WEEK 3: HOW THE CROSS ESTABLISHES JESUS' RULE

INTRO QUESTIONS

Time for a short Easter quiz! Try these True or False questions.

1. Eggs have been used in Spring festival celebrations for more than 2,500 years. **T**
2. In early church history eggs were decorated and used to play games with at Easter. **F** (They were gifts to eat)
3. In Victorian times eggs were made of cardboard, covered in satin and filled with gifts for children. **T**
4. The first chocolate egg was made by Cadbury in 1925. **F** (It was made in 1875)

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

Begin by reading together the following verses: Ephesians 6:11-12, 1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:17, Ephesians 1:19-22, 1 John 3:8, Romans 16:20.

These verse describe two great truths that show the tension we live with in this world. What are those truths? (Hint: Alex described them right at the start of the video!)

The reality is that though Jesus had total victory over sin, death and Satan through the cross, we still live in a broken world that is not how God intends for it to be. Life isn't perfect! So the question for us to consider is how can the cross show us Jesus' rule in our lives NOW not just in heaven?

1.A partial victory displays Jesus more fully.
Alex explained this idea by using the illustration of a diamond displayed on black velvet.

How does that example help us to understand why God would allow evil to remain in the world for a time - if Jesus is like the diamond?

2.A sacrificial victory shows Jesus more powerfully.
Read Hebrews 2:14 and Colossians 2:15.
How was Jesus' power over Satan truly shown?

How could that kind of sacrifice show Jesus to be more powerful than Satan?

3.A delayed victory shows Jesus as hope for the future.
Alex described this aspect of Jesus' victory over Satan as allowing us to experience more of Jesus in this life, while still living with the certain hope that we will experience him fully in the future.

Christianity doesn't try to hide from the reality that life is still difficult for many of us. What is hopeful about this victory of Jesus?

In what ways can we experience Jesus in this life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In this session we learned that Jesus' death on the cross shows us more of who Jesus is; it demonstrates that sacrifice is his true strength; and it reminds us that we have a certain hope for the future.

It can be a difficult tight rope to walk between seeing Jesus' victory and recognising the reality of the world we live in. What do you find most difficult about trying to balance that truth?

What most helps you to find the balance between those two things?

How could these lessons of the cross be helpful to someone who is going through a difficult time and wrestling with the evil or brokennes of this world?