**CROSSWORDS | I Thirst | Week 5 | March 28**

John 14:9; John 19:28-29; Matthew 25:40

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opener:

- What makes you thirsty?
- Right now in our current shelter-in-place situation how are you thirsting physically? Relationally? Spiritually? Emotionally?
- How do you quench each of those ways of thirsting?

Image from Catechism: Pastor Dan spoke of a description of God from the Westminster Shorter Catechism, “a Spirit, Infinite, eternal, and unchangeable; in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.”

- What is your view, image, description of God?
- How does that image impact your daily life?
- How well can you relate that image?

Jesus Brings Clarity: Read John 14:9. Jesus wants us to have an image in mind—He wants us to know with whom we are relating.

- How does your image of God compare to Jesus?
- Why is it important for us to clarify our vision of God? What stops us from doing this?
- How does Jesus clarify our vision of who and what God is like?

Fully human—fully God: Read Isaiah 53:3. Isaiah fully predicts the pain Jesus will experience.

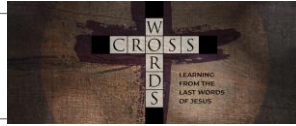
- Have you ever considered God experiencing pain? Physical pain? Emotional pain?
- How does this fit in with your image of God?

God Feels: Pastor Dan stated, “God feels for what He has made.” God will always be the creator and we will always be God’s created creatures—yet God has spiritual thirst for communion with us.”

- What stirs in you as you consider this moving reality?
- How does this influence how you relate to God through the everyday moments of your life?

Across the Abyss: Fulton Sheen stated, “In the fourth words of Jesus from the cross - the **cry of forsakenness** - we encounter the suffering of a **man without God**. But in the fifth words - the cry of thirst - we meet the suffering of **God without man**.”

- What in this perspective challenges you? Encourages you? What questions or tensions do you have? Why?
- During this season of Lent as the cross grows ever closer, how does this shape your view of the passion and the Easter narrative?
- What would be different in your relationship with Jesus, if you envisioned God in anguish reaching out to you to connect?



God Pours Out : God pours out his love and grace for us in so many way...

- His creative **power** to fashion our Universe.
- His **Word** to guide our lives.
- His **Grace** to lift us up each time we fall.
- His **Divinity** (Jesus incarnate) to meet us in the flesh.
- His **life's blood** to wash away our separation of sin so He could rescue us.
- In response to the above finish this sentence - God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in seeing how you love me I am

God's Love: Eric Fromm distinguishes two kinds of Love, “I love you because I need you—meet my needs” and “I need you because I Love you.” Imagine God’s cry of thirst from the Cross as a cry to each of us, to you individually, as a cry of Love saying “I thirst for relationship with you because I love you.”

- How do you respond to that? How does that shape your image of God?
- How does *this* shape your view of the passion and the Easter narrative?
- Which form of love towards Jesus do you have? And how does that shape your day to day relationship with Jesus?
 - I love you because I need you.
 - I need you because I love you. I thirst for relationship with you Jesus because I love you?

Practices for your week:

Engage with this passage from a different perspective by using the corresponding Lenten Audio Devotional (ChristChurch.us/lentdevo20). You can also sign up to receive our weekly Lenten Audio Devotionals by texting "LENT" to 630.206.3230.