



## **The Gospel of John** **The Blessing of the Cross | Part 35**

*This resource can be used to guide your personal anchoring time throughout the week, a small group discussion, or even a one-on-one conversation.*

### **REFLECT**

The Romans designed the cross to be a curse. Yet, God had a different plan. What was intended to be a device of monumental suffering became an instrument of eternal blessing. Jesus suffered on a cross and covered your sin for you so that God does not count your sins against you. Jesus did this for everyone: you, your spouse, your children, your co-workers, and your neighbors. This forgiveness was brought with a price and is for anyone who believes.

- Read John 19:16-18 and Isaiah 53:4-6. How does the agony of Christ's suffering lead to joy for us?
- Why is it important for us to continually reflect on Jesus' suffering for our sins? How does this reflection align our perspective with God's eternal focus?
- Read John 19:19-24. How is Christ's sovereignty displayed through the fulfillment of scripture in this passage?
- Read John 19:25-27. Jesus' sympathy is displayed as He looks out for the well-being of His mother, Mary.
  - What does this act of sympathy teach us about the character of God?
  - How have you experienced Jesus' sympathy and love for you?
- When you face suffering, how can you remember that God knows, God cares, and God has already done something about it?
- Who do you need to share the forgiveness and love found in Jesus with this week?

### **PRAY**

Begin your time of prayer by reading **Psalm 51:10-12**. Read it slowly. Now, use this verse to guide your prayer. To get you started...

**FOCUS** on Jesus' suffering on the cross and the eternal blessing because of His sacrifice.

**THANK** God for his unending love and forgiveness for you.

**CONFESS** where you have strayed or rebelled against God in action or thought.

**ASK** God to renew a steadfast spirit within you, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

#### **\*Keep going this week by reading these scriptures:**

1 John 3:16  
Colossians 1:15  
Luke 23:19-23  
Psalm 103:8-12

