

CONVERSATION STARTERS

SOUTHRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 9, 2025

EAT TOGETHER | *Showing up regularly to share life and build relationships*

1. Have you read a fictional book that has captivated you? Which book, and what was it that pulled you in?

PRAY TOGETHER | *Joining in on conversations of life and faith*

1. What stood out to you in this week's service? Was there a song that spoke to you? Was there a moment when you sensed the presence of God? Did you meet someone new? Did you learn something from the message? Feel free to watch the message [recap](#) to review the big ideas of the message
2. Read Romans 6:23. In Sunday's message, Tom stated that the "wages of sin" are not so much God punishing us for our sins, but rather the natural outcome of living outside of the best life God intended for us from the beginning. Which of those two understandings of sin's results do you lean most towards?
3. Read James 1:14-15. Tom gives a good analogy of getting a traffic ticket for speeding vs speeding causing an accident, resulting in property damage and/or injury. What other analogies related to punishment vs consequences can you think of and how have you seen these scenarios play out in real life?
4. Zahnd writes: "This is how Jesus secured our forgiveness on the cross. It wasn't about appeasing God's wrath, but dethroning death. At the cross, Jesus didn't persuade God to reluctantly relent and forgive. The cross is not what God inflicts [on Jesus] in order to forgive; the cross is what God in Christ endures as He forgives." How does hearing this impact you?
5. Tom talked about the two goats involved in the Day of Atonement – one that was sacrificed in order for its body and blood to create a Heaven/Earth reconnection between God and people, and the scapegoat who carries our sin away like a sacred garbage truck. How do these images translate into how you understand what Jesus did for us on the cross?

LOVE TOGETHER | *Being real to care and make a difference*

1. Many people have been taught that God had to *punish* us for our sins, but chose to punish Jesus instead. What negative consequences might this understanding create in our relationship with God?
2. Thinking back through history, can you think of a time when an understanding of God's anger might have supported violence?
3. We are participating in communion each week leading up to Easter. How will that impact you?
4. Have you decided to fast from anything during lent? We learned at the Ash Wednesday service that 'we fast from so that we can fast for'. And so, if you choose to fast, what will you fast *for*?