

PBC Growing in Christ

Reverends Patrick and Stephanie Burrage

March 14, 2021

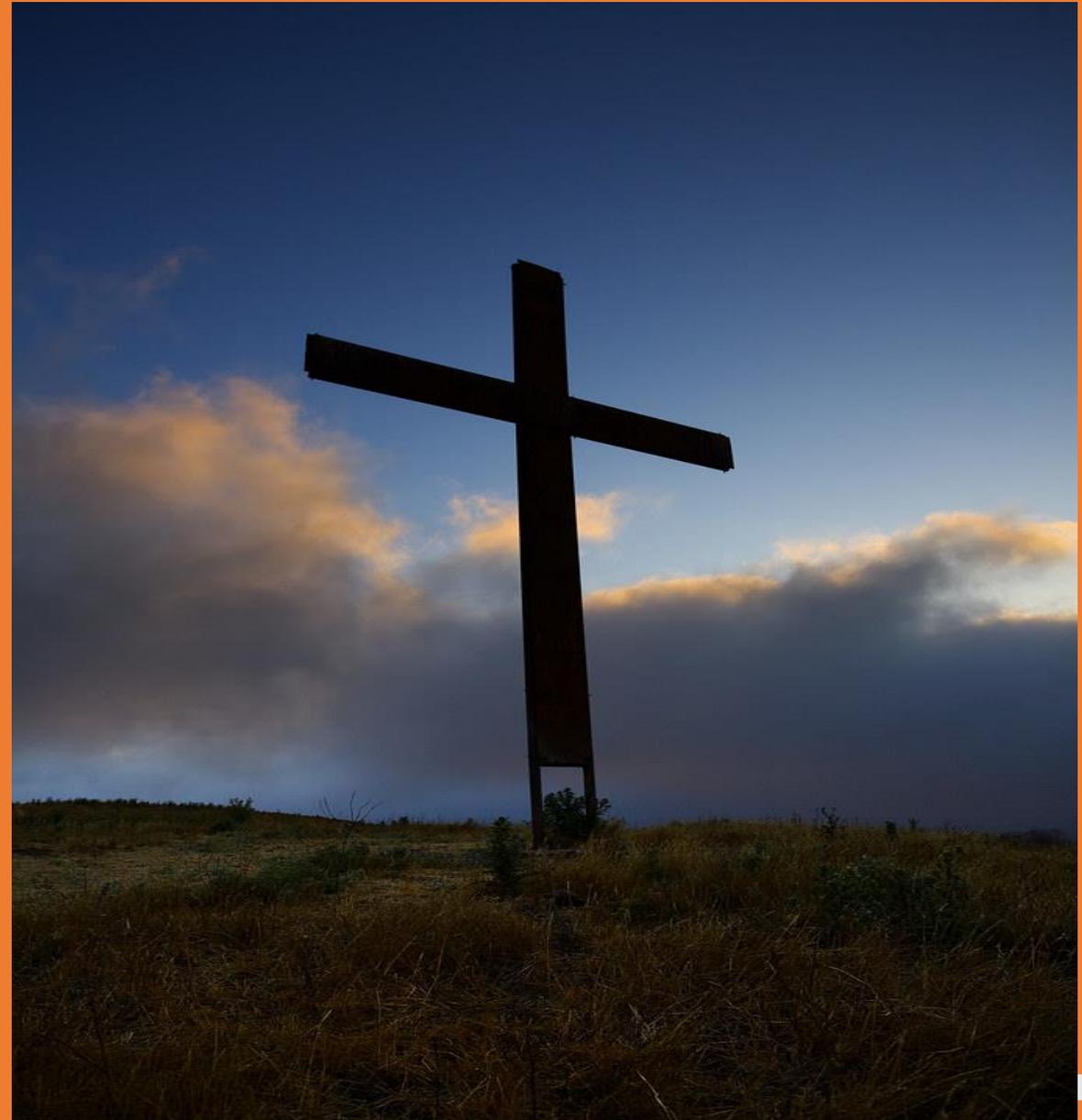
Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a gradient from deep blue to orange and yellow near the horizon. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical post and two horizontal arms clearly visible against the sky.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

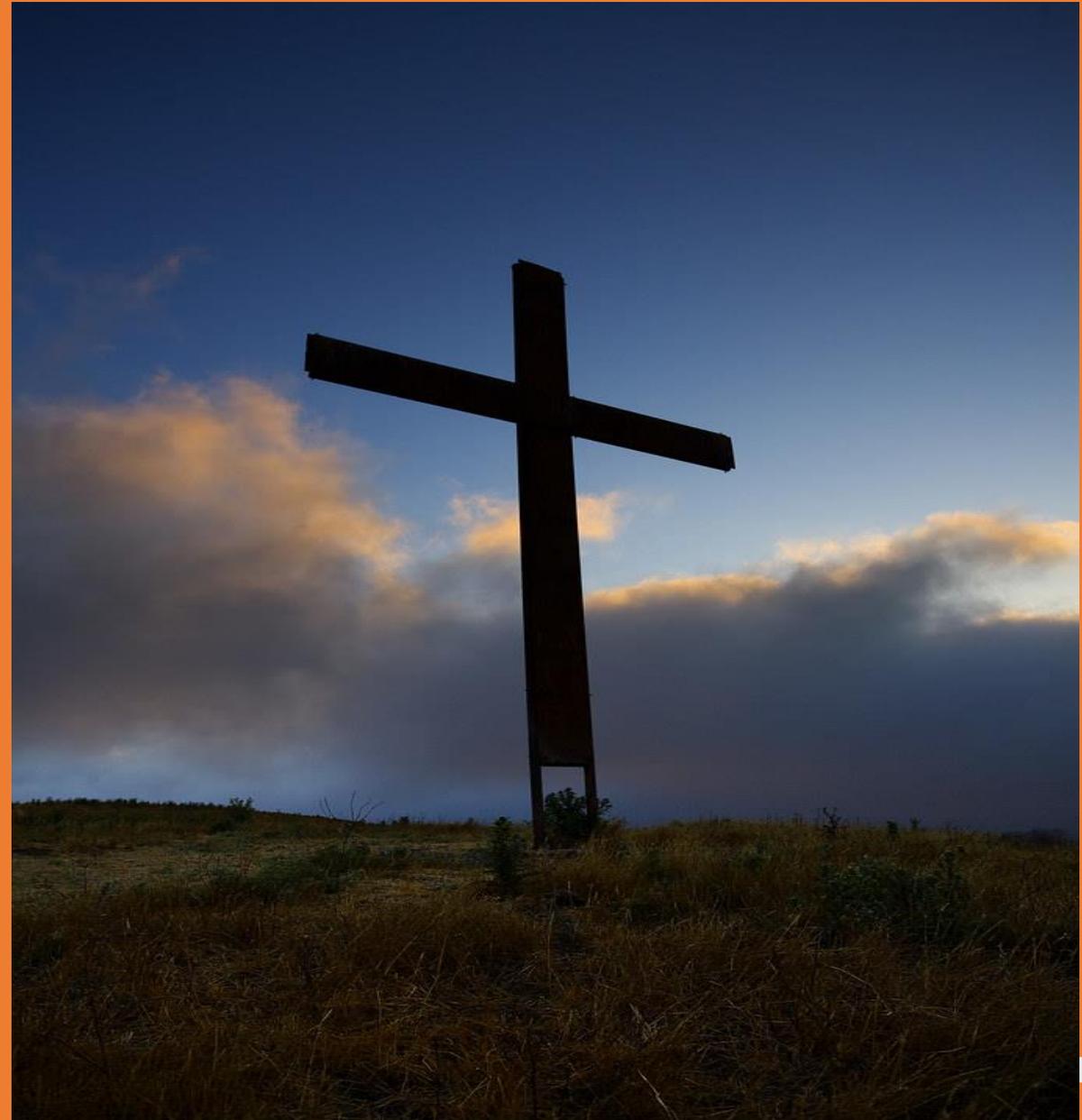
Growing in Christ

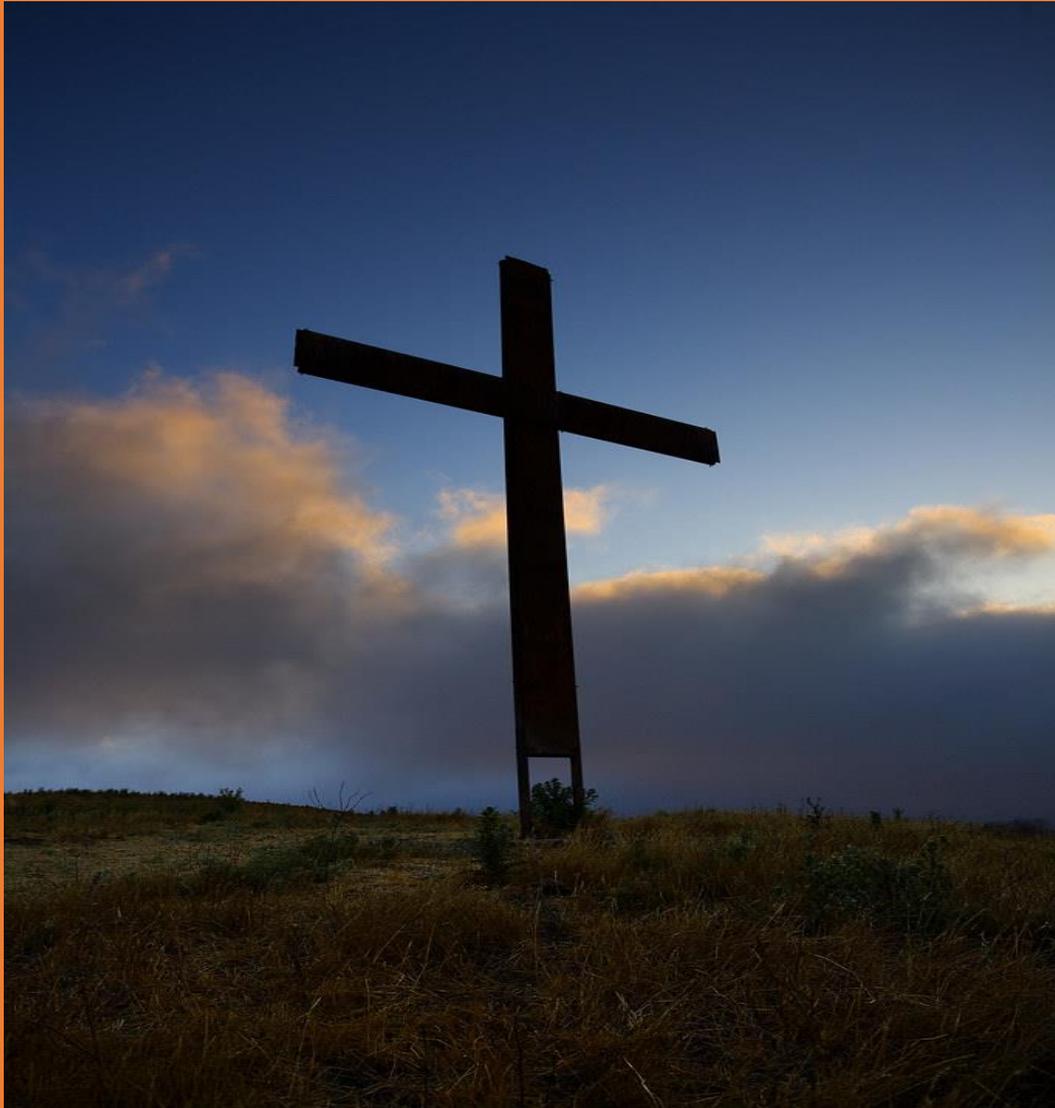
- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)





The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

What's your least favorite household responsibility?

Scripture

The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:1-5

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.



The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:1-5

What can we learn about God from these first words of the Bible?”

What truths are specifically mentioned in this creation account?



The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:1-5

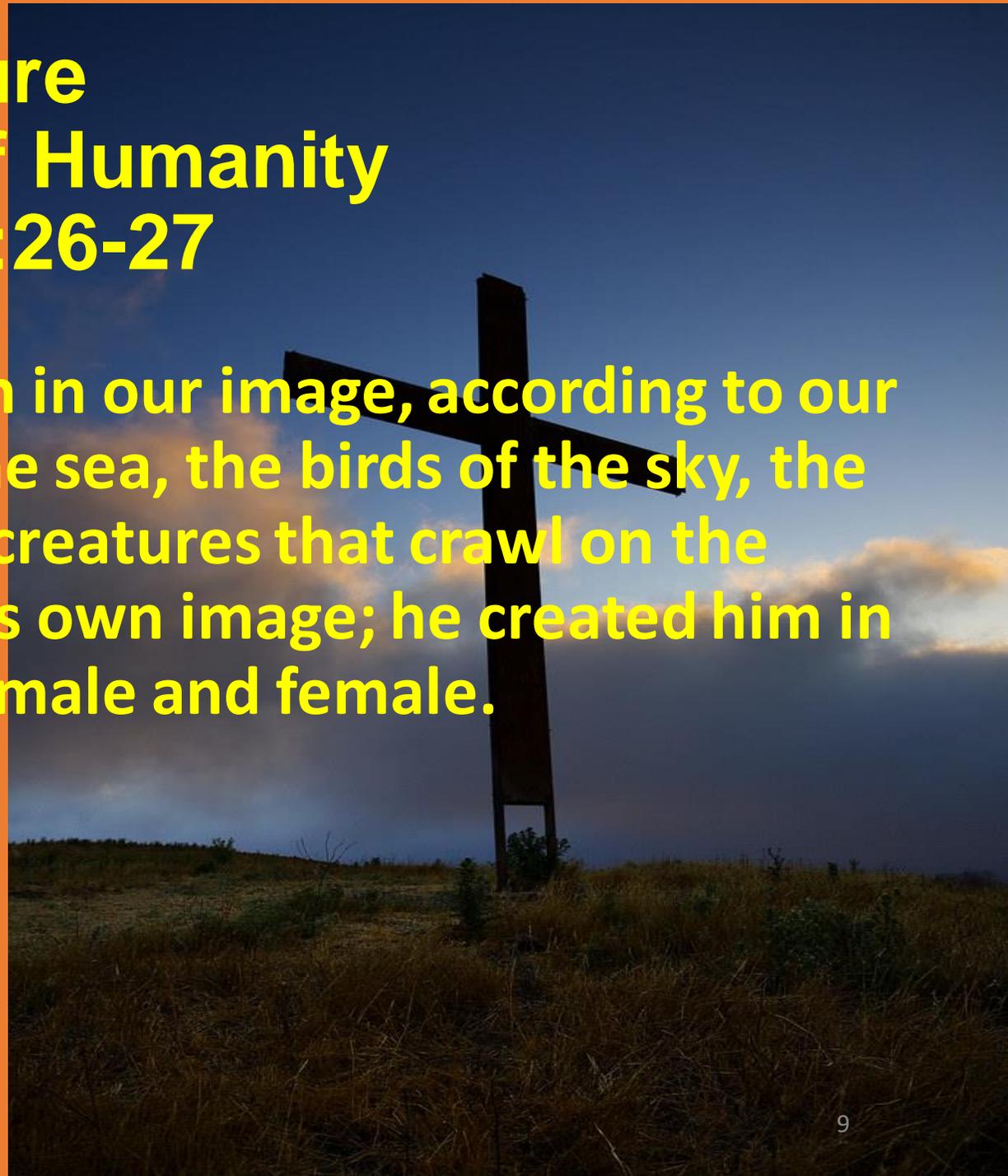
- The Israelites were surrounded by groups of people in settled and established civilizations: Egyptians, Canaanites, and Hittites. If these groups were perceived as more “civilized,” the Israelites would be tempted to think the stories of their gods were more established too. Maybe the Egyptians were right: the world was birthed out of a cosmic egg. And perhaps they should consider the Mesopotamian belief that all we know was created out of the carcass of one of the deceased gods.
- Genesis 1 reveals a different account. It’s as if the writer were saying, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “Listen, I know you’re hearing all kinds of confusing things from other people. Let me tell you about Who is really in charge, what He did, and how you can know Him.”

Scripture

The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.





The Purpose of Humanity

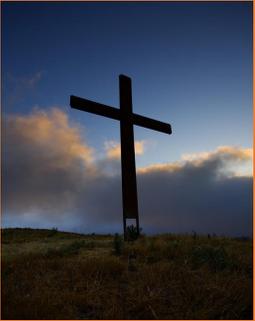
Genesis 1:26-27

What does it mean that God created us in His image?

What are the implications that we were created in God's image?

The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:26-27



- We were created to rule over the animals and over the earth. Humans made in God's image are capable of thinking, discerning, and making choices as God's ruling representatives. In caring for God's creation, we should seek to use—not abuse or misuse—what God has provided us.
- We should seek His wisdom as we make decisions about the use of the Earth's resources. If we make decisions selfishly and with shortsightedness, we can't expect to "rule ... the whole earth" with integrity the way God intended.
- When the world looks at us, they shouldn't see people living for themselves, but people carrying out the highest calling imaginable: displaying the image of the God who made us, doing everything we can to bring Him glory.

Scripture

The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:28-31

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” 29 God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, 30 for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.



The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:28-31

How do these verses summarize our mission and purpose as stewards of God's creation?

What does this passage reveal about God's intention for His relationship with His people?



The Purpose of Humanity

Genesis 1:28-31

- As beings created in His image, God tasked us with being caretakers and to live in a way that brings honor to Him. God gave us three tasks: (1) Be fruitful and fill the earth. (2) Subdue the earth. (3) Relish everything that God made, because He made it all to be enjoyed.
- We're tasked with filling the earth and tending to it. But these commands went far deeper than just populating the earth. God blesses us as we take charge of what He's given us and carry that responsibility out in a way that honors Him. God not only gives us direction on what to do, He also provides what we need to sustain life. He ensures both people and animals will have all they need to survive.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

MARCH 14, 2021,

- **Enjoy God's creation.** In Genesis, we read that God considered His creation "very good indeed" (1:31). Go on a nature walk, looking for aspects of God's creation you can enjoy. Praise God for His creation.
- **See God in His creation.** We were all created in God's image, whether or not we bear that image well. As you interact with others this week, look for opportunities to represent God's love.
- **Care for God's creation.** God's creation includes the earth, the plants, the animals, and the people. We are called to be caretakers of all these. Volunteer with a non-profit in your area that helps take care of one of these groups. As you serve, remember that you are representing God's love of His creation.



Final thoughts about The Purpose of Humanity

- As Christians, we have the unique opportunity to exemplify the kind of life God created us to live. This realization leads us to see things differently.
 - It changes the way we see those around us; they also were created to be image-bearers.
 - It changes the way we see the earth around us; we have been tasked to care for it.
 - It changes the way we see ourselves; we have within us the very markings the Creator gave us to represent Him.
- God has built responsibility into us when He gave it to us, when He put us on the earth.
- **It's up to us to recognize what our responsibility is—and carry it out.**

Resources

- [BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth](#)
- Bible.com





Next Week: March 21, 2021
The Nature of Sin

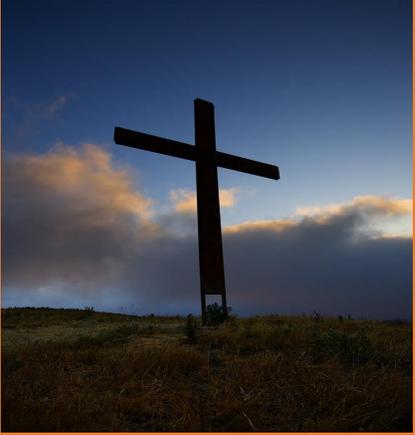
THE POINT

We are sinners, and on our own,
we can do nothing about it.

THE PASSAGE

Isaiah 59:1-13

What's an early memory of being
punished for doing something
wrong?



Bible Study Session Date of Essentials of Christianity

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | March 7, 2021 | The Nature of God | John 14:8-11,16-20,23-26 |
| 2 | March 14, 2021 | The Purpose of Humanity | Genesis 1:1-5,26-31 |
| 3 | March 21, 2021 | The Nature of Sin | Isaiah 59:1-13 |
| 4 | March 28, 2021 | The Death of Jesus | John 19:8-11,16b-18,28-30 |
| 5 | April 4, 2021 | The Resurrection of Jesus | John 20:3-9,19-23,27-29 |
| 6 | April 11, 2021 | The Work of the Holy Spirit | John 15:26-27; 16:7-15 |
| 7 | April 18, 2021 | The Return of Jesus | Matthew 24:3-8,29-32,42-44 |



**God Bless
You!**

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