



Introduction

As Christians, we say that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but what does that mean? How does Jesus dying on a cross bring the forgiveness, freedom, and relationship with God that He promised? In this four-week series leading up to Easter, we're looking at different ways of understanding how the cross is good news and how we can share that good news with those we love. In this first lesson, we learn that through Jesus' death on the cross, we can find freedom from the powers that control us.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What's one example from your own life that you can point to and say, "I'm fallen, and not perfect"?
2. How does hearing from others in your group help give you a sense of comfort?

Hear God's Story

3. Work together to briefly recap what you heard in this past Sunday's sermon.
4. What one or two things impacted you the most?
5. Have various members in your group read the below verses outloud one by one, then answer: What themes can you identify that these all have in common?
Romans 7:21-24; 1 John 3:8; Mark 10:45; Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 6:12; Isaiah 43:1-3
6. In the sermon, Pastor Jason highlighted the cross very simply in this way:
PROBLEM: The world has fallen victim to sin, death, and evil.
SOLUTION: Jesus' death on the cross liberates us from the enemy's power.
How does this impact you after you let this sink into your heart for a few moments?

Create a New Story

7. What one thing are you going to do this week to help this lesson positively shape your own spiritual life?
8. What one thing are you going to do this week to help you live this out in community?

Further Studies: Communicating the Cross in a Fear-Power Worldview

Pastor Jason is teaching what Jesus did on the cross for us through three major worldviews that impact all of us in some way. The first worldview we're discussing this week, is "fear-power."

Very simply: Those of us who lean more toward a fear-power worldview can often see the world around us as a battleground; we can question where God is when things get bad; we find we're always striving to be strong; and, we have a heart for hurting people. We live in a world of fear and we want to experience power, protection, and safety.

Discuss

1. Take a moment to reflect on this worldview as discussed in the sermon. Would you say it resonates with you? And if so, what's it like for you?
2. Does the culture at your job, church, or other social circles represent this worldview?
3. Think of someone in your mind who leans more toward a fear-power worldview and isn't a Christian. (If you don't know anyone personally who fits this, use your imagination.) Now imagine they're across the table from you at a dinner and they ask, "Okay, so tell me about this whole Jesus/Cross thing in your religion; what's that about?" What would be the *worst* way to communicate the answer with them?
4. Now, let's come at the same scenario from a different angle: How could you positively respond to them while taking into account where they're coming from?
5. How can you actually use what we've talked about here to better communicate and represent the heart of God toward others?

Recommended Reading

The Screwtape Letters, by CS Lewis
Victory in Spiritual Warfare, by Tony Evans
Get Out of Your Head, by Jennie Allen

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com