

## The Cross

**Purpose:** To communicate the gift of grace available to Christians as well as the price that was paid for that grace in Jesus' death on the cross.

**How would you define grace?** It is an undeserved gift or unmerited favor.

Romans 6:23            We deserved death, instead were offered the gift of eternal life.  
The price of this amazing grace was Jesus' death on the cross.

Matthew 26:36-27:50 (Take turns reading sections of the Bible)

Matthew 26	<b>Emotional Pain:</b> (Show scene 3: Passion movie)
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- **V.38** Jesus soul was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.
- **V.56** His disciples who said they'd never betray Him deserted Him and fled.
- **V.74** Peter denied he ever even knew Jesus

Mathew 27	<b>Physical Pain:</b> (Show scene 16: Passion movie or medical account)
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- **V.26** Jesus was flogged. The guards whipped Jesus repeatedly (up to 39 times).
- Centurions used whips with pieces of metal or rock on the end of the whip.
- **V.27-31** The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head.
- They drove the thorns deep into his head by striking Him with a staff.
- Imagine one hundred soldiers spitting on him and striking him and mocking him
- **V.32-37** At this point, his back is torn apart from the flogging and swollen.
- Jesus was forced to carry a 100lb wooden cross that would tear into His back
- They laid Jesus on the rough wooden cross and nailed His hands and feet to it
  - The nails were placed between the bones in his wrists
  - Other nails go through the feet. Jesus hung on the cross by those nails

Isaiah 53:4-6. Read this once. Then, read again placing persons name in place of "our."

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 21	<b>Spiritual Pain</b>
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- Jesus hoped His display of love would compel us to repent of our sin.
- Jesus died so you would no longer live for yourself but for Him.
- God made Jesus become "sin" so that we could become His "righteousness"
- Sin separates. Perhaps this is why Jesus cried out, "My God my God, why have you forsaken me" on the cross before he died (**Matthew 27:46**).
  - Jesus felt nearly unbearable pain of separation from his Father in heaven for the first time in all eternity.
- That is the price Jesus paid. Why did he do all this? Because he loves you.
- He died so you could be forgiven. To exchange your sin for His righteousness.

**Review sin letter to God:** How does this sacrifice make you feel toward Jesus/your sin?