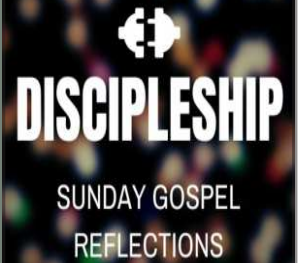


## Theme - The Cross: God's Love in Action

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."**

Verse 16 John 3:13-17



### Adults

1. Many of us struggle to understand what it actually takes to live the way God intends. God's way is love, even when the world fails to love in return. How is Jesus a model for the way you love and interact with others?
2. The cross is a great gift to us. It's easy for us to forget that Christ deeply understands our suffering and suffers with us when we hurt. It's no different when we watch a loved one suffer, we suffer with them as well. What does it mean to you knowing that Jesus' suffering on the cross not only forgave our sins, but gave Him a way to be with us in our suffering?

**Obstacles for living out the Gospel:** Not recognizing that the cross is not just for the forgiveness of sins.

### Teens

1. We've all felt like we needed to be "lifted up" in our lives. How does knowing Jesus was lifted up for you give you strength? How can you "lift up" others who are hurting or feeling down this week?
2. What does the Cross mean to you personally? Is it just a symbol-or a reminder of something more? Hopefully when you look at the cross you are reminded of the huge amount of love God has for you. Is there something in your life that makes it hard to believe or accept that God loves you that much?

**Obstacles to living out the Gospel:** Feeling unworthy, anxious, or overlooked by God.



### Children

1. Have you ever been at a football game or watching one on TV and see someone holding a sign "JOHN 3:16? Have you ever shared your faith with others in a public setting?
2. If a friend came into your bedroom would they know you are a follower of Jesus by what you have on your walls? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever heard someone say "offer up your sufferings"? What do you think that means? If someone is hurt, whether physically or someone hurt their feelings, do you think it would help them feel better if they offered their suffering up to Jesus? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever thought of Jesus dying on the cross so you could share in the glory of heaven? How does this make you feel?

**Obstacles to living out the Gospel:** Not realizing the power of the Cross that Jesus bore on our behalf.