**November 1st, 2026**
**"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**
**(Mark 15:16-41)**

## CONNECT TO ONE ANOTHER

When you see a cross, do you think it is glorious or horrible? Explain.

## CONNECT TO THE WORD

**Main Point:** Jesus underwent tremendous suffering. There is more to the story however, than the cruelty and suffering of the cross. The real message here is the love of God, the Passion of Jesus Christ.

1. **Read Mark 15:16-32; Romans 5:6-8.** Why did the soldiers mock Jesus? In what ways might someone mock Jesus today? Why did the soldiers lead Jesus through the longest route of the city to be crucified?

2. When you think about the torture of the cross, what feelings and thoughts do you have?

3. Could Jesus have avoided the cross? Was He capable of coming down from the cross? What kept Him there?

4. Discuss this statement: *"His physical sufferings have always been, and will remain, a window through which we see His heart – the heart of God."* - *Kent Hughes*

5. **Read Mark 33-41.** How would you explain to someone that darkness fell in the middle of the afternoon when Jesus was crucified? What was the significance of this darkness draping the cross?

6. What was happening during those three hours of darkness?

7. Why did Jesus cry out "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" How would you explain this cry in your own words?

8. John reported that Jesus said, "It is finished!" What did Jesus mean by that statement?

9. How does the death of Jesus make salvation possible for anyone who will believe in Him? Have you accepted that gift of salvation?

## CONNECT TO WALK IT OUT

How can you personally thank Jesus for the cross?

***Scripture Reading for this week:***

Mark 15:16-41; Luke 9:23, 14:26; Romans 5:6-8; Mark 10:45; Amos 8:9