

The Common Thread: There is a Holy God who lovingly pursues a relationship with his creation, man.

Big Picture

- Atonement—Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
- Forgiveness of sins
- Jesus is Lord over sin and death
- Jesus is Lord over all!
- Is Jesus Lord over your life?

Scene 1 – Passover

Luke 22

Jesus makes a new covenant.

Jesus is the atonement for our sin.

Scene 2 – Desperate prayers

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

How to pray in the face of a major Crisis

If I'm going to pray like Jesus – my prayers will be:

Brief

Luke 22:42; Matthew 6:7-13

Brutally Honest

Luke 22:42; Habakkuk 1:2-4; Job 10:2-3, 18-22; Matthew 27:45-46 & Psalm 22:1

Shamelessly Persistent

Luke 22:42-44; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Luke 11:5-10 & 18:1-8

Humbly Offered

Luke 22:42 & Galatians 2:21; 2 Samuel 12:13-25; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10; Hebrews 12:2-3

My Story

When, if ever, does doubt occur in your life and faith? Is there anything specific you've typically done to deal with it?

Jesus wants to use the Scriptures to teach us more about himself and his father. But we need to be active participants in exploring the Bible. Which of the following ways of accessing the Bible have you tried? (circle all that apply to you)

Reading a daily devotional book (like Daily Bread)
Bible study course (i.e. Beth Moore, Bible Study Fellowship)
Inductive Bible study / Reading a One Year Bible
Scripture memorization / Growth Group homework
Listening to the Bible / Reading passages picked at random

What was your experience with those you've tried? Which one has been the most helpful for you?

Going Deeper

Healthy communication with God is dependent on us being on good terms with Him. Unfortunately, like any relationship, there can be roadblocks that we may or may not be aware of that erode and even cut off our communication with Him. What potential roadblocks do the following verses describe?

Proverbs 21:13

Matthew 5:23-24

Mark 11:25

James 4:3-4

Is there one that you think people tend to forget more than others? Which one is most important for you to remember?

Usually, it's during times of hardship and challenge that we are most often tempted to doubt God's plan and his care for us. How do the following passages help us understand hardship's role and the attitude God wants us to have toward it?

Romans 5:3-5

James 1:2-4

Romans 8:28-30

What is most challenging for you in accepting what these passages say about hardship?

In what ways can the truths in these passages be helpful to you in handling difficult times in your life?

Understanding who Jesus is and what he has done for us is the essential message of the resurrection. The following passages all contain statements that Jesus made about Himself. For each one, identify what He says about Himself and any ways you can think of how His description of Himself can impact our lives as believers.

Matthew 11:29

John 6:35

John 8:12

John 10:14-15

John 14:6

When someone decides to live in light of the reality of the resurrection, there is a cost involved, because anything worth much usually costs much. How do Jesus' words about the cost of following Him in Luke 14:25-35 fit with your spiritual journey and/or experience in following Him?

Scene 3 – The Cross

John 3:16-18, Romans 3:23, 5:8-10, 6:23, 10:9, Acts 4:12, 2 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 2:11-14, Philippians 2:12-13, Galatians 2:20

Why is the Cross necessary?

- Sin separates us from God. (*Sin is our willful, deliberate, frontal assault against a holy God.*)
- All sin has to be punished.
- Someone has to pay with their life.
- It is how God rescues and redeems us.
- It cleared the way for God to work in us.

Scene 4 – An Empty Tomb

Luke 24:1-49, Hebrews 11:6 and 1-40

Faith is not believing the unbelievable, it's acting upon the evidence.

Two Kinds Of Doubt

(1) Doubt that Disobeys
James 1:6; Proverbs 3:5-6

(2) Doubt that Doubts
Mark 9:17-26; Jude 1:20-23

Jesus is Lord over everything, even death.

Is Jesus Lord of your life?