

## 1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker – Best week Ever

- Think back to the best weeks of your life.
  - What made them great, memorable?
  - What was the “passion” or theme of those weeks?

TimO’s Example:

For our family growing up the answer would be easy, vacations. Our family vacations in Minnesota with family and friends at our Grandparent’s lake house. There was fun, water sports, card games, few chores and lots of laughter. At the conclusion of our time it could easily be summed up in one phrase. A good time was had by all!

- Think of the Week of the Passion for Jesus from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday.
  - THE WORST WEEK EVER FOR JESUS
    - THE BEST WEEK EVER FOR ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE

## 2. Worship: THE WONDER OF GOD BY GETTING “CROSSED UP”

Worship God by reading “the points of the cross” 1 through 4 then come back and read one and then give time for folks to confess and worship then read the next one, pray and worship and so on. Have fun. Fall in love with the wonder of Jesus. Learn a hook to remember when looking at the cross.

The Points of the Cross of Jesus

My Mom used to yell, “Timothy Oliver, look both ways”. Well, it is as if the Cross of Jesus points us in 4 LOOKS, Ways or STARES:

1. Jesus’ Right Arm nailed to the cross causes us to look deeply at our past efforts, errors, rebellions and sins. So we look and look and look some more at our selfishness and conclude, by the work of Holy Spirit, we are in need.
2. Jesus’ Feet are pointed down to Hell as it were and to the rightful place due us for our sin and selfishness.
3. Jesus’ Left Arm Nailed to the cross points us to consider our future, the eternal life purchased by Christ free gifted to us by faith which now earns, wins, for us because our record of sins are forgiven, our life now is described by the perfection of Jesus - we are now and forever adopted into the Family of God.
4. Jesus head rests on the part of the beam of the Cross that points to His Father’s throne in heaven, His home, where Jesus’ resurrection will establish the Father’s delight in Him and prove forever HE IS THE SON OF GOD. And we will join Him for a big party that lasts forever and ever.

A Bonus – Look to Jesus/CBR Commercial, haha and at no extra cost.

Drew encouraged us to LOOK AT Jesus. What fun. What beauty. In our CBR journaling we have 5 looks to enjoy.

5 Looks of the Community Bible Reading Journal – Read a verse, paragraph or chapter and then:

1. Adoration – LOOK UP! Get a mindful of heaven and all that is going on there. See our Father in his home and on the throne of his kingdom. Adore Him for all he is and all he is doing.
2. Confession – LOOK DOWN! Bow your head in the realization and delight in your neediness, weakness and dependence. Glory in your frailty so that you glory in God's greatness. See your sin and rebellion. Confess your sin and need to his glory and delight.
3. Thanksgiving – LOOK IN! Look in and see Jesus' work applied to your soul. See his record describing you. See the blood to forgive and the life of obedience for your righteousness. See your adoption. Be Grateful. Say thanks.
4. Supplication – LOOK IN! See Holy Spirit! Praise God for His love and deposit of HS in your heart. Rejoice over the needs you have and the needs of your neighbor and bring them to HS. Feel his presence, his hope, his delight in you and what you are becoming.
5. Community – Look OUT! Now look out to your neighbor in love. Having been loved you are now ready and able to love. Having been served you are now equipped to serve. Having been mercied.... Forgiven..... Delighted in.....

### 3. Kingdom Centered Prayer: Praying for Others and Other Churches

Tim Rice gave us a great list of groups of folks to pray for:

- Neighbors – by name, next door and across the street
- Medical Professionals – by name, those you know
- Elderly – again by name
- Friends furloughed from work
- The fearful and Scared

Drew Bennett – Please pray for The Renew Polk Network

- Grace Community Church – Josh Floyd
- Strong Tower Church – Ben Turner
- Good Shepherd Church - Jeremy Kemp
- Redeemer City, Winter Haven – Drew Bennett
- Redeemer, Lakeland – Dave Martin
- Christ Community Church – Lyle Caswell
- King's Church – Ian Thomas
- Greater Hope, Mulberry – Stan McMahan
- Trinity, Lakeland – Tim Rice

#### 4. Sermon Reflection:

**Text:** Luke 23:32-47 & Galatians 6:14 (ESV) **Title:** The Cross of Christ **Teacher:** Drew Bennett

32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. 35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38 There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” 39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” 44 It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. 47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!”

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

#### **The Cross – Our Calling, Jesus set His face towards the Cross. He wants us to go with Him.**

- Why did the Father send Jesus to The Cross?
- Why did Jesus set his face to Jerusalem and The Cross?
- Why do we rejoice at Jesus’ Cross?
- Why did me and many of my peers think growing up that Jesus went to The Cross so I would not have to?
  - What did that do to our expectations and sense of calling?
- “The Cross gives meaning and hope in suffering.” Drew Bennett
  - How have you found that to be true, right and good?

#### **The Truth of the Cross, Our Salvation**

- The Thief and Soldier come to know the truth by:
  - The Way Died
    - He prayed for others
    - Exhausted - Alone
    - Falsely accused Condemned
    - They made Fun, and laughed at Him

- Until his dying breath
- Why He Died
  - Crucified cuz we deserved it
    - In the sinners place
    - Man in the place of God, God in the place of Man
  - Darkness – judgement of God
  - Curtain – Torn in Two
    - Top to bottom
    - Door locked from the inside, God opened it

### **The Power of The Cross – Our Boast**

- Irreligious Boast – NO GOD. I am all I need. If it is going to be it is up to me.
- Moralistic Boast – There is a God and I can meet his standard. I can be good enough. If it is going to be it is up to me.
- The Christian Boast – **HELP!!!! JESUS I CAN'T. I WON'T. ONLY YOU, ONLY YOU CAN! YOU HAVE! YOU DID! YOU WILL FOR ALL WHO LOOK TO YOU! IF IT IS GOING TO "BE" IT IS UP TO HE, JESUS!**
- ARE YOU WEARY AND FAINT-HEARTED? GOOD LET'S BOAST IN OUR JESUS AND HIS CROSS.

## 5. Mission: Developing Your Passion of the Week

This is Holy Week or The Week of The Passion of the Christ! It is so much easier to make decisions on mission when your mission is clear. Developing a weekly passion will radically change your life. You will have a grid to sift through your readings and doings, your musings and prayers.

Jesus' life is the greatest life ever lived and this is the greatest week of the greatest life that was ever lived. Jesus' passion this week of weeks was The Cross. So you can have a weekly passion like Jesus.

Christians are people on mission. Christians are people of passion, daily, weekly passions.

In 3 to 5 words, come up with a sentence or passion for your week.

TimO's – Crossed Up! A mind full of Jesus, A mind full of The Cross (Ok maybe not 3 to 5 words)