

NOTES



PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for gathering us here today. Open our hearts and minds to the truth of the cross. For those of us who might feel skeptical or unsure, show us Your love and power. Help us to move from doubt to faith, trusting in Jesus and His sacrifice for us.

*In His name, we pray,
Amen.*

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

“Can you share a time when you doubted something but were pleasantly surprised to find out it was true?”



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WORD

"The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"

[Matthew 27:52-54 \(ESV\)](#)

"It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, 'Certainly this man was innocent!'"

[Luke 23:44-47 \(ESV\)](#)

REFLECTION

The crucifixion of Jesus is a turning point in history, marked by miraculous signs: the tearing of the temple curtain, an earthquake, and even the dead being raised. These events reveal the cosmic significance of Jesus' death—a moment where heaven and earth collide. Jesus' own words on the cross, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit," demonstrate His complete trust in God, even in the face of suffering.

In the midst of this, we see the Roman centurion—a man trained to follow orders and likely skeptical of Jesus—completely transformed. Witnessing these events, he recognizes Jesus' divine identity and innocence. His proclamation, "Truly this was the Son of God," is a powerful testimony that even hardened hearts can be softened by the truth of the cross.

For us today, the cross reminds us that Jesus willingly bore the weight of our sin, breaking down the barriers between God and humanity. Like the centurion, we are invited to respond in awe and belief, recognizing Jesus as the Savior who transforms lives. How might we let this truth shape our daily choices and interactions with others?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "What does the tearing of the temple curtain signify about God's relationship with humanity, and how does this change the way we approach Him today?"
2. "The centurion moved from skepticism to belief after witnessing Jesus' death. How do moments of crisis or awe often reveal deeper truths about who God is? Can you relate to a similar experience?"
3. "The centurion's declaration, 'Truly this was the Son of God,' was a public acknowledgment of faith. What are ways we can publicly declare or live out our faith in environments where belief in Jesus might not be common?"
4. "If the cross reveals the depth of God's love and the cost of redemption, how should this impact the way we view ourselves and others? How can this understanding shape our relationships and actions this week?"

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for the cross and all that You endured for us. We see Your love, power, and trust in the Father in these verses. For those of us who are skeptical or unsure, we ask You to reveal Yourself more clearly. Help us to take a step of faith, trusting You fully with our lives. We surrender to You as our Saviour and Lord.

In Jesus' name, Amen.