

C. Do I have a plan to meet people that are far from God so I can tell them about Jesus?

D. I may be spending time with people far from Jesus but am I telling them the good news of Jesus?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 15:33-41 – The Death Of Jesus

November 8, 2020

Life Group Questions

1. What stood out to you in this message? What did you learn you didn't know?
2. God is just as present in the darkness of His wrath as the light of His grace. Pastor Kurt talked about Jesus' death on the cross as a preview of hell. It involved darkness, incredible suffering, isolation, and a lack of comfort. (See Matthew 25:30). How did you picture hell before this message? How do you picture hell differently after this message? If heaven is the opposite of hell, what will it be like in heaven when we are with Jesus?
3. Read John 19:30. Jesus' last words on the cross before he chose to die were, "It is finished." This is the Greek word *tetelestai*. It means "Paid in full." How does knowing that Jesus suffered so much that he paid in full for all your sin make you feel? How does knowing that Jesus drained away every last drop of God's wrath for your sin make you feel? How does that change the way you feel about going to church to celebrate Jesus?
4. **OPTIONAL** — What were the three supernatural occurrences that happened at the death of Jesus? What can they tell us about what Jesus came to do? (See Mark 15:38, Matthew 27:51, Matthew 27:52-53)
5. The Pharisees prided themselves on staying separate from sinners instead of showing compassion toward people far from God. How do modern-day Christians act like old-world Pharisees? What does God call us to do when we become comfortable separating ourselves from the lost? (See Matthew 9:12-13, Matthew 18:10-14)
6. The CrossWinds mission is to "Reach people with Jesus." Do I have a plan to intentionally build relationships with people far from God? If not, what should I do? Do I need to join the YMCA or a community organization so I can meet people that need to hear about Jesus?
7. I may be meeting with people far from God but am I telling them the good news of what God has done for us through Jesus? It is easy to know we should talk about Jesus but never make it a priority to bring up the topic of Jesus. Will you make a commitment to share the simple gospel story with one person this week? Pray for God to give you an open door to share the good news of His Son.

1. Jesus took the wrath for our sin when he died on the cross.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. Mark 15:33 (ESV)

God is spoken of as light.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11 (ESV)

God is spoken of as darkness.

The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. Exodus 20:21 (ESV)

God's presence in judgment is spoken of as darkness.

The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. Joel 2:10 (ESV)

"And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight." Amos 8:9 (ESV)

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Mark 15:34 (ESV)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... Psalm 22:1 (ESV)

And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah."
Mark 15:35 (ESV)

The darkness, suffering, isolation, and lack of comfort Jesus experienced on the cross is a preview of hell.

And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Mark 15:36 (ESV)

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:28–30 (ESV)

They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. Psalm 69:21 (ESV)

Poison — gall, bitterness, not just poison.

And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. Mark 15:37 (ESV)

...I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." John 10:17b-18 (ESV)

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30 (ESV)

It Is Finished — Paid in Full

There were three supernatural occurrences at Jesus' death.

1. The Curtain Separating the Holy Of Holies Was Torn in Half By God.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
Mark 15:38 (ESV)

2. There was a massive earthquake that split rocks.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. Matthew 27:51 (ESV)

Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry. Psalm 18:7 (ESV)

3. Many dead saints came back to life.

The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. Matthew 27:52–53 (ESV)

2. The confession of the centurion shows us Jesus was already saving lives when he died.

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" Mark 15:39 (ESV)

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 of God!" Matthew 27:54 (ESV)

3. The women that followed Jesus remained faithful to Jesus.

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem. Mark 15:40–41 (ESV)

4. What lessons can I learn?

A. Jesus came to save people far from God.

- A. Jesus saved a Jewish murderer who hung on the cross next to Him.
- B. Jesus saved the Gentile soldier (and many other soldiers) that was in charge of executing Him.

B. It is often those farthest from Jesus that are most interested in hearing the good news of Jesus.