

John 19:17-42

CG Discussion Guide // Week of 5 November 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: Do you ever watch movies with no happy endings? Do you have a favorite one?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: City on a Hill Brookline, W Roxbury , MA (Pastor: Bland Mason)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What sticks out to you the most about this passage, especially the characters in the story?
 - The Jewish Leaders and Pilate
 - John and the Women
 - Jesus
 - Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus
- What do you make of Jesus' demeanor and words while on the Cross here in the passage? What reasons do you discern for Him to act and speak the way He did on the cross? Can we apply those same reasons in responding to our own brushes with suffering?
- Looking at v. 30, what did Jesus finish? How does this accomplishment apply to you? How would your day-to-day be different or enriched by knowing He finished what He came to do?
- As you can tell, John 19 isn't the end of the book. What do you make of the fact that the suffering and death of Jesus isn't the end, but a victory that leads to future glory?
 - One of the enduring lessons of abiding in Jesus is that as Jesus suffered, we share in His suffering so that we may also share in His glory. (Rom. 8:17) Could you share a situation or an experience where you felt this "sharing" most keenly? How did it result in the glory of God and for your good?

Abide Time: Psalm 22

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wednesdays, Nov. 8-Nov. 15: Spiritual Formation Classes
- November 12: Baptism Sunday
- November 29: Members' Meeting
- December 3: Nine Lessons + Carols
- December 11-January 7: CG Christmas Break
- December 24: Christmas Eve

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.