



BALLARAT & CENTRAL HIGHLANDS CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST PRINCIPLES | STUDY 6 OF 11

The Cross

A self-guided Bible study. Read the passages for yourself, then write down your own answers, questions and conclusions.

This week

Day 1: Grace

Day 2: Loved while still enemies

Day 3: The crucifixion

Day 4: Why did He die?

Day 5: How did people respond?

Day 6: Love and light

Day 7: Look at the whole picture

Grace

Read

- Romans 3:21-27 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What problem does Paul begin with?
2. What solution does he describe?
3. What words does he use for what Jesus accomplishes?
4. Can anyone boast about earning this?

For yourself

Do I tend to think I must earn God's acceptance? How might this passage change the way I approach Him?

Loved while still enemies

Read

- Romans 5:6-11 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. How are people described when Christ dies for them?
2. What does Christ's death demonstrate?
3. What changes between people and God?
4. What does 'reconciled' mean to you?

For yourself

What does being loved before I have put everything right mean to me? How might I respond to that love?

The crucifixion

As you read, notice what Jesus chooses, what other people do, what Jesus suffers, what He says, and how people respond.

Read

- Mark 14:26-15:41 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What does Jesus choose?
2. What do other people do?
3. What does Jesus suffer?
4. What does He say?
5. How do people respond?

For yourself

Why do you think Jesus went through with it?

How does reading about Jesus' suffering affect my response to Him? What would I like to say to Him or understand better?

Why did He die?

Read

- 1 Peter 2:21-25 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. How does Peter describe Jesus' behaviour while suffering?
2. What does he say Jesus carried?
3. What purpose does he give for Jesus' death?
4. What response does Peter expect?

For yourself

What would it mean for me to 'die to sins and live for righteousness'? Where could that begin in my life?

How did people respond?

Read

- Acts 2:36-41 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What has Peter's audience become convinced about?
2. How do they react?
3. What question do they ask?
4. What answer are they given?
5. What do those who accept the message do?

For yourself

How do I want to respond to what I have learned about Jesus? What questions do I need to resolve about that response?

Love and light

Read

- John 3:16-21 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. Why does God send His Son?
2. What is His purpose towards the world?
3. Why might people avoid the light?
4. What does coming into the light involve?

For yourself

What makes me want to hide rather than come into the light? What could help me approach God honestly?

Look at the whole picture

Read

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

- Ephesians 2:1-10 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Look back

1. What do these passages say about humanity's problem?
2. What do they say about God's response?
3. What do they say about Jesus' sacrifice?
4. What do they say about grace?
5. What do they say about the life that follows?

For yourself

What does the cross mean to you now?

How might what I have learned about the cross change the way I live or relate to God?