

CROSS = LOVE | 3-27-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

A flag...has been raised in battle, unfurled in palaces, and staked in the furthest outposts of human exploration. The flag is a symbol of our heritage. There is one flag, one symbol, that reaches above the drone of all others. The cross. Like a stake in a ground, the moment the cross of Christ was raised, love won. It was a hinge in history, declaring the love of the Father for whosoever may come. The cross was not built on human endeavor, but on heavenly sacrifice and restoration. Triumph through surrender, through the enduring power of The Resurrection, Christ has made a way for all. He is the way, the truth and the life. What kind of love does the cross represent? What does the Resurrection of Christ mean to you?

READ: *Luke 24:1-7*

While Jesus walked with His disciples, He told them He would be tortured and crucified and would rise after three days. Are His disciples living with this reality in these verses? Why did these women take burial spices to Jesus' tomb? Why were they confused when they didn't find His body? Why do we doubt that Jesus can do the impossible? What happens when we trust Him to do what He said He would do?

READ: *Romans 8:11*

When you surrender your life to Christ, the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead lives in you. Let that sink in. The life-changing Power that defeated death lives in you. How would our lives be different if we lived this? What could we overcome? Why is it so hard to live in the reality that death-defying power lives in us?

READ: *Romans 8:12-16*

What is the difference between living as a slave or as child of God? Make a list of ways we live like slaves to sin. Next to it, make a list of ways we live like children of God (*use this Scripture passage for help*). Compare the lists. When do you find yourself living as a slave? As a child of God? Reflect on these statements from God: I've never stopped loving you. On your worst day, I love you. I've moved heaven and earth to be with you. You are my love - forever. How does it feel to hear these statements? Do you believe them, or are they hard to believe? Why? What would happen if you lived as though these are true?

CHALLENGE

Each day when you wake up this week, remind yourself that the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead lives in you. Live out this reality through the ups & downs of your week & watch what God does through you.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thank you for defeating death. Thank you for moving heaven and earth to be with me. I choose to live in the reality of Your love as Your child so that I can sacrificially love others the way You love me.