



Easter

LESSONS AT THE CROSS

WEEK 2: HOW THE CROSS RESCUES US

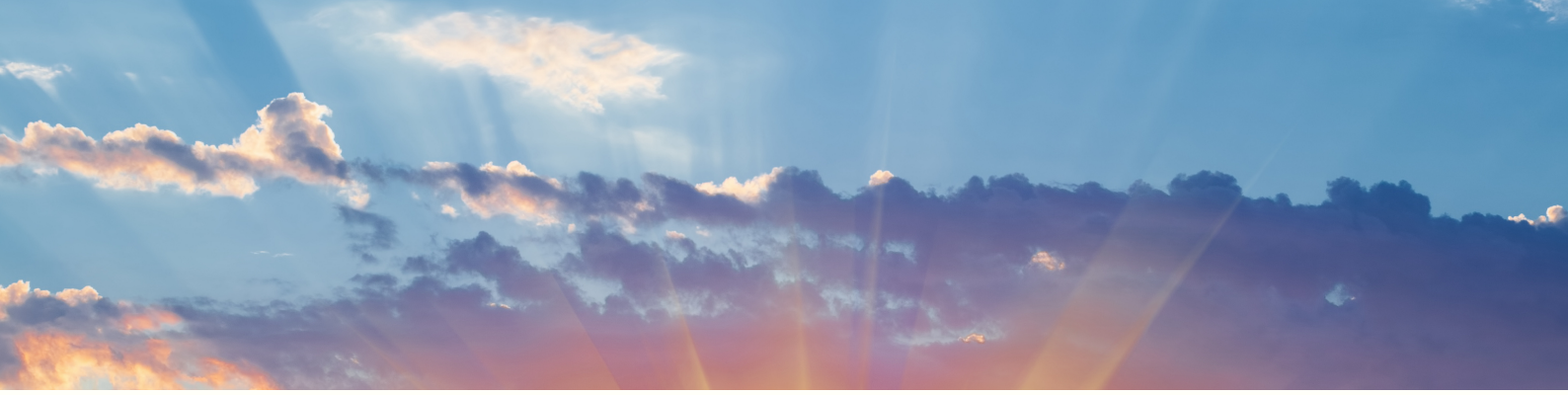
INTRO QUESTIONS

1. Let's talk sweets! What are your favourite Easter treats?
2. How important has Easter typically been in your family? Is it a big celebration or just a reason for a few chocolate eggs? Why do you think that is?
3. Did you grow up going to church at Easter? Have you continued that with your family? Why/Why not?

PLAY VIDEO

The video for this session can be found at www.thebeaconchurch.com/eastersmallgroups

You may want to take notes during the video.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In the video, Alex said that the Jesus' death on the cross rescues us from four things. He gave us an image for each of those things. Let's explore those together.

Rescued from Alienation and Abandonment

In this section we had the image of the family home. If you're unfamiliar you might want to read the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32.

What does it mean to be alienated or abandoned? Have you ever felt like that at all?

How does Jesus rescue us from that?

Rescued from Punishment

The next section we had the image of the temple altar. In ancient times, when a Jewish person did wrong, they would go to the temple and offer a sacrifice (an animal of some kind) as an offering for their sin. It was to remind them that their sin made God angry and had to be punished. At that time, an animal would take their punishment for them. Every time they sinned they would need to go and offer another sacrifice.

Read Hebrews 9:12-14.



Why would Jesus have been called the Lamb of God?

How do you feel about the idea that Jesus was punished in your place - that he took God's rightful anger for your sin (past and future)?

Rescued from Fear

Here we have the image of a battlefield in which Jesus wins the victory over death. Read Colossians 2:15.

Have you ever feared death? What other things do we fear?

How does Jesus' death on the cross rescue us from those things?

Rescued from Shame and Guilt

In the final section the image is of a launderette. Read 1 John 1:9.

What is necessary for us to be made clean through Jesus?

If someone struggles with shame or guilt how can they be free of that? How can Jesus really help to rescue us in that?



PERSONAL APPLICATION

In this session we learned that Jesus' death on the cross rescues us from alienation and abandonment, punishment, fear, shame and guilt.

Of those four areas, which do you connect with the most or which one stands out to you the most? Which do you find the most difficult to understand or believe? Why?

Many of these things are actually the opposite of what people often think about the church or about God. People may think that the church wants to exclude people - but Jesus said there's room for all in the family. People may believe that God is just angry and wants to punish people all the time - but Jesus said he doesn't want anyone to have to suffer. And people may think that church is all about making you feel guilty - but Jesus said he came to free us from guilt and shame. Why do you think there's such misunderstanding about church or God? Have you ever felt this way? What can you do to help yourself or someone else better understand who God really is and what the cross really means?