Greg Boyd. In this book, a son wrestles with his father's questions about Christianity. Come along for the ride!
3. Surprised by Faith by Dr. Don Bierle. A scientist shares his personal, life-changing discoveries about God, the Bible, and personal fulfillment through the sciences!

These and other resources are available at Northwestern Bookstores (www.nwbooks.com), Christian Book Distributors online (www.christianbook.com), or Amazon.com (www.amazon.com)



Doing Life Together

Pastor John Niewald *Grace - Why the Cross?*
April 4, 2004 Luke 23:26-49

As followers of Jesus Christ our company logo is _____.

I. The _____ of the cross

A. Physical pain

Crucifixion was used to maximize _____
_____, and maximize the _____
_____.

B. Spiritual pain

Every _____ ever committed by every
_____ who
has ever lived was placed on Jesus.

*"My God, my God why
have you forsaken me."*
Matt. 27:46

*"My soul is overwhelm-
ed with sorrow to the
point of death."*
Matt. 26:38

*"Christ redeemed us
from the curse of the law
by becoming a curse for
us."* Gal. 3:13