



Easter

LESSONS AT THE CROSS

WEEK 1: HOW THE CROSS REVEALS JESUS

INTRO QUESTIONS

1. How do you usually celebrate Easter?
2. What is one thing you remembered doing as a kid at Easter that you really enjoyed?
3. What do you know about why Christians celebrate Easter?

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

What did you think of Alex's question at the beginning - "Why are Christians so obsessed with the cross"? Have you ever wondered that? Have you ever felt the way his friend did?

In this first session, Alex said that the cross helps us to see God better. He defined this as God's glory, meaning the cross puts the excellence of God on display. He said that Jesus' death on the cross is "the most wonderful thing about someone being known for everybody to see."

Read John 12:23, John 13:31 and John 17:1.

How would you say it's possible that the cross could show "what is most praiseworthy about God"?

Justice and Love

Alex went on to explain that what is "demonstrated" or shown about God through the cross is both his justice and his love.

Read Romans 3:25-26.

How can the cross show God's justice?



*Do you find it difficult to accept the cross as sufficient for justice?
Why/why not?*

Read Romans 5:8.

How does the cross demonstrate God's love?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In this session we learned that the cross shows both God's justice and love because Jesus experienced God's justice so that we could experience his love. Alex described this as "divine substitution," meaning Jesus accepted what should have been ours and we are offered what should be his.

In what ways have you experienced "divine substitution" in your life? When have you received love rather than punishment?

Jesus has already accepted our punishment, but his love is an offer that we have to choose whether or not to accept. Why might this be difficult to accept? What could help you to receive that offer? How could you help someone else to receive it?