



# REDISCOVERING THE CROSS

SMALL  
GROUP  
GUIDE

March 14, 2021

A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

## HOW DID IT GO? (10 MINUTES)

### REACHING UPWARD: GROWING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- ❑ Commit to meditating on Colossians 1:15-20 over multiple days this week with the goal of seeking to understand the Christ who shows us the God we cannot see.
- ❑ Commit to meditating on Colossians 1:15-20 over multiple days this week with the goal of producing awe-struck, heartfelt praise to the colossal Christ who originates, sustains, and encompasses all things.
- ❑ Commit to meditating on 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25 over multiple days this week, asking God to reveal to you ways in which you value the wisdom and power of this world over the wisdom and power of God.
- ❑ Join your FPC family and commit to praying ten minutes a day from now until Easter. Consider using the resources FPC is providing by listening to the “FPC Houston Sermons” Podcast, which will lead you through a different prayer practice each week. You can find more information about this at our FPC Houston Lenten Discipleship Page: [fpchouston.org/lent-discipleship-series](http://fpchouston.org/lent-discipleship-series).
- ❑ Our next FPC Alpha will launch April 6 and continue until May 25. Begin praying the Lord would show you someone you could invite to join this spring’s Alpha experience. For more information, email Emmanuel Paulpeter ([epaulpeter@fpchouston.org](mailto:epaulpeter@fpchouston.org)).

### REACHING OUTWARD: INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBORS

- ❑ 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 indicates that God’s call is the predicate to someone coming to recognize Christ as the power and wisdom of God. Commit to praying over multiple days this week that God would call someone you know who doesn’t know Jesus to a recognition that He is the power and wisdom of God.
- ❑ 1 Corinthians 1:23 indicates the fundamental message of Christians is Christ crucified— that is, the sacrificial love of God. Seek to convey the sacrificial love of God, whether in word or in deed, to someone this week as an action taken in faith to follow in the steps of Christ.
- ❑ Colossians 1:19-20 indicates that two of the fundamental works of Christ are reconciliation and peace. If it is within your power to reconcile with another or bring peace to a situation this week, seek to do so as an action taken in faith to follow in the steps of Christ.
- ❑ **Spiritual Conversations Training:** Do you want to know how you can share your faith in ways that are simple, winsome and authentic? Join us for a two-week webinar (March 7 and March 21 from 2–3:30 PM) to discuss ways to have Spiritual Conversations within our circles of influence (even during a pandemic). The webinar will provide practical ways to have spiritual conversations that lead people to the love of Jesus. To register visit [fpchouston.org/gospel-conversations](http://fpchouston.org/gospel-conversations). If you missed the first week, no problem. Email Reverend Emmanuel Paulpeter ([epaulpeter@fpchouston.org](mailto:epaulpeter@fpchouston.org)) for information on the first week and then join us for the second week.

## REACHING BEYOND

- ❑ How did God stir you to learn and grow from this passage?

### HEAD (15-20 MINUTES)

Read aloud the passages for this week: Romans 8:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20.

### HEAD

Observe the text and the author's main points.

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

**-Romans 8:15-17 (NIV)**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

**-2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**-Galatians 2:20 (NIV)**

1. In Romans 8, Paul states we are "heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ". Based on the passage, how do you characterize being adopted into God's family? What is the inheritance you share with Christ?
2. The passages in Galatians and 2 Corinthians discuss crucifixion and rebirth. How do they relate to the reconciliation discussed in Romans?

### HEART (15-20 MINUTES)

1. Justification, adoption, and salvation are all benefits of our union with Christ—and none of them are things performed or bestowed through our own means. Christ is the only one that can meet all of our needs. What are areas in your life where you act as though your needs are still not met? (i.e. work or education, personal relationships, finances, health) How can a better understanding of your union with Christ re-orient those situations to see how those needs are met? And if they are not met, how can prayer and the body of Christ (for example, your FPC small group) come alongside to walk with you through prayer and possibly helping meet one of these needs?
2. John Murray states, "Sanctification involves the concentration of thought, of interest, of heart, mind, will, and purpose upon the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ and the engagement of our whole being with those means which God has instituted for the attainment of that destination." Are there areas of your life where you feel distracted or lack focus on "the prize" of sanctification through the work of the Holy Spirit?
3. Adoption means a new identity and perspective on who you are. How does being brought into the family of God change how you see yourself in your other relationships?

### HEART

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

## HANDS (10 MINUTES)

### REACHING UPWARD: GROWING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- ❑ Listen to the Anthem of Preparation on Psalm from the March 7, 2021 Traditional Service (time stamp 29:19) or read Psalm 23 out loud.
  - ❑ As you listen, meditate on God's boundless love for us and all that He has done to welcome us into union with Him.
  - ❑ Ask God to reveal areas where you have been trying to gain righteousness or approval on your own.
- ❑ Seeing all of the work that God has done and continues to do in us and for us, prayer is a powerful way to welcome the Holy Spirit to come and do that work in our hearts everyday. If you have not already, join your FPC family in praying ten minutes a day from now until Easter. Visit [fpchouston.org/lent-discipleship-series](http://fpchouston.org/lent-discipleship-series) to access all of the resources.

### REACHING OUTWARD: INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBORS

- ❑ Do you have a neighbor who is wrestling with their feeling of place or identity? How could you relate this week's lesson as a source of comfort? Could you pray over them or offer to pray with them over their situation as a member of God's family?
- ❑ How would you explain your new identity in Christ to a non-believer? How would you compare and contrast worldly adoption and adoption into God's family?
- ❑ Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS) is a longstanding ministry partner of FPC; in fact, many FPC families have partnered with PCHAS to foster and adopt. Consider reaching out to see how you can individually or as a small group volunteer with PCHAS: [www.pchas.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.pchas.org/get-involved/volunteer)
- ❑ Consider "adopting" Agape, one of FPC's ministry partners. There are many ways you could join the work of Christ ministering to children, mother's, father's and Third Ward neighbors. Check out the opportunities below. For more information, contact Lea Byrd ([lbyrd@fpchouston.org](mailto:lbyrd@fpchouston.org)).
  - ❑ **Childcare Volunteers needed:** The Agape Women's Ministry will be meeting in person on the second and fourth Monday of the month. You can help by volunteering to help with childcare while the moms enjoy a time of sharing their faith and building community relationships. The volunteer commitment is a minimum of once a month from 6:15-8:15 PM.
  - ❑ **Teen Program Volunteer:** The neighborhood teens will begin meeting weekly on February 2 from 4-6:30 PM, with a different focus each week: Instructional/How to; Bible Study; Volunteer Service; Fun Activity. The volunteer commitment is a minimum of twice a month to assist with programming and small groups.
  - ❑ **Program Speaker:** Agape would love for you to share your expertise and hobbies with our program participants. What are you knowledgeable on that would benefit our neighbors or provide a new experience for them? Can you share about nutrition? How to apply for college? What is work etiquette and why is it important? If you have something you would like to share, please complete this form. \*\*This could be done in-person with COVID protocols in place.
  - ❑ **Prayer Walk Lunch and Snacks:** Every other Tuesday the Agape Ministry staff walk the neighborhood and talk to our neighbors. Staff see how families are doing, what is happening in their lives at the moment, and ask for prayer requests. Many of the neighborhood residents have suffered income loss due to COVID-19 restrictions. Agape would like to be able to provide a meal to these families as they visit and minister with them each week. Email [lbyrd@fpchouston.org](mailto:lbyrd@fpchouston.org) to sign up to provide a meal.

## HANDS

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for practical ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.

## NEIGHBOR

Anyone in your life—whether a friend, colleague, family member, classmate, or literal neighbor—to whom you can show God's love.

### REACHING BEYOND

- ❑ How is God stirring you to put this passage into practice?

