



SESSION SIX

What Will We Leave at the Cross?

Key Verses

Trust the Lord with all your heart.
Don't depend on your own understanding.
Remember the Lord in everything you do.
And he will give you success.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 ICB

LEADER PREPARATION

It is recommended that you read chapter 15, “Check Your Baggage Here!” in *He Chose You* by Max Lucado before you teach so you will be well acquainted with the stories and principles this lesson is based on.

Materials Needed:

- Student Handouts (1 per student)
- Pens (1 per student)
- Bibles

SESSION SIX OUTLINE

Large Group Lesson: God's Promise in the Gifts of Easter

20 minutes

Introduction

Pair Up: Choose a Symbol

Teaching

Application

Pair Up: Pray for a Friend

Small Group Discussion

20 minutes

Questions about Leaving It at the Cross

Activity: Leave It at the Cross



LARGE GROUP LESSON: God's Promise in the Gifts of Easter

I. Introduction

Distribute the Student Handouts at the beginning of the session so they have the list of symbols to review during their Pair Up exercise.

A. Let's look back over this Lent season at the symbols of Easter we have talked about:

- **Session 1, Thorns Crown the Winner:** Jesus' crown of thorns as a symbol of victory over the painful consequences of sin
- **Session 2, Nails Fix Everything:** the nails in Jesus' cross as a symbol of fixing our broken relationship with God
- **Session 3, Out from Behind the Curtain:** Jesus' robe and the torn temple curtain as symbols of our access to God's presence
- **Session 4, The All-Access Cross:** Jesus' cross as a symbol of God's holiness (the tall beam) and his love (the crossbeam)
- **Session 5, Sad Thing, Glad Thing:** Jesus' discarded grave clothes as a symbol of Christ's triumph over death

PAIR UP: Choose a Symbol

Turn to your neighbor and share which of these symbols struck you the most, and why. Was there any symbol you had never really thought about before that you now understand better? What do you appreciate more about Easter now that you have learned about these symbols?

- B. All the symbols of a horrifying, humiliating Roman crucifixion have become signals of the infinite love of God for people like us. What kind of God is this who will go to such lengths to save us?
- C. Noticing all that Jesus brought to the cross, we sit in silence and ask, "What will we leave at the cross?"

Allow a moment of silent prayer for students to ponder this question and talk to God about what they want to leave at the cross.

II. Teaching

- A. What do we leave at the cross? We leave our bad and mad moments, our anxious and final moments.
 - 1. Jesus died for all our *bad* (sin) moments. Our sins are forever gone as far as God is concerned. He remembers them no more (see Isaiah 43:25).
 - 2. Jesus will transform our *mad* moments. Rather than being bitter at people, we can learn to bless and serve others (see Romans 12:17–21).
 - 3. Jesus will receive all our *anxious* moments and give us peace (see Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Peter 5:7).
 - 4. Jesus defeated all fear of our *final* moments of earth because he defeated death itself (see John 11:25–26; 1 Corinthians 15:55).
 - 5. How will our lives be different as we leave all these moments at the cross? Why do we carry these things anyway, knowing what Jesus has done for us?
- B. What else do we leave at the cross? We leave a wrong way of seeing God, ourselves, others, and life itself.
 - 1. We see God as loving and inviting, not as distant and accusing (see John 3:16–17; Hebrews 4:16).
 - 2. We see ourselves—sinful and wrecked as we are—as deeply loved and fiercely pursued by God (see Luke 19:10).
 - 3. We see others as God sees them: so valuable to God that he sent his own son to be a sacrifice for our sin (see John 1:29; 1 John 2:1–2).
 - 4. We see life, even its many tragedies, as a grand story in which "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called ac-

according to his purpose for them” (Romans 8:28 NLT; see also Genesis 50:20).

III. Application

- A. Who in your world needs to meet Jesus and be saved? Who will tell them? The great story of Easter and all its gifts is a story for sharing with the world.

PAIR UP: Pray for a Friend

Turn to your neighbor and share about one person in your life who needs Jesus. Pray together for your person and for yourself. Ask God to give you courage to tell them about Jesus and his love.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

At this time, if your group is larger than 10 students, break up into discussion groups of 4 to 6, with an adult facilitator or student leader. Pass out the student handouts, pens, and Bibles.

Materials Needed:

- Student Handouts (1 per student)
- Pens (1 per student)
- Bibles

Questions about Leaving It at the Cross:

The following scriptures contain promises for our lives. In order to claim God's promises, there are things we need to leave at the cross.

1. Read Philippians 4:6–7.
 - a. What are we instructed to do in these verses?
 - b. Is it really possible to be anxious about nothing? Explain your answer.
 - c. What promise are we given in these verses?
 - d. What do you have to leave at the cross in order to benefit from the promise of this verse?

2. Read 1 Peter 3:8–10.
 - a. How are we supposed to treat people, according to this passage?
 - b. What are we not supposed to do in our relationships?
 - c. What promise are we given in this passage?
 - d. Which of these sins is Christ asking you to leave at the cross in order to benefit from the promise of this verse?
3. Read Proverbs 3:5–6. *This is today's key passage.*
 - a. What are we instructed to do in these verses?
 - b. How is this to be done, practically speaking?
 - c. What promise does this verse give us?
 - d. What do you have to leave at the cross in order to benefit from the promise of this verse?
4. Read John 14:1–3.
 - a. Look back at John 13. What was happening that was troubling the disciples?
 - b. What did Jesus tell them to do so they wouldn't be troubled?
 - c. What promise did Jesus give them about what happens after you die?

Activity: Leave It at the Cross

Explain that you are going to close this session with a personal, private activity that will help each person reflect on what specific things they can leave at the cross right now. After they have listed things in four areas, encourage them to return to the four passages that were just discussed, and choose one that is particularly helpful, and write it out in the space provided.

In response to Jesus' sacrifice for us, we are encouraged to leave something at the cross. In each of the following categories, what can you leave at Calvary? Make a list of as many of these moments in your life as you can think of.

- Bad moments (sins)
- Mad moments (relationship issues)
- Anxious moments (worry)
- Final moment (fear of death)

Then review the 4 scripture passages we discussed, and choose the one you need the most right now. Write it out below.

Prayer Time:

When students have had enough time to complete the Leave It at the Cross activity, encourage them to follow the instructions on their handouts for a personal time of prayer.

In a quiet, private time of prayer, confess the things on your list to the Lord. Thank the Lord that he invites you to place all of these troubling things at the foot of the cross—the only place they can be drained of their power. Then turn the verse you chose into a prayer, asking God to help you live according to this verse and to receive the promise he made to those who obey him.