

# The Greatness of the Cross: The Seven Wounds of Christ

## The Crown of Thorns | Genesis 3:17-19

Ohana Group Discussion Questions: Week of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### OVERVIEW

In Genesis 3:17-19, God pronounces a curse on Adam, making his work painful, the ground resistant, and his life ultimately ending in death as a consequence of sin. On the cross Jesus "became a curse" for us (Galatians 3:13), bearing sin's penalty through His suffering, death, and resurrection to redeem us from the curse.

### OHANA TIME!

**Icebreaker:** What's the hardest or most frustrating job you've ever had? What made it difficult?  
**Or** Do you enjoy gardening? If so, what do you like to grow?

**Activity:** Continue to observe Lent as a group by engaging in a spiritual discipline together (Scripture reading/memorization, prayer, fasting, etc.)

### PRAYER

**Pray:** "Lord, thank You for taking upon Yourself the curse of sin so that we may be restored to life and hope in You."

### BIBLE: READ GENESIS 3:17-19

1. What consequences does Adam face because of sin?
2. How does the curse impact all of humanity? What areas of life bears the signs of brokenness and frustration of the curse?
3. What natural elements (like plants, ground, and dust) are mentioned in this passage? What do you notice about them?
4. How does this curse affect our work, our relationship with creation, and even our physical bodies?
5. Why does God emphasize "thorns and thistles"? What do they represent in a broader sense?
6. What does it mean that Adam will return to the dust? What does this tell us about the consequences of sin?
7. Read Galatians 3:13 together – "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.'" How does Jesus take upon Himself the curse that came from Adam's sin?
8. Read Matthew 27:29 together – "They twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head." How does this detail in Jesus' crucifixion symbolically connect to Genesis 3:18?
9. How does Jesus' work on the cross give us hope beyond the curse?

### APPLICATION

1. Where do you see the effects of sin's curse in your personal life (work, relationships, health, or other struggles)? How does Jesus' victory over sin give you hope when facing these struggles? What are some practical ways you can remind yourself that Christ has already overcome the curse, even when life feels burdensome?
2. Who is one person you can pray for and encourage who is feeling overwhelmed by the struggles of work, pain, or suffering?

