**Equip Class**

**Relational Evangelism in Everyday Life**

**Session 3 – The Cross**

Jesus makes a real difference. But we can’t benefit from the cure that Christ brings unless we face the problem—sin (Jeremiah 17:9)

Secular culture—and often even our church culture—denies that sin is the problem.

**Jesus died and we crucified Him**

All of us are responsible for the death of the only innocent One—so our capacity for sin shouldn’t surprise us.

The cross shows us that whatever we have done can be forgiven—because God is willing to forgive us even for the death of Christ.

**Jesus died and we were crucified with Him**

On the cross Jesus bore our sin, and our old self was nailed to the cross with him.

We have a new identity—sin no longer defines us.

**Walking in the light of the cross**

We identify and confess our sin.

We are free to love the unlovely, because we suffer from the same disease and need the same cure.

All is grace: remember that no one is beyond the reach of our wonderful Savior.

**Reflection**

**Would a newcomer to our church get the impression that everyone there was a sinner in need of forgiveness, or a good person whose life was put together? What can we do, as a group or individuals, to make clear that as Christians, you admit the problem as well as offering the answer?**

**Is there someone you struggle to love, or think is beyond the reach of Christ’s forgiveness? How has reflecting on the cross in this situation changed or challenged your attitude?**

**What difference will it make to neither under- nor overestimate your sin?**

**Why is the cross so essential to the Christian faith and evangelism?**