

**Transition:**

Jesus has just fed the 4,000 and Peter has proclaimed that Jesus is the Messiah and now the Pharisees demand a sign!! Jesus begins to foretell His death – the sign they should pay most attention to, the sign of the Cross.

**Tell the story:**

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

**Rebuild the story:**

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did Jesus call Peter Satan? Why the sharp rebuke? (Rom 8:5-8)
2. Who reveals that Jesus is the Christ? (Matt 11:27; Matt 16:14-17)

**Fundamental:**

The Cross & Resurrection - For centuries, theologians have compiled great works expounding on the power and scope of atonement. The fulfillment of the atonement through Jesus Christ was God's accomplishment to bring reconciliation to a broken and lost humanity and to overthrow and usurp all powers of darkness. Yet we are only on the very shores of this ocean. The correct mindset, in regard to the cross of Christ, is that it is always more and greater than we can imagine. It is the glory, hope, and destiny of all believers. As Paul so aptly stated, "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Gal 6:14).

-Ancient non-Christian sources speak of Christ, Christians, the crucifixion and the resurrection (Check out *The Case for Christ*)

-The disciples seal the validity of their testimonies by their martyrdom

-Historically recorded changes in character after the resurrection

-Multiple eyewitness testimonies corroborate the resurrection of Jesus

1. Why did Jesus have to die?
2. Is the resurrection of Christ historically verifiable?
3. What are the consequences of Jesus not rising from the dead?

**Homework/Challenge:**

1. Read the above scripture verses out loud. Meditate on it for 30 minutes. Know what Jesus did for you. (Faith comes by hearing, Rom 10:17)
2. Please read Matthew 17 in preparation for next week

**Discipleship Tip:**

You can't crucify yourself which means you will need friends and oftentimes enemies to crucify you. Don't run away or deny it.

**Prayer:**

Lord, we invite the crucified life because only when we die do we live (John 12:24).