



Week 5
Discipleship Study
Questions



Mark Part 1: The Journey to the Cross

During the season of Lent, we will follow Jesus on His journey to the cross. As disciples of Jesus, we have to understand the cost of what He did for us. Jesus intentionally went to His death, suffering physical pain and separation from God. Even if we've heard this story before, we still can remind ourselves of the enormity of Christ's sacrifice for us.

But praise God, His journey didn't end at the cross – He is risen!

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Week 5

Background: Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen Jesus transform the Passover meal into the Communion meal of the new covenant, tell the disciples they would all abandon Him, and pray in Gethsemane, while His disciples kept falling asleep. And then, when the guards came to arrest Jesus, Peter panicked, cut off the ear of a guard, and then ran away into the night. As Thursday of Holy Week comes to a close, Peter does what he swore he would never do – deny his relationship with Christ.

Read: Mark 14:53-72

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

The trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin is marked by false accusations and injustice. What stands out to you about how Jesus was treated in this passage? How does this reveal the nature of God's justice and mercy?

Jesus knew Peter would deny Him, but He still chose Peter as a disciple. What does this teach us about how God views us even when we fail?

Why did Peter, who was so confident earlier in the night, end up denying Jesus? Have you ever distanced yourself from Jesus in a moment of fear or pressure?

After Peter denied Jesus, he 'wept bitterly.' What role does repentance play in restoring our relationship with God?

How does knowing Jesus offers His best when we're at our worst change the way we view our mistakes?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, All praise and glory to You. You overflow with grace and mercy, even in our weakest moments. For all the times we have abandoned You, we don't deserve it. Your grace truly is amazing. In Jesus' name, Amen.