

# CROSS WORDS

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"A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. 'Look at you now!' they yelled at him. 'You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!' The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. 'He saved others,' they scoffed, 'but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.''" Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way. At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"  
Matthew 27:37-46

## We Only See Part Of The Story

"Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."  
1 Corinthians 13:12

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,' says the Lord. 'And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.'"  
Isaiah 55:8-9

## What To Remember When You Don't Understand

1. God Is \_\_\_\_\_  
"Only God is truly good." Mark 10:18

THE WORD OF ABANDONMENT

2. God Is \_\_\_\_\_ Me

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Romans 8:31-32

3. God Is \_\_\_\_\_ Me

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

## The Better I Know God

- The Less I Ask " \_\_\_\_\_ ?"
- The More I Ask " \_\_\_\_\_ ?"

## Memory Verse

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."  
2 Corinthians 5:21

## MY NEXT STEP IS TO. . .

- Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Turn from sin and trust in Jesus for the first time
- Pray for someone who doesn't know Jesus and invite them to our Easter worship services
- Try to be here as much as possible for each message in the "Crosswords" series
- Get the most from this series by attending a LIFE group this week





## Discussion Questions - Week #9

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "The Word of Abandonment", summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

- Share something that you've done that was difficult, maybe even painful when you were going through it, but you were glad you did so afterward.

- Share an example of a tough time in your life that God has used to shape who you are today.

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Psalm 13. What do you usually do when you find yourself in a wrestling match with your thoughts?

Is there a recurring theme with which you wrestle?

Why do you think God's silence or failure to act seem so puzzling to us?

What does it reveal about David and his relationship with God that four times he asks the question, "How long, Lord?"

Share a time when you've cried out like David, asking God, "How long, Lord?"

Do you feel comfortable or uncomfortable doing so?

2. Read Isaiah 53. What stands out to you?

What specific connections do you see between the portrayal of Jesus in the Gospels and Isaiah's suffering servant?

What might this passage reveal to us about God?

Do you find it comforting in your grief to know that Jesus was a man of suffering familiar with pain?

How does this passage lead you to respond?

### FOR PRACTICE

☞ Ephesians 5:19 says, "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord". Paul admonishes us to worship and remember God's goodness. He's not speaking exclusively of what we do on Sunday mornings, but rather a heart disposition and daily habit. To speak and sing in psalms and hymns requires that we have committed them to memory, so we have them accessible to recall in the good and the bad. Consider setting aside time over the next week or more to commit worshipful content to memory that you can begin the habit of regularly reminding yourself and others of God's incredible goodness.

### SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

### PRAYER REQUESTS