

“The Ultimate Labor Day”
Christ’s Labor of Love on the Cross

The day Christ died on the cross was the ultimate “Labor Day.” The work required for our salvation was accomplished on that day! The holiness of God was satisfied, and provision was made for forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. That great work on Calvary included:

- **SUBSTITUTION** → Jesus took my **PLACE**

As Christ suffered and died, God imputed the guilt of our sin upon Him, and punished Him **INSTEAD OF** us
(Is 53:5-6; Rom 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 3:18)

- **SATISFACTION** → Jesus paid my **PRICE**

The death of Christ **FULLY AND COMPLETELY** satisfied all the demands of God’s holiness, justice & righteousness
(Jn19:30; Eph 5:2; 1 Jn 2:2; 4:10)

- **RECONCILIATION** → Jesus provided for my **PEACE**

The death of Christ removed the barrier of sin so that a **FULL RESTORATION** with God is available for all who believe.
(Rom 5:10-11; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Col 1:20-21)

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Small Group/Family Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: What is one of your favorite songs about the cross or about salvation?

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus was willing to take your eternal punishment on the cross?
2. Try to do (or at least talk through) the “book of sin” illustration that John shared in the morning sermon using Isaiah 53:6.
3. What is the significance of Jesus saying “It is finished” as He hung on the cross? What difference does this truth make in your life?
4. Read 2 Cor 5:18-21 and discuss the following: **What is the “ministry of reconciliation” that we’ve been given? **Who is someone you can encourage to “be reconciled to God?”

Small Group/Family Prayer Time

Each person begin by thanking Jesus for His work on the cross and especially for paying for your sin on the cross.

Digging Deeper

1. In addition to 2 Cor 5:18-21 (#4 above), note what Rom 5:10-11 and Col 1:20-21 say about our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ. Write out each of these scripture passages in your own words. Tell someone this week how they too can be reconciled to God.
2. How does 1 Tim 4:10 teach that Christ died for all, but only those who believe receive the benefit of His payment for sin. Who did Christ die for according to the following verses – Jn 1:29; 3:16-17; 10:15; 17:24; 1 Jn 2:2 and Heb 2:9?