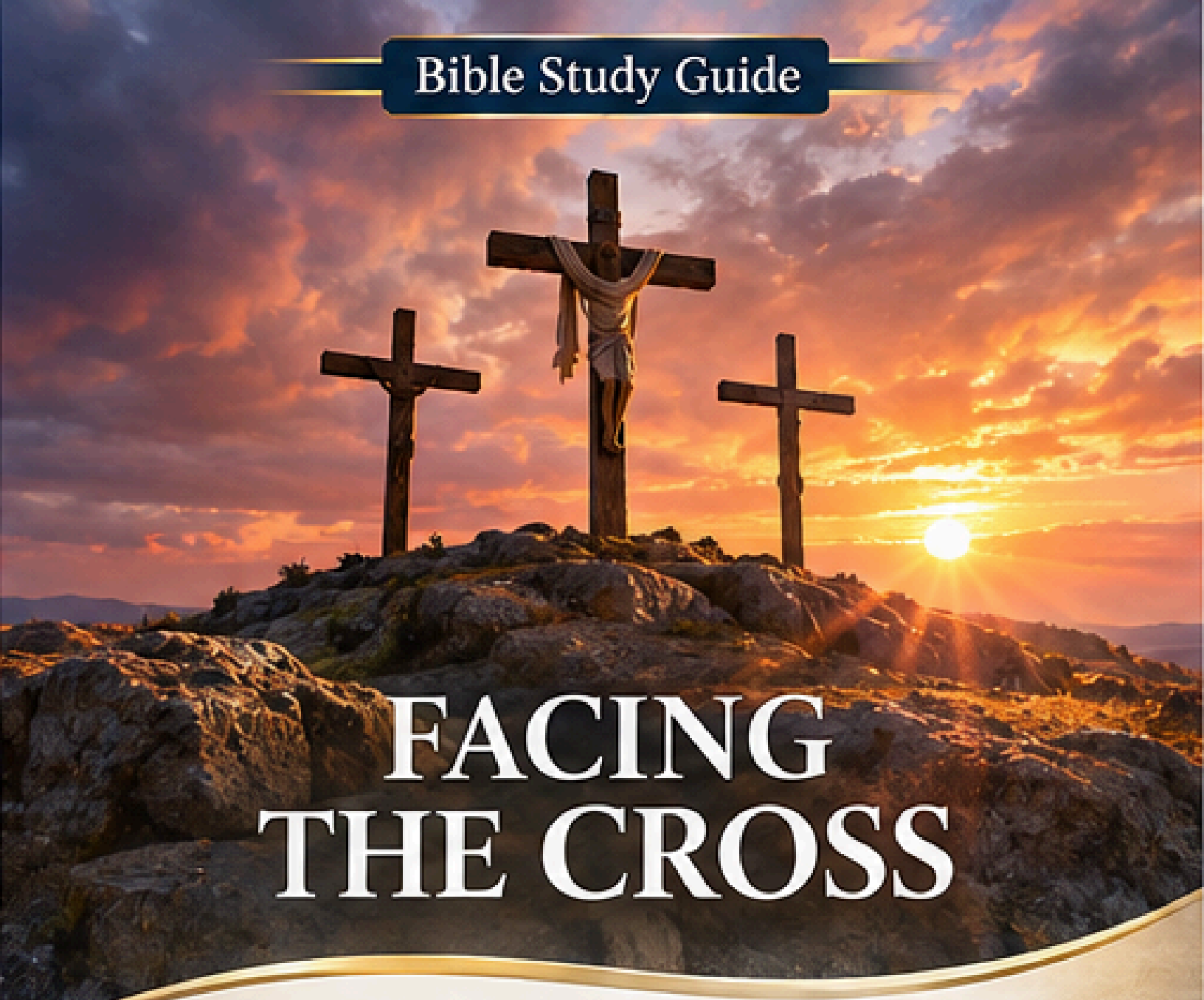
Bible Study Guide



FACING THE CROSS

A Bible Study on Christ's Sacrifice, Our Sin, and the Way of Salvation

Introduction

On the night before Calvary, Peter drew a sword to defend Jesus. Hours later, when a servant girl questioned him, he denied knowing the very Master he had defended. Peter was ready to fight, but he was not ready to suffer. The cross confronts us with a different kind of courage: the willingness to surrender ourselves in love, even when obedience costs us something.

Fill in the blanks from the KJV text, then read the brief explanation.

Bible Study Questions

1 **What must a person do before taking up the cross?** (Matthew 16:24)

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him _____, and take up his cross, and follow me."

The call to discipleship is not merely admiration for Jesus; it is the surrender of self to Him.

2 **How often does Jesus call us to take up the cross?** (Luke 9:23)

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross _____, and follow me."

Self-denial is a daily response to Christ, not a religious symbol alone.

3 **To whom did Jesus give the sop at the Last Supper?** (John 13:26, 30)

"And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to _____, the son of Simon... He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night."

Jesus extended kindness even to the man who was about to betray Him. His love was not dependent on being loved in return.

4 **How should we treat our enemies?** (Matthew 5:44)

"_____ your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Christ's disciples seek the good of those who oppose them rather than returning injury for injury.

5 **How should God's forgiven people treat one another?** (Ephesians 4:32)

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, _____ one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Receiving mercy changes how we respond to others' mistakes.

6 **What did Jesus say was happening as the hour of His suffering approached?** (John 13:31)

"Now is the Son of man _____, and God is glorified in him."

Jesus saw the cross as the revelation of divine glory through sacrificial love, not as a defeat of His mission.

7 **Why did the Son of man come?** (Mark 10:45)

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Christ's greatness is revealed in service and sacrifice.

8 **What did Jesus tell His disciples to pray they would not enter?** (Luke 22:40, 45)

"Pray that ye enter not into _____."

The disciples needed spiritual preparation before the crisis. Prayer acknowledges dependence upon God.

9 **What protects us from entering into temptation?** (Matthew 26:41)

"_____ and _____, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Spiritual preparation requires dependence on God before a crisis comes.

10 **Why are believers called to watch?** (Matthew 24:42)

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what _____ your Lord doth come."

Readiness is a continuous relationship with Christ, not a calculation of dates.

11 **Where did Jesus tell Peter to put his sword?** (John 18:10-11)

"Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. ... Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the _____: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

The kingdom is not defended by the spirit of retaliation. Jesus submitted to the Father's will instead.

12 **How should we overcome evil?** (Romans 12:21)

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with _____."

Christ's way of victory is not retaliation, but faithfulness and love.

13 **How did James and John answer Christ's question about the cup?** (Matthew 20:22)

"... They say unto him, We are _____."

Their confidence in their own ability underestimated both the suffering ahead and their need of divine strength.

14 **Where is Christ's strength made perfect?** (2 Corinthians 12:9)

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in _____."

Acknowledging our weakness makes room for the sustaining grace of Christ.

15 **What should replace confidence in our own understanding?** (Proverbs 3:5)

"Trust in the LORD with all thine _____; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Faith accepts God's wisdom even when the way is not yet clear.

16 **What warning is given to those who believe they stand securely?** (1 Corinthians 10:12)

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth _____ lest he fall."

Our security is in abiding in Christ, not in boasting about our own faithfulness.

17 **To whom should we look as we run the race of faith?** (Hebrews 12:2)

"Looking unto Jesus the author and _____ of our faith;"

Jesus begins and sustains the faith by which we live.

18 **What did Jesus ask for those who crucified Him?** (Luke 23:34)

"Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do."

The cross displays mercy in the very face of hostility.

Appeal

Will you follow Jesus when His way is not the way of victory the world admires? Ask Him to prepare your heart for patient, self-sacrificing obedience today.

Commitment

By God's grace, I choose to deny myself, take up my cross daily, and rely on Christ rather than my own strength.

_____

Signature

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