

The Atonement

1. Was there anything in the talk which spoke to you?

2. *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10).*

How does thinking about the atonement make you feel?

3. The first Christians believed Isaiah 53 spoke powerfully about the atonement. Which verse speaks most to you, and why?

*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*

3 *He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.*

*Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

4 *Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,*

*yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.*

5 *But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;*

*the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

*6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

4. How does this verse help us with our mission? What do you think it tells us?

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

5. What do you think these verses tell us about the direction of a Christian's life? How is Christ's atonement meant to make us live?

He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed' (1 Peter 2:24).

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them (2 Corinthians 5:15 NLT).

6. This week you might like to make a cross. You can find things at home to use--sticks or anything. Put it in a place where you will see it. Use it in your prayer time.