

WHY THE CROSS



Week 1 – Life Group Guide or Personal Reflection Q's.

‘Welcome to week 1, of our Life Group Series, based off our message series here at CFC, ‘WHY THE CROSS’.

Before you begin today – **pray**, that God will lead you as you discuss His Word and think about how it applies to our lives...

PRAY

"It's Not a Breakout, It's Redemption!"

Main Idea: Redemption through Christ is not about escaping punishment but receiving complete forgiveness and restoration before God.

- Have you ever been forgiven for something you thought was unforgivable? How did it make you feel?

Read the Bible together...

Have group members read the following passages aloud:

1. **Colossians 1:13-14** – Redemption and forgiveness through Christ.
2. **Ephesians 1:7** – Redemption through His blood, according to grace.
3. **Psalms 103:12** – The distance of our sins from us.
4. **Titus 2:14** – Christ redeems us and purifies us.

1. Redemption vs. Escape

Andrew shared in his message that *‘redemption is not a breakout’*—it’s a legal and complete restoration.

1. Why do you think that distinction matters?
2. How does knowing that Jesus **fully paid** for your sin (instead of just letting you off the hook) impact how you view **your relationship** with God?

3. What are some ways people try to “break out” of sin on their own rather than **accept** the redemption Jesus offers?

2. Walking in Forgiveness

Andrew mentioned that some believers live as if they are on parole, always afraid of messing up.

4. Why do you think we sometimes struggle with feelings that we have to prove ourselves to God?
5. Colossians 1:13-14 tells us **we have been** “rescued from darkness.” Do we sometimes live as if we’re still in darkness? What are signs that someone is struggling to accept their redemption?
6. How can we remind ourselves daily that our sins have been removed “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12)?
7. Read **1 John 1:9**.
What does this verse tell us about God’s character when it comes to forgiving our sins? How does this help us when we struggle with guilt?

3. Extending Forgiveness

Andrew shared that because we have been fully forgiven, we should now extend that same grace to others.

8. How does understanding our own redemption change the way we forgive others?
9. Is there someone in your life that you struggle to forgive? How can you rely on God’s grace to help?
10. Read **Matthew 18:21-35** (the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant). What does this passage teach us about the importance of forgiving others?

Personal Reflection & Prayer

- Is there any sin or shame you’ve been holding onto that God has already forgiven? How can you begin to walk in the freedom of your redemption this week?
- Take a few moments to pray for one another—especially for those struggling to accept God’s forgiveness or extend it to others...

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of His grace”

Ephesians 1:7