

# CROSS

## REVIEW

How has your mindset about sin changed since our last study?

Was it difficult to write a sin list?

Is there anything else you want to confess?

Any questions? [Review any homework]

## PURPOSE

Personalizing Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

## TEACHING TIPS

They can confess sins from their sin list if there hasn't been a chance to do this yet. You may want to ask questions along the way to clarify or help them with something specific.

You can transition into the Cross study by saying something like "There are deep spiritual consequences to our sins & we're going to study how those sins are connected to Jesus & the cross."

When teaching the Cross, remember that 'what moves a heart is a heart that has been moved.' Keep in mind the way Jesus' death has worked in you personally as you teach.

Jesus went through 3 types of PAIN leading up to, & during, his death on the cross: Emotional, Physical & Spiritual.

## EMOTIONAL PAIN

**Matthew 26** [take turns reading each section]

26:31-35 What does Jesus predict?

How do Peter & the other disciples respond?

26:36-46 How is Jesus feeling ?

What does he ask friends? How do they respond?

Why did he pray three times?

26:47-56 Have you ever been betrayed? Ever been deserted?

26:57-68 Have you ever been spit on? Ultimate gesture of humiliation & disrespect.

Now we'll look at 3 men & their different responses to Jesus

26:69-75 How did **Peter** respond? He took responsibility & wept bitterly.

Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How does that feel?

27:1-10 How did **Judas** respond? He took responsibility but committed suicide.

Guilt can turn us toward God or farther away from Him.

27:11-26 How did **Pilate** respond? He avoided responsibility.

Could Pilate have stopped Jesus' death? Yes. He is still responsible.

## PHYSICAL PAIN

27:27-44 2000 years ago, everyone knew exactly what crucifixion meant. To help us understand it, we're going to read through an expert medical account of what happened:

Read **Appendix 2** [take turns reading: you can rotate every paragraph]

How do you feel about what Jesus went through?

## **SPIRITUAL PAIN**

**Matthew 27:46** What does "forsaken" mean? Forgotten, abandoned.

This would have been the worst pain of all. Isaiah 59:1-2

**2 Corinthians 5:21** God made Jesus become "sin" so that we could become "righteous." Our sin separated Jesus from his Father for the first time in all eternity.

### **Isaiah 53:4-6**

Isaiah wrote these words about Jesus' death over 700 years before he was born!

Why did Jesus have to die? Because of "my" sin. It's "my" responsibility.

Let's read the passage again but now we'll personalize it.

*Replace "we/our/us" with the name of person studying the bible.*

Do you understand that your sin put Jesus on the cross?

How can you repay him?

You can't; but you can dedicate your life to him & what he did for you.

Are you ready to make that decision?

### **Romans 6:23**

What are wages?

What does sin earn us?

Can you earn a gift? No. The proper response is to be humble & accept His gift of grace.

### **1 Peter 2:21-24**

What is your response to the cross?

#### **CONCLUDING QUESTIONS**

How does learning about Jesus dying for you on the cross make you feel?

How does His grace change your mindset about sin?

#### **CHALLENGE**

Write a letter to God. Make it a goal to be personally expressive.

*The next time we get together we will study Salvation.*

#### **CROSS: FURTHER STUDY [CAN BE GIVEN AS HOMEWORK]**

1 Peter 2:21-24 Jesus suffered for our sins. He is our example.

Romans 3:23-25 His death is the ultimate atoning sacrifice.

Romans 5:6-8 Christ's compassion for sinners is just in time.

Ephesians 1:7-8 The blood of Jesus gives us forgiveness.

Ephesians 2:1-10 We deserve wrath, but God's grace saves us.