

ADVANCED FOUNDATIONS

# The Cross Is The Key

Experience the Power & Love  
that the Cross Embodies



## Study Guide

TERRY MOORE



# CONTENTS

Introduction.....	5
Session 1 - The Love of the Father.....	6
Session 2 - Children of God.....	13
Session 3 - The Exchange of the Cross.....	25
Session 4 - The Victory of the Cross.....	35
Session 5 - The Power of the Cross.....	45
Session 6 - Living the Cross.....	57
Appendix A - Doubt Extinguishers Worksheet .....	69
Appendix B - Leaders Guide.....	71



## SERIES ONE

# Cross is the Key - Study Guide

## Your Journey Begins

Series One is part of an equipping series, intended to unfold over time so you can truly absorb the message and experience a profound life transformation. It allows Holy Spirit to touch your heart so the teachings become more than just head knowledge. The 18 inches from the head to the heart is a marathon, not a sprint!

All teaching materials can be found at our website, [AdvancedBiblicalFoundations.org](http://AdvancedBiblicalFoundations.org). They include the video, study guide and a companion book:

- Series One - Cross is the Key
- Series Two - Love, Identity and Purpose
- Series Three - Free Indeed
- Series Four - Hearing God
- Series Five - Basic Training
- Series Six - Setting the Captives Free
- Series Seven - Financial Freedom

## A Prayer for You

Heavenly Father, We invite you to speak to us through your Word as we hear the message of the cross of Jesus Christ through this teaching. Touch our hearts in a mighty way through Your Word.

- <sup>14</sup> *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?  
And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?  
And how shall they hear without a preacher?*
- <sup>15</sup> *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:  
"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*
- <sup>17</sup> *So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**  
Romans 10:14-15,17 (emphasis added)*

Blessings to you,  
Terry

# Introduction and The Love of the Father

## Let's Prepare

Additional study material for the Session 1 video can be found in the companion book:

- Introduction
- Part 1, Chapter 1 – What Really Happened at the Cross
- Part 1, Chapter 2 – The Purpose of the Cross
- Part 2, Chapter 3 – The Love of the Father

At the end of this session, you will have a better understanding of what Jesus endured on the cross and why He chose to do it.

## Video Reflections

Watch the video and jot down notes on the opposite blank page. Then, reflect on the following:

- Every person has a different life experience. Looking back on your life, how and when were you first introduced to the cross as a symbol?

---

---

---

---

- How has your perception of the cross changed over time?

---

---

---

---

---

## What really happened at the cross?

Read chapter 1 beginning on page 5. It provides graphic detail on the reality of the crucifixion. (The session 2 video will offer a brief glimpse of the reality of the cross; however, you are encouraged to review it here in detail and allow the second video to reinforce it). After the reading, as the information sinks in:

- Does this change what the cross means to you? How?

---

---

---

The next logical question is, “Why? Why would Jesus choose to suffer unthinkable agony and give up His life?” The answer is simple. One Word. Love.

Let’s explore the love of God the Father. John 3:16-17 below has been personalized. Insert your name and the names of family and friends if you wish. Then, read it out loud.

*For God so loved **ME** that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that **I** would not perish but have eternal life.  
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn **ME**,  
but that **I** through Him might be saved*

Isn’t it amazing that this kind of love is being extended to each one of us? We simply need to accept the incredible gift freely given to us.

- Is there anything keeping you from truly accepting Jesus’ sacrifice which was done for YOU?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Why was the cross necessary?

In the Garden of Eden, man was created in the image of God to enjoy perfect fellowship with Him. And then sin entered the world through Adam and Eve.

You may think, "I haven't done anything that bad. I've never killed anyone." At the bottom of page 13 in the book, sin is described as not simply doing terrible things, but living in the way we choose is best and not giving God His rightful place in our lives. Adam and Eve rejected the intimacy for which God created them. God created YOU for relationship with Him.

- What do you think about looking at sin in this way?

---

---

---

---

- What types of things do people put on the throne of their lives in place of God?

---

---

---

---

- Take a moment to think of an area in your life that needs to change to give God His rightful place in your life?

---

---

---

---

Romans 3:23 says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death." Yet, throughout all human history, ***God has always sought to restore that intimacy.***

- In the Garden, God shed the blood of an innocent animal to cover Adam and Eve's bodies when they realized they were naked.

- In the Old Testament, God required the sacrifice of a Passover lamb and commanded animal sacrifice to cover the sins of His people once a year.
- In the New Testament, Jesus came to earth as the Lamb of God, the final sacrifice to atone for all sin – past, present and future.

You are encouraged to read pages 14-19 for more information on God's Old Testament and New Testament solutions for sin.

## Jesus Became Sin

The scriptures on pages 18-19 are profound and describe just how much God wants to be in relationship with you. Take a few minutes to review them.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
  - Romans 5:6
  - Romans 5:8-9
  - Colossians 2:13-14
- 
- Which scripture stirs your heart the most?

---

---

---

- For which are you most grateful?

---

---

---

- Are any of them just plain unbelievable to you today?

---

---

---

---

## Notes

Read 1 John 4:9-10 on page 28. The word “propitiation” in verse 10 describes God’s incredible love for you. God hates sin. The wrath of God against all sin past, present and future was put on Jesus on the cross. God is merciful to the person who believes in Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Jesus’ sacrifice brings you back into right relationship with God, as it was in the Garden.

## God is Love

*<sup>8</sup>He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**  
1 John 4:8 (emphasis added)*

The essence of God is love. Love is who God is. He is not angry with you. God hates sin, not the sinner. You were delivered from the wrath of sin through Jesus’ death on the Cross, His burial and resurrection. The immeasurable bounds of His love are described in Romans 8:35,38-39 on page 29. Personalize it and read it out loud to yourself.

- What does this verse mean to you?

---

---

---

---

- Do you see evidence of God’s love in your life?

---

---

---

---

- How do you show God’s love to others?

---

---

---

---

- How could your life be transformed by truly accepting the love of God the Father?

## Notes

---

---

---

---

# Life or Death?

Read John 3:36 on page 19. This is a harsh reality. You are either joined to God through belief in His Son and, as a result, have life; or you are separated from Him and, as a result, you have death and the wrath of God is upon you. There is no in-between.

The love of the Father is expressed through the Cross and gives us abundant life on earth and life in heaven forever with Him. Your glorious intimate relationship with Him begins on earth and is made possible through the Cross.

- Looking at your life today, can you describe it as joyful, peaceful, powerful and abundant?

---

---

---

---

- How would you benefit from having a more intimate relationship with God?

---

---

---

---

The Cross represents the awesome love of God. This love, the love of God the Father, will transform your life if you truly receive it.

## Notes

## Closing Thoughts

You see now that the cross is more than a wooden structure. At first glance, it may represent the death of Jesus, but it's so much more. It's a symbol of Jesus' victory! It's the key to a life of joy, peace, and freedom. Living this transformed life begins with a revelation of the love of the Father in your heart, not just in your head.

Praying scripture releases the power of the God's Word. It is in the Bible and as you appropriate these truths, you will grow in your faith walk.

You are encouraged to pray Ephesians 3:14-21 on page 31 to close the session. Personalize it and pray it daily over yourself and friends and family. May you be strengthened and gain a fresh revelation of the love of the Father.

In the next session, you'll look at how you experience the Father's love based on your life experience and how you grow in spiritual maturity over time.

## Session 2:

# Children of God

### Let's Prepare

Additional study material for the Session 2 video can be found in the companion book:

- Part 2, Chapter 4 – How Do We Experience God's Love?
- Part 2, Chapter 5 – Maturing in Christ

This session should end with an awareness of how the Bible defines the various stages of spiritual maturity, how to gauge where you are in that journey, and how to continue growing in your faith walk. A sense of amazement at the intimacy God wants with us should continue to keep us in awe of His great love.

Before watching the video, let's explore how you can experience God's love in your life.

### Experiencing God's Love

In our last session, we discussed the love of God the Father. It is the most life-transforming experience a person can have. It will satisfy the greatest need you have. It will change you inside, heal your heart, set you free and totally transform every aspect of your life.

### Developing an Accurate Image of God the Father

People tend to project their father's image onto our heavenly Father. Turn to p.41 in the book. Fold the page or cover the column on the right so only the column titled "Behavior of Parent" is visible.

- Check mark all behaviors that describe your earthly father or father figure (single mother, stepfather, grandparent, whoever filled the role of father).
- Now unfold the handout and read the "Misconception About God" that corresponds to each behavior.

The devil does not want you to experience the life-changing love of God the Father, so he attacks the family, especially fathers. If the attack is successful, it hurts the entire family and makes it harder for you to receive the love of God later in life.

## Forgive, Forgive, Forgive

By not forgiving or releasing judgments against your earthly father or anyone else, you limit your ability to receive God's love for you. For many, this is easier said than done, but is necessary. Forgiveness is the greatest expression of love there is. Let's see what scripture says about this.

- Do you struggle with unforgiveness toward your earthly father?

---

---

---

---

- How would your life change if you walked in forgiveness?

---

---

---

---

<sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.'

*Matthew 22:37-39 (emphasis added)*

<sup>20</sup>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for **he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?**

*1 John 4:20 (emphasis added)*

Releasing every judgment you hold against your earthly father enables you to extend God's love to others. This will be discussed in more detail in session 6.

## Renew Your Mind According to God's Word

Pray scripture to fight the lies of the enemy that fill your mind and keep you from forgiving.

*God is love.  
1 John 4:8*

Below is a portion of what is commonly called the "Love Chapter". Substitute "**GOD**" for "**Love**." Read it out loud. This is who God is.

*<sup>4</sup>**GOD** suffers long. **GOD** is kind; **GOD** does not envy; **GOD** does not parade HIMSELF, **GOD** is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup>**GOD** does not behave rudely, **GOD** does not seek HIS own, **GOD** is not provoked, **GOD** thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup>**GOD** does not rejoice in iniquity. **GOD** rejoices in the truth. <sup>8</sup>**GOD** never fails.  
1 Corinthians 13:4-6,8*

## Fully Embrace Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit is God and makes the love of God the Father real to you.

- Every person has a different life experience. At what age did you first hear about Holy Spirit? How has what you believe about Holy Spirit changed over time?

---

---

---

---

*<sup>9</sup>But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." <sup>10</sup>But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup>For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**  
1 Corinthians 2:9-12 (emphasis added)*

## Notes

If you are not familiar with the work of the Holy Spirit, you are encouraged to do a word study on your own.

Read Luke 3:21-22 on the bottom of page 37. It describes when John baptizes Jesus. Jesus did not need to be born again by the Holy Spirit. He was born of the Spirit in the first place and there was no sin in Him. Jesus was baptized to release the love of the Father and to empower Him to carry out His mission. You need that as well. Baptism will be discussed in more detail in session 5.

To receive the love of God the Father, you must:

- Realize your early father does not perfectly reflect or represent your Heavenly Father
- Must obey God's command to forgive
- Renew your mind according to God's Word
- Receive and fully embrace Holy Spirit

After reflecting on this, watch the video and see how you can grow spiritually over time.

## Video Reflections

Watch the video. Then, reflect on the following:

- Every person has a different life experience. At what age did you first hear that the purpose of the cross was to blot out your sin? How has that awareness changed over time?

---

---

---

---

1 John 2:12-14 on page 47 tells us that spiritual growth takes place in at least three stages: 1) little children, 2) young men (and women), 3) fathers (and mothers). We all begin as little children. Today, let's see where you are on this progression and explore ways to continue growing.

This first stage is **learning and receiving in your heart that your sins are forgiven through the cross of Jesus.**

By sending His only Son Jesus to die on the cross for us, God chose to have those sins erased completely, blotted out fully. You are completely forgiven for sins of the past, present and future!

“Redemption” is a word you hear a lot in church, but not as much in daily life.

- What comes to mind when you hear the word “redemption?”

---

---

---

---

Read Vine’s Expository Dictionary definition of redemption on page 48. You were born in sin because of Adam and Eve’s sin in the Garden of Eden. The death penalty for sin was paid in full by Jesus on the cross.

One of the greatest gifts He has given you is freedom from any guilt or shame from anything you may have done or may have been done to you in the past. Read Ann Billington’s definitions of guilt and shame on page 49.

- Guilt says, “You did something wrong.”
- Shame says, “You are faulty.”
- Guilt is a fact.
- Shame is a feeling.

Having an awareness of doing something wrong (guilt) is healthy and prompts you to turn from it. It changes the way you think, allowing God to be the focus of your life. Living under the burden of that guilt is not healthy. It becomes condemnation and makes you feel hopeless.

Shame fills your mind with lies from the enemy. You can accept Jesus’ death on the Cross as immeasurable grace which covers all sin and shame. You can choose to let go of shame.

## Notes

"Righteousness" is a word you hear a lot in church, but not as much in daily life. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 at the bottom of page 50. It says you are the "righteousness of God."

- What comes to mind when you hear the word "righteous?"

---

---

---

---

- What does it mean to be the "righteousness of God?"

---

---

---

---

You can choose to be in right relationship with God. You can choose to no longer focus on your past sin or how bad you think you are. That's a reason to rejoice and live in victory! Yes, you will continue to sin and must repent at every turn. God's desire is for Jesus' life, love and sacrifice to define who you are, not your past.

- Take time in the next week to ask God to bring to mind any past sin or shame that may be keeping you from fully living in the victory of the Cross. You will have the opportunity to explore this in detail in the course entitled "Free Indeed."

## Young Men

This is the stage where you become strong and overcome the enemy. You do this with the Word of God.

Let's begin by clarifying some terminology we find in scripture. Read Romans 3:24-26 on page 53. Again, you read several words you may hear in church, but not as much in daily life. The following paragraph describes this passage as a courtroom trial.

- "Propitiation" is the wrath of God against sin. All sin (past, present and future) was transferred and put upon Jesus at the Cross. If you accept His sacrifice on your behalf, you come into right relationship with God ("righteousness").

- “Justified” means you are legally and formally acquitted of guilt (by God as judge) through “redemption” or payment (by Jesus on the Cross).

## Notes

Now, read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 beginning at the bottom of page 54). Here you are introduced to being “reconciled.” To be “reconciled” is to be brought into intimate relationship and a friendship with God. At this stage, you are “in Christ.”

Read Romans 5:8-10 on page 55. Here you see that you were reconciled to God when you were still His enemy. God is not angry with you. He chooses to forget your sin when you confess it. God wants you to live a life free from the guilt and shame of the past.

Read the series of passages on pages 55-57 which describe your position “in Christ.”

- Which passage jumps off the page and speaks to your heart?

---

---

---

---

Your friendship with God is your rightful place not because of anything you did, but because of what Jesus has already done. You are now in Christ. This is your true identity.

- How comfortable do you feel being a friend of God the Father? Are there cultural norms or religious traditions that may keep you from this type of intimate relationship?

---

---

---

---

## Notes

God has so much more for us than we are currently experiencing! We have a place of favor with God if we choose to embrace living "in Christ."

You just read in 2 Corinthians 5:17 on page 56 that a person in Christ is a new creation.

- What does a person who is a new creation look like? How do they act? What do they say? How do you pick them out from the crowd?

---

---

---

---

To become a new creation, the "young man" the Apostle John writes of, you must be strong in the Word and overcome the enemy. This can only be done by knowing and using the Word of God. Matthew 4:1-11 describes the temptation of Jesus by Satan. Feel free to read the full account before continuing.

- In verse 4, when challenged by the devil to turn stones into bread, Jesus quoted scripture from Deuteronomy 8:3 saying, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." This is our model.

How do you grow in the Word?

<sup>17</sup>*So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***  
*Romans 10:17 (emphasis added)*

The best place to hear the Word of God is out of your own mouth! Don't leave it to inspirational speakers to tell you what's in the bible. Read it for yourself, memorize it, stop and meditate on a particular verse or passage that seems to jump off the page at you. It's not how much scripture you read, but how much scripture gets into your heart.

Let's look at the word "meditate."

- How does one meditate on the Word?

---

---

---

- Do you have some practices you'd be willing to share?

## Notes

---

---

---

---

Below are some tips to help you grow in the Word:

- Before getting into the Word, pray for Holy Spirit to reveal a truth to you as you read and meditate. Begin your study expecting that revelation.
- Depending on the type of learner you are, it may help to engage all of your senses: read it, speak it aloud (not rote repetition), write it down.
- Remove distractions and think about the scripture. Reflect on it. You may choose to capture your thoughts and revelations in a journal.

You can overcome the enemy just as Christ overcame the temptation of the devil using the Word as a weapon.

## Fathers

This is the stage where you **express the life of Christ to the people around you through your life, actions and words.** Fathers are:

- Mature believers who know God (not just about God)
- Walking in their position as a child of God
- Not perfect
- Living in the love of the Father
- Becoming sensitive to the promptings of Holy Spirit

In the **"young man"** stage, you discover **who you are in Christ.**  
In the **"father"** stage, you discover **who He is in you!**

God is a God of relationships. This stage is all about the 2-way loving relationships with God the Father and with one another.

If you do anything or have any attitude that hurts your relationship with God, Holy Spirit will lovingly prompt you to change. It's not about following a strict rulebook of right and wrong or only doing good if there's some benefit in it for you; it's

about constantly opening yourself up to hear Him as He reveals the paths He has called you to walk.

## Reviewing What Jesus Has Done for You

As you grow into the *child stage*, you are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, completely forgiven, and made righteous (brought into right relationship) with God. This is the process of justification, where you are formally acquitted of all sin, past, present and future.

You grow in the *young man* stage by abiding in God's Word. This makes you strong in Christ and able to overcome the enemy.

But, there's so much more. You can understand the basics of salvation, but may still not be living as a new creation in Christ. This is the *father stage*. This is when you become more sensitive to your intimate friendship with God. It becomes all about your loving relationships with God the Father and with one another.

- Examine your heart attitude as you go through your day. Are you experiencing the fullness of what Jesus did for you at the Cross?

---

---

---

---

- Does your life reflect the joy of being in right relationship with God, living as one in the position of being in the family of God?

---

---

---

---

- Which stage most accurately describes where you are in your journey of faith?

---

---

---

---

If you wish to grow in your faith and accept the gift of being adopted into the family of God, personalize Romans 8:15-17 on page 61 and pray this scripture over yourself.

Notes

Closing

Release the power of the God’s Word by praying Ephesians 1:3-13 beginning on page 208. Do this daily over yourself and others. May you be strengthened and gain a fresh revelation of who you are in Christ.

In our next session, we’ll look at the greatest victory in the history of the world which, at the time, looked like the greatest defeat of all time.



## Session 3:

# The Exchange of the Cross

### Let's Prepare

Additional study material for the Session 3 video can be found in the companion book:

- Part 3, Chapter 6 – Our Inheritance as Heirs of God
- Part 3, Chapter 7 – The Great Exchange
- Part 3, Chapter 8 – The Essence of Faith

This session should end with a deeper understanding of all we as children of the living God have inherited because of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. You will have the opportunity to explore barriers to accepting this inheritance by simply having faith and believing.

### Video Reflections

Watch the video and jot down notes on the opposite blank page. Then, reflect on the following:

- What does it mean to you when you hear you are a “child of God”, in the “family of God”, “joint heir with Christ” or that you have an “inheritance” from God?

---

---

---

---

- Have you ever thought of New Testament scripture as God's “last will and testament?”

---

---

---

---

## Our Inheritance

Review the scriptures on page 70. In short, what you get in this exchange as an heir is:

- Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3)
- All things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)

## Heirs of God

God is holding nothing back. Read Galatians 3:26-29 at the bottom of p 70.

- How do you become an heir of God?
  - ◇ Through faith in Jesus Christ; His life, death and resurrection. You do nothing in exchange except believe. It's a God-way transaction once you believe.
  - ◇ All the covenant promises God made to Abraham in the Old Testament through the promises Jesus made in the New Testament are yours to embrace. You can trust God to keep every promise He has made.

If you are skeptical at all about whether you really are an heir, read Galatians 4:4-7 on page 71.

- How do you know deep down inside that you are God's child?

---

---

---

---

- Holy Spirit is your helper. Have you become more familiar with the works of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers? This will be explored in greater detail in session 6 and throughout this equipping series.

---

---

---

---

## The Exchange

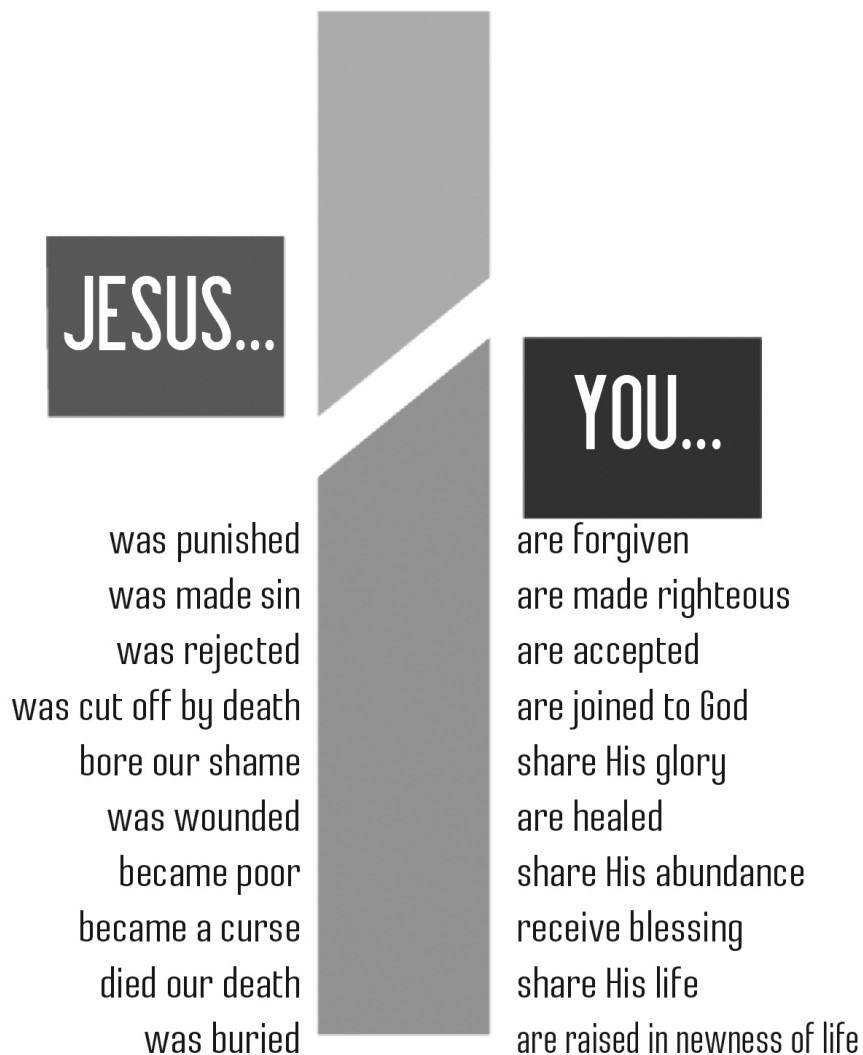
## Notes

The Cross of Jesus Christ represents the most awesome, yet most unfair, exchange in human history. He was sinless, yet he took all the sin, guilt, shame, sickness, rejection and pain of every person who would ever live. Read the scriptures on p. 72:

- Ephesians 2:1, 4-8
- Isaiah 53:3-5
- Isaiah 53:10
- What has God given you in return for the sacrifice of His only Son?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why would it please God for His Son to go to the Cross for you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spend some time reviewing the Exchange of the Cross charts on the next page of your study guide. The scriptures corresponding to each exchange are provided for further independent study and prayer.

# THE EXCHANGE OF THE CROSS



## LIFE FROM DEATH

4041 Marsh Lane | Carrollton, TX 75007 | p 972.307.3033 |  
f 972.307.3034 | [SojournChurch.org](http://SojournChurch.org)

# THE CROSS

## THE POWER OF GOD

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. 1Corinthians 1:18*

The cross represents the greatest victory in all of world history. There, Jesus gave up His life for you and for me in an exchange that impacts every area of our lives. It is time for us to know the truth of the power of the cross so that we can experience everything Jesus died to provide for us.

### THE CROSS PROMISES...

**FORGIVENESS:** Jesus was punished [by the Father] so that we could be forgiven. *See Isaiah 53:3-5; Colossians 1:14*

**RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD:** Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness so that we could be made the righteousness of God.  
*See Isaiah 53:10; 2Corinthians 5:21*

**COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE:** Jesus was rejected so we could be accepted in the beloved, and we are no longer rejected.  
*See Isaiah 53:3-4; Ephesians 1:3-6*

**BEING JOINED TO GOD:** Jesus was cut off by death so that we could be joined to God. *See Hebrews 2:9; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-6*

**SHARING HIS GLORY:** Jesus bore our shame so that we could be free from guilt and share in His glory.  
*See Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 27:26-31; Hebrews 2:10*

**HEALING:** Jesus was wounded, taking our pain and sickness so that we could be healed. *See Isaiah 53:3-5; Matthew 8:16-17; 1Peter 2:24*

**FINANCIAL ABUNDANCE:** Jesus became poor so that we could share in His abundance. *See 2Corinthians 8:9; 2Corinthians 9:8*

**BLESSING:** Jesus was made a curse so that we could receive the blessing of Abraham, the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
*See Galatians 3:13-14*

**LIFE:** Jesus died our death so that we could share in His life.  
*See John 10:11; John 17:21; John 11:25-26*

**A NEW CREATION:** Jesus was buried, but raised from the grave so that we could be raised in newness of life.  
*See 2Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15*

**Looking at the exchange of the cross graphic, for each exchange:**

- Highlight a nugget of truth that jumps off the page at you. Add to the examples below.
- Ask yourself, **“What am I currently experiencing or have experienced in the past that I need to let go of in exchange for what God has for me?”**

**Exchanged Punishment for Forgiveness**

- Jesus was wounded for your transgressions (crossing the line, committing an offense) and crushed for your iniquities (grossly immoral acts). The American Heritage Dictionary definitions are noted in parentheses.
- Why would Jesus choose to do this? So you could be completely 100% forgiven for all past, present and future sins! So you could drop those burdens and live a new life in Him.

**Exchanged Sin for Righteousness**

- You will continue to sin. If you confess our sin (which means agreeing with God about your sinful attitude and actions) and turn away from it, he will cleanse you of all unrighteousness and bring you back into a right relationship with Him.

**Exchanged Rejection for Acceptance**

- God’s kind of love is the Greek word “agape.” It is unconditional love. God chose you before the foundation of the earth and adopted you into the family of God! You don’t need to do anything but believe to receive this agape love.

**Exchanged Separation from God for Reconciliation (Chosen in Him)**

- It’s all about relationships. You were cut off from the Father by Adam and Even’s sin in the Garden of Eden. Jesus was cut off from the Father when He became your sin on the Cross. Jesus was reconciled back to the Father by His death and resurrection. Now, you too are reconciled to the Father. He did it all!

### Exchanged Shame for Glory and Honor

- You have the power to get rid of any emotional pain, guilt and shame and instead have everlasting joy in all situations because you were chosen by the King, the God of all creation.

### Exchanged Pain and Sickness for Healing

- This could refer to emotional, spiritual or physical healing. You can pray and believe for healing for yourself and others.

### Exchanged Lack for Abundance

- God wants to bless and provide for His children. God is a giver. He gave you Jesus, life and agape love. You should be a giver too. You are to be as generous as God is, with your finances, time, talents and any other resources God has given you.

### Exchanged Curses for Blessings

- God is a generational God. If you are aware of something bad that runs in your family (i.e., addiction, depression, poverty mindset), you have the power to speak against it and stop it in your generation.

### Exchanged Death for Life

- You can rest assured that you don't need to fear dying. You will get to see the Lord as He really is and be with Him for eternity!

### Walking in Newness of Life

- In Christ, you are not just fixed up, bandaged or repaired. You are a new creation!

Now, recite the list and personalize it: "Jesus" <insert exchange>; "I am <insert promise>."

For example: "Jesus was punished." "I am forgiven."

- Have you truly received all these exchanges?
- Are you ready to exchange all the negative things in your life for the abundant life and victory?

## Notes

Pray this week and allow God to reveal in what ways you have already received the Exchange of the Cross. If there are any areas they have not fully accepted, review the scriptures associated with the exchange and pray and meditate on those scriptures. Remember, meditating on scripture does not involve emptying your mind, but filling it with God's Word.

### Receiving by Faith

You receive the work of the Cross by faith and faith alone. What does scripture tell us about faith?

*<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. <sup>6</sup>But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently seek Him**.*

*Hebrews 11:1,6 (emphasis added)*

Any inheritance is based on promises, and God's Word is His promise to you. You can trust Him to fulfill every promise He has made toward those who believe. Hebrews 10:23 tells us that **"He who promised is faithful"**.

Galatians 3:26-27,29 can be found on page 207. As co-heirs with Jesus Christ, you have received the blessing of Abraham. Are you familiar with the story of Abraham in the Old Testament?

- Take a few minutes to read Romans 4:13-25 to read this amazing account of faith. As you read, put yourself in the story.
- Also read Genesis 22:1-14 which tells the story of God asking Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.
- If you were in Abraham's place, could you have endured waiting for what seemed impossible?
- Could you have trusted God with the life of your son, the son of His promise?

Abraham surely must have believed that:

- **"God gives life to the dead"** – Romans 4:17
- **"God calls those things which do not exist as though they did"** – Romans 4:17
- **"God is able to perform what He has promised"** – Romans 4:21

God gives life to things and situations that appear “dead” or impossible in your life. That is the message of the Cross. God is the Creator and you must believe in His ability to bring all things into being in your lives.

Hebrews 6:12-15 on pages 97-98 says that Abraham inherited the promise through faith and patience. How could he remain faithful in the waiting?

Abraham did not set his mind on the facts of his situation but chose instead to focus on God and declare His glory. The circumstances and facts concerning your situation will change. You must stay focused on the truth of God’s Word, which never changes. Keep in mind the wisdom of Hebrews 6:18 on page 98:

- God never changes. Malachi 3:6 reinforces this: “For I am the Lord, I do not change.”
- God never lies.

These two truths gave Abraham hope to endure patiently.

God wants you to know that you can overcome unbelief and that you have the faith you need to make great things happen. Read Matthew 17:20 in the middle of page 99. You too can move mountains! When you set your mind on praising and worshiping God in all situations, your problems will not seem as overwhelming, and you will be at peace.

## Taking Action

Unless you hear, read, and study His Word, you will not know what you have inherited. Read the scriptures in the section titled “Abide in the Word” on page 104.

- John 8:31
- Romans 10:17
- Joshua 1:8
- John 8:32

Meditate on the Word by speaking, hearing and thinking on it as a cow chews its cud. Do this not to get something from God, but because it is truth and truth makes you free.

## Notes

Still experiencing doubts?

- Do you have doubts about putting your faith fully in Christ and accepting the Exchange of the Cross?
- Are you focused on a situation in your life that you think God can't fix or can't work through?
- Do you find yourself giving up in some areas of your life because the voice in your head is telling you the situation will never change?

As discussed in the "young man" stage, you must continue spending time with the Lord in prayer and studying His Word. The better you know God, the more you will trust Him and the less you will doubt.

Use the Doubt Extinguishers Worksheet in Appendix A to identify some root causes of unbelief and see if any apply to you. Then meditate on the scriptures provided to overcome it.

## Closing

Praying scripture releases the power of the God's Word. You are encouraged to pray Ephesians 1:3-13 page 209 daily over yourself and others. May you be strengthened and gain a fresh revelation of who you are in Christ.

In our next session, we'll look at how believing the total and absolute victory of the Cross is crucial to live a transformed life.

## Session 4:

# The Victory of the Cross

### Let's Prepare

Additional study material for the Session 4 video can be found in the companion book:

- Part 4, Chapter 10 – The Complete Victory of the Cross

This session should end with a deeper understanding of why it is crucial that you understand the absolute and total victory of the cross and how you too can walk in that victory.

### Video Reflections

Watch the video and jot down notes on the opposite blank page. Then, reflect on the following:

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
1 Corinthians 1:18*

- How do you respond to someone who judges your faith walk in this way?

---

---

---

---

- How do you explain that the hero you believe in, who chose to die on a cross, is worth following?

---

---

---

---

## Jesus Came to Win

Scripture tells us that God had a purpose for sending Jesus to die on the cross and be resurrected to secure a victory for us. Before Jesus' death on the Cross and resurrection, He told his disciples His purpose for coming – to defeat the enemy.

<sup>27</sup>"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? **But for this purpose I came to this hour.**

<sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; **now the ruler of this world will be cast out.**

*John 12:27, 31 (emphasis added)*

Also read 1 John 3:8 and John 16:8-11 on page 126. They refer to the "ruler of the world" and the devil being judged. Up to this point, we have hardly mentioned the devil.

- Looking back on your life, what have you believed about the devil?

---

---

---

---

- Do you believe the devil and demons are real and active in world today? If so, how?

---

---

---

---

You need to know you have a real enemy who is bent on your destruction. Let's see what scripture has to say about this.

<sup>10</sup>The thief does not come except to **steal, and to kill, and to destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

*John 10:10 (emphasis added)*

<sup>8</sup>Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

*1 Peter 5:8 (emphasis added)*

There is a spiritual war raging all around us and, rest assured, Jesus came and has already secured the victory.

## Notes

- Are you familiar with spiritual warfare? Who are believers fighting? How is it fought?

---

---

---

---

*<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*Ephesians 6:12*

Spiritual warfare is explored in greater detail as you progress in this equipping series.

## Victory for Us

Read Colossians 1:13 on page 128. Jesus' total victory was won on the Cross. When you are in Christ, you have already been rescued from the ruler of this world, the devil. You have been taken from darkness and bondage and can walk in the light and be free. Beware, the devil will continue to lie and tell you that you cannot be free, but you don't have to believe that.

- Like a prisoner of war rescued from a POW camp, how now should you live?

---

---

---

---

- How do you fight the lies of the enemy?

---

---

---

---

## Notes

<sup>14</sup>*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that **through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.***

*Hebrews 2:14*

Read Revelation 1:18 at the bottom of page 128. Jesus is alive now and forevermore. You have victory over the devil because Jesus won it for you at the Cross. Jesus now has the keys of Hades and Death. He has defeated the power of death in your life. In Christ, you have eternal life; there is no death.

<sup>9</sup>*And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For **You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood** out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> **and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.**"*

*Revelation 5:9-10 (emphasis added)*

We can now live on earth as representatives of the King of kings and the Lord of lords. You can evict the devil from your life. You must simply believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus is alive now and you live forever in Christ.

- What does it look like to represent Jesus on earth?

---

---

---

---

- How can I look and act like Jesus to the world around me?

---

---

---

---

Read Matthew 28:18-20 on page 129. This introduces the issue of authority.

- In what areas of your life do you have authority over others? What is the benefit of having authority over others?

---

---

---

---

- In what areas are you under authority? What is the benefit of being under authority?

---

---

---

---

An in-depth study can be found in the "Understanding Authority" series in the Advanced Biblical Foundations library.

Jesus has all authority on Heaven and on earth. He first delegated that authority to Adam and Eve to work with Him to represent Him on earth. Through sin, they lost the authority they had been given. Jesus came to earth, died and was resurrected and got back the authority the devil had taken from Adam. That authority has now been delegated to those who believe in Him.

Why was this authority given to us? To represent Him on earth, to go and make disciples, to baptize them and teach them.

- In your personal life, how do you currently present Jesus to others? What do you say or do?

---

---

---

---

- Do you feel well equipped to do this?

---

---

## Notes

Read Luke 10:17-20 on page 130. We've often heard of the works of the twelve disciples in preaching the Kingdom of God. Here we see that He also sent an additional seventy, believers just like you. He knows you can accomplish these tasks because of the authority He has given you. He also said He would be with you always.

The devil no longer has any authority, but still has power. When you choose to sin, you give up some of that authority. **"In Christ," you have authority and by the Holy Spirit, you have power.** As you walk in fellowship with God, you can operate in both. Your authority in Christ trumps the devil's power. **Jesus' victory is your victory.**

- Do you understand how the power of Holy Spirit works in you to defeat the enemy? This will be addressed in more detail in sessions 5 and 6.

Read Revelation 12:10-11 beginning at the bottom of page 131. In session 2, we discussed the transition from "little children" to "young men" to "fathers." You exercise your authority as you mature spiritually and abide in the Word. Be strong in the Word of God and use it to overcome the devil. The more you exercise your authority, the stronger your faith will become. The victory is sealed, you simply must exercise it.

### Why is it so hard to walk in victory?

Read Ephesians 6:10 in the middle of page 136. Jesus completely defeated the enemy, but did not destroy the enemy. You have victory over the enemy because Jesus won it for you, but you must fight in the power of the Lord, not in your own strength.

We are still at war and the devil's primary weapons are lies and deceit. The enemy attacks you primarily in your mind. You must guard your thoughts diligently. Read Romans 8:6 on page 136.

- What does it mean to be carnally minded? What sort of things might come to your mind when you live this way?

---

---

---

---

- What lies does the devil bring to your mind that you might consider an attack?

---

---

---

---

The devil wants you to focus on the negative things going on in your life. God wants you to look up and set your mind on the Spirit which will give you life and peace. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 on page 206. When you take thoughts captive and focus on the things of the Spirit, the enemy is defeated.

## Do not live in defeat

Read Ephesians 1:19-21 beginning at the bottom of page 136. The devil will try to talk you out of everything Jesus did for you. In the passage, "the exceeding greatness of God's power" is yours if you believe.

- Do you believe that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you through the Holy Spirit? Take a moment to let this sink in. How does that change the way you live your life?

---

---

---

---

Ephesians 3:20 tells us that Jesus is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." That is the unbelievable power of the Holy Spirit in you.

## Notes

Read Acts 1:8 on page 137. Jesus has given the Holy Spirit to live in you and empower you to live in victory. Isn't that amazing?!

### How do you walk in victory?

*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.  
James 4:7*

To walk in the greatest victory of all time, you must first submit to God. Then, you'll be able to resist the devil.

- When you think of the word "submit," does it carry and positive or negative connotation?

---

---

---

---

- In what ways do you currently submit to others in your daily life?

---

---

---

---

- In what ways do others submit to you? How does it benefit them to submit to you?

---

---

---

---

You must also know the truth of God's Word and believe it. Personalize the truths on page 138 and speak them over yourself.

- God loves **ME** and **I AM** His child
- The Cross is the power of God
- The victory of the Cross **IS FOR ME**

Prayer, worship and praise are weapons you use to fight the enemy and must be based on the Word. You must guard your thoughts diligently using these weapons.

Jesus gave us a model prayer in Matthew 6:10, often called the Lord's Prayer. You are told to pray that earth would look like heaven. As His representatives here on earth, we are called to advance the Kingdom of Heaven. We have been given that authority and power.

- How often do you set aside time to pray?

---

---

---

---

- In what ways can you incorporate prayer into your life on a moment by moment basis?

---

---

---

---

Even now, Revelation 5:9-10 on page 138 tells us there are songs being sung around the Throne of Heaven to the King of kings.

- In what ways can you incorporate praise and worship into your life on a moment by moment basis?

---

---

---

---

## Closing

Continue to pray scripture to release the power of the God's Word.

- Is there a scripture you read today that stood out, challenged you, or gave you hope?

---

---

---

---

## Notes

If you have areas of unbelief, pray that Holy Spirit will reveal the truth of His Word, the truth of who He is and what He has planned for you.

In our next session, we'll look at how the Cross totally defeated the power of sin in your life.

## Session 5:

# The Power of the Cross

### Let's Prepare

Additional study material for the Session 4 video can be found in the companion book:

- Part 4, Chapter 11 – The Power of Identification with Christ
- Part 5, Chapter 12 – Living in the Power of the Cross

This session should end with a deeper understanding of the newness of life you experience when you identify fully with the power of the Cross. You will look at how the Cross totally defeats sin and the power of sin in your life.

You are highly encouraged to read Romans 6 and 7 prior to beginning this session.

### Video Reflections

Watch the video and jot down notes on the opposite blank page. Then, reflect on the following.

To fully appropriate the power of the Cross, you must understand what it means to identify with Jesus Christ so you can understand the benefits that belong to you in Him. Dictionary.com defines the verb “appropriate” as follows: to take for oneself, to take possession of. This session, you’ll look at the benefits you are authorized to take and use in Christ.

Read Romans 5:12-21 beginning on page 143.

- Adam’s disobedience is why all man is born with a sinful nature. Romans 6:23 tell us, “the wages of sin is death.” It is our nature to identify with sin and death. It separates us from God. This is the kingdom of darkness.
- Jesus was obedient to death on the Cross. Jesus paid for all sin at the Cross once and for all, allowing you to be born again and no longer be separated from God. Colossians 1:13 tells us, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

Read 1 Corinthians 15:45-47 on page 145. Understanding the truth of who Jesus is helps you identify with Him. In Jesus, there is life! You are forgiven and forever dead to sin.

## Your New Life

When you identify with Christ, He shows you by grace that you have received His salvation and can now live in the in the fullness of everything Jesus has done for you.

- What does it mean to you when you hear the term "born again?"

---

---

---

---

- Have you experienced this in your life?

---

---

---

---

What do you do with the knowledge that, in Christ, you are freely forgiven and restored to right relationship with God? Read Romans 6:1-5 on page 145.

- In verse 1, Paul instructs us not to continue in sin simply because grace is available to cover it. Instead, identify with Christ completely and consider yourself dead to sin.
- Water baptism doesn't save you; it is an expression of your total identity in Christ.
  - ◇ As you are fully immersed in the water, you are identifying with the death of Christ.
  - ◇ As you come up out of the water, you identify with His resurrection and are raised to walk in the newness of life.

Water baptism is not something you do simply because the church says you should or even because scriptures command it.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Matthew 28:19*

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

*Acts 2:38*

You are to be water baptized because to do so is to follow Jesus' example.

*<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. <sup>16</sup>When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup>And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

*Matthew 3:13-17*

Water baptism symbolizes our total rejection of any other god besides the Lord Jesus. It is a very serious and powerful form of identification with Him. It symbolizes the fact that you buried with Him and raised to new life with Him.

- What other "gods" might be ruling your life today?

---

---

---

---

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 on page 146. Identifying with Christ makes you a new creation! You can enjoy the fullness of His resurrection life. Don't stop with salvation; God wants you to personally apply everything Jesus has done for you.

- Have you ever been baptized? If so, when? How did that experience impact your life?

---

---

---

---

## Notes

- Were you aware that salvation is not the end goal of your faith walk?

---

---

---

- Are you are interested in totally identifying with Christ through water baptism? Contact a local church to make plans to experience this life-changing event.

---

---

---

## Because of Jesus

Let's look more closely at what it means to be a "new creation." Read Romans 6:6-8 on page 147. If you want to live in victory, then completely embracing the truth of this scripture is vital.

- It speaks of you dying with Christ so that you might live with Him. What does this mean to you?

---

---

---

- What happens to your old self? Does it ever rear its ugly head?

---

---

---

<sup>9</sup> Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**  
*Romans 6:9-11 (emphasis added)*

*The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*  
*1 Corinthians 15:26*

In the natural world, many see death as terminal, the end of life, the end of everything. In the spiritual realm, in Christ there is no death. You enjoy eternal life with Christ! Dying to sin is to be alive forever with Christ.

The amazing power of the Cross breaks the power of sin in your life. Your old sin nature still exists, but it doesn't have to control your life. If you appropriate by faith what Jesus did at the Cross and completely identify with Him, you can live in victory over sin and render it powerless.

- What areas of sin have controlled your life to this point? What lies does the devil speak into your life that rule your thoughts and actions?

---

---

---

---

- Do you believe you have the power to free yourself from those lies or areas of bondage?

---

---

---

---

## Notes

Read Galatians 2:20 on page 148. Then personalize the list titled "In Christ" and speak that over yourself. For example: I AM born again by the Spirit. Think differently. If you completely identify with Christ, you are no longer a sinner, but a saint.

- How do you define the word "saint" based on upbringing? Do you consider yourself a saint?

- ◇ You may find it interesting to see how the word "saint" is used in the bible to describe believers. Feel free to spend time doing a word study on your own.

Anyone in Christ is a new creation and Christ lives in you. You will continue to sin. When you do, focus on Jesus and all He did for you. You are the righteousness of God. Remember, God hates sin, but God loves you. You will inevitably become what you focus on.

## Dead to the World

Read 1 John 5:19 on page 150. The world, and its powerful pull on us, has been defeated through the Cross. The world system is under the rule of the enemy.

- What are the world's priorities? What is celebrated in society?

- What does it mean to be successful in today's society?

The world is full of temptations, but you can be dead to them and identify with Christ. You do this by applying His overcoming power in your life and appropriating His victory. Read 1 John 2:15-16 on page 150. Review the three areas of temptations in the world on pages 150-151. Take a moment to honestly reflect on the meaning and possibility that one or more may have some control over your life.

- Lust of the flesh
- Lust of the eyes
- Pride of life

Read the Parable of the Sower in Mark 4. Verse 7 says, *"And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop."* Verses 18-19 say, *"<sup>18</sup> Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."*

- In your life, have you experienced times when you fell for the temptations of the world, in big or small ways?

---

---

---

---

- Why is it difficult to resist the desire for things that are not of God?

---

---

---

---

The good news is these earthly temptations do not have to rule or control our lives. Read 1 John 5:4-5 on page 151. Vain pursuits lure you away from who you really are in Christ. When you are dead to the world, the world's snares have no power over you. Your faith in Jesus and all He did for you overcomes the world.

## Notes

Read Galatians 6:14 on page 150.

- What does it mean to “boast in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ?”

---

---

---

---

This takes the focus off you and puts it squarely on the work of the Cross. This is how you are to live. This is especially important given the truth of John 16:33 on page 150. You will be constantly attacked and manipulated by the enemy. Instead of fighting the world and focusing on your situation, simply abide in Him and spend time in His Word to live in the peace of God.

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

*Romans 12:2*

- How do you renew your mind and focus on God?

---

---

---

---

## Free from the Law

When you completely identify with Jesus, you are dead to the world and dead to the law. The law is the idea that God accepts or rejects you based on your performance, what you do or don't do. There is nothing you can do to make yourself more or less acceptable to God. You are totally accepted and have His unfailing love and mercy. You need only receive it by faith.

In Romans 7 (excerpts on page 152), Paul describes our relationship with Christ as a marriage. When you are in Christ, you are dead to the law and “married” to Him. His work on the Cross forged a powerful union and you are united with Him,

in His death and resurrection, completely identified with Him. Being dead to the law frees you from trying to perform to please God. All you have to do is have your heart right before Him and receive and appropriate by faith all He has for you.

Why is it so difficult to live victoriously? You may not have major sin in your life, but your old sin nature persists. You may want to live out the amazing truths in Romans 6, but are stuck in Romans 7. Read Romans 7:15-24 on page 162. Count the personal pronouns (I, me, my) as you read it. Life should not be about “me;” it should be about Jesus, who gave His life for us and now lives in us. You simply cannot live out the truth of God’s word in your own ability.

- In what ways might you be standing in the way of all God has for you?

---

---

---

---

- What actions can you take today to focus your mind on the truths of Romans 6?

---

---

---

---

**<sup>1</sup>Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.** <sup>2</sup>Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup>You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup>For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **<sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.**  
*Galatians 5:1-6 (emphasis added)*

Remember, anything you do on your own moves you away from the reality of who you are in Christ.

## How do you apply the Power of the Cross?

### You must know the truth of God's Word

- You must understand what Jesus did at the Cross and how His death, burial and resurrection defeated the power of sin, setting you free from your old man, the body of sin, the world and the law.

### You must understand your identity in Christ

- You must completely identify with His resurrection life because He is not in the grave, but is raised and lives forever. If you identify with His death, certainly you should identify with His resurrection.

### You must reckon yourself dead to sin and alive to God

- Stop your old way of thinking. Turn from death to life in Christ. Say "no" to sin and "yes" to Christ and His life. You do all this by faith in what Jesus has done for you.

Read Romans 6:13 on page 161. As you present every part of yourself to God, embrace your identity as a new creation, a saint, alive from the dead.

- What does it mean to present your "members" to God?

---

---

---

---

- What struggles can you present to God today? Do you believe He can deliver you from that situation or temptation?

---

---

---

---

If you let sin reign or have ahold of you, you are denying both the truth of God's Word and Jesus's work on the Cross. As you present yourself entirely to the Lord, you will enjoy intimate relationship with Him and a victorious life in Christ.

## Notes

### Closing

Continue to pray scripture to release the power of the God's Word. Select one or more scriptures that stood out to you today.

If you have areas of unbelief, pray that Holy Spirit will reveal your complete acceptance in Jesus and the unconditional, unlimited love of your Heavenly Father. You do not have to perform to be accepted, and the power of the Cross is for you.

In our next session, we'll look at Romans 8 and examine what it's means to live in and by the Holy Spirit.



## Session 6:

# Living the Cross

### Let's Prepare

Additional study material for the Session 4 video can be found in the companion book:

- Part 5, Chapter 12 – Living in the Power of the Cross
- Part 6, Chapter 13 – The Resurrected Life

This session should end with a deeper understanding of the role of Holy Spirit as the key to overcoming any obstacle to living in the victory of the Cross.

You are highly encouraged to read Romans 8 prior to beginning this session.

### Video Reflections

Watch the video and jot down notes on the opposite blank page. Read along with Terry on page 173 as he summarizes how every believer can appropriate all Jesus did at the Cross. Then, reflect on the following:

- Do you believe what Jesus did on the Cross was a complete and eternal work?

---

---

- Do you see yourself as dead to sin?

---

---

- Do you identify completely with the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

---

---

Believing these promises in your heart is the key to receiving them in your life personally. As you apprehend and comprehend the fullness of what Jesus purchased on your behalf, you will walk in increasing wholeness, freedom and power.

## How do you live in victory?

Many people continue to struggle to appropriate and fully live in the power of everything Jesus provided. Read Matthew 16:24-25 on page 174. Jesus explains what is necessary to follow Him completely. This will result in living in the power of the Cross.

- Do you really desire to follow Jesus?

---

---

- Do you really want to be free and live in the victory and power of the Cross?

---

---

- Do you want to gain eternal life, forever living in the presence of the King of kings and Lord of Lords?

---

---

## Deny Yourself

Jesus tells His disciples they must deny themselves. This means you must choose to live your life according to the Word of God. You must deny the desires of your mind and flesh if they do not line up with God's will.

Jesus also says you must lose your life, but not in a physical sense. The word "life" in this passage means "soul." Your soul is your mind, will, and emotions. They tend to be contrary to God's Word and to His Spirit. You must not allow them to have power over your life. Let's see what a soulish life, one ruled by the flesh instead of the Spirit, looks like.

- **The Mind**

- ◊ Intellectual knowledge is needed before anything can be believed and lived out. You may agree with the truth of God's Word, but you don't act on it.

---

- The human soul (mind, emotions, will) lives in our human body and comes under the rule of the spirit. As spirit beings, we can choose to be led by Holy Spirit or continue to live by the flesh and in defeat.
- The spirit of a believer is born again and should be in charge. A believer must learn to submit their soul (mind, emotions, will) and body to the spirit led by Holy Spirit to live in victory.

Living in the Spirit is being God-focused and God-centered. It's all about Him. It's life and peace. God is love and God loves you. In Christ, you can love others as God loves you.

## Notes

<sup>13</sup>For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!  
*Galatians 5:13-15 (emphasis added)*

- What is your first response when you are offended, treated badly or when things just don't go your way?

---

---

- How does it make you feel?

---

---

- How do others react to you?

---

---

- How does it help or hurt the situation and impact your life?

---

---

Choose to walk in the Spirit, forgive and deny your soulish response. Choose not to do the following:

<sup>19</sup>Now the **works of the flesh** are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

*Galatians 5:19-21 (emphasis added)*

The reward for walking in the Spirit is to be filled with and exhibit all the spiritual fruit listed below.

## Notes

<sup>22</sup>But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** <sup>23</sup>**gentleness, self-control.**

*Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

*Galatians 5:22-25 (emphasis added)*

- Is there a particular area that needs to be strengthened?

---

---

## The Importance of Forgiveness

Everyone gets hurt and is offended by other people. Sadly, the people closest to us are usually the ones who do the most to hurt and offend us.

- Do you hold onto areas of unforgiveness in your life? If so, with whom?

---

---

---

---

- Why do you find it difficult to forgive this person?

---

---

---

---

The enemy wants us to be angry with each other and harbor unforgiveness. This opens the door for the enemy to work in our lives as seen in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18:21-35.

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Him and said, **“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”**

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, **“I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”**

<sup>23</sup> Therefore the **kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.** <sup>24</sup> And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> But as **he was not able to pay**, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. <sup>26</sup> The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ <sup>27</sup> Then **the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.**

<sup>28</sup> “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ <sup>30</sup> And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

<sup>32</sup> Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, **‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’** <sup>34</sup> And **his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers** until he should pay all that was due to him. <sup>35</sup> **“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”**

Matthew 18:21-35 (emphasis added)

Your forgiveness from God is directly tied to you forgiving others.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>14</sup> **“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”**

Matthew 6:12, 14-15 (emphasis added)

You are not fighting people, but against spiritual forces of evil. Remember the words of Ephesians 6:12 you read in session 4: 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

You must deny yourself the “right” for revenge and choose to obey the Word and forgive from the heart. Forgiveness is not a feeling. It does not say that what was done to you was okay. It is a choice to obey God’s Word. It is literally love in action and requires you to deny yourself and walk by the Spirit. Your life on the other side of that choice to forgive shows the power of God in your life.

## No Condemnation

Now, let’s talk about receiving the Lord’s forgiveness. Read Romans 8:1-4 on page 163. You must believe you are not condemned, but fully forgiven and free. One of Holy Spirit’s roles is to “convict” you of sin.

- What comes to mind when you hear the word “convict?” Is it a good thing or a bad thing?

---

---

---

- What does the word “repentance” mean to you?

---

---

---

---

We’ve talked about the battle of the mind. This is how it works:

- Holy Spirit will convict you by pointing to a sinful attitude or behavior and tell you, “That is sin.” You will never be condemned as a person.
  - ◊ Holy Spirit loves you, but hates sin.

## Notes

- The enemy wants you to feel shamed and condemned by saying, "You are a sinner."
  - ◊ The devil hates you, and loves sin.
- If you walk in all Jesus did for you through the Cross, there is no shame, guilt or condemnation. You can respond to Holy Spirit's conviction with repentance and turn away from that sin.
  - ◊ The blood of Jesus covers all sin, no matter what you've done or have failed to do, regardless of what you've said or thought.
- Is there anything in your past that you have not go of, that you allow to continue to rule your thought life? Is it something you did? Is it something done to you?

---

---

---

---

Whatever it is, it has no bearing on who you are today. Do not listen to the darts from enemy. As a new creation, focus on who God says you are.

## Battle of the Mind

<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh **lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**

*Galatians 5:16-17 (emphasis added)*

The flesh and the Spirit disagree. Read Romans 8:5-8 on page 164. The enemy wants you to think negatively and focus on yourself, your problems and disappointments. The devil wants you to take your eyes off the victory of the Cross. This brings death.

You are responsible for how you set your mind – on the Spirit or on the flesh. You must be diligent to guard your mind against thoughts the enemy would bring against you. The enemy wants to talk you out of the freedom Jesus paid for and bring you back to bondage.

- ## Notes

---

---

---

---

- [illegible]

---

---

---

---

[illegible]

*Isaiah 26:3*

---

---

---

---

Hebrews 13:8

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Notes

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

*Romans 8:9-14*

Isn't that amazing?! In your own strength, you cannot overcome the flesh, but Jesus has already overcome the world and you are in Him. The immense power of the Cross is released into your life by the Holy Spirit, our Helper sent by God to help us grow in His love and power.

- In what ways might you use this Holy Spirit power to defeat the enemy?

---

---

---

---

- What darts of the enemy are attacking you today?

---

---

---

---

- Do you have trouble allowing the Holy Spirit to help win the victory of the mind?

---

---

---

---

Read Romans 8:15-17 on page 167. Your life will be transformed by the Father's love and it is Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of adoption," who establishes your true identity as a child of God.

The best way to close this course is by summarizing it in scripture. Read the following passage and personalize it. Highlight anything that stands out to you or is an area you need to ask for Holy Spirit's help.

*<sup>1</sup>If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

*<sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

*<sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

*<sup>4</sup> When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

*<sup>5</sup>Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.*

*<sup>8</sup>But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,*

*<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <sup>11</sup>where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.*

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

*<sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do in word or deed,*

*do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

*Colossians 3:1-17*

## Notes

Continue to pray scripture to release the power of the God's Word. Select one or more scriptures to pray over yourself daily. The truth of scripture inspires and protects you. It is your primary weapon of spiritual warfare. Wield it daily, moment by moment, to live a life of peace and freedom available to you because of the victory and power of the Cross.

# APPENDIX A

## Doubt Extinguishers Worksheet

Are you stuck in doubt?	Meditate over this scripture
<p>"Is God really with me?"</p>	<p><i><sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. <sup>19</sup> He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. - Psalm 145:18-19</i></p> <p><i><sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8</i></p> <p><i><sup>5</sup> Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5</i></p>
<p>"Does God really have a plan for my life?"</p>	<p><i><sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13</i></p> <p><i>Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. Psalm 139:16</i></p>
<p>"Does God really hear me when I pray?"</p>	<p><i>The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29</i></p> <p><i><sup>14</sup> If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. 2 Chronicles 7:14-15</i></p>

<b>Are you stuck in doubt?</b>	<b>Meditate over this scripture</b>
<p>"Will God really forgive me?"</p>	<p><sup>9</sup> <i>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.</i>  1 John 1:9</p> <p><sup>19</sup> <i>Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.</i>  Acts 3:19</p>
<p>"Does God really love me?"</p>	<p><sup>8</sup> <i>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.</i>  Romans 5:8</p> <p><sup>37</sup> <i>Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.</i>  Romans 8:37-39</p>

© Copyright 2016, Susan Smart, [www.CreativeBibleStudy.com](http://www.CreativeBibleStudy.com)

## APPENDIX B

### Cross is the Key – Leader Guide

#### Insights from Terry

If you are interested in using the study guide to lead a study group, additional materials are included in this appendix. Prompts are included throughout the study guide to fuel group discussion.

#### Planning Your Time Together

This guide can be used to minister to small groups in churches and homes as well as large groups. A 90-minute session could include:

- 20 minutes – Welcome and intro to the day's session
- 20 minutes – Video – using the study guide blank pages to jot down notes and insights
- 30 minutes – Group reflection and discussion; a series of book readings and prompts are offered in the study guide (choose as many as you see fit)
- 10-minutes – Prayer for the group (reflecting on the day's topic, personal requests)

#### Group Guidelines

If you are beginning your journey as a study leader, we recommend sharing guidelines to create an environment where all feel safe to share and ask questions as they absorb the teaching. There are many resources online for this type of information. Feel free to use this as a starting point.

- We will gather to grow in our relationship with Jesus.
- We will seek biblical truths.
- We will pray for one another at each meeting.

Whether you are an experienced teacher or just stepping out in faith in this area of gifting, consider teaming up with another believer to conduct this teaching. Each person lends a different insight into the scripture and each person's life experience may stimulate growth and discussion and offer encouragement to the group. These truths have been a blessing in my life.

You may also find it useful to share personal stories, if you feel comfortable doing so. This creates an atmosphere of authenticity, a feeling that the topics discussed pertain to real life. It also makes you more approachable to the members of the group who may be led to share their own stories or request more information and discussion outside the group setting.

Reading scripture aloud with "I" and "me" or inserting your own name brings the scripture to life in a more personal way. Inserting the names of friends and family members is a great way to pray scripture over others.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with the Body of Christ, His precious church, and to those who have yet to hear and understand the true message of the Cross.

*Heavenly Father, I lift up your faithful servant. Strengthen and inspire them. Bless all who will hear the message of the cross of Jesus Christ through this teaching. Touch their hearts in a mighty way. We pray now for hearts to be prepared to hear Your Word. We proceed expecting lives will be transformed in Jesus' mighty name.*

*<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,*

*<sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,*

*<sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now*

*<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing,*

*that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

*Philippians 1:2-6*

Blessings to you,

Terry Moore

# Session 1 for Group Leaders:

## Introduction and The Love of the Father

### Things to Consider

You may need additional time to fully review and discuss today's topic. The amount of time you spend doing the following may vary:

- Welcoming the group and helping them get to know one another
- Discussing the symbolism and reality of the cross – You may find yourself offering insights into the horrific nature of the crucifixion that the participant has never heard. The amount of time you allot for the group to share their feelings about this will vary.

The first session should end with a feeling of being in a safe environment where all can share confidentially and with a sense of amazement at hearing how much God the Father loves us all.

### Welcoming the Group

- ☐ Thanks for coming and introduce yourself
- ☐ Location logistics – location of bathrooms, refreshments (if any), time commitment
- ☐ Have each person introduce themselves and answer an Ice Breaker question. There are many resources online for these questions. Feel free to choose from the following:
  - ☐ What is the best gift you have ever received? How did it make you feel? What did you do to deserve it?
  - ☐ What led you to join this study today? Who invited you to come?
  - ☐ If you could change ANYTHING about your life today, what would it be? Why?
  - ☐ When I <fill in the blank>, I feel completely joyful.
- ☐ Share the Group Guidelines in the previous section.
- ☐ Overview of this course and the series
  - ☐ This study is the first in a series offered by Terry Moore intended to transform your life as the incredible love and power of the cross is revealed to you. We will examine the purpose of the cross and the amazing victory it represents.

# Video Group Reflections

## Getting the conversation started.

These can be used each session to begin the video discussion:

- ☐ What part of the video impacted you the most?
- ☐ Is there something new you'd never heard about which stood out?

## Session 2 for Group Leaders:

# Children of God

### Things to Consider

You may need additional time sharing and discussing how to receive and fully experience God's love. Roadblocks to accepting God's love may involve:

- Needing to forgive an earthly father to fully accept God the Father's love. For some people, this can be a very emotional topic.
- For some, it may be the first time Holy Spirit's role in a believer's life is explored.

As your students continue working through the equipping series, they will have opportunities to address roadblocks to faith in more detail.

### Welcoming the Group

- ☐ Name tags may be helpful to help grow relationships and avoid the awkward, "What is your name again?"
- ☐ Welcome new group members. Have each person state their name and answer an Ice Breaker question. Feel free to choose from the following:
  - ☐ Where did you grow up as a child, as a young adult? In what city do you live now?
  - ☐ At what age were you first introduced to Jesus?
  - ☐ Is there a person in your life who you consider your spiritual mother or father? Someone who introduced you to Jesus and helped you in your faith walk?
  - ☐ Reflecting on last session's teaching, is there anything you'd like to share?
- ☐ Share the Group Guidelines in the previous section if there are new group members.



## Session 3 for Group Leaders:

# The Exchange of the Cross

### Things to Consider

You may need additional time sharing and discussing how to receive and fully experience God's love by simply believing. Students will have the opportunity to explore roadblocks and doubts that hinder their faith walk. You may choose to do this during your time together or recommend it for independent study.

### Welcoming the Group

Begin the discussion with a personal reflection on the stages discussed in the last session. Feel free to choose from the following:

- ☐ Reflecting on last session's teaching on the various stages of spiritual maturity, is there anything you'd like to share? What stage do you find yourself in ("child," "young man," or a "father")?
- ☐ This week, we'll discuss "The Exchange of the Cross." Let's look at the word "exchange." What sort of things do we exchange in daily life? (i.e., recipes, gifts, holiday cookies, cash vouchers for giving up your seat on an airplane, groceries for cash paid)
  - ☐ In most cases, it's give-and-take, a 2-way exchange.
  - ☐ Let's see what is required from us to get all God has for us when we accept the Exchange of the Cross.



# Session 4 for Group Leaders:

## The Victory of the Cross

### Things to Consider

You may need additional time sharing and discussing concepts that may be new to some in the group:

- Devil, demons and spiritual warfare – the reality of this in the world today
- Authority

These concepts are discussed in greater detail as this equipping series progresses. Also, there is an additional course specifically focused on “Understanding Authority” in the Advanced Biblical Foundations library.

### Welcoming the Group

Begin the discussion with a personal reflection on the Exchange of the Cross and the essence of faith discussed in the last session. Feel free to choose from the following:

- ☐ Reflecting on last session’s teaching, is there anything you’d like to share?
- ☐ This week, we’ll discuss “The Victory of the Cross.” Let’s look at the word “victory.” Victories are celebrated daily in our society. Name a few. What is the end prize? What is required to achieve them?
- ☐ Looking back on your life, have you experienced a victory of sorts? What obstacles did you have to overcome to achieve it? What was the “prize?”
- ☐ Has someone ever offered you something and made you think, “Wow, that’s just too good to be true?” How did you respond to the offer?



# Session 5 for Group Leaders:

## The Power of the Cross

### Things to Consider

You may need additional time sharing and discussing concepts that may be new to some in the group:

- What it means to be born again
- How immersion baptism releases the power of Holy Spirit in your life

The concept of identity is the focus of today's session. It is discussed in greater detail in the next course titled "Love, Identity and Purpose."

### Welcoming the Group

Begin the discussion with a personal reflection on the Victory of the Cross discussed in the last session. Feel free to choose from the following:

- ☐ Reflecting on last session's teaching, is there anything you'd like to share?
- ☐ This week, we'll discuss "The Power of the Cross." We'll talk about the need to identify with Christ and live in the fullness of all He has done for us. When asked to introduce yourself, what do you normally share? How do you identify yourself?
- ☐ If you could have any superpower, what would it be? What would your superhero name be?



# Session 6 for Group Leaders:

## Living the Cross

### Things to Consider

You may need additional time sharing and discussing concepts that may be new to some in the group:

- The Importance of Forgiveness
- Communion

Forgiveness is discussed in greater detail as this equipping series progresses, specifically in the course titled “Free Indeed.”

### Welcoming the Group

Begin the discussion with a personal reflection on the Power of the Cross and the essence of faith discussed in the last session. Feel free to choose from the following:

- ☐ Reflecting on last session’s teaching, is there anything you’d like to share?
- ☐ This week, we’ll discuss “Living the Cross.” We’ll talk about how to live out all Christ did for you on the Cross. Looking back on your life, are there obstacles you had to overcome to be who you are today? Describe one.

### Closing the Course

You may choose to share Communion with the group on your final day of this course. It reminds us of all that Jesus did at the Cross on our behalf. Read chapter 14 titled “The Cross and Communion” beginning on page 187 to create a memorable experience for the group.