

- The Cross -

The road Jesus walked to Calvary is a crucial part of the Easter story. But the road to the cross did not originate in the dusty streets of Jerusalem 2000 years ago; God gave us a sneak preview thousands of years before that. Let's follow God's road map for the atonement of humankind from the very beginning to the cross of Christ.

Ice-Breaker:

- **Think back to a time when you got into trouble for doing something wrong. What penalty did you have to pay for that wrongdoing? What is a just sentence?**

Discussion:

1. **The word *'atonement'* means… *'making amends or payment for offenses committed.'* Why is this concept important when it comes to God's holiness and justice?**

2. **Read Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:7; Genesis 3:21. In what ways does the concept of atonement come into play in the garden of Eden?**

3. **Read Hebrews 10:4; Isaiah 6:1-7. Since animal sacrifices could not *'take away'* sin, but only *'cover'* sin, why do you suppose the sacrificial system was important?**

4. **Read Isaiah 53:5; John 1:29; Mark 10:45; John 10:15; II Corinthians 5:21. Why was Jesus the only One who could atone for our sins?**

5. **Read John 19:30; I Corinthians 15:54-55; Hebrews 10:10; Romans 8:1. What is the significance of Jesus' payment being sufficient for all of our sins?**

Application:

- **Spend some time reflecting on where you would be apart from Jesus and His sacrifice on your behalf.**
- **Thank God for His amazing grace, that He would take the penalty you deserve upon Himself.**
- **Finally, reflect on this simple truth: *"The beauty of grace is that it makes life <u>not</u> fair."***