

Why the cross?



PRAY

My Lord and my God!

We became guilty. But you let yourself be condemned. You took it on the chin. You were hit in the face. In order to free us from the slavery of sin, you went to the wooden cross. We thank you for your death, by which we received our life. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read YOUCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#YOUCATChallenge: *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*



Phil 2:6-8

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

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Why did Jesus have to redeem us on the Cross, of all places?

The Cross on which Jesus, although innocent, was cruelly executed is the place of utmost degradation and abandonment. Christ, our Redeemer, chose the Cross so as to bear the guilt of the world and to suffer the pain of the world. So he brought the world back home to God by his perfect love. [613–617, 622–623]

God could not show his love more forcibly than by allowing himself in the person of the Son to be nailed to the Cross for us. Crucifixion was the most shameful and most horrible method of execution in antiquity. It was forbidden to crucify Roman citizens, whatever crimes they were guilty of. Thereby God entered into the most abysmal sufferings of mankind. Since then, no one can say “God does not know what I’m suffering.”

1. Is it appropriate for a god to “suffer”?
2. How is it possible for someone to bear someone else’s sin, or even “the sin of the world”?
3. Can suffering be an act of love?
4. What is Jesus suggesting by saying that he let himself be treated as a criminal?

Go the Way of the Cross together. Ask yourself: Jesus is falling - where do I fall? Jesus is scourged - do I scourge others? Jesus takes the cross - which cross am I carrying, and which cross do I refuse to carry? etc.

Do you accept this challenge?

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