

Journey CHURCH

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Leader Guide Session 5

Watch

Play the video segment for session five. As you and your group watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

At the end of the Apollo II mission, when the astronauts returned to the earth, everyone stood at high alert. Were they alive? Finally, Neil's crackly voice was heard. They had successfully made it back through the atmosphere, back to earth, back to their families. The mission was accomplished.

Jesus had his mind on the "checklist" sewn into his sleeve. He would die for the sins of the world. He would take his life back. His success in his mission gives us the strength to approach ours as well.

When Jesus' last moment arrived, a victorious cry came out of his mouth. Just one word in the Greek *tetelestai*, "It is finished." This was not the normal cry of a victim whimpering and about to die. This was the shout of a victor. This was the noise of triumph.

Jesus' mission was finished in every sense of the word: a servant obeying his master, a work of art being accomplished, a spotless lamb being sacrificed, a debt being paid. We are no longer at war with God. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

There is perhaps no aspect of conquering inner space more challenging than believing that in the moments when we doubt, in the moments when we worry, in the moments when we wonder—we know that because of the cross, God has forever proven to us that he is madly in love with us.

Heaven is not just a place. It's also a person. It's being with Jesus. And through his spirit, while we live in this world on mission for him, we have his spirit bringing his presence and confidence in us day by day.

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Jesus died on the cross, but the truth is that he wasn't actually gone. He had just gone home. Out of communication temporarily but not permanently. He would be back. Just as Buzz and Neil had finished their mission by planting a flag near tranquility base, so Jesus had captured the enemy's flag.

Jesus has brought us close to him. He's brought us near. We weren't a people; now we're a people. We weren't citizens; now we're citizens. We were dead; now we're alive. All of this has been made possible through what Jesus did for us-and that can never be overturned.

Discuss

1. Neil and Buzz planted an American flag while they were on the surface of the moon. What do you think this act symbolized for themselves and their country at large?
2. Read Colossians 2:13-15. Jesus also symbolically "planted a flag" in his mission. What does Paul say that Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection?
3. Jesus celebrated a final Passover meal with his disciples that we call the "Last Supper." The traditional Passover meal commemorated how God had saved the Israelites from the angel of death by putting the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their homes. How did Jesus apply this idea to what he was about to do on the cross? What did he ask the disciples to remember as they ate the bread and drank the wine?
4. On the cross, Jesus proclaimed, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Three words in English but only one in the Greek: *tetelestai*. The word was used in many different sectors of society, but one use was in banking. When a debt had been paid in full, the bankers wrote *tetelestai* on top of the contract. How was the same true as it relates to what Jesus did on the cross?
5. Read Romans 5:6 and 1 John 4:19. There is often no aspect of conquering inner space more challenging than believing God truly loves us in spite of our faults. What do these verses say about God's love? How can we be confident that God loves us?
6. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin left behind a plaque on the moon that read, in part, "We came in peace for all mankind." Jesus' mission was likewise one of peace. Where in your life right now do you need to especially experience the peace of God?