Introduction: You are a Victorious Follower of Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe! Because of what Jesus did on the cross for you - and because you have put your faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross - that makes you a Child of God (John 1:12). You are in God's Forever Family! He loves you more than you will ever know! It will take God all of eternity to show you how precious, valuable and special you are to Him.

You are more than just a Believer in Jesus. You are becoming a true, faithful Follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our training is designed to help you realize and appropriate the very real victory that you have in Christ. Jesus designed you to spiritually win in life and for all eternity. You are victorious! You are on the winning side.

1 Corinthians 15:57 (New International Version)

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have the victory because of Jesus Christ and the total victory that He won for us on that awful Friday in Jerusalem so long ago when Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins and the sins of the whole world. The victory of the cross enables us to walk in daily victory over Satan, sin, temptation, the world, the flesh, and whatever sinful people can throw at us.

The moment you became a Christian you not only gained a Heavenly Father who loves you so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die for you - but you also gained a very real enemy who will war against your soul as long as you are alive on this planet. But he is a totally defeated foe. Satan doesn't want you to know or comprehend the incredible victory that you have, right now, in Jesus and in the power of His Blood. The victory of the cross secures for you a great salvation, hope, blessing, healing, deliverance and victory! Satan has a vested interest in keeping you in fear, darkness, and ignorance. This training is designed to help you walk in daily victory by appropriating the power, resources and victory of the finished work of Jesus at the cross.

Through the cross of Jesus, God secured and established for us, for all time and eternity, everything that we will ever need to be spiritually victorious. Jesus wants you to know all that He won for you by His wounds, bleeding and death on the cross of Golgotha. God has met every need you will ever have - through the cross of Jesus. As we understand, believe, claim and enjoy God's promises, His provision and His principles (made possible to us because of the cross) we will walk in spiritual victory in our daily lives.
You need the cross of Jesus! As a Follower of Jesus, you need to understand all that you have in Jesus and His Eternal Victory!

**Key Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20 (New International Version)**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**This Coming Week's Reading: Mark 7-9**

**Objective:** The goal of this lesson is to teach Followers of Jesus why we need the cross of Jesus and what the cross has won for us in very real and practical terms.

**Key Definitions / Concepts:**

**Why We Need The Cross Of Jesus In Our Lives - 7 Great Reasons**

1. **To Free Us From The Guilt And Condemnation Of Our Sin.**

   **Exodus 34:6-7 (New International Version)**

   And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished ... "

   **Romans 3:9-12, 17-18 (New International Version)**

   What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantages? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." ... and the way of peace they do not know." "there is no fear of God before their eyes."

According to GOD's Word we are all guilty of sin. We are all sinners. We stand condemned before God. But God is gracious and loving and He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. You and I could never pay for our own sins. Our sins disqualified us from dying for our own sins or paying for the sins of anyone else. God's perfect Law demanded a pure, perfect, sinless sacrifice for our sins. Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice and He gave His life on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. We owe Him everything. Jesus carried our sins on Himself when He died on the cross.
Isaiah 53:4-6 (New International Version)

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Jesus' death and resurrection secures for us freedom from guilt and condemnation before God. We are forgiven, blessed, adopted into His Family and given eternal salvation. Praise the Lord!

Romans 8:1 (New International Version)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. To Deliver Us From The Oppression And Influence Of Satan

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden sin has separated humans from God and Satan has oppressed and influenced God's creation including people. Jesus even called Satan "ruler of this world" in John 12:31; 14:30; and 16:11. In Acts 10:38 it tells us that Jesus "went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him."

Jesus Christ came to destroy all of the work of the devil.

1 John 3:8 (New International Version)

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

When Jesus died on the cross Satan was rendered powerless!

Hebrews 2:14 (New International Version)

Since the children have flesh and blood, he [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil.

The cross of Jesus and His shed Blood gives us victory and power over our defeated foe, Satan. Jesus gives us healing, power, authority, and deliverance from Satan's control and power. He destroyed Satan's rule over the hearts and minds of people and brought true freedom to all those who have been controlled and oppressed by him.
3. **To Provide Healing From Pain, Sickness And Suffering**

In the Garden of Eden, before Adam and Eve fell into sin there was no pain, sickness and suffering. In heaven there will be no pain, sickness and suffering. The Bible clearly states that pain, sickness and suffering are part of the world we live in, but that it is the will of God for us to spiritually overcome these (John 16:33). God provides healing for us in many ways [physical, relational, financial, etc.] All of it is through what Jesus did for us on the cross. When Jesus was stripped and lashed so cruelly with the Roman scourge, something powerful and profound happened. Our healing was secured because of His bloody stripes!

**Isaiah 53:4-5 (New International Version)**

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

The word for "pain" in this passage can also be translated "sickness" from the original language of Hebrew. In the life and ministry of Jesus we see that all kinds of healing was a huge part of His very practical ministry of compassion and love for hurting people. The Greek word for "save" and the word for "heal" is the same word (James 5:16). The bloody cross of Jesus and His terrible suffering made it possible for us to pray and believe God for the healing of every pain, sickness and suffering we face.

4. **To Help Us Overcome Worry, Anxiety And Fear**

God never meant for His children to live their lives bound in fear, worry and despair. In fact, the Bible says that God does not give us the spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7). God wants us to live lives that are marked by boldness and confidence in Him.

After sin entered the world, fear and worry became the common companions of virtually all of God's fallen children. God wants us to be set free from the fears that plague us and cripple us as we realize His love and stake our lives on His unchanging promises of protection, provision, peace, and power.

God's perfect love and His perfect care for us casts out our fear. (1 John 4:18)

Hundreds of times in God's Word He commands us to "Fear not!"

We can boldly face anything because of the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus always leads us forth into victory and triumph. We can live fearless lives in Jesus. Our past has been forgiven, our future is secure, and all of our needs are taken care of for today! We can overcome - because of our testimony about Jesus and His blood! (Revelation 12:11)

• Jesus has promised to meet all of our needs. (Philippians 4:19)
• Jesus has promised to never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5)
• Jesus has promised to work good out of anything that happens to us (Romans 8:28)
• Jesus has promised that we will have spiritual victory through Him, all the time. (1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14)
• Our Lord has promised us that no matter what happens to us that through Him we will "overwhelmingly conquer." (Romans 8:37)
• Our God has promised to fight our battles beside us and He has promised to crush Satan's influence under our feet. (2 Chronicles 20:15; Romans 16:20)
• Jesus has promised that we can do all things through Him - because He will strengthen us! (Philippians 4:13)

Because of Jesus and His work for us on the cross, we can live without fear! We have been adopted into God's Family because of the Blood of Jesus and we know that He will meet all of our needs forever. (Matthew 6:8, 25-34)

5. To Defeat Death Forever

Because of sin, we all fell under the curse of death. "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23) All of us were doomed to die physically and also to die eternally in hell, separated from God forever - until the cross of Christ!

Hebrews 2:14-15 (New International Version)

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

... the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of the victory that Jesus won on the cross for us - our worst enemy, death has been destroyed! For the Follower of Jesus, death "died" with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! We live forever - because of Jesus!

6. To Inspire Us To live Self-Sacrificing Lives

The cross of Jesus for New Testament Christians was not just a religious symbol, it was a profound religious experience, a way of life. When Christianity is at its best, Christians do not live in comfort and ease with no sacrifice. Christianity is most powerful when Christ followers are keenly aware they are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses" who have sacrificed to follow Jesus, who have given up their whole lives to follow the Master.
As followers of Jesus, we are committed to "fixing our eyes on Jesus." We can live self-sacrificing lives, we can endure "our cross" because we see the potential of "joy" just like Jesus did! We do not grow weary or lose heart. We struggle against sin just like Jesus did and we have His promise we can overcome.

Hebrews 12:1-4

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

7. To Gain Eternal Life In Christ

John 3:16 (King James Version)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 6:47 (New International Version)

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

As we put our faith in Christ and the transforming work He did for us on the old rugged cross, and as we trust Him for salvation, we are saved to eternal life!

BECAUSE OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST, WE HAVE VICTORY IN JESUS.
WE CAN AND SHOULD LIVE CONSISTENTLY IN
SPIRITUAL VICTORY!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share your personal experience of your encounter at the cross.
2. Share with one person why you need the work of the cross in your life.