

ADVENT



HOPE



PEACE



JOY



LOVE

Pastor Clay Smith

The Tree of Sacrificial Love

1 Peter 2:24-25

Why the Cross?

1. We need a _____.
2. We need real _____.
3. We need _____.
4. We need to _____.
5. We need true _____.

December 21, 2025

Discussion Questions

1. As we conclude the Advent season, discuss ways in which God has used this practice to draw you closer to Him over the last four weeks? Or, what new insights have you gained as you have practiced advent?
2. Peter says Jesus "bore our sins in his body on the cross/tree." Why do you think he uses this image of a tree? (Read Deut. 21:23). What images or ideas does that word bring to mind; especially during Advent?
3. Verse 24 says Jesus bore our sins "in his body." Why is it important that Jesus didn't just deal with sin spiritually or symbolically, but physically? How does this connect to the idea of God becoming flesh at Christmas?
4. According to verse 24, Jesus died so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. What do you think that looks like in everyday life; not just belief, but actual living?
5. Peter says, "By his wounds you have been healed." During Advent, we talk a lot about hope and peace. What kinds of "wounds" do people carry during the Christmas season that only Jesus can truly heal?
6. Based on this passage, how can our group pray for one another as we head into the new year?