



Discussion Guide for “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier”

CataVision Week 9

Symbols are powerful. What do you feel when you see a Christmas tree? Or an American flag? What about your favorite band’s logo? Of course, the most powerful symbols mean different things to different people. The cross for many of us is a symbol of liberation and hope. But for many others, it’s a symbol of oppression and violence. How do we reclaim the cross for the sake of our neighbors? Surprisingly, Sam Wilson’s journey in *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* offers us some clues!

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Matthew 27:32-44](#)

[Matthew 16:24-28](#)

[Colossians 2:13-15](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [Colossians 2:6-21](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of your favorite symbols? Why?
2. Share some examples of symbols that have multiple meanings. How does it feel when a symbol that is positive for you is negative to someone else?
3. In *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, what does the Shield represent? Why is it a complex symbol?
4. What did the cross symbolize in Jesus’ day? How did he transform the symbol?
5. Imagine various groups of people today. What might the cross symbolize to them?
6. Why does Dr. James Cone compare the cross to a lynching tree? How does this comparison strike you?
7. Sonya said that it’s the life behind the symbol that gives it meaning. What does it look like for us to reclaim the cross as a symbol of liberation and hope?