



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of 7/28/24

Opener (10 minutes or less)

If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be and why?

DISCUSSION (50 minutes or less)

Begin your discussion time in prayer.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:32-66

Questions:

1. What stands out to you from this passage and/or Sunday's teaching? What was new, challenging, or encouraging?
 2. What stands out to you about the cruelty Jesus endured in these verses?
 3. How do the reactions of the crowd, the soldiers, and the religious leaders differ in this passage? What does this reveal about their character and faith (or lack thereof)?
 4. What does the darkness that covered the land symbolize? How does it contribute to the overall atmosphere of this passage?
 5. The centurion's confession, "Truly this was the Son of God!" is striking. What does this statement reveal about the nature of Jesus?
 6. The mocking and insults hurled at Jesus are harsh. How do you think these actions reflect the human condition?
 7. How does the portrayal of suffering in this passage challenge your understanding of God's character and His plan for the world?
 8. How can we apply the concept of sacrificial love, as exemplified by Jesus, to our own lives?
 9. What does the burial of Jesus signify for believers? How does it relate to our own hope and resurrection faith?
 10. In what ways do you see the themes of darkness, suffering, and triumph reflected in the world today?
-

PERSONAL (30 minutes or less)

1. Oikos - the 8 to 15 people God supernaturally and strategically places in your life. Any oikos moments you would like to share..
2. What is going on in your life (note prayer requests and praise reports)
3. Pray

Matthew 27:32-66

32 As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. 36 Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. 37 And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." 38 Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. 39 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, 42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

The Death of Jesus

45 Now from the sixth hour^[f] there was darkness over all the land^[g] until the ninth hour.^[h] 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." 48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son^[i] of God!"

55 There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Jesus Is Buried

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' 64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard^[j] of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.