



## 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 third lesson we learn that through Jesus' death on the cross, we can be forgiven of the things we have done wrong.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to [www.journeyoffaith.com/messages](http://www.journeyoffaith.com/messages)

## Share Your Story

1. Those who lean toward the guilt-innocence worldview can often see relationships by not wanting to do wrong by the other person. And when they do, they can feel a lot of guilt. So there's a tendency to want to do right by them, and remain "innocent" in their eyes. Do you experience that sometimes?

## 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 guilt that Adam and Eve felt here. What did feeling guilt look like to them here, and how would you define feelings of guilt in today's world?
5. Have various members in your group read the below verses outloud one by one, then answer: What can we learn from these verses to help us see the Gospel through the lens of a guilt-innocence worldview?  
*Romans 6:23; John 1:29; 1 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 53:5; Romans 5:1*
6. In the sermon, Pastor Jason highlighted the cross very simply in this way:  
PROBLEM: Our disobedience to God comes at a cost.  
SOLUTION: Jesus' death on the cross pays the price for your sin.  
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?

## **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 third worldview we're discussing this week, is "guilt-innocence."

Very simply: Those of us who lean more toward a guilt-innocence worldview can see the world as a place of right and wrong. External rules define acceptable behavior. People are individuals and each person is accountable for themselves. Obey the law, you're innocent; break the law, you're guilty and you have to pay, apologize, and make amends. God can then be seen as a perfect judge responsible for justice - compassionate, but holding each person responsible for their actions. The spiritual life tends to be seen through the lens of obeying or disobeying commandments. Overall, forgiveness is a big theme with this worldview.

### **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 guilt-innocence 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?

### **Recommended Reading**

*The Cross of Christ*, by John Stott

*Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace*, by Moroslav Volf

*Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection*, by Kay Arthur

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