

Talk Four

**SUFFERED, CRUCIFIED, DIED, BURIED, DESCENDED**

The Rev'd Dr Mark Earney

**Leaders:** choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

**Week 4 – Suffered, crucified, died, buried, descended**

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, **suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried**; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

1. Is there anything that stood out for you from the message? Anything new to you?
2. Why is so much space in the creed given over to Jesus?
3. What would you say to someone who says they believe in God, but not so much Jesus?

**SUFFERED, CRUCIFIED** - Read Isaiah 53:3-6 as background

4. Jesus knew what was to happen to him in Jerusalem and everything happened as he said it would. Why did he keep going?
5. What was driving Pontius Pilate's handling of Jesus? (Refer especially to Mark 15:15)
6. 'Cursed is everyone who hung on a tree'. What would Jews have made of Jesus' death? What would Greeks have made of Jesus' death?
7. Mark (our presenter) said that the cross is a symbol of our salvation **from** sin. John Stott said the cross is 'the most sublime reality and the profoundest mystery'. Discuss the book illustration Mark used to describe the significance of the cross of Christ. What did Mark say makes Good Friday, 'good'?

**DIED, BURIED AND DESCENDED** Read Mark 15:33-39

8. Why the emphasis on the creed that Jesus not only died but was buried?
9. How did Mark describe the significance of this phrase?  
*Mark suggested that it means his work was truly finished. (The word doesn't mean the place of eternal punishment).*
10. What did Mark say was the relationship of our small Lenten sacrifice and Jesus' sacrifice for sin?
11. What would you say to those who feel too sinful to come God?
12. Jesus took the penalty for our sin... our sin was laid on his shoulders! How do we adequately respond?? Mark said – the cross shows the ocean of God's love which is unfathomable!!
13. What will you take away from this study?

*Pray that we will grow in our clarity and understanding the Apostles' creed and stand firm in it. Pray that we will become people with a clear theological grasp on its significance and a clear appreciation of what it means that Jesus suffered, died, buried and on the cross, was separated from God for us.*