

1. Do you get squeamish at the site of blood? Have you experienced much blood loss in your lifetime? How about your kids? Tell about it (if the rest of your group can handle it.) Why are we instinctively sensitive to bleeding?
2. How much did you notice the cross in the gym this week? Did the cross get in your way? Did you find yourself wishing the cross was in a less prominent place? Does the cross of Christ ever get in your way?
3. Read Hebrew 1:3. What parallels do you find in this verse with Col. 1:19-20? What was in Jesus that pleased God, the Father. What was not in Jesus that pleased God? Why is the virgin birth of Christ an essential doctrine?
4. Read Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22. What pictures come to your mind when you read of the Old Testament temple sacrifices? (*See Leviticus 9 if you really want to be grossed out!*) Have ever wondered why blood is so prominent in the Bible? Why is the Bible so bloody? If we think, "Gross!" when we read about blood in the bible, what do you think God thinks when he sees the sin in our lives?
5. Read Hebrews 10:11-12. Can the blood of an innocent animal substitute of the blood of a guilty human? Whose blood can? How does this realization change the way you read the Old Testament?
6. Read Luke 22:44, 63-64 and Mark 15:15-20. Discuss this statement: "*Only the blood of God can bring peace with God?*"

7. Has God made peace with everyone by the blood of the cross? Discuss this statement: *“God will not declare unexplainable peace with you until you declare unconditional surrender to him.”* Why do most people not enjoy peace with God in spite of the blood of the cross? (1John 1:7-9)
  
8. List some way that you have trivialized the blood of the cross?
  
9. Read 1Peter 1:18-19. What is the value of the blood of the cross to you? How does the blood of the cross affect your worship? How can you live a cross-centered life in light of the blood of the cross?
  
10. Read Matthew 26:26-28. How does meditating on “The price of peace is blood” impact your participation in the communion?