

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

WEEK 1

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:33-34 (NLT)

³³ When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified — one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

Philippians 3:10-11 (NLT)

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

Matthew 27:24 (NLT)

Pilate saw that he wasn’t getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. The responsibility is yours!”

Hebrews 9:22 (NLT)

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

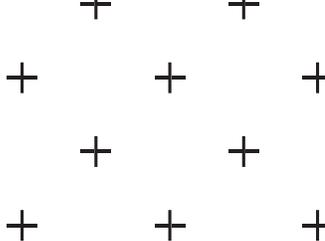
Extra Reading:

Romans 3:23 (NLT), Romans 3:12 (NLT), Romans 6:23 (NLT), Romans 10:14 (NLT)

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FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

1. Have you ever sat with someone and heard them utter their last words? Who was it? How did that experience impact you?
2. Read Luke 24:34. What do Jesus' final words communicate to you about his heart for people?
3. We pray about finances, health issues, jobs, etc. Why is it that we don't pray more consistently about our greatest need?
4. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them." How did Pastor Steve's point about "who's the them" strike you?
5. People sometimes believe they're Christians if they go to church; or if they're good, moral people; or if they express generosity. How could we go about doing a better job helping people understand the reality of true faith?
6. When was the last time you prayed for the salvation of an unchurched friend or family member? If you began doing that, how do you think God might use that? How might your heart change?
7. Jesus understood forgiveness was of such great importance that he laid down his life for us. How does this make you want to respond to His call on your life?
8. Pastor Steve shared a quote by Pastor Charles Stanley:
"Forgiveness is never complete until we've fully experienced the forgiveness of God; until we can forgive those who have wronged us; and until we are able to forgive ourselves."
As you consider these three statements, do any of these areas need greater attention in your life?
9. In closing, take time to write down the name of at least one person who doesn't know Jesus that you will commit to pray for throughout 2019, and pray as a group for their salvation.

