

# the ESSENTIALS

why truth matters

## OPENING UP



Growing up, what did Easter mean to you? Share a favorite Easter memory.

## TEXT

**I Believe in the Sacrifice and Reign of Jesus Christ | John 19:1-5, 16-42; Colossians 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

**John 19** <sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" *(turn to an ESV Bible to continue reading verses 16-42)*

**Colossians 2** <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. *(turn to an ESV Bible to continue reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-28)*

## MESSAGE OUTLINE

**Big Idea:** Through his death, Jesus put sin to death. Through his resurrection, his victory impacts everything!

**Key Question:** How did Jesus put sin to death and what does his victory mean for me?

**Apostles' Creed Statement:** *"He suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead."*

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| 1. Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate. (John 19:1-5)     | 1. Jesus' victory means all believers will be made alive. (1 Cor. 15:20- 22)      |
| 2. Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. (vv. 16-42) | 2. Jesus' victory means all enemies will be defeated. (vv. 23-26)                 |
| 3. Jesus descended to the dead. (Col. 2:14-15)            | 3. Jesus' victory means all things will be reconciled to God forever. (vv. 27-28) |

## DISCUSSION



- The narrative of Jesus' crucifixion in John 19 is graphic and gruesome. And yet, for those who have been in the church a number of years, we can grow immune to the telling. What details of Jesus' death stood out to you from the sermon and/or the reading of the text and helped you freshly appreciate the sacrifice that Jesus gave to take the punishment for sin in your place?
- Colossians 1:13 tells us that God "delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" through Jesus's death on the cross where "he disarmed the rulers and authorities...triumphing over them" (Col. 2:15). Share a way you've seen the power of Jesus' love and forgiveness destroy a stronghold of darkness in your life or the life of someone you love.
- The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. Reread 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 aloud as a group. Why is it essential to believe in the resurrection? What does it mean for us?
- Jesus defeated death by rising from the dead—a victory we will fully know in eternity, even while we still contend with physical death in this world for now. Read Revelation 21:1-4 for a description of this hope. In what ways can this promise for eternity impact your mindset today?
- Reconciliation to God, accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus, has two results:
  1. Immediate restored relationship with God for the one who trusts in Jesus and
  2. Future restoration of all things (1 Cor. 15:27-28)

How have you experienced reconciliation to God in your own life—what has it looked like for Jesus to turn your heart and life toward God? In what areas are you longing for future restoration—for things to be the way they were created to be?

## LIFE CHALLENGE



As you talk with family, friends, and neighbors about your faith in Jesus, do you lead with hope because of what Jesus has done for us? Or do you find yourself focusing on what WE must do to follow him? The only reason that we can know God is because of the victory that Jesus won through his death and resurrection. The way we talk about our faith should point to the great work of Jesus and what it means for us!

Right now, take turns sharing one way that Jesus brings you hope. By sharing this out loud right now, you will become more comfortable talking about it. Then pray for an opportunity this week to share your story of hope in Jesus with someone who doesn't know him yet.

## CLOSING PRAYER



We praise you, God, for the victory that Jesus won for us through his death and resurrection. Thank you for the hope and joy that this good news gives us daily and for eternity. Help us to talk with others about Jesus in a way that points to the victory he gives us. Amen.