

# THE CROSS

  
THE CENTREPIECE OF  
GOD'S SAVING GRACE

## What is the series about?

Through a 7 week series we are going to be exploring the centrepiece of God's saving grace.

- Part 1 - *Where is the lamb?* - Genesis 22
- Part 2 - *God will Passover* - Exodus 12
- Part 3 - *Lamb to the slaughter* - Isaiah 53
- Part 4 - *My God, Why?* - Psalm 22
- Part 5 - *A cross-shaped life* - 1 John 4:7
- Part 6 - *The Lion & the Lamb* - Revelation 5
- Part 7 - *Foolish or powerful?* - 1 Corinthians 1

## Listen to the audio

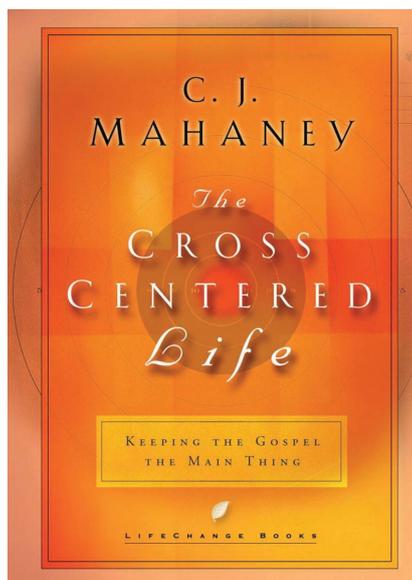
On the King's Norwich app or at:  
[kingsnorwich.com/thecross](http://kingsnorwich.com/thecross)

## Check out the blog

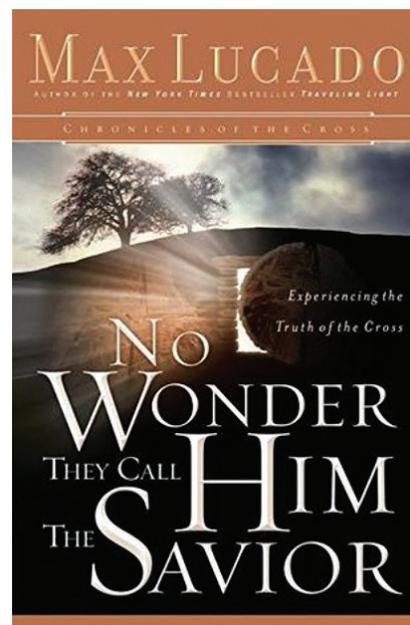
[kingsnorwich.com/blog](http://kingsnorwich.com/blog)

## Recommended Reading

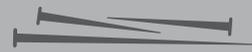
**The Cross Centered Life**  
CJ Mahaney



**No Wonder They call Him the Savior**  
Max Lucado



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## Title: Forsaken

Speaker: Marcus Tutt - *Bible reference: Matthew 27:27-54; Psalm 22*

### Overview

**1) The epicentre of the cross.** The darkest moment (literally and metaphorically) for Jesus on the cross came when he called out *"My God my God, why have you forsaken me?"* Matthew only records this one statement of Jesus from the cross. He records it as a transliteration into Greek of the Aramaic that Jesus would have used. It is the first verse of *Psalm 22*, penned by King David a 1000 years before Jesus was born, and hundreds of years before crucifixion was invented, yet it fits Jesus' plight far better than David's.

**2) Jesus was Forsaken.** *"We here behold the Savior in the depths of His agonies and sorrows. No other place so well shows the griefs of Christ as Calvary, and no other moment at Calvary is as full of agony as that in which this cry rends the air, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' At this moment, physical weakness, brought upon Him by fasting and scourging, was united with the acute mental torture which He endured from the shame and ignominy through which He had to pass; and as the culmination of His grief, He suffered spiritual agony which surpasses all expression on account of the departure of His Father from Him. This was the blackness and darkness of His horror; then it was that He penetrated the depths of the caverns of suffering."* Spurgeon (19th C)

*"this cry is like the lamentation of those who are abandoned forever"* John Flavel (17thC)

**3) Why was Jesus forsaken?** Jesus was forsaken by God so that we need never be. He suffered the separation from God that our sin necessarily brings about. Through faith we are united to Jesus both in his substitutionary death for our sin and in his subsequent resurrection to new life. Jesus' "why" was a "why" of faith. Whatever we make of his question, and it is a very human one that many can relate to, he still looked to God and trusted in him (*Job 13:15*). Jesus did that even though he was truly forsaken. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we trust our Heavenly Father through times of overwhelming suffering and sorrow, in the knowledge that no matter how things feel or look, God will never, never forsake us. Not now. Not ever.

### Response (SOUL)

Run through the following sections. Use smaller groups at any time if helpful.

**S = Scripture** - Read it, what does it say?

**O = Observe** - What do you see, context, details, surprises etc?

**U = Understand** - What truth does God want you to learn?

**L = Live** - What would it look like to apply this to your life?