



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 second lesson, we learn that through Jesus, we can be in harmony with God, people, and the world.

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

Share Your Story

1. Can you often find yourself trying to live up to others' expectations and feel a weight of shame when you don't? If you can relate to that, what's that like for you?

Hear God's Story

2. Work together to briefly recap what you heard in this past Sunday's sermon.
3. What one or two things impacted you the most?
4. Read Genesis 3:1-13. Explore the shame that Adam and Eve felt here. What did feeling shame look like to them here, and how would you define feelings of shame in today's world?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:6-10. What does Peter tell us here about shame and our true identity?
6. In the sermon, Pastor Jason highlighted the cross very simply in this way:
PROBLEM: Dishonoring God separates us from God, people, and ourselves.
SOLUTION: Jesus' death on the cross restores our relationship with God.
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 Shame-Honor 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 second worldview we're discussing this week, is "shame-honor."

Very simply: Those of us who lean more toward a shame-honor worldview can often see the world as a tightly interconnected place of people, rather than through a more individualistic lens. Honor comes from knowing your place in relationship to others. This is best exhibited by living up to others' expectations. When we don't, we can be "disowned" or shamed when others become disappointed by us. This is a common fear many in this worldview have which even impacts their relationship with God.

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 shame-honor 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?

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