

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 21-27, 2021

"I AM THIRSTY"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Have you ever been accused of doing something you did not do and you got in big trouble for it? How did you feel? What did you do about it?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read John 19:28-29.

1. John begins this section with the words "After this" (ESV) or "Later" (NIV). Can you list down (from memory or from other verses) what Jesus has been through since he prayed with his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane up to this point? What is your response to Jesus' suffering?
2. Read Mark 15:23 and Matthew 27:33-34. From the sermon, Pastor Nic mentioned that myrrh and gall were some kind of concoction people made at that time to deaden pain or even expedite death. How did Jesus respond when given this? Jesus never took the way out. In what situations are you tempted to choose the easy road? What does it mean to suffer well (in your situation today)?
3. What does John want us to know about Jesus statement in verse 29? Read Psalm 22:15 and 69:21. What does the fulfilment of this prophecy, and others by Jesus, tell you about the plan of God even while Jesus is being crucified?
4. "There are no accidents. Only appointments." What does this mean to you? Have you ever struggled with this? In what way?
5. Why do you think the New Testament makes such a strong point about Jesus' physical suffering and humanity? What difference would it make if Jesus were a

divine person who didn't actually suffer on the cross? What difference would it make if Jesus were only a human being martyred on the cross?

6. (Optional). Read Exodus 12:21-22. How was the hyssop plant used in the first Passover? In Psalm 51:7, what is the Old Testament picture of the use of hyssop? (See also Leviticus 14:1-7, Numbers 19:14-19). What significance do you think is John telling the about the sponge lifted to Jesus on a hyssop branch?

7. [NEXT STEPS]

Some suffer much, others suffer less. But do we suffer well?

- I am so thankful that Jesus gave his life for me to pay the penalty of my sin.
- Jesus willingly gave his life for me; I will willingly live for him.
- I will glorify God in my success and in my suffering.
- I will trust in God's sovereignty.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you will encounter Jesus in whatever circumstance you will be facing this week.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.