

Small Group Guide: Mark 15:21-32 "It's About Him, But For You"



Summary:

In Christ's crucifixion, we're reminded that while the story is **about** God's glory, it's profoundly **for** us. The sermon delves into Mark 15 and Psalm 22, revealing how Jesus' sacrifice was meticulously planned and prophesied centuries before. We're struck by the intricate details foretold - from the casting of lots for His garments to the very words of mockery hurled at Him. This isn't coincidence; it's divine orchestration. The parallels drawn between Jesus and the crimson worm, used in temple sacrifices, paint a vivid picture of His redemptive work. As we reflect on this, we're confronted with a powerful truth: we are not afterthoughts in God's plan. He took painstaking care to demonstrate His love for us through Christ. This message challenges us to recognize our value in God's eyes and to respond to His incredible invitation of salvation and relationship.

Opening Prayer

Open your small group meeting in Prayer.

Key Takeaways:

1. The crucifixion of Jesus was a fulfillment of prophecies written hundreds and thousands of years earlier.
2. God's plan of redemption has been in motion for a very long time, showing His intentionality and love.
3. While the story of salvation is about God's glory and Jesus' sacrifice, it is ultimately for us.
4. We are not an afterthought in God's plan; He cares deeply for each of us.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions several prophecies fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion. Which one stood out to you the most and why?
2. How does understanding the long-term nature of God's plan (spanning thousands of years) impact your view of His love and intentionality?
3. The speaker emphasizes that the gospel story is "about Him, but for you." How does this perspective change the way you think about your relationship with God?
4. Reflect on the statement "You are not an afterthought." How does this make you feel, and how might it change the way you approach your faith?
5. The sermon draws parallels between David defeating Goliath and Jesus defeating sin and death. How do these parallels enhance your understanding of Jesus' role as both shepherd and king?
6. How does the imagery of the Toleth worm deepen your appreciation for Jesus' sacrifice?

Practical Applications:

1. Take time this week to read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. Reflect on how these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion.
2. Write a letter to God, expressing your gratitude for His long-term plan of redemption that includes you.
3. Share with someone this week the concept that while the gospel is about God's glory, it's for them personally. How might this perspective impact their view of faith?
4. Meditate on the phrase "You are not an afterthought" when you face challenges or doubts this week. How does this truth encourage you?
5. Look for ways to serve others sacrificially this week, reflecting Jesus' example of being "for" others.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His intentional plan of redemption, for Jesus' sacrifice, and for including each of us in His story. Ask for His help in living out the truths discussed today.

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: God's Eternal Plan of Redemption

Reading: Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 22:1-18

Devotional: As we read about Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac and the prophetic words of Psalm 22, we see God's redemptive plan unfolding centuries before Christ. Reflect on how God has been working throughout history to bring salvation to humanity. How does knowing that you are part of this grand narrative impact your faith? Consider how God's long-term planning demonstrates His love for you. Take time to thank Him for including you in His story of redemption.

Day 2: The Suffering Servant

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12, Mark 15:21-32

Devotional: Isaiah's prophecy and its fulfillment in Jesus' crucifixion reveal the depths of God's love. As you read, meditate on Christ's willingness to bear our sins. How does Jesus' sacrifice challenge your understanding of love and service? Consider areas in your life where you might be called to sacrificial love. Pray for the strength to follow Christ's example, even in difficult circumstances.

Day 3: The Good Shepherd

Reading: John 10:11-18, Psalm 23

Devotional: Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. This image connects with David's psalm of trust in God's shepherding care. How have you experienced God's guidance and protection in your life? Reflect on times when you may have strayed and how God brought you back. Ask God to help you listen more closely to His voice and follow His leading today.

Day 4: From Death to Life

Reading: Romans 6:1-11, Colossians 2:9-15

Devotional: Paul explains how Christ's death and resurrection transform our spiritual reality. We are united with Christ in His death to sin and raised to new life in Him. How does this truth change the way you view your daily struggles with sin? Consider what it means to "count yourself dead to sin but alive to God." Pray for a deeper realization of your new identity in Christ and the power to live it out.

Day 5: Hope in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:18-39, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Devotional: These passages remind us that our present sufferings are temporary and cannot compare to the glory that awaits us. Paul encourages us to see our trials through the lens of eternal hope. How might this perspective change the way you face current challenges? Reflect on how God's love has sustained you through difficult times. Thank God for His presence in your suffering and ask for the faith to trust Him more deeply, knowing that nothing can separate you from His love.