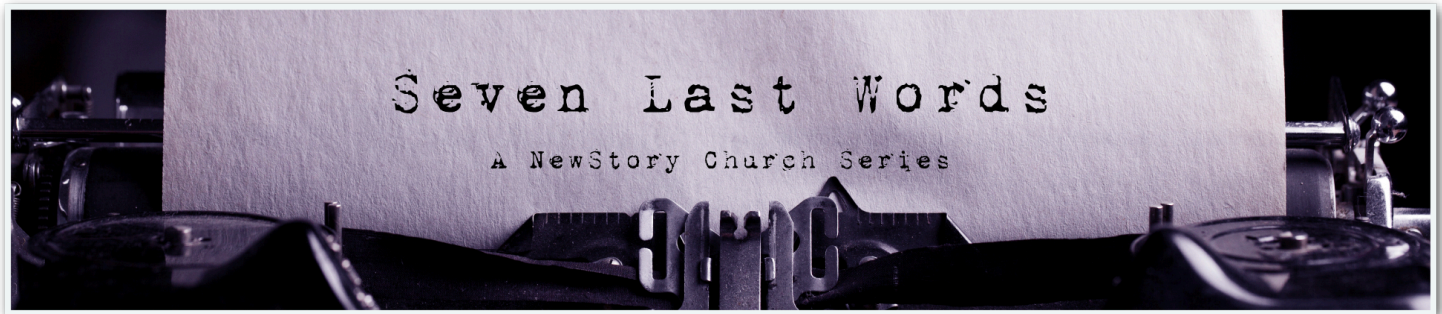




SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 2: Jesus Saves

Icebreaker: Show everyone in your group the selfie of you posing in front of the “Jesus Saves” sign downtown and share a story from that day. *Don't have a selfie in front of the “Jesus Saves” sign? Really? Are you even Christian?(jk) Laugh & carry on.*

1) Lent has traditionally been a season of deeper reflection upon The Cross in preparation for Resurrection Sunday. Read the following two quotes below and share how you hope this Lenten season might be different for you.

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation." -Catherine Doherty

"O lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again." -Henri Nouwen

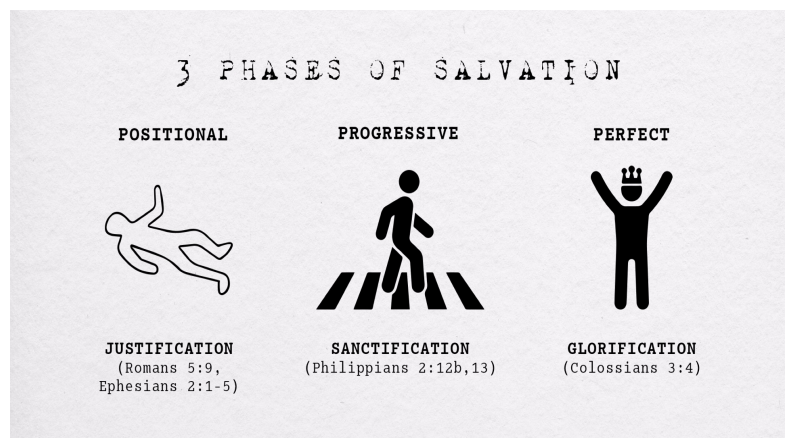
2) Read the Luke 23:32-43 aloud as a group. Then share some of your observations about this passage. What are some elements that stand out to you most? What are the attitudes of the two criminals, in particular? Finally, how does verse 43 (one of the “seven last words”) strike you?

3) Have you memorized Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23? If not, please take a moment to do so now. Next discuss how the theology represented in those two verses above might have been some of the theological foundation for the following statement by Dr. James Dobson in the aftermath of someone else’s public execution: “To those who say Ted Bundy should burn forever in eternity I would only say, so should I, so should all of us.”

4) Share your thoughts on the following quote from Charles Spurgeon: “If any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him, for you are worse than he thinks you to be.”

5) Is The Cross of Christ scandalous? Explain why or why not.

6) Using the lens of Luke 23:43, explain the chart on the right and its specific relationship to the PUNISHMENT of sin, the POWER of sin and the PRESENCE of sin.



7) Two criminals were crucified with Jesus. Yet Christ said, “Today you will be with me in paradise” to only one of them. If you were to identify with one of those two criminals, which one would it be and why?