

The Essentials of Faith - Jesus

INTRODUCTION

Guilt is powerful. Shame can be crippling. We all have things in our pasts that haunt us. We have sin. It only takes a word, a picture, or a name to bring it all back. We know we can do better from this point forward, but how are we supposed to fix the past? We can say we're sorry. We can ask for forgiveness. But some of the things we've done hang over our lives like a cloud.

What can wash away our sins?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, did Christianity seem to be about what God wanted *from* you or what God had done *for* you? Explain.
2. What are some potential consequences of living with guilt and shame? How have you seen guilt and shame affect your life or the lives of others?
3. Is there anything about Jesus you find difficult or confusing? If so, what?
4. What are your thoughts on God providing a savior so you can experience a relationship with him?
5. During the message, Andy said, *"You are trying to pay for sin that has been paid for. Your role is to accept what has been done for you."* If that's true, how would it change your view of faith? How might it change the way you live?
6. What is one thing you can do to begin to build new memorials of forgiveness to replace the memorials to your past failures and sin? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

What can wash away our sins? Nothing . . . nothing but the blood of Jesus. The sin debt we hold over our own heads has already been canceled. We don't have to forgive ourselves because, through Jesus, God has already forgiven us.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13b-14