

# Living Connections Bible Study

## The Cross



1 Corinthians 1:18-31

### Prayer

**Icebreaker:** Name different ways the death penalty has been carried out throughout history.

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In this lesson we are going to learn why Christians have chosen the cross, an instrument of extreme torture, as the symbol of our faith. Can you imagine a different belief system choosing a hangman's noose, guillotine, lethal injection syringe, or electric chair as the symbol of their faith?

1. What is the opinion of those who reject the good news that Jesus came to die on the cross to pay the debt for our sins? 1 Corinthians 1:18

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Like the educated elite today, the Greeks of Paul's day looked up to their philosophers, eloquent debaters, politicians, scribes (journalists and writers), professors, and to other worldly wise men to solve the world's problems.

2. **What does God say about those who think we can reason our way out of the mess the world is in caused by SIN, which is manifested in selfishness, lust for power, greed, etc.?**  
1 Corinthians 1:19, Isaiah 29:14

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3. **What has happened to famous wise men of past ages, men like Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Socrates and Pericles? What wisdom have they left us to make the world a better place? Considering the mess the world is in, did they really have the answers the human race needed in contrast to those who placed faith in Christ? 1 Corinthians 1:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

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4. **Since man cannot find his way to a right relationship with God through education, philosophy and worldly wisdom, how did God in His wisdom determine to save sinners?**  
1 Corinthians 1:21, 1 Timothy 1:15

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5. **Why was the crucifixion of Jesus a stumbling block to the Jews so that they rejected Him as the Messiah? 1 Corinthians 1:22-23, Deuteronomy 21:22-23, Galatians 3:13, 1 Peter 2:24**

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6. **How do those of us who have received Christ as our Savior view Him and God's plan of Salvation through the cross? 1 Corinthians 1:24-25**

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7. Why is it that so few intellectuals, politically powerful, famous, and upper class men and women ever come to the Savior? 1 Corinthians 1:26

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8. Why has God chosen to save those who are perceived foolish, weak, lowly, the nobodies, and those despised by the world? 1 Corinthians 1:27-31

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**Think about it this week:**

**If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator.  
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.  
If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.  
But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior.**

~Max Lucado