

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 24-30, 2024

“GOOD FRIDAY”

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.

Were you ever bullied as a kid? What happened?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 27:32-51.

1. Consider the reactions of the various individuals present at the crucifixion, including the soldiers, the religious leaders, and the crowds. How do their responses reflect different attitudes toward Jesus? Why do they insult him? How is the scene like a mock coronation?
2. Reflect on the irony of the insults hurled at Jesus during his crucifixion, particularly the challenge for him to save himself if he truly is the Son of God (Matthew 27:40-43). What do you learn from Jesus' example of humility in the face of mockery and ridicule?
3. Jesus forgave those who crucified him (Luke 23:34) and sought to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged him. Who do you need to forgive today? How can you release bitterness and resentment, and choose to forgive others as Christ has forgiven you?
4. Reflect on the significance of Jesus quoting Psalm 22:1 in his cry of anguish. How does this connection to the Psalms deepen your understanding of Jesus' identification with human suffering and even his fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy?
5. Read Matthew 27:51, Hebrews 6:19-20, Hebrews 10:19-20. Consider the significance of the temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. How does this event symbolize the privilege that we today have as those who have been redeemed by Christ?

6. Consider the death of Christ. What might his disciples believe and feel about Jesus now? How would you have felt if you were there?

7. Optional. Why would the secret believers, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, (cf Matthew 27:57-60, John 20:38-42) risk public exposure after Jesus' death? What do you learn from this for your own life? What does Jesus' crucifixion teach you about success, power, wealth and status?

NEXT STEPS

“Our sins may be many and great, but the payment made by our Great Substitute far outweighs them all.” (J.C. Ryle)

- ☐ I praise God for my salvation.
- ☐ I will remember Jesus' passion and sacrifice on the cross.
- ☐ I will forgive others as Christ has forgiven me.
- ☐ I will take confidence in approaching the Father because Jesus' death has torn the veil.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

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

- Pray for a heart that loves Jesus more as you reflect on what he did on Good Friday.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| March 25 | Matthew 27:1-10 |
| March 26 | Matthew 27:11-23 |
| March 27 | Matthew 27:24-31 |
| March 28 | Matthew 27:32-44 |
| March 29 | Matthew 27:45-56 |
| March 30 | Matthew 27:57-66 |
| March 31 | Matthew 28:1-10 |