

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE
The Apostles' Creed — Week 5

ICEBREAKER: Do you think religion is necessary? Why or why not?

OVERVIEW: The death of Christ is at the same time the most tragic and wonderful event in human history. God took the worst crime — the murder of His innocent Son — and used it to accomplish the salvation of all mankind — even of those who murdered Jesus. In the cross we see God's sovereign power, His frightening wrath, and His amazing love all on display. In this discussion we will go deeper in our understanding of the cross as we study the words of the Apostles' Creed, "He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead."

1. Let's begin by reciting the Apostles' Creed together: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*
2. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
3. What does the cross mean to you?
4. Why don't Protestants display crosses with an image of Christ's body as Roman Catholics do?
5. Why do Roman Catholics make the sign of the cross, and why don't Protestants follow this tradition?

6. Read 1 John 2:1-2 and answer the following questions.

- a) Why did John write this letter?
- b) What happens if a Christian sins?
- c) What does it mean that Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins?
- d) Who did Christ die for?

7. For the following questions, refer to Sunday's sermon. Who killed Jesus, and why?

8. What is the worst part of a Roman crucifixion?

9. What was the purpose of Christ's death?

11. Did Jesus descend to the dead?

The Last Word: "The death of Christ is the wisdom of God by which the love of God saves sinners from the wrath of God, all the while upholding and demonstrating the righteousness of God in Christ." John Piper

