

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

⁵⁰And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

Matthew 27:50,51

In the Old Testament, the Levites or priests were the ones who took charge of temple affairs. More than that, the Most Holy Place where the Presence of God would settle was separated with a veil from the rest of the temple and only the high priest could go in there once a year to make an atoning sacrifice for the Israelites. However, when Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple was torn, signifying that our Great High Priest has removed the separation between God and His people. What does this mean for us?

- **Saving grace is made available through Jesus.**

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17

Jesus is fully God yet also fully man. He was sinless and therefore the only One qualified to pay for our sins. He was able to fulfill what the Law required. Through Jesus, God is able to extend His saving grace and forgiveness to people (Hebrews 4:14-46). How is God's saving grace true in your life?

- **We have a clear revelation of God.**

¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. . . .

¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Corinthians 3:13,14,16

The Apostle Paul talks about another veil which Moses wore when he went before God's presence on Mount Sinai for God's commandments (Exodus 34:33,35). Jesus takes away this veil to permanently reveal God's glory. By this, God makes Himself known to us as we walk in relationship with Him. In your walk with God, what do you know about Him so far? What does this do to how you relate to Him?

- **We can come boldly into the presence of God.**

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Since Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for mankind's sin, we need not offer our own animal sacrifice just so we can approach God. We are now granted access directly to God by faith (Romans 5:1,2) and we can come before Him with boldness and confidence as His children. Just as Jesus' work on the cross tore the veil from "top to bottom," how wide do you think is the access given us to God?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- How does the idea of a merciful and faithful Savior and the saving grace that is freely offered by God change the way you view and live life?
- If a clear revelation of God is now available to us through Jesus, in what way do you think we can know God more?
- Read Isaiah 59:2. What factors are hindering you from coming boldly and confidently to God?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- From this lesson, how can you avail of the saving grace that Jesus is freely offering? Ask your Victory Group leader to help you respond to this question.
- What can you do starting today to know God more? How can your Victory Group help you with this?
- Read 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16. What areas in your life do you need God's help to change or make right? Who in your group can pray with you for this?