

## **Main Street Church - Life Group Questions**

**Message:** March 29, 2015. **Journey to the Cross (Part 3)**



### **Connect**

1. Tell us about a time you fell asleep in an awkward place or at an awkward moment...

(in church, in class, on stage, at work, at a wedding, on a date, on a bus, at a theatre...)

2. James & John's father had a cool name – Zebedee (*Zeb for short*) – and Jesus gave them the unique nickname *Boanerges*, which means 'Sons of Thunder' or 'Thunder Boys.' So...we have Peter (the 'Rock') and James & John (the 'Sons of Thunder'); both sounding like wrestling nicknames.

:: If you had to give yourself a wrestling nickname what would it be?

### **Open with Prayer**

"Jesus – thank you for bringing us together as a Group. Lead us on a journey of discovery, reflection and response this season as we head towards Good Friday & Easter. Amen."

### **Check In** (Don't skip over this)

:: **What has God been showing/speaking to you about in your personal time with Him?**

:: **How can you spend intentional one-on-one time with Jesus this week?**

{Devotional ideas (Prayer booklets...), Bible Reading Plan, Podcasts, Accountability, Encounter God...}

### **Sunday Message Feedback :: Journey to the Cross (Part 3)**

**What jumped out at you from Sunday's message?**

Which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

What did Jesus say to you to you this past week through the message?

#### **1. Read Matthew 26:36-46 & Luke 22:39-46.**

**Notes:** \*The garden of Gethsemane, a place whose name literally means "oil press," is located on a slope of the Mount of Olives just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem. A garden of ancient olive trees stands there to this day.

**\*JESUS is fully GOD & fully HUMAN.**

\*In his humanity he models for us how to relate to God and truly be human.

**: What do you learn about Christ's humanity from the story of the Garden of Gethsemane?**

**: What can we learn & apply from His humanity in this story?**

**: What can we learn about Prayer from Jesus in the Garden?**

(eg. *Seek God as our Heavenly Father. Be honest with our struggle. Trust Him - "Not my will, but yours"*)

2. The Gethsemane experience was one example of the vulnerable humility of Christ's Humanity. The horrific *anticipation* of the spiritual & physical pain was almost as bad as the eventual reality of it. Yet, he models for us how we can turn to our "Abba, Father" in our passion & distress, trusting Him & His will fully, finding courage and purpose that is beyond the weight & pain of our circumstances.  
: **Have you ever found yourself crying out to God with a spirit that is crushed, and found sustaining grace & hope, even though the situation or circumstances didn't change?**
  
3. **What can we learn about God's sovereign will, His plan & purpose, from this story?**  
(eg. He doesn't remove every challenge, danger, struggle or suffering from our earthly lives)
  
4. The sacrifice & death of Jesus transformed a brutal means of torture & execution into a powerful symbol for those that believe in and follow Jesus.  
: **What does the cross of Jesus mean to you, or prove you? Finish the following statement...**  
"To live in the time AFTER the Cross means \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)."
  
5. Peter, James & John literally fell asleep that night in the garden...but they wouldn't be the last people to fall asleep at an awkward time in the Bible --- **Read Acts 20:7-12.**

: **What do you think Jesus was trying to teach them and warn them of in Matthew 26:40-41?**

(There was a *spiritual sleep* that Jesus warned them about as well)

: **How can we *fall asleep* in our focus on Jesus (in our Christian life)? Is there a difference between being *tired* and *lazy/apathetic*?**

: **What is one area of your faith that you tend to be 'sleepy' in or are currently 'out cold' in...and could use a wake-up call or accountability/encouragement in? What is hard for you to engage in?**  
{Worship, Prayer, Bible Reading/Study, Community (eg. life group), Serving, Giving, Purity, Baptism...}

## APPLICATION & PRAYER:

\*Make the following prayer your own, and one other person.

*"Jesus, thank you for your Cross because it \_\_\_\_\_ me...  
Please send your Holy Spirit to make me more alert & engaged in (pick an area you are asleep in).  
I also pray that you would help (another person) in/with (one area of 'sleepiness' that they shared) and help me to encourage and pray for them this week, in Jesus' Name - AMEN."*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

:: **GOOD FRIDAY** – April 3<sup>rd</sup>. 10am. Kids program for ages 0-Gr.4

:: **EASTER SUNDAY** – April 5<sup>th</sup>. 9am & 10:45am. Full Main Street Kids program.

:: **PRAYER SUMMIT** – April 26<sup>th</sup>. 6pm. **Kids Summit** program provided for kids ages 2-11. Let's go a group!

:: **ENCOUNTER GOD Retreat** – Fri&Sat. May 1-2. Let's do this! Register Now! [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/encountergod](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/encountergod)