



The message about the cross doesn't make any sense to lost people. But for those of us who are being saved, it is God's power at work. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (CEV)

- The power of the cross is about the **person** on the cross - **Jesus**.

- The words from the cross connect us to the **person** on the cross.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8 (NLT)

- The words from the cross connect us to the **love** of the cross.

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NLT)

This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us. He sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NCV)

When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them...." Luke 23:33-34a (NLT)

#### Who's Them?

- **The Soldiers.**
- **The Roman Rulers.**
- **The Crowd.**
- **The Religious Rulers.**
- **"You and I".**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NIV)

...Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:33-34b

#### What Jesus is saying:

They did not know **what** they were doing, because they did not know **who** they were doing it to.

"Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance." Acts 3:17 (NLT)

None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1 Corinthians 2:8

They did not know **what** they were doing, because they did not understand the **impact** of what they were doing it.

We almost always manage to **excuse** what we are doing, and almost never understand the **extent** of what we're doing.

Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts. Proverbs 21:2 (NASB)

- Jesus was crucified so you don't have to keep **crucifying** yourself.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 (ESV)

No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded." John 10:18 (NLT)

#### Jesus on the cross reminds us:

- God takes **sin** very seriously.
- God **loves** us very seriously.

The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends. John 15:13 (NCV)

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 1 John 4:9 (NLT)

#### Bottom line:

The cross reveals our sins **are great** but God's love is **even greater**.

- What we believe about God's **forgiveness** for us personally, directly affects how we personally **forgive others**.

#### How do I apply this?

"Father, forgive \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ know not what \_\_\_\_\_ doing."

#### Accepting God's Forgiveness:

I'm ready to **receive** the **healing** I need for my sin condition.

I'm ready to **release others** for their sin condition.



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

#### Questions for Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why do you believe that people allow the cross to become just a symbol or a piece of jewelry?
- When you think of Jesus on a cross what is one word that describes what you feel? Explain.
- In your own words, why are Jesus' words - "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing", so important?
- Is it difficult for you to accept the you were included in Jesus' prayer for forgiveness? Is it difficult for you to be included with people like the Soldiers, the religious leaders or the crowd that yelled "crucify Him"?
- Do you think that we also don't realize the impact of what we are doing when we sin?
- Why is it important for us to not carry the guilt from our past sins?
- Do you believe that God takes sin very seriously? Do you believe that God loves us very seriously?
- What does this statement mean to you: What we believe about God's forgiveness for us personally, directly affects how we personally forgive others?
- Talk about why accepting God's forgiveness includes receiving and releasing?

For more Talks, visit us at:  
**fresnoquest.com**