



LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Remember that Life Groups are a place where we practice what is preached. We discuss the Bible for transformation, not just information.



Icebreaker: If you could be remembered for one completely random/funny thing (nothing serious), what would it be? (examples: best road trip DJ of all time, world's best selfie taker, biggest coffee drinker in history, etc)



PRAY:

Pray together for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to behold wonderful things (Ps. 119:18) as your group meets with the Lord.



READ:

Ask a group member to read **Luke 23:35-43**.



DISCUSS:

Imagine yourself in the crowd during this passage. What do you think the followers of Jesus experienced in this moment?



IDENTITY:

In Luke 23:43, Jesus promises the criminal on the cross that he would be with Jesus in paradise, not based on the criminal's merit, but on the work of Christ. Where in your life are you still relating to God as if your identity must be earned instead of received?

WORSHIP

The criminal in v. 39 mocked Jesus out of self-righteousness, not believing Jesus could do anything for him. How can we worship God by surrendering and fully relying on Him instead of ourselves?

COMMUNITY

The two criminals have a short conversation around Jesus, with the one correcting the other, reminding him who Jesus is. How can we as a community gracefully remind each other of who Jesus is when we face hard times?

MISSION

The crowds sneered at Jesus in this passage yet one person spoke truth. What would it look like for you to identify with Jesus in every day spaces (work, neighborhood, etc)? How can your confidence in His promises shape the way you live on mission?



MONTHLY GROUP ENGAGE:

Jesus' words on the cross remind us of our mission as His ambassadors. As a group, try this idea to engage in the mission of God or come up with your own.

Who is the one person closest to you, who is the furthest from Jesus? Share whatever name comes to mind with your group, then write the name on on a note card, commit to praying for that person's heart to be open to the gospel. Pray through this list of people every week this month and consider inviting them to one of our Easter services or planning an Easter event you can invite them to.

WE ARE FAMILY:

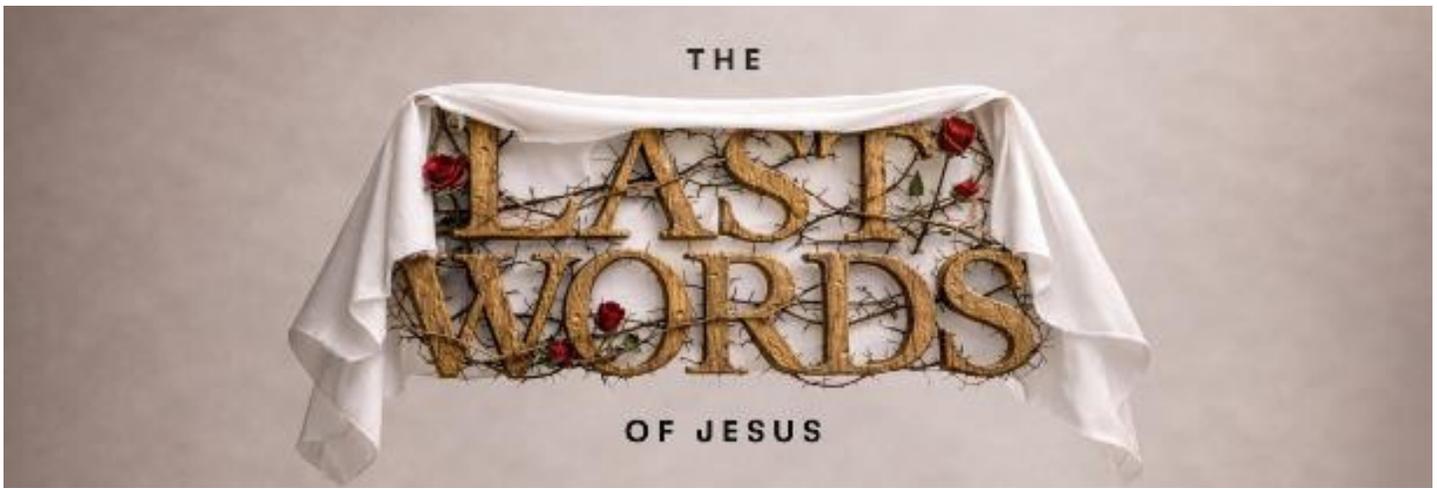
How can you hold each other accountable to respond to God this week?

Share prayer requests (either as a group, or as partners/smaller groups)

VALUE SPOTLIGHT:

TRUTH | That which communicates the reality of God.

We can communicate the reality of God in any environment, even hostile ones, knowing that His promises are true.



SERIES OVERVIEW:

We connect dying words to the end of life, but Jesus' last words were just the beginning. This Easter season, we're exploring seven powerful things Jesus said from the cross. In this series we'll draw statements from all four Gospels that mark Jesus' death and resurrection as the two most important moments in history.

MARCH 1

Luke 23:34 & Psalm 103:8-12

Big Idea: God's heart is to forgive sinners.
Key Question: Why does Jesus expect the Father to forgive sins?

- Forgiveness is from the nature of God. (v. 8)
- Forgiveness is the plan of God. (vv. 9-10)
- Forgiveness is the work of God. (vv. 11-12)

MARCH 8

Luke 23:35-43

Big Idea: Jesus suffered to save sinners.
Key Question: What attitude do we have towards Jesus' suffering?

- Scoffers expect Jesus to be miraculous. (vv. 35-38)
- Self-righteous dismiss Jesus is capable. (v. 39)
- Sinners ask for Jesus to be merciful. (vv. 40-43)

MARCH 15

John 19:26-27 & Matt 12:46-50

Big Idea: Jesus creates and cares for his spiritual family.
Key Question: How does Jesus create and care for his spiritual family?

- Jesus' family is created by belief, not bloodline. (v. 26)
- Jesus' family is cared for by community, not cast away. (v. 27)

MARCH 22

Matthew 27:46 & Psalm 22:1-24

Big Idea: We receive the highest acceptance because Jesus experienced the deepest agony.
Key Question: What did Jesus experience on our behalf?

- Jesus experienced the deepest agony. (vv. 1-21)
- Jesus received the highest acceptance. (vv. 21b-31)

MARCH 29

John 19:28-29 & Hebrews 2:17-18

Big Idea: Because Jesus is fully human, he is able to fully save humans.
Key Question: Why did Jesus become fully human?

- To serve as our High Priest. (Heb. 2:17a)
- To make propitiation for our sins. (Heb. 2:17b)
- To empathize with our condition. (Heb. 2:18)

APRIL 3

John 19:30 & Hebrews 10:10-14

Big Idea: The single sacrifice of Jesus secured our entire salvation.
Key Question: What did Jesus mean when he said, "It is finished"?

- His sacrifice is a once for all time sacrifice. (v. 10)
- His sacrifice secures victory forever. (vv. 11-13)
- His sacrifice secures perfection for those being saved. (v. 14)

APRIL 5

Luke 23:46 & Acts 13:26-39

Big Idea: The resurrection is the Father's vindication of the Son.
Key Question: What does the resurrection demonstrate?

- Salvation fulfilled. (vv. 26-33)
- A forever king revealed. (vv. 34-37)
- Forgiveness for anyone who believes. (vv. 38-39)