



Our present sermon series is focused on the cross as we approach Easter when we remember, reflect on, and celebrate Christ's death on the cross, his burial, his resurrection, and his ascension to heaven. Today's sermon lends itself to the study outline we have used in previous series.

exploring

We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.

GLC Study Guide
March 29, 2026
The Cost of the Cross

Exploring

A. Read together Isaiah 53:4-6

Pastor Paul listed and defined a number of words from the passage.

- “our” and “we” – Isaiah writes about a “remnant” that God keeps for himself... a believing
- remnant... we are included
- “borne” – lifted
- “griefs” – more emotional or mental suffering
- “sorrows” – more physical suffering
- “esteemed” – thought of, saw (in a negative sense)
- “smitten” – struck down, afflicted, like the act of God against the unrighteous

1. Which one of these definitions is the most shocking/surprising to you?
2. Choose the two most meaningful to you and explain your choices.

Digging

B. Pastor Paul explained that Isaiah was prophesying to the nation of Judah about God's judgement that was both already and not yet.

- Read the following context in Isaiah and note God's reasons for judgement on Judah.
 - 1:4
 - 1:15-17
 - 1:23
 - 5:20-25
 - 29:13

C. Pastor Paul noted that the reason for Isaiah's prophecy was to show them God's coming salvation by his grace, sending a Servant to suffer in their place

- Read Isaiah 52:13-15 and 53:1-12
 - Note 3 or 4 aspects of this prophecy that unmistakably refer to Jesus.

Growing

D. More than one member of the Trinity is involved in Isaiah 53.

- Consider the role of God in striking, smiting, afflicting the Servant Jesus. He also crushed him, put him to grief, and laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- Talk about what it would cost a perfect Father to decide to do this to his only beloved son, and then to carry it out.

- Take time to thank the individual members of the Trinity for what it cost them to save us.

E. Although the cost of our salvation was fully and freely paid by God, following Jesus comes with a cost.

- Read Matthew 19:16-30
 - List the things Jesus expects of his followers. Try to paraphrase and use contemporary language.
 - Choose the 2 of these that are your greatest challenge/struggle in closely following Christ and commit them to the Lord.

F. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 and Philippians 3:7-11

- What practical advice from the Apostle Paul's example will you put into practice to help you with the cost of following Christ?

Going

As you consider what you have heard from each other tonight and what you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you, take some time and share words of encouragement and affirmation with one another.

