

Week 6: The Cross

Theme: Love Poured Out

Key Scripture: Luke 23:32–49; Romans 5:6–8

Focus: The meaning of Jesus' death

Teaching: The cross reveals both the seriousness of sin and the depth of God's love. Jesus takes our place.

Luke 23:32–49 and Romans 5:6–8 draw our attention to the heart of the gospel: the cross as the place where human sin and divine love meet. In Luke's account, Jesus is crucified among criminals, mocked and rejected, yet responding with forgiveness and trust in the Father. Even in suffering, His words and actions reveal mercy, compassion, and unwavering obedience.

The scene exposes the seriousness of sin—not only in the brutality of the cross, but in humanity's readiness to condemn the innocent. Yet it also reveals a love that refuses to retaliate. Jesus gives Himself fully, not because we deserve it, but because love compels Him.

Romans 5 makes this truth unmistakable: Christ died for us “while we were still sinners.” God's love is not a reward for righteousness, but a gift given in our weakness. The cross becomes the ultimate demonstration that God meets us at our lowest point, not after we have cleaned ourselves up.

Together, these passages invite us to respond with humility and gratitude. They call us to live transformed by a love that sacrifices, forgives, and redeems—showing us both the cost of sin and the immeasurable depth of God's grace.

Discussion Questions:

- What emotions arise when you think about the cross?
- Why was Jesus' death necessary?
- How should the cross change the way we live?

Scripture Engagement Questions:

1. What stands out most to you in the crucifixion account?
2. Why is the cross both an act of justice and mercy?
3. How does Jesus' willingness to suffer reshape our understanding of love?
4. What does it mean that Christ died “while we were still sinners”?
5. How should the cross influence how we treat others?
6. What false ideas about God are corrected by the cross?
7. How does the cross invite both gratitude and transformation?

Reflection/Prayer: Spend time in quiet reflection or worship focused on Christ's sacrifice.