

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Winter Semester - Week 9

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, and skip the ones that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER(S)

- a) Have you seen *The Passion of the Christ*? What was your opinion of it?
- b) Do you agree you should have pineapple on pizza? Why?

PASSAGE AND DISCUSSION

Read Mark 15:15-25

- a) When you read this passage, is it difficult to understand how God would allow his only Son to suffer in this way?
- b) Do you think that the soldiers treated Jesus differently than they treated other prisoners? Why do you think they treated him so harshly?
- c) Read **v16-20**. Does the significance of this text change, knowing that it was roughly 600 men, and more like 'Roman Theatre', than just a few rogue soldiers acting foolish?
- d) What is the significance of the purple cloak and the crown of thorns? Why is it ironic?
- e) Read **Galatians 2:20**. Jesus went to the cross, and his sacrifice on the cross is enough to save the whole world. Paul understands Jesus' death as being a means of salvation for everyone at large, which means you personally as well. How does this truth speak to your heart?
- f) Read **Mark 8:34-35**. In this Mark 15:21, Simon the Cyrene literally carries Jesus' cross for him, because he was too weak after being scourged.
 - i) How do you think it helped the disciples understand the words of Jesus from earlier (**8:34**) when they witnessed Jesus (or heard about Him) carrying his cross, and Simon the Cyrene helping him.

- ii) Jesus set the example of “carrying his cross” both literally because he carried his cross to Golgotha, but also spiritually, as he submitted to the Father’s will. How does Jesus’ example impact you?
 - iii) In **Mark 8:35**, Jesus says “For whoever would save his life, will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospels will save it.” What does it mean to save your life by losing it for Jesus’ sake?
- g) Read **Hebrews 9:22 and 26**. How is Jesus' death not only a ‘normal’ death? Based on these verses, what Jesus was doing on the cross?
- h) Read **Isaiah 53:5-6**. What did our sin cost Jesus according to these verses? What is the result of His suffering and death according to verse 5? Why is Jesus’ death good news?
- i) In the message on Sunday, Cam listed six reasons why Jesus had to suffer: To show us His love, because He was subjected to men, to be an atoning sacrifice, to bear the punishment for sin, to be an example to the church, and because it was the Father’ will. Can you think of any other reasons why Jesus had to suffer?
- j) The fifth point of why Jesus needed to suffer was, “To be an example to the church”. Even among Jesus’ twelve closest disciples, some followed in his footsteps; history tells us that Peter died upside down on a cross, as just one example. How do you think Jesus’ example of suffering has encouraged Christians throughout the world, and throughout history?
- k) Why can we not ignore the brutality that Jesus went through? Why is it important for us to know what Jesus went through?
- l) Read **Romans 8:16-17**. In verse 17, Paul says that God’s children are “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” provided we suffer with Him, and that if we have suffered with Him, we will also be glorified with him. Does the suffering Jesus underwent bring Him greater glory and honour?
- m) Read **Revelation 5:8-14** for further reflection on the glory and worship of Jesus in light of his suffering on the cross.
- n) Was there anything else from the passage, or the message on Sunday that stood out to you as significant?

TAKE IT HOME (OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESPONSE THIS WEEK)

- a) Take time to read all four gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion this week and reflect on it. The accounts are found in: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19.
- b) This week, keep reflecting on how costly our rescue was. Reflect on God's love for you and how you can adjust your life to answer to His love.

OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR PRAYER TIME

- a) Thank Jesus for what He endured so that we would be saved.
- b) Pray that those you know who don't know Jesus, would come to understand the depths of His love for them.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW & GO

Worship Night: March 19th at 7 p.m. Join us for an intimate evening, seeking the Lord, and worshipping Him!

Great Music at Grant Seniors: April 2nd at 10:15am. We would like to invite you to a meeting filled with uplifting music and inspiring messages from the New Covenant Gospel Quartet. This talented group of musicians will be performing a range of gospel songs that will have you tapping your feet and singing along in no time. The event will be held at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 2nd, right after the Classic Service. We hope you can join us for this special occasion, which promises to be a joyous celebration of faith and community.

Premarital Classes: April 13th at 7 p.m. For those recently engaged or planning a wedding within the next twelve months, we invite you to our next premarital class here at Grant Memorial Church. The five classes will allow you to hear from various marital experiences as you prepare for your big day. Communication tools, conflict resolution techniques, navigating relationships and sexual expectations, and many other topics will be covered. The classes will be conducted in a group style, with a couple of mentors coming alongside each premarital couple so that you have the support you need.

Christianity Explored: April 11th at 7 p.m. This is an 8-week course that explores the big questions of life and faith. We will study the Gospel of Mark to learn more about the central figure of the Christian faith,

Jesus Christ. If someone in your small group is new to faith or just looking to learn more, please join us. All are welcome! This is a safe place to meet with others, grow in community, and ask the hard questions.

Registration is required!

Men's Study / Forensic Faith: April 16th at 9 a.m. Now more than ever, it's important to know what you believe and why you believe it. As Christians in an increasingly skeptical world, we must do more than tell people what the Bible teaches; we must help them understand why they can trust what it says about Jesus. Are you ready to make the case? "Forensic Faith will help you develop a faith that's dedicated, inquisitive, and prepared to answer the tough questions." This eight-week study walks participants through the investigative techniques learned by J. Warner Wallace during his decades as a homicide detective.

The Cold Case disciplines and practices are shared with Jesus' followers to encourage them to develop a more integrated, robust, certain, and defensible faith.

Time & Dates:

8 Sessions - Starts April 16th

Sunday's 9:00 to 10:30 am .. or...

Tuesday's 7:00 to 8:30 pm