

Jesus, the sinless Son of God, provides the way back to God

In the Lower Story they said, "He is finished!"

In the Upper Story Jesus said, "It is finished!"

A new beginning

Discussion Questions:

1. As Jesus prepared for the Passover meal (a time laden with imagery of sacrificed lambs and shed blood), he did not stop teaching and showing his followers how to live (John 13:1-17). Describe the act of service Jesus offered his disciples (including Judas) and how they responded. How does our willingness to serve reveal Jesus' presence in our life and in the world?
2. Jesus was emphatically clear that he is the only way back to a restored relationship with the Father, the only path to heaven (John 14:6). How do some people (even Christians) push back on this exclusive claim of Jesus? Why is it important for us to embrace this clear teaching of the Savior?
3. Right before his arrest, Jesus took 3 of his friends and went to a garden to pray (Matthew 26:36-46). What do you learn about the love and power of God, contrasted with the weakness and need of people, as you read this account?
4. The religious leaders and the political leaders joined in a twisted tale of abuse and rejection (Matthew 26:57-67; 27:1-10; John 18:28--19:16). How did they treat Jesus and how did he respond?
5. Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, vigorously denied three times that he even knew the Lord—even as Jesus watched on (Luke 22:54-62). How must this have felt to Jesus? What are ways we deny Jesus and act like we don't know him?
6. What do you learn about the heart of Jesus as he hung on the cross (Luke 23:32-43; John 19:25-27), interacting with those who crucified him, the thief who reached out to him, and his own mother?
7. One of the briefest, most powerful statements in all of scripture is when Jesus said, "It is finished." From a Lower Story perspective, what must people have thought when Jesus spoke those words? From an Upper Story spiritual reality, what was Jesus declaring and what does this mean for us?
8. Hebrews 10:19-22 points out three things that happen when we enter a friendship with Jesus. How have you experienced (or how are you experiencing) one of these in your life:
 - We can draw near God with absolute confidence
 - We no longer have a guilty conscience
 - We live with a sense of being cleansed and pure

Homework: The whole purpose of Jesus entering the Lower Story and offering himself as a sacrifice was to bring us back into relationship with God. Write a brief account of how the death of Jesus has personally changed your life. Then share this brief reflection with a friend or two, and maybe with one of your pastors.

For next week, please read Chapter 27 of The Story (Matthew 27-28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 19-21).

Sunday Morning Discussion Group—Easter Sunday information

We will not meet on April 10 and 17. On April 10, there will be no Story sermon in worship. But on April 17 (Easter Sunday), the sermon will be based on Chapter 27 (the resurrection). So that you are able to access the content to view the video teaching, as well as, the weekly handout for that lesson, please go to this link:

<https://www.crosspointchino.org/bulletin>