

**Sermon Discussion Guide**

As the discussion leader, there are a few things to keep in mind for your Small Group:

- Pray for your group discussion time!
- Make sure you've listened to the Sunday sermon and familiarized yourself with the discussion questions prior to your group meeting.
- Key on those questions from the guide you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. Also, questions with multiple parts, pause and fully answer the first part before you read on to the next part of the question. These types of questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

Text: Luke 23:32-43

ICEBREAKER: *What is your default place to eat dinner at if you are going out and can't decide where to go?*

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Luke 23:32-43. Why do you think the one thief joins in the mocking of Jesus? Have you ever found yourself joining the "crowd", only later regretting it? Share your experience.
2. The other thief acknowledges his own state of sinfulness in verse 41, but also states that Jesus did nothing wrong. What can we conclude the thief was declaring about Jesus here? How does this declaration of his own sinfulness differ from the other thief and the crowd?
3. The cross brings us to the crossroad of life. We must choose which side of the cross we will be on. Although the criminals were probably Jewish and God-believing people, the one asks Jesus to remember me. What does this show about his heart towards Christ? Share when you came to the moment of relationship to Christ.
4. Read Matthew 16:24. We are told to daily come to the cross of Jesus. How does this help us everyday? What keeps us from going to the cross daily? What are ways that pull you away from the vulnerability of the cross?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:8. Notice that Paul recognized that we are "being saved" by the cross. We must regularly learn to crucify our flesh and allow Jesus to transform our inner life. How do you do this? Share some areas where the Lord has changed you.
6. Why is the "cross foolishness" to those that are headed for destruction? Share if there was a time you thought the cross was foolish. How did Jesus get your attention?
7. Read Isaiah 53:6-7. The crossroad of the cross brings us to the reality that Jesus took our punishment upon Himself willingly. Close in prayer with thanksgiving for the great love that Jesus showed us at the cross. Ask Jesus to help you be weak and vulnerable before Him and that He would reveal Himself to you in a powerful way. Ask Him to draw you closer to Him more than ever, just like the one thief asked Jesus to "remember" him.