



Timeless Truths – Week 2 – The Theology of the Cross

Connection Group Guide

Opening Thought

One of my favorite movies is *Forrest Gump*. The movie begins with Forrest sitting on a bench, waiting for a bus. While he's waiting, he starts telling the story of his life with anyone who is willing to listen, and the rest of the movie shows how his life's story unfolds.

Like *Forrest Gump*, all human beings have their own stories filled with characters, episodes, and experiences that make who they are.

- Take a moment to share an especially meaningful character, episode, experience from your own life's story.

This week, we're exploring a key piece to the Christian story. While there are numerous episodes Christians could point to as important pieces of their story, the most meaningful episode in the Christian story is the cross. Martin Luther famously said, "The cross alone is our theology." The cross lies at the heart of the Christian faith, and it is this timeless truth that defines how Christians understand their relationship with God.

In the Bible

Read Mark 14:21-39

- What stands out to you in the story of the cross?

Read Colossians 2:13-14 and 1 Peter 2:24

- Why is the cross significant?
- What does Jesus' death on the cross accomplish?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Here, Paul talks about the cross as a kind of lens for understanding who God is and what he is all about. In contrast to others who wish to understand God through magnificent signs, wonders, or wisdom, the Christian says that the cross is the clearest picture of who God is and what he is all about. Even though the story of the cross seems foolish to many people, it is the way God decided to demonstrate his power and save the world (1:18).

- What do you learn about God when you look at him through the story of the cross?
- What do you think about the cross as the clearest demonstration of God's power?

Read Galatians 2:20

According to Paul, the cross is so much more than just *a* story. It has become *his own* story to the point that Paul can say that he too has been crucified with Christ. This is a reality for all those who trust in Jesus as Lord. The cross is their own story too.

- What kind of impact do you believe the cross should make on a person's life?
- Where do you see the cross making an impact in your own life?
- For those of you who are Christians, how would you go about telling your own story in light of the cross?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for demonstrating your power in the cross of Christ. Continue to shape our own life's story with the story of the cross. As we continue to hold onto the timeless truth of your Son's death and resurrection, give us courage to proclaim this truth to the world with even greater boldness. In Jesus' name, Amen.