

Questions to Accompany Devotion Book for Week One

The Power of the Cross Reveals the Glory of God in Christ

1. We talk often in churches about “the glory of God.” Yet it may be we seldom stop to ask what this phrase means. As you think about “the glory of God,” . . .

- Where do you see it in the creation around you?
- Where do you see it in other believers?
- In what ways is the cross of Jesus the ultimate demonstration of God’s glory?

2. The Westminster Catechism tells us that the chief end of human beings is “to glorify God and enjoy him forever.” In what way are each of these the same thing?

3. What evidence from our culture can you cite to show that people by nature tend to place themselves at the center of their lives? As you feel comfortable, share times when you are most likely to do this, too.

4. Look back at the devotion titled “Glory in the Flesh.” Which of the “mysteries” from the bulleted list evoke the most awe and wonder in you?

5. At the end of his life, Jesus said, in essence, to his Father: Mission Accomplished.

- How could he say this truthfully?
- How does that comfort you as you think about your own self-centeredness and the sins that keep you from fully glorifying God and enjoying him?

6. As you look back on the devotions for this week, which challenged or encouraged you the most? What made that reading so compelling or thought-provoking?

7. Based on everything you have read and thought about this week, what would you like to say to Jesus in response? Work together to generate a list; then pray through it together.

Questions to Accompany Devotion Book for Week Two

The Power of the Cross Reveals the Glory of God's Holiness in Christ

1. As you look back on the devotions for this week, which challenged or encouraged you the most? What made that reading so compelling or thought-provoking?

2. How does God's Law "shut us up," so to speak? What does it keep us from saying to ourselves, to others, or to God himself? How does the power of the cross open our mouths again? What can we say as a result?

3. The author of "Falling a Little Short" asserts: "The perfect life God's Law demands makes a 20-story vertical leap look easy by comparison."

- What facts does he marshal to support this statement?
- Do you believe him? Explain.
- How has God addressed our "shortfall," our "unholiness"?
- Many see what God did to address our shortfall as the core of the Christian faith. Do you? Why or why not?

4. "A promise is a promise!" Which of our Lord's promises bring you the sweetest comfort and peace?

5. The devotion titled "God Does Not Wink" stressed the power of the cross to bless. When have you experienced that power? Share, as you can comfortably do that.

6. Based on everything you have read and thought about this week, what would you like to say to Jesus in response? Work together to generate a list; then pray through it together.

Questions to Accompany Devotion Book for Week Three

The Power of the Cross Reveals the Glory of God's Grace in Christ

1. The readings for this week were each based on a contrast. Which of these challenged or encouraged you the most? What made that reading so compelling or thought-provoking?

2. This week's first devotion points out the paradoxes or contrasts seen in the cross of our Savior.

- How many can you list?
- Do you see some the author did not include? If so, describe them.
- Why didn't early Christians use a cross as their primary symbol?
- Why do we?

3. John the apostle tells us the reason behind his writing the letter we know as 1 John today: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

- Tell about a time in your life when you longed to know that you had eternal life.
- When do doubts most easily arise for you?
- What might God want to do to help you in these times?

4. Look back at the devotion "Christ Was Forsaken, We Are Adopted." In what ways is a human adoption like God's adoption of us? In what ways is it different—and even better?

5. In what ways has Jesus' death made you rich?

6. Based on everything you have read and thought about this week, what would you like to say to Jesus in response? Work together to generate a list, then pray through it together.

Questions to Accompany Devotion Book for Week Four

The Power of the Cross Reveals the Glory of God's Love in Christ

1. Which devotion from this week made you think the hardest? Which evoked the deepest worship? Talk a bit about that.

2. In what ways are each of Jesus' last seven "words" or statements, miracles?

3. Look back at the devotion titled "Jesus' Love for His Family."

- What would have made our Lord's words to Mary and John difficult?
- When do you find it hardest to show love and compassion toward the members of your biological family? your faith family?
- How do our Lord's words to Mary and John regarding Mary's care after Jesus' death challenge you? How do they comfort you?

4. The author concludes the devotion "Jesus' Love for Sinners" with this question: "Where in your life is the apparent powerlessness of God a sign of his love for you?" Share your thoughts with your group.

5. What details of Jesus' final prayer on the cross (Luke 23:46: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit") do you find especially significant? Why?

6. What is your favorite Bible verse? Why?

7. Based on everything you have read and thought about this week, what would you like to say to Jesus in response? Work together to generate a list; then pray through it together.

Questions to Accompany Devotion Book for Week Five

The Power of the Cross Reveals the Glory of God's Humility in Christ

1. In what ways does the cross of our Savior reveal a humble majesty?
2. In what ways does the cross of our Savior reveal a courageous surrender?
3. In what ways does the cross of our Savior reveal a lowly holiness?
4. In what ways does the cross of our Savior reveal an ugly beauty?
5. In what ways does the cross of our Savior reveal a simple glory?
6. Which of these contrasts spoke most powerfully to your heart this week about . . .
 - your sin?
 - your Savior's love?
 - your life and changes that your Lord would want you to make?
7. Based on everything you have read and thought about this week, what would you like to say to Jesus in response? Work together to generate a list. Then pray through it together.

Questions to Accompany Devotion Book for Week Six

The Power of the Cross Reveals the Glory of God's Victory in Christ

1. As you look back on the devotions for this week, which challenged or encouraged you the most? What made that reading so compelling or thought-provoking?
2. Look back at the devotion titled "Dissolved." What do you understand by the word Tetelestai? What makes this word so meaningful or powerful?
3. In what way was Jesus' death on the cross a "disarmament treaty"? This treaty was unilateral—completely one-sided. Explain.
4. Colossians 2:15 describes a parade.
 - How is this parade similar to the parades with which you are familiar?
 - How is it very different?
 - What does this parade mean for you? (See the devotion "Disgraced" for help if you need it.)
5. Based on everything you have read and thought about this week, what would you like to say to Jesus in response? Work together to generate a list. Then pray through it together.