

“What Do We Believe? – Suffered, Crucified, Dead and Buried” Isaiah 53:1-6

Central Thought: *The intensity of Christ's suffering motivates us to embrace the intensity of sin, holiness, love and salvation.*

What are we confessing?

- 1) Suffered under Pontius Pilate in **real** time.
- 2) Crucified as the Scriptures **prophesied**.
Leviticus 16:20-22; Hebrews 13:11-13;
Psalm 22:1,4-6,14-15,16-18;
Galatians 3:13; (Deuteronomy 21:23)
- 3) Dead, not **fainted**. 1 Corinthians 15:3,4
- 4) Buried – **confirms** both death and resurrection.
Matthew 28:11-15

What did Jesus suffer in His death?

- 1) v.1 – **Rejection**: not believed, yet powerful.
- 2) v.2 – **Devaluing**: not outwardly impressive.
- 3) v.3 – Deep **sorrow**: Jesus was an outcast.
- 4) v.4 – **Injustice**: in our place.
- 5) v.5 – Physical **pain**: God's sacrificial Lamb.
- 6) v.6 – God's **wrath**: the atonement shows us our nature and God's nature.

What do we do with this truth? *The intensity of the cross elicits intense life response.*

- 1) Devastation by the **horror** of sin.
- 2) Awe at the **height** of God's (and our) holiness.
Hebrews 10:14; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 3) Delight in the **depth** of God's love.
Romans 8:32
- 4) Amazement at the **power** of salvation.
 - To **keep** us forever. John 10:28-29
 - To **motivate** us. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - To **protect** us. Romans 8:38-39

Word bank: confirms, depth, devaluing, fainted, height, horror, injustice, keep, motivate, pain, power, prophesied, protect, real, rejection, sorrow, wrath

For reflection and Life Group facilitation:

- 1) How do you respond when you see graphic pictures or movies of the cross – the suffering of Jesus?
- 2) Why is it sometimes easy to downplay the seriousness of the devastation of sin?
- 3) When do you most doubt God's love? What does the suffering of Jesus say about that doubt?
- 4) How does the suffering of Jesus speak against the idea that when you suffer, you might be making up for your past failures?
- 5) Why is it important to understand the magnitude of God's holiness?