



The Cross

November 12, 2023 | Mark 15:15-41

Questions for Study and Group Discussion

***Before discussing these questions, read through Mark 15:15-41 as a group.*

1. Ice-breaker: Do you have any cross art or jewelry? Why or why not?
2. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Galatians 2:20. How do these scriptures influence your understanding of Jesus being made sin for us and our identification with His crucifixion?
3. Experience the irony as Jesus is mocked (Read Mark 15:15-32).
 - Which aspect of the mockery do you find particularly poignant or impactful?
 - How does the soldiers' false praise and the irony of Jesus being mocked as a king resonate with the idea that eventually, all will bow to Him as king (Philippians 2:9-11)?
 - How does their mockery and taunting mirror situations in our lives where people question or mock our faith? How is it completely different?
4. See the darkness as Jesus is completely isolated (Read Mark 15:33-36).
 - What is the significance of darkness from noon to 3PM.
 - How would you answer Jesus' question in verse 34?
5. Celebrate the triumph as Jesus dies (Read Mark 15:37-39).
 - Reflect on the moment the veil was torn. What does it symbolize, and how does it relate to our connection with God today? (For further study about the veil look at
 - How does the Centurion's acknowledgment of Jesus as the Son of God tie into the broader theme of the Gospel (Mark 1:1)?
6. Considering the entire passage, what elements of Jesus' crucifixion and the events surrounding it stand out to you the most?
7. How does the crucifixion impact your understanding of God's love and sacrifice?
8. **Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
9. **Challenge:** There are numerous Old Testament prophecies and allusions in Mark 15. Examine the following table for further study, reflection and application.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES	ALLUSIONS IN MARK 15
Psalm 69:21 NIV - 21 They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.	Mark 15:23 NIV - 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh ...
Psalm 22:18 NIV - 18 They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.	Mark 15:24 NIV - 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.
Isaiah 53:12 NIV - 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.	Mark 15:27 NIV - 27 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.
Psalm 22:6-8 NIV - 6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. 8 "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."	Mark 15:29-32 NIV - 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.
Psalm 22:16 NIV - 16 ... they pierce my hands and my feet.	Mark 15:24 NIV - 24 And they crucified him. ...
Amos 8:9 NIV - 9 "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.	Mark 15:33 NIV - 33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
Psalm 22:1 NIV - 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?	Mark 15:34 NIV - 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").