

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 28-April3, 2021

THE BORROWED TOMB

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.

What did you need to hear from this week's message – a warning to the strong or an encouragement for the weak?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-54, John 19:38-42.

1. Read all four accounts of Joseph and list down the different aspects from the story of Jesus' burial that strikes you most. Why is Joseph of Arimathea such an unlikely disciple? What do you think were his weakness(es)? His strength(s)?
2. Oftentimes we think about courage as the "Brave Heart" type of moments. Though these situations might happen, we also need to realize that opportunities for courage may be more commonplace than we think. As you read the following passages, list out what it's calling us to do and why courage might be needed to put what it says into action.

Matthew 5:22-4,
Matthew 5:44-45
Hebrews 3:13
1 Timothy 6:18
3. Pastor Nic in the message said, "We're never as strong as we think we are." In what ways can we become overconfident and prideful even as believers? Does this mean we have to be soft on others? How would you strike an important balance?
4. What risks did Joseph of Arimathea take in requesting Jesus' body, by aligning with Jesus and by handling a ceremonially unclean body? What would he gain or lose from these? What comparison does Paul make in Philippians 3:7-8 that communicates this sentiment?

5. How does your fear of others and love for Jesus sometimes conflict? In spite of your past failures, how does the study of the life of Joseph of Arimathea encourage you?

6. Can you think of stories in the Bible where God took the seemingly small and insignificant and used it for his glory? If you consider some of your talents, abilities, possessions and passions, are there any that God might be nudging you to use, reach, help, and/or connect with others? What are they?

7. (Optional) Why is the burial of Jesus important theologically?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

It's never too late to make a difference.

- I pray for courage to obey Jesus.
- I pray for humility that I may not be proud and overconfident.
- I will not be quick to accuse but will be patient with weaker brethren.
- I will be generous and will give my best.
- I will be alert for opportunities to serve others and the church.

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 for courage like that of Joseph of Arimathea in your obedience to Jesus.
- 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.