

YOUCAT STUDY GROUPS

Small Group YOUCAT India



YOUCAT INDIA



TOPIC:

YOUCAT 101

Why did Jesus have to redeem us on the Cross, of all the places?

Matthew 16:24-27

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷ For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done.



Why did Jesus have to redeem us on the Cross, of all places?

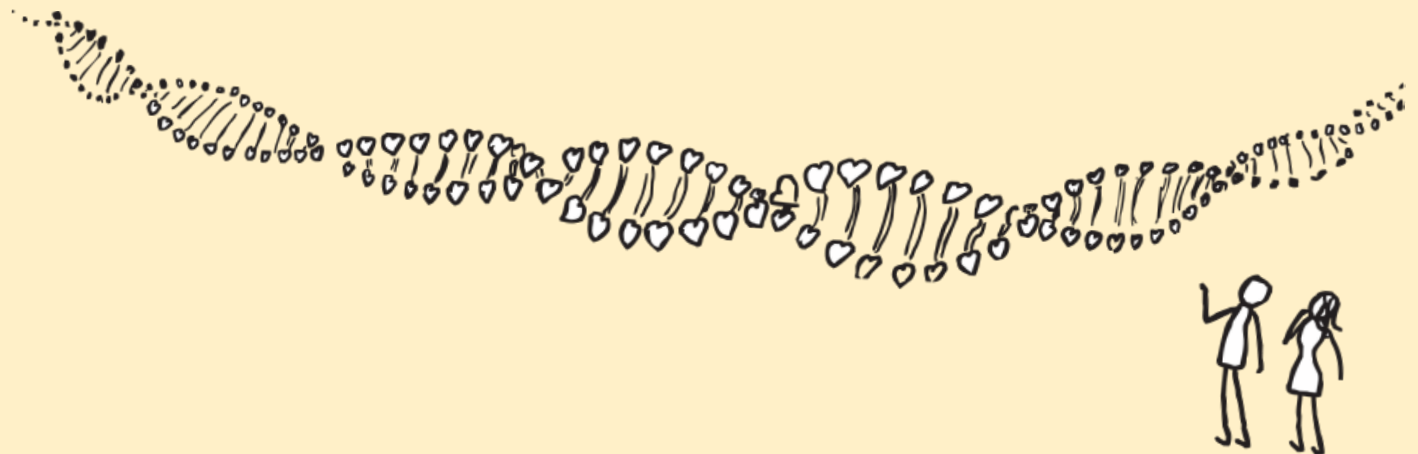
The Cross on which Jesus, although innocent, was cruelly executed is the place of utmost degradation and abandonment. Christ, our Redeemer, chose the Cross so as to bear the guilt of the world and to suffer the pain of the world. So he brought the world back home to God by His perfect love.

God could not show his love more forcibly than by allowing himself in the person of the Son to be nailed to the Cross for us. Crucifixion was the most shameful and most horrible method of execution in antiquity. It was forbidden to crucify Roman citizens, whatever crimes they were guilty of. Thereby God entered into the most abysmal sufferings of mankind. Since then, no one can say, “God does not know what I’m suffering.”



SHARING TIME

1. What can we learn from the cross of Jesus?
2. When have you felt like you have failed? What can we learn from the mistakes we make in our lives?
3. What kind of pressures do you feel at work, school, or at home? Is there any example from your life where God has helped you handle/overcome these pressures/burdens?
4. Explain one incident from your life where you have deeply felt that Jesus fully understands the pains of your life?



ACTIVITY

Meditate on these words:

“If you carry your cross joyfully, it will carry you.”

–Thomans A Kempis

Spend 15 minutes each day during this week, in front of a crucifix, in silence, and meditate on the way Jesus suffered on the cross. Make a spontaneous prayer during this time, uniting your sufferings in this life, to the sufferings of Jesus on the cross. You may keep a notebook/prayer journal to write down these spontaneous prayers.

