

the  
**Message**  
of  
the **Cross**

# The message of the Cross shapes prayer



# What is the word of the Cross and the power of God?

1 Corinthians 1: 18

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

- The gospel
- Christ standing in my place, doing what I can never do on my own
- Christ showed me what I must do – take up my cross and follow him
- Christ crucified is the power of the cross and the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:21, 24)
- God's power in the form of the cross:
  - Destroys the wisdom of the 'wise' (vs 18 – 19)
  - Saves those who believe (vs 21)
  - Unites believers in Christ (vs 24)



# Group activity one

Brainstorm and write on a sheet of paper, what comes to mind when you consider:

- (a) the word of the Cross
- and
- (b) the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1: 18

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# Relationship with God



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# Relationship with God

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## **Our God is relational.**

The triune-ness of God is the basis for relationships and communication.

Fred Sanders

## **We are made in His image – relational.**

Our deepest human need is to be seen by other people – to really be seen and known by someone else.

Brene Brown

## **We have access to God.**



# Group activity two

Brainstorm and write on a sheet of paper (landscape), what comes to mind when you consider our relationship with the Triune God.

1 Corinthians 1: 18

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*



# Our restored authority as believers

What authority is and what it isn't.

*Exousia* - Encompasses the concept of having the right, power, or ability to act or make decisions.

In the beginning... mankind's original authority.

Then Jesus... the restoration of mankind's authority.

...and now.



# Our restored authority as believers

- Matt 28:18 – 20 All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus, by God the Father, to RULE in heaven and earth.
- We see this authority in his:
  - Creation of all things John 1:3
  - Sustaining of the world Heb 1:3/Col 1:17
  - Rule over Satan and his demons Mark 1:27
  - Over disease Matt 8:14 – 17
  - Over the sinful acts of man Matt 9:6/Acts 4:27 – 30
  - Over conversion Mark 10:26 – 27
  - Triumph over death 1 Cor 15: 54 – 57
  - Over the mission of the church! Matt 24:14/Matt 16:18/John 10:16
  - Execution of judgement John 5:27



# Our restored authority as believers

...and now...

The authority of the believer:

- Seated with Jesus in heavenly places – Eph 2: 6 – 7
- The Lord's Prayer ~ your kingdom come – Matt 6:10
- Ambassadors for our King, for His Kingdom



# Group activity three

**Write down (landscape) what the restored authority of believers means when you consider the following verses:**

- Mark 1:15
- Luke 4:18 – 19
- John 20:21
- Matt 10:7 – 8
- Matt 28:18 - 20



# How the message of the cross shapes prayer

Hope-filled prayers

Kingdom-shaped prayers

Relationally-shaped prayers



## Group activity four

List (portrait) practical ways that the message of the cross shapes prayer.

## Group activity five

List (portrait) possible next steps for you and your church context—in light of learnings and discussion today.

*(Suggestions: Talk to God, discuss with team members, do a deeper diver into a topic/theme/idea, teaching on prayer etc.)*



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