



Love Can Cross Borders April 16, 2017 / Easter Sunday

The Big Idea

- God's love crossed the border between life and death to save us.

Key Text

- Ephesians 2:4–9

Supportive Texts

- 1 Peter 1:3
- Titus 3:3–7
- Colossians 3:1–3
- John 20:1–2
- Luke 24:12

Exegetical Idea

- We were dead and powerless in sin and unbelief. Jesus died and rose again to bring us God's gracious gift of salvation which is received through faith.

Primary Thoughts to Convey

- We are on the wrong side of the border between life and death.
- We are dead in our sins.
- God's love crossed the border from life to death and back to life again.
- I Can vs. Love Can
- Faith in Jesus Christ enables us to cross the border from death to life.

Applications to Make

- Put your faith in Jesus Christ.
- Trust God's love.
- Cross the border from death to life.
- Set your minds on things above (things that bring spiritual life).

Creative/Illustrative Ideas

- Put a line on the stage or a blackboard. One side is death, the other side is life. Use it as a tool throughout the message. At invitation time, invite people to cross the border by writing their names on the Life side.
 - If possible, paint your stage with chalkboard paint.
 - Use the Lamb's Book of Life as an illustration to encourage people to write their name down just as it is written now in God's book.
 - Use pieces of chalk as the tool that people can take with them to represent borders or use to write their name.
- People in Aleppo, Syria, are trying to cross the border to find life.

Sample Message / LOVE CAN CROSS BORDERS

I. Love can cross from heaven to earth.

A. Explanation

1. 1 John 4:9, God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. (CEV)
2. Jesus gave up His rights and privileges as God in heaven to become a humble servant here on earth.
3. He did this because He loves you.

B. Illustration

1. Tell about a missionary or aid worker who gave up the comforts of home to meet people's needs in an impoverished land.

C. Application

1. Because of hardships, many people think that God doesn't love them.
1. Gain a new appreciation today for God's incredible love for you.

II. Love can cross from death to life.

A. Explanation

1. Ephesians 2:4-5, 4But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (NLT)
2. Ephesians 2:8-9, 8God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (NLT)
3. Jesus' resurrection paved the way for us to have new life.

B. Illustration

1. Play Follow the Leader
2. This is the ultimate "game" of follow the leader.

C. Application

1. Stop trying to earn your salvation through good deeds and human effort.
2. Put your faith in Jesus and surrender your life to Him today.

III. Love can cross from earth to heaven.

A. Explanation

1. Ephesians 2:6, 6For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. (NLT)
2. God has given us a seat in His eternal kingdom!

B. Illustration

1. I was so excited to have a reserved seat at (insert your favorite performance, event, ride, or conference).
2. How much more incredible is it to have a reserved seat in heaven!

C. Application

1. Live with extraordinary gratitude for what God has done for you.
2. Live with hope that your eternity is secure through faith in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: Have a line marked out on the stage and invite people to cross the border from death to life, from earth to heaven. For special effect, have a way for them to write their name on the life/heaven side.