



# THE WONDERFUL CROSS

## Small Group Discussion Guide: The Name Game

**Main Idea:** Jesus didn't just pay for our sins; He took our shame so we can live with boldness.

### I. The Icebreaker: The "Name Tag"

- **Share your nickname:** If you were given a nickname based on your most embarrassing moment or a random personality trait, what would it be?
- **The Deeper Sticker:** We all have "labels" the world has tried to slap on us. Which one has been the hardest for you to "peel off"?

### II. The Scene: The Prophet and the Punch-Line

**Read Luke 22:63-65 and Mark 14:65.**

- **The Ritual Rejection:** In the 1st century, spitting was a way of saying someone was an "outcast." Why do you think the guards chose to mock Jesus' identity as a *Prophet* specifically by blindfolding and hitting Him?
- **The Isaiah Connection: Read Isaiah 50:6.** How does knowing this was predicted hundreds of years in advance change how you view Jesus' silence during the beating?
- **The Irony:** The guards accused Jesus of blasphemy (insulting God) while they were literally punching God in the face. Have you ever felt like the world mocks your faith for the very things that make it true?

### III. The Great Exchange: Sin vs. Shame

**Read Hebrews 12:2 and Romans 8:1.**

- **Sin vs. Shame:** The sermon mentioned that *Sin* is what you did, while *Shame* is who you think you are. Why is it easier for us to believe God forgives our actions than it is to believe He changes our identity?
- **The Legal Receipt:** Romans 8:1 says there is "no condemnation." If you truly lived this week as if you were "legally acquitted" by God, what one thing would you do differently?

### IV. The "Look" of Grace

## Read Luke 22:54-62.

- **The Eye Contact:** Imagine the moment Jesus made eye contact with Peter right after the third denial. If you were Peter, would you have expected a "told-you-so" look or a look of compassion? Why?
- **Fire-Side Failure:** We've all had "Peter moments" where we were too shy or scared to stand up for our faith. How does Jesus' restoration of Peter give you hope for your own "shyness"?

## V. Moving Forward: Boldness is Beautiful

### Read Romans 1:16 and 1 John 2:28.

- **Spiritual Shyness:** What is the "spit" you are most afraid of today? (e.g., being mocked at work, losing a friend, feeling socially awkward).
- **Abiding vs. Shrinking:** 1 John 2:28 talks about not "shrinking back" when Jesus returns. What does "abiding in Him" look like practically in your daily routine this week?
- **The "Goo Gone" Moment:** What is one "label" or "shame sticker" you are going to ask God to peel off your life this week?

## Closing Prayer

*Pray that the group would stop carrying the names the world gave them. Thank Jesus for "despising the shame" so that we can stand with confidence. Pray for boldness to live "unfiltered" for Christ this week.*