

Four Things the Cross Shows Us

Ice Breaker: When you see a tattooed cross? Or one round their neck? What's your reaction? When it is a secular entertainer? When it is a clergyman? When it is a woman showing cleavage? When the person is profane?

BIG IDEA: On Easter, we reflect on the meaning of Jesus, crucifixion. Extend that reflection now. Allow the insights gained to shape our attitudes, words, actions.

Digging Deeper: Four Things the Cross Shows Us?

1. Matthew 26:4 - What Sin Will Do

- A. Blind you to reality.
- B. Flip-flop the concepts of 'right' and 'wrong'

Discuss: Religious leaders got Jesus' identity wrong. How can the average person get it right? What sins blind us to reality? Pride? Stubborn grasp of presuppositions?

2. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a - What Love Will Bear

- A. All Things
- B. Rejections too.

Discuss: How does the crucifixion reveal God's love for people? More importantly, what can we do to help others have confidence in this self-giving love?

3. John 3:16-18 - What a Person is Worth

- A. Everything.
- B. And more, i.e. God's very Son

Discuss: Many people struggle to accept God's love for them. What reasons lie behind this? Is there something unique about our culture that adds to this struggle? Do you struggle like this? Did you? What changed that for you?

4. Hebrews 9:16-22 - What Forgiveness Costs

- A. Under the domain of the Law: animal life
- B. Under the domain of Grace: a divine life

Discuss: In telling others that Christ died to take away the guilt of their sins, what responses do you get? Lazy indifference? Zealous devotion? Sincere gratitude? What would help the message have more impact?