

4. The fourth word is "Choice." What do you learn from the verses below?

Romans 10:8-13

John 14:15B

Do you remember when you first made a choice to respond to and live for Jesus? What happened?

TAKING IT HOME

1. The last word John brought up on Sunday was "Freedom." Read **Psalm 103:1-5**. What does the Psalmist say are some of the ways we experience freedom when we are a new relationship with God?

What are some of the positive results of following Jesus you have experienced in your own life?

What's one thing you want to do this week, either for God or for someone else, to express your gratitude to God for what He has done for you?

Christianity Simplified

"Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before...It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you...I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me:

"Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said."

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Jesus Christ _____ and _____

5 Simple Words You Need to Know to Understand Christianity:

1. _____
"The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love." Psalm 103:8
2. _____
"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23
"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23a
3. _____
"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Cor 5:21
4. _____
"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom 10:9
5. _____
"Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence." Ephesians 3:12

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 8, 2012

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *Christianity Simplified*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What was Easter like in your household growing up? Has it changed over the years?

2. Pastor John mentioned how sometimes we make things too complicated and lose the message. Is there a time in your life when you had an "aha" experience when someone explained something simply to you in a way that made sense? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

Understanding the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection is the essential message of Easter. The 5 simple words Pastor John mentioned were Love, Sin, Substitute, Choice, Freedom. This week we're going to discuss what each of these words mean to us. As you read and reflect on the following passages, pray that God would give you new insight into His word and your life.

1. The first word is "Love." For each of the following passages, identify what you learn about God's love for you.

1 John 4:9-10

Matthew 6:25-26

Luke 15:3-4

How would you summarize what God wants you to know through these verses?

2. The second word is "Sin." Read **Romans 3:9-18**. What do these verses tell you about the "sin" problem?

How easy is it for you to notice and admit your own sin? Do you tend to get defensive and rationalize your choices? Why?

3. The third word is "Substitute." For each of the verses, write down catches your attention.

John 10:10-11

Romans 5:6-11

How do you respond knowing that because of His love for you, Jesus Christ died for your sins?