

the Message of the Message







The message of the Cross shapes prayer





What is the word of the Cross and 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)



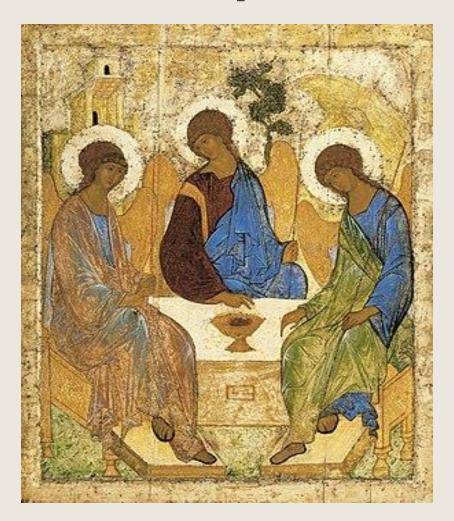
Group activity one

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.



Relationship with God





Relationship with God

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.



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

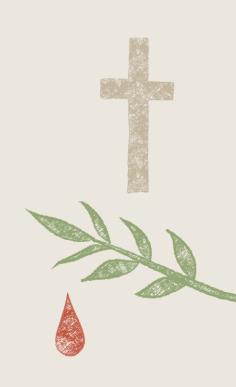


How the message of the cross shapes prayer

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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