

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

WEEK 4

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27:45-46 (NLT)

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 46 At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Psalm 22:1-3 (NIV)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? 2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. 3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

"... Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (quoting Deut. 31:6)

Psalm 69:21 (NIV)

They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Psalm 22:15 (NIV)

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

Matthew 27:51 (NIV)

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split.

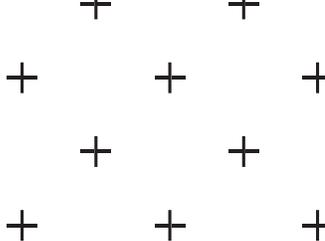
John 19:30 (NIV)

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

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FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where it felt like you had been abandoned by the people closest to you? How did that make you feel?
2. Physical pain can be overwhelming, and emotional pain can be, too. How would you describe what it's like to experience both at the same time?
3. What are the issues or topics in our world that sometimes make us want to look away, turn the channel, or keep scrolling? How do you think Jesus may have felt as he took upon himself all the sin and struggle that makes most people look away?
4. There are four eyewitness accounts of Jesus' ministry, which tell the same stories from different angles. Why do you think the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are written this way? Additionally, how do our emotions and/or closeness to a situation sometimes affect how we remember something?
5. Read Matthew 27:45-46, then read Psalm 22:1-3. Why is it significant that Jesus said in Matthew the exact same words recorded in the book of Psalms?
6. Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies during His 33 years on earth - over 300! In light of that, why do you think so many still choose to deny who Jesus says He is?
7. Think of a time in your life when you needed someone, but they turned away. If you could, how might you attempt to save others from that same type of rejection?
8. People sometimes say, "God forgives us because He loves us." Senior Pastor Steve Poe mentioned that this is certainly true, but it's not the whole story. Why is Jesus' work on the cross so significant to those who are Christ-followers?
9. Read John 19:30. Jesus didn't say, "I am finished," but instead said, "It is finished." What is the "it" that was accomplished, and what is your response to this act?

