



- The cross communicates God's **love** for **everyone**.

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. John 3:16 (CEV)

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)

....He (God) sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NCV)

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

**Prophecy is defined as:** A message from God given through men/women about something that has not yet happened, but will happen. Something that **"is to come"**.

- Prophecy is a **promise** from God of what is to come.

**Prophecy of the Cross shows us:**

- Jesus' death was not **senseless** violence.
- Jesus' death was not Satan **defeating** God.
- Jesus' death was God's **plan** all along.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. Mark 15:34 (NIV)

**And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ...  
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". Mark 15:34 (NIV)**

"My God My God why have you forsaken me?" Psalm 22:1 (NIV)

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." John 19:24 (NIV)

People stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. Psalm 22:17-18

So that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." John 19:28 (NIV) Psalm 22:15

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads... "He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him..." Matthew 27:39,43

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." Psalm 22:7-8

...A band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. Psalm 22:16

**Finish these lyrics:**

- We've got trouble my friends..... (Its a Musical)
- R-E-S-P-E-C-T.....
- I kissed a girl....
- Let's go surfing now.... (Beach Boys)
- Every breath you take.... (Police)
- Yesterday, all my troubles....(Beatles)
- My best friends....\_\_\_\_\_ and use to \_\_\_\_\_ (Cars)

- Billie Jean.... (Michael Jackson)
- I've got friends in low places....
- All my ex's.....

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son.... John 3:16 (ESV)

- The words of the cross, connect us to the **pain** of the cross.

Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help. Hebrews 4:14-16 (MSG)

**When Jesus says He feels your pain, He's saying:**

I understand the **physical** pain you are going through.

I understand the **emotional** pain you are experiencing.

I understand the **spiritual** pain you feel.

- The words from the cross, connect us to the fact that Jesus took our **place** on the cross.

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. Isaiah 53:5-6 (NIV)

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

...it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV)

**What to remember when you're going through it:**

- God **understands** you.
- God is **for** you.  
Romans 8:31-33
- God is **with** you.  
Hebrews 13:5

For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. Psalm 22:24 (NIV)



## 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?
- Have you ever felt abandoned by God? What did that feel like to you?
- How does the prophecy of the cross give your life strength and encouragement? Can you think of some other things that the prophecy of the cross shows us? (Other than what's listed)
- Have you ever read Psalm 22 and the prophecies of Jesus' crucifixion?
- When Jesus started the song on the cross how do you think the disciples felt as they finished the song in their heads?
- How do the words of the cross connect us to the pain of the cross? Does it bring you strength and comfort to know that Jesus understands your physical, emotional and spiritual pain? Explain.
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus took your place on the cross? (Jesus took your punishment)

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