



The Power of the Cross



What is the cross?



- ✦ Defined as
 - ✦ A structure made by an upright and transverse piece upon which persons were formerly put to death
 - ✦ A figure of Christianity
 - ✦ Adverse or unfavourable



History of the Cross

- ✦ Traditionally, the cross was a mark of shame, people considered it to be a curse to be killed on a cross: read Deuteronomy 21:23
- ✦ Therefore, we know it was around long before Jesus
- ✦ Incredibly painful and slow way of death
- ✦ Became a symbol of VICTORY through Christ
- ✦ Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-23

Old testament Symbols

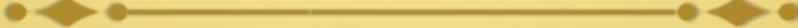
- ✦ Aarons rod
- ✦ Moses' arms lifted up fighting against Amalekites
- ✦ Bronze serpent
- ✦ Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac (carrying wood)
- ✦ Jacob blessing sons of Joseph
- ✦ Passover lamb/blood on threshold of houses of Israelites
- ✦ Rock in the wilderness



What happened to THE Cross?

- a) It disappeared never to be found again
 - b) It was burnt by the Romans
 - c) It got buried under a pile of rubbish then was found
 - d) It was hidden by St Peter
- ✦ Answer: C: it was buried under a pile of rubbish outside Jerusalem and was later rediscovered

Why Celebrate?



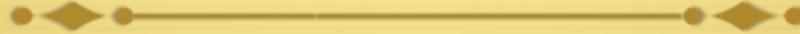
- a) Because of the rediscovery of the cross
- b) Because of winning the cross back after it was stolen by a Persian prince
- c) Because the cross is incredibly important
- d) Because Jesus told us to
- e) Both a and b

Answer



- ✦ E-the first feast we celebrate in the Coptic year is the rediscovery of the cross by queen Helena (September 27/28)
- ✦ The second feast we celebrate commemorates the return of the cross from the Persians during the time of Emperor Heraclius (march 19)

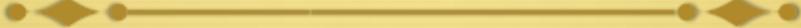
Activity



- ✦ What are examples of the power of the cross since Jesus' Death?
 - ✦ 3 Groups
 - ✦ Each give an example of how you use the power of the cross, and present in 2 minutes how their saint used the cross as a source of power



Our Lives



- ✦ We have seen the power of the cross in the lives of the saints-it even moved Mountains!!!
- ✦ But by far the greatest power of the cross is the way in which Jesus has used to give us eternal life. It is the most important symbol in Christianity
- ✦ Read Col. 1:20