

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 17, 2009

Passage: Luke 23:26-56

Memory Passage: Luke 23:40-43

Sunday School Question: *From your study this week, what is one thing that God spoke to you that convicted or encouraged you?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 23:26-31.** Why would they have gotten Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross (Matthew 27:26)? Why mention a particular person's name? Does the text say that Simon volunteered to carry the cross?

(b) What two groups followed after Jesus? What was the disposition of the women? Where were the men who loved Jesus? How does Jesus respond to the women?

(c) *Think about it:* Why would Jesus tell these women that their mourning is misplaced? What does this say about the meaning of Jesus' death in relation to the nation of Israel? What allusion is there to Zechariah 12:10-14 and how is a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy being poured out?

(d) *Family:* Read Luke 23:26-31. Talk about what is going on in this passage. Who is this Simon guy? Why is he mentioned by name? What two groups are following Jesus? Why does Jesus tell the women that their morning is misplaced? How is the death of Jesus both a sad thing but also a thing to rejoice in? Pray that God would remind you daily of the price He paid and what it means for you.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 23:32-38.** What does Isaiah 53:12 say about the death of the Messiah and how is that fulfilled in this passage? How is Psalm 22:18 fulfilled and are there any other fulfillments or allusions from Psalm 22 that are accomplished at the death of Christ?

(b) How do both the rulers and the soldiers mock Jesus? What is the purpose of the inscription that is placed over Him?

(c) *Think about it:* What is so unique about what Jesus says? How are you at forgiving people? Do you see forgiveness as something that is done once an apology is asked for? Does Jesus see it this way? How does Jesus respond in the midst of continued persecution with not even a hint of sorrowfulness or repentance in sight?

(d) *Something to do:* Is there anybody that you have not forgiven? Is there anybody that you harbor bitter feelings against? If there was anyone who deserved to be angry, it was Jesus, yet He forgave. You aren't even perfect like Jesus. Is there anyone that you need to forgive right now? Pray for the grace to forgive that person right now and place all vindication, judgment, wrath in the hands of God.

(e) *Family:* Read Luke 23:32-38. How is Isaiah 53:12 and Psalm 22:18 fulfilled in this passage? What does Jesus do upon the Cross? Why is it so amazing that He is able to do this? Does Jesus wait for an apology to forgive? Does He demand that He be vindicated immediately? Is there anybody that you have failed to forgive? Who is it? How can your family help you in forgiving that person? Pray for each other that the root of bitterness might never grow and that forgiveness would be the foundation of your family.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 23:39-43.** What kinds of people are crucified in the Roman world? What does it show that a man who is obviously about to die ridicules another man?

(b) What three things does the other criminal recognize that the first one doesn't? How does this apply to a right understanding of God and repentance?

(c) *Think about it:* How is the faith of the repentant criminal conveyed? Does the criminal have any time to accomplish any deeds for Christ? Does the criminal have any time to share the gospel with people? Why is Jesus' promise of being with Him in paradise so amazing? Is there anything that God requires us to do once we place faith in Him?

(d) *Family:* Read Luke 23:39-43. Talk about what it means to be crucified. What kind of people were crucified? What are the three things that the second criminal recognizes that the first doesn't? Have you recognized Jesus as King? Have you recognized your own need of Him? Talk about what it means to be a follower of Christ. If anyone wants to place their faith in Christ, then pray as a family and encourage that person in his trusting in Christ as Savior and Lord.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 23:44-49.** When was the sixth hour and ninth hour according to our time? What does darkness represent (Amos 8:9-10; Exodus 10:21-23)? What does the sun's failing represent in the death of Jesus (Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18, 20; Zephaniah 1:15)?

(b) What is significant about the curtain in the temple? What was it meant to do? How does Hebrews 9:11-10:22 explain the significance of this and what Christ accomplished? What significance in there that Jesus committed His spirit willfully even at the end (John 10:17)?

(c) How does the centurion's statement paint the whole scene right after Christ's death? What is the state of the crowds now that they have witnessed the death of Jesus?

(d) *Family*: Read Luke 23:44-49. Talk about what happens at the death of Christ. How does Joel 2:2 and Amos 5:18 make reference to this passage? Talk about why the tearing of the curtain is significant. What did Christ's death accomplish for us? Spend some time thinking about and thanking God for what Christ accomplished on the cross.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 23:50-56.** What does the text note that is significant about Joseph of Arimathea? How does what he did fulfill Isaiah 53:9?

(b) Why would Luke want to make it clear that the women saw where Jesus had been laid? What is significant about the tomb itself? Why does this become important later?

(c) *Think about it*: How does chapter 23 leave the story? Why are the women preparing spices? What is their delay in going back to the tomb? How is God orchestrating everything to fulfill scripture throughout the death and burial of Christ?

(d) *Something to do*: It is said of Joseph that he was seeking after the kingdom of God. Are you seeking to extend God's kingdom in all areas of your life, in all the relationships that you have, in all the actions that you do? How would that work? Ask God to show you one thing that you might be able to do to live more like a servant in the kingdom of God.

(e) *Family*: Read Luke 23:50-56. Read Isaiah 53:9. How is this fulfilled? Why is it important for us to know that the women knew where Jesus was buried? What were they eager to do for Jesus after they had gone to the tomb? Why did they have to wait? Talk about how God used normal circumstances to have His prophecy fulfilled. Pray that God would give you eyes to see how His sovereign will is being worked out all around us.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What has been meaningful to you this week? Is there anyone that you need to forgive that you have not forgiven? Do you fear God like the criminal? Do you understand your own need for Christ and the meaning of Christ's death on the cross? Are you relying on Jesus for your acceptance into the kingdom of God? What action do you need to take in light of this week's lesson?

DATE: May 17, 2009

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Jesus the Christ
"Jesus, remember me..."