

**The Old Rugged Cross:
The Death of Jesus in the Letters of Paul
Session 1 – Jesus' Death and God
January 14, 2008**

OPEN:

In groups of two or three, answer the following: Have you ever attended a Good Friday service? If so, what was it like? What do you remember about Good Friday services?

STUDY:

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. How do those who do not believe view the cross, and how do those who do believe view it?

In verse 19, who is speaking?
What is he saying in verse 19?

How did he do this, according to vv.22-24?

So, who is the major actor in the crucifixion of Christ, according to these verses?

Why is he doing this?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Who is the major actor in these verses?
What is he doing?

What did Christ become for us, according to these verses?

How did he become these things for us?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. How does Paul describe himself in these words?

What did he proclaim?

Why?

Read Romans 3:21-26. According to this passage, what is God's answer to the problem of sin?

According to verse 25, who put Christ forward as the answer to this problem?

What does the death of Christ reveal, according to these verses?

Read Romans 5:6-8. According to these verses, what does the death of Christ prove?

Who is the main actor in the death of Christ, according to this passage?

REFLECT

When asked the question, "Who is responsible for crucifying Jesus?" different people have offered different answers. For many years, as anti-Semitic as it may sound today, some said the Jews crucified Jesus. Others have argued it was the Romans who were responsible, for Pilate okayed and supervised Christ's execution. Others would argue theologically that we are responsible for Jesus' death, that our sins drove him to the cross. From today's lesson, what do you think Paul's answer to this question would be and why?