



The Gospel of John

The Blessing of the Cross | Part 35

This resource can be used to guide your personal anchoring time throughout the week, a small group discussion, or even a one-on-one conversation.

REFLECT

The Romans designed the cross to be a curse. Yet, God had a different plan. What was intended to be a device of monumental suffering became an instrument of eternal blessing. Jesus suffered on a cross and covered your sin for you so that God does not count your sins against you. Jesus did this for everyone: you, your spouse, your children, your co-workers, and your neighbors. This forgiveness was brought with a price and is for anyone who believes.

- Read John 19:16-18 and Isaiah 53:4-6. How does the agony of Christ's suffering lead to joy for us?
- Why is it important for us to continually reflect on Jesus' suffering for our sins? How does this reflection align our perspective with God's eternal focus?
- Read John 19:19-24. How is Christ's sovereignty displayed through the fulfillment of scripture in this passage?
- Read John 19:25-27. Jesus' sympathy is displayed as He looks out for the well-being of His mother, Mary.
 - What does this act of sympathy teach us about the character of God?
 - How have you experienced Jesus' sympathy and love for you?
- When you face suffering, how can you remember that God knows, God cares, and God has already done something about it?
- Who do you need to share the forgiveness and love found in Jesus with this week?

PRAY

Begin your time of prayer by reading **Psalm 51:10-12**. Read it slowly. Now, use this verse to guide your prayer. To get you started...

FOCUS on Jesus' suffering on the cross and the eternal blessing because of His sacrifice.

THANK God for his unending love and forgiveness for you.

CONFESS where you have strayed or rebelled against God in action or thought.

ASK God to renew a steadfast spirit within you, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

***Keep going this week by reading these scriptures:**

1 John 3:16
Colossians 1:15
Luke 23:19-23
Psalm 103:8-12

