

TEACHER'S REFERENCE

Delivery & Differentiation



Lesson Purpose: Students understand why the Cross is central to Orthodox Christianity and connect Christ's Cross and Resurrection with salvation, love and faithful discipleship.

Core Teaching: Through Christ's voluntary death and Resurrection, the Cross became a sign of salvation, love and victory over death.

Early Learner Emphasis: Christ loves us; the Cross reminds us of Him; we make the Sign of the Cross carefully and prayerfully.

Elementary Emphasis: Precious and Life-Giving; Cross and Resurrection; taking up the cross through concrete Christian choices.

Older Student Extension: Explore sacrificial love, discipleship, salvation and why the Cross cannot be separated from the Resurrection.

Sensitive Content Note: For Early Learners, explain simply that the Cross was used to hurt and kill people, without unnecessary detail about Roman execution. Move quickly to Christ's love, Resurrection and victory over death.

Activity: "My Cross This Week"

Give each student a paper cross.

On the cross, have them write:

"One way I can follow Christ this week is..."

Examples:

- I will forgive someone.
- I will tell the truth.
- I will help my parents.
- I will pray before bed.
- I will be kind to someone who is lonely.

A. Early Learners: Draw one way they can follow Christ this week.

B. Elementary: Write or draw one concrete action of faithfulness, forgiveness, obedience, prayer or kindness.

C. Older Students: Write an action and briefly explain how it relates to Christ's command to "take up your cross."

Then have the students take their crosses home.

Main Point to Remember

The Cross shows us how much Christ loves us and reminds us that through His death and Resurrection, He has conquered death.

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Answer Key & Resource Control



Discussion Questions — Answers

1. Why was the Cross considered a terrible thing before Christ?

Answer: Because crucifixion was a cruel and shameful form of execution associated with suffering, humiliation, and death.

2. Why do Christians now see the Cross differently?

Answer: Because Christ was crucified on the Cross, died, and rose again. Through Christ, the Cross became a sign of salvation, love, and victory over death.

3. What did Christ accomplish through His Cross and Resurrection?

Answer: Christ conquered sin and death and opened the way to salvation and eternal life with God.

4. Why do we make the sign of the Cross?

Answer: To confess our faith, remember Christ and His Cross, and confess the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

5. What does it mean to "take up your cross"?

Answer: To follow Christ faithfully, even when doing what is right is difficult or requires sacrifice.

6. Can you give an example of carrying your cross at school?

- Telling the truth.
- Refusing to cheat.
- Forgiving someone.
- Standing up for someone being bullied.
- Being kind when others are mean.
- Not taking revenge.
- Choosing what is right instead of what is popular.

7. How can the Cross remind us of Christ's love?

Answer: Because Christ willingly gave Himself for us. The Cross shows us that His love is sacrificial and self-giving.

8. Why is the Cross connected with the Resurrection?

Answer: Because Christ's death on the Cross was followed by His Resurrection. The Cross is not a symbol of Christ's defeat. Through the Resurrection, Christ revealed His victory over death.

The Law of God

Suggested Reading | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 62, The End of Persecution. The Elevation of the Cross of the Lord (PDF pp. 744–752) (BOOK pp. 399–403).

Supporting Reading | Part V, section on the Exaltation of the Cross (PDF pp. 1138–1140) (BOOK pp. 612–613).

Optional Early Learner Resource: Elevation of the Cross colouring page — see the Activities folder.

Image/icon Provenance: See lesson Sources & Rights record.