

## Small Group Guide: Jesus' Burial and the Silence of God



### **Summary:**

In the depths of silence, God's work continues. This powerful message explores the burial of Jesus, a often overlooked part of the Gospel narrative. We're reminded that even when God seems silent, He is still actively working in our lives. The disciples' absence during Jesus' burial, contrasted with the women's presence, teaches us about different responses to grief and disappointment. This story challenges us to remain faithful even when our expectations aren't met. It reminds us that our own weaknesses and failures don't surprise God - in fact, they're the very reason Jesus went to the cross. As we navigate our own periods of silence or doubt, we're encouraged to trust in God's ongoing work and to find strength in our weaknesses, just as the Apostle Paul did.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Jesus' death and burial are historically verifiable events.
2. The disciples experienced fear and failure when Jesus was crucified and buried.
3. God's silence doesn't mean He's not working.
4. The gospel - salvation through Jesus - is sufficient and the greatest gift we've received.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon mentions how we often skip over difficult parts of our stories. Why do you think we do this? How can sharing our struggles actually help others?
2. The disciples ran away when Jesus was crucified, while the women stayed. What does this reveal about different motivations in following Jesus? How do you relate to either response?
3. How do you typically react during times when God seems silent in your life? What can we learn from Jesus' burial and the disciples' experience?
4. The apostle Paul talks about boasting in weaknesses. Why is this counterintuitive, and how can it be powerful in our Christian walk?
5. The sermon emphasizes that salvation through Jesus is enough. Do you ever find yourself wanting "more" from God? How can we cultivate gratitude for the gospel?

**Practical Applications:**

1. This week, try to be more open about a struggle or weakness in your life with a trusted friend or family member. Reflect on how this impacts your relationship and witness.
2. Spend some time journaling about a period in your life when God felt silent. Looking back, can you see ways He was working that you didn't recognize at the time?
3. Make a list of ways the gospel has impacted your life. Use this as a reminder when you're tempted to feel God isn't doing enough.
4. Practice "boasting in weakness" by sharing a testimony that highlights God's strength in your area of struggle.

**Closing Prayer:**

Thank God for the gift of salvation through Jesus. Ask for help in trusting Him during silent seasons and for eyes to see His ongoing work in our lives.

**5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide****Day 1: God's Unwavering Love**

**Reading:** Romans 8:31-39

**Devotional:** In times of silence or suffering, we may question God's love for us. However, just as Jesus went to the cross knowing His disciples would fail Him, God's love for us remains constant despite our shortcomings. Today's passage reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love. Reflect on how God has shown His love in your life, even in challenging times. How can you rest in the assurance of His unchanging love today?

## **Day 2: Faith in the Silence**

**Reading:** Psalm 13

**Devotional:** The disciples experienced deep fear and grief when Jesus was in the tomb. Similarly, we may feel abandoned or forgotten by God in our darkest moments. Psalm 13 expresses this raw emotion, yet ends with a declaration of trust. Consider a time when God seemed silent in your life. How did you maintain faith? Pray for strength to trust God's work behind the scenes, even when you can't see or feel it.

## **Day 3: The Power of Salvation**

**Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**Devotional:** Paul emphasized that salvation through Christ is the greatest gift we could ever receive. This passage highlights the transformative power of God's grace in our lives. Reflect on your own journey of salvation. How has it changed you? Take time to thank God for this undeserved gift and consider how you can share this good news with others, just as Paul did.

## **Day 4: Hope Beyond the Grave**

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

**Devotional:** Jesus' resurrection changed everything for His followers, turning their despair into hope. This passage speaks of the ultimate victory we have in Christ over death. How does the promise of resurrection impact your daily life? In what ways can you live today in light of this eternal hope? Ask God to help you maintain an eternal perspective amidst life's challenges.

## **Day 5: God's Strength in Our Weakness**

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**Devotional:** Paul learned to boast in his weaknesses, recognizing that God's power is made perfect in our frailty. Reflect on your own weaknesses or struggles. How might God be using these to display His strength? Pray for the humility to acknowledge your limitations and the faith to rely on God's sufficient grace. Consider how you can use your story of weakness and God's strength to encourage others today.