

Overview of the *Spiritual Journey (So Far)*

We are living in God's epic Quest to fully restore His Kingdom here on earth.

The world we live in has been effected by Original Sin -> Spiritual Idolatry -> Internal Conflict -> Hostile Attacks.

The state of humanity and the world are not God's Fault,
But God has freely chosen to make them His Problem!



*Not Interested!
Rejection*



*Pursuing Earthly Happiness
Replacements*



*Actively Seeking
Rationalizations*



*Committing Our Life
Redemption*

*How Does God work through these hostile responses to Him and the state of the world?
God presents to us the suffering of Jesus Christ...*

With us

By us

For us

More than us

Life Group Notes

Getting Started: The first three “places” that people can be at in the journey can dominate their lives. Yet, even for committed Christians, they will continue to remain in their lives. Have you recently experienced any of them in your life?

Reviewing the Sermon: Read Isaiah 53:3-11; John 3:16-21

Do you remember when Jesus’ death, first or most clearly, made sense to you?

What do you think are the main reasons why people struggle accepting Jesus’ death on the cross for them?

Which of these following quotes speaks to you most? Why?

It costs God nothing, so far as we know, to create nice things; but to convert rebellious wills cost Him crucifixion. C.S. Lewis

Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us. John R.W. Stott

Jesus has borne the death penalty on our behalf. Behold the wonder! There He hangs upon the cross! This is the greatest sight you will ever see. Son of God and Son of Man, there He hangs, bearing pains unutterable, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God. Oh, the glory of that sight! Charles Spurgeon

Love, not anger, brought Jesus to the cross ... Jesus knew that by his vicarious suffering he could actually absorb all the evil of humanity and so heal it, forgive it, redeem it.” Richard Foster

A Prayer: God hold us to that which drew us first, when the Cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else. Amy Carmichael

Digging Deeper: Put each of these passages into your own words

1 Peter 2:20-25

1 Peter 3:15-18

1 John 2:1-2

Philippians 2:6-11

Bringing It Home: How has God used Jesus’s suffering to help you deal with your own hurts, wounds and suffering?

Further Study: Prof. Patrick Schriener has an excellent article on 10 Things you should know about the cross: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-cross>