

Stronger Discussion Questions
03.25.18

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. What is one of your earliest memories of the story of the crucifixion?

Background

At this point in the story we are in the bleak last moments of Jesus's life. He has done amazing things that were witnessed by his disciples and often great crowds of those seeking his healing. The God/man who calmed the waters on the Sea of Galilee, drove out the legion of spirits from a man into a herd of pigs, and who healed blind Bartimaeus is the same God/man who now is rejected, abandoned, mocked, beaten, and willingly dying to make a way for those who choose to follow him to know eternal life. Pay close attention to how Jesus responded to the way he was treated and compare that to how we respond when we experience similar things.

Read Mark 15:1 – 41

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

2. What was Jesus's response to Pilate's questions?
3. Everything Jesus did was so intentional, why do you think Jesus responds to Pilate the way he does?
4. What were the social and political meanings of the cross? What did it symbolize?
5. Who was forced to carry the cross when Jesus was unable?
6. Who hurled insults at Jesus while he was on the cross?
7. What is ironic about how Jesus is insulted?
8. How does Mark convey the pain of the cross without sensationalizing it?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Which character in this scene do you most relate to?
2. What do you think it would have been like to be Simon from Cyrene forced to carry the cross for Jesus?
3. How have each of us acted like those who hurled insults at Jesus while he was on the cross?
4. What are some of the things that Jesus shows himself 'stronger than' in this account?
5. When is a time that you have been deeply impacted by the crucifixion of Jesus? How did it impact you?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. Jesus did not fight back when he was betrayed, nor when he was tried and sentenced to be crucified. How can we reflect his sacrificial love?
2. How can we follow the example set by Jesus even when we stand alone?

3. What practical ways can we carry the message of the sacrificial love of Jesus to the people in our lives?
4. As people who have been set free by the price Jesus paid how should we approach those not free?
5. What response do you find this story calling forth in you? What does it make you want to believe? To pray? To do?

Closing

As we approach Good Friday and Easter Sunday take time to pray for one another that we would never lose sight of high price Jesus paid for us to be in relationship with him. He set aside everything for us. He was betrayed by one of his closest friends and sentenced to death for no reason other than jealousy. All that was done and Jesus could have avoided it all, he had the power to do just that and yet he did not.

Reminder: The Good News is Jesus is stronger. He is stronger than temptation, he is stronger than sin, and he is stronger than death. Nothing stands between Jesus and his Father! Jesus has made a way for that to be true for us as well.