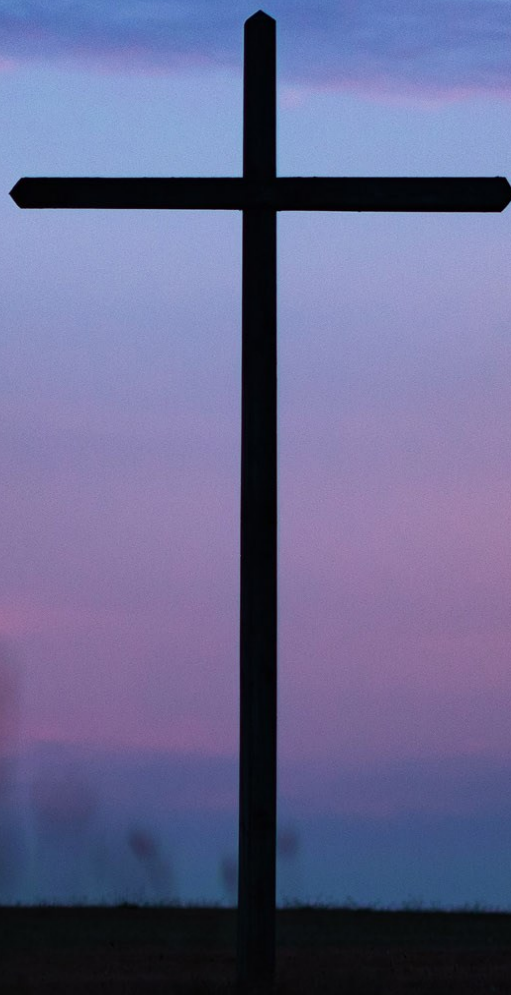


THE CROSS

FAMILY DEVOS



Into Your Hands

Scripture: Luke 23:44-46

Memory Verse: Revelation 7:9

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

For My Family

The crowd that watched as Jesus was crucified thought that this was the end. Jesus had been born humbly in Bethlehem, grown up in Nazareth, preached, healed, and now He was about to die. But Jesus knew something that everyone else didn't know. Jesus knew that this was just the beginning.

The last thing we see Jesus say as He was dying on the cross is found in Luke 23. We read that Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit,” and then He breathed no more. Jesus was saying to His Father in Heaven, “Get ready everyone, I'm about to come home!” You see, Jesus knew that no matter how long we live here on earth, if the Lord gives us 10 years, or 40 years, or 70 years, or even 100 years to live, when we take our last breath here, we actually start our real, forever lives.

In 1 Peter 2:11, Peter writes to us and calls us something really interesting. He calls Christians, “Sojourners and Pilgrims.” A sojourner is someone who travels through one place to get to their real destination. A pilgrim is someone who goes on a journey with a spiritual purpose. Peter is telling us that our lives here on earth are really just us travelling until we get to our true home, our forever home in Heaven. Our lives, in many ways, are just journeys that we are going on, and at the end of that journey is Jesus.

Our memory verse today is taken from a book that shows some wonderous images of Heaven. In the book of Revelation, we read some things about what Heaven will be like. In chapter 7 we read that one thing that we will see when we get to Heaven is vast crowd of people, so many people that we can't even count them. These people will be from every country in the world. All of the different people groups and every different language will be standing together, and we will all be praising Jesus.

If you know someone who has gone to Heaven, then I want you to imagine them dressed all in white, standing in a great big group of other people, with their hands raised, singing to Jesus. All of our loved ones who have gone to Heaven before us will be there, and guess what, they are so, so happy to be there, and one day, we will be there too. One day, just like those who have gone before us, we will go and live in our forever home with all of our loved ones, and most importantly, Jesus.

Questions for Young Children:

What do you know about Heaven? What do you think it will look like? Draw a picture of what you think Heaven will be like and then share it with the family.

What is a sojourner? How is our life like a big journey? Where are we going?

How long do we get to live in Heaven?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

The Bible says that “For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross” (Heb 12:2). What was the joy that this passage is speaking about?

Who are you excited to meet or see again in Heaven?

How does knowing that we are sojourners and pilgrims affect the way we live our lives here on earth?