



Week 3 | Rise | March 19

Key Focus: The message of the cross is for real people living real life.

Opening Up:

- If you could go back to any time period, where would you go? Why?
- If your house was burning down, what three objects would you try to save?
- What was the high point of your week last week?
- If you could live this last week over again, would you change anything? What and why?
- If you could ask God any question right now, what would it be?

Reference: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Discuss:

1. When did you first **hear** the gospel? What were the circumstances? (1:13)
2. Was there a gap between when you heard the gospel and **accepted** it as true in your life? (1:13) What was that time period like?
3. When you first **received** the gospel in your life, what element of the gospel message stuck out to you? (1:13)
4. How has God answered some of the big questions of life for you? (Think about some of life's most troubling questions, and how the gospel helps you to better understand life.)
5. Have you ever found the use of Christ's Cross as decoration weird? Explain.
6. Have you ever tried to read the story of crucifixion from a kids bible to a child? What was that like? When is the right time to share with a child the message of the cross? What tensions do you feel about teaching the message to your children?
7. Why do you think Paul taught the Thessalonians about why Christ had to suffer? (Acts 17:1-2)
8. In the modern context, how is the message of the cross perceived as being scandalous or foolish? (1 Corinthians 1:23)
9. How does the suffering of Christ help you in your suffering?
10. Pray.