



***The Top Shelf* — Week 4: “The Self-Sacrificing God”**

CONNECT: If you could eliminate one food so that nobody could ever eat it again, what would you destroy? OR: If you had to swap your legs with the legs of any animal, what animal would you choose?

GROW:

1. Describe a time in your life when someone (a parent, friend, sibling, etc.) made a sacrifice for you. How did you feel about their sacrifice?
 - When someone makes a sacrifice for you, do you feel you must repay it? Why?
2. In the last week of *The Top Shelf* series, Scott focused on the self-sacrificing nature of God. In this discussion, we are going to walk through different sections of Jesus’ final hours and contemplate the unfathomable nature of His sacrifice for us.
3. **Read Matthew 26:57-68.** Many false witnesses came forward in an attempt to give reasons to kill Jesus, yet “Jesus remained silent” (v. 63).
 - How do you react when you are falsely accused of something? What feelings are stirred up in us as humans when we think about false accusations?
4. **Read Matthew 27:11-26.** We struggle to even understand a sacrifice like this. An innocent man, Jesus—mocked, beaten, flogged, and nailed to a cross. Scott made the point on Sunday that “what God did, with trading the best for the worst, doesn’t make any sense. He sacrificed the most, simply to receive our sin.”
 - How often do you contemplate the sacrifice that Jesus made?
5. It is a sobering thought to recognize what the evil of sin in the world and in us did to Jesus. But thank God, the story did not end there. **Read Luke 24:1-8.**

PRAY: Thank Jesus today for the sacrifice He made that makes it possible for us to live in freedom from the sin and bondage of this world.

NEXT: Read Matthew 28 this week, and begin preparing your heart and mind for the celebration of Easter.