



# THE BIG DEAL

## STUDY QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION GUIDE

The cross of Christ isn't something to be taken lightly. Moreover, it's quite a divisive thing. Some people are unaffected by it, even wearing it as bling, but as soon as you mention the significance of the symbol, they often dismiss it. Others are befuddled that anyone would want to walk around wearing a grotesque symbol of torture. Christians, however know it's so much more! (*Convo inspiration: The Cross in Four Words*, by Kevin DeYoung, Richard Coekin and Yannick Christos-Wahab)

YOUR HOSTS: Mike and Heather Zander

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#### SYMBOL OF FORGIVENESS

In today's post-modern era, it seems that being offended by someone or something is almost a virtue. In fact, if you aren't a member of the people group being maligned, you can be offended FOR them. So consider the hypocrisy when sin is scoffed at – when people shrug with wonder at the possibility that they could offend God. Even more bewildering is the fact that people can hold endless grudges for the smallest infraction, but God not only forgives, but even paid restitution for even the most heinous of acts.

#### QUESTIONS

- Is it wrong to be offended by something? How does our society's unforgiving nature reflect the character of God? (This could be a trick question!)
- Why would God be offended by anything? Doesn't he have big shoulders?
- God shows mercy, even in the Old Testament books of Exodus through Deuteronomy, offering up substitutionary objects of God's wrath via the sacrificial system. Let's discuss this. Why was the blood so important?
- What's the symbolism of the scapegoat?
- Why did God require both a sacrifice AND a scapegoat? Did this two-goat system turn God's anger away? (Hebrews 10:3-4)

- "...although it may seem as though the New Testament God is about love while the Old Testament God is about anger...it is in the comparison between the Day of Atonement and the cross that we find out the truth. The day of Atonement displays the love of God...the cross of Jesus...is the place where God's anger is appeased." This is a quote from Yannick Christos-Wahab. Do you agree? Let's discuss.
- So, how does the cross guarantee a person forgiveness, and ultimately safety from God's wrath?
- How do we live in this forgiveness daily?

### **SPRINGBOARD VERSE**

1 John 1:9 ESV If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.