

“Why is the Cross Good News?”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

Jesus’ public ministry can be summarized in this way; “*Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd*” (Matthew 9:35-36). As Jesus went about the cities and villages He amassed great crowds and many followers joined Him. Everyone was excited about the promised Messiah; well, at least almost everyone.

Jesus began to attract the attention of the Pharisees who were not as impressed with His ministry as everyone else. They began to consider how they would catch Him in a false statement, breaking the Mosaic Law, or blasphemy of the LORD. The Pharisees hated Jesus. The crowds began to dwindle and ultimately the Pharisees took their opportunity, gained Roman support, arrested Jesus, and began to make legal accusations against Him in a corrupt trial. They brought corrupt witnesses who spoke lies against Jesus and ultimately had Him sentenced to death by the Romans. Jesus was led to a Roman cross and ultimately died as a criminal.

But why?

Paul gives us the answer in 2 Corinthians 5:21. Jesus, the perfect God-Man who stepped out of heaven, who never sinned but died as a sinner, did so in order that His righteousness would become ours. Jesus paid for our sin by becoming our substitute. He who knew no sin became sin for us so that we could become righteous before God. And because death was the penalty for sin and Jesus died in our place, to prove He had power over death and the grave, 3 days later Jesus rose from the dead. This is Good News! This is the Gospel message!

As you prepare to gather with your Missional Community this week meditate on what you’ve been given through Christ. Do the 4 observations that were shared during the sermon push you toward the 3 implications? Do you worship Jesus more passionately, obey Him more quickly, and share His story more thoroughly in the world? These truths should compel us to do these things. Discuss with you MC how these truths affect your life. Discuss where you need to make adjustments, where you need to submit to Jesus’ Lordship, and where you need to share His love. Why? Because the cross is Good News for your life and the world!

Message Outline

4 observations of the cross:

1. Jesus lived a sinless life.
 - He was fully human.
 - He resisted the full force of temptation.
2. We lived a sinful life.
 - Your sin is inherited.
 - Your sin brings a curse.
 - Your sin completely corrupts.
3. Jesus died a sinner’s death.
 - He took your place.
 - He bore your wrath.
 - He became God’s enemy.
 - He paid the ultimate price.
4. We are made righteous through Christ.
 - Expiation – Your debt has been paid.
 - Propitiation – You have gained God’s favor.
 - Reconciliation – You are God’s friend.
 - Redemption – You are God’s precious possession.

3 implications of the cross:

1. Jesus deserves your worship.
2. Jesus is due your obedience.
3. Jesus is the only hope for the world.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to 2 Corinthians 5:21:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray for Covenant Member candidates who are considering joining New Day Church.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray for the Storyformed Way, a 10-week journey through the Story of God. Pray for open and receptive hearts and for God to use this journey to draw people to Himself.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.