



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS: JOURNEY TO THE CROSS (DAYS 18-23)

Worship Together | Prepare Disciples | Build Community | Seek the Kingdom

Review Upcoming Events, >5 minutes

One Day Getaway Adult Retreat: Saturday, April 1 (with Friday overnight option)

Registration Deadline: must register by the end of the day on Sunday, March 26

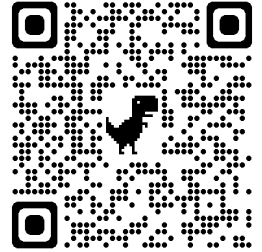
Holy Week Plans

Palm Sunday, April 2: 9:30am Sanctuary Service & 11:00am Great Room Service

Maundy Thursday, April 6: 7:00pm Combined Service with Communion in Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7: Day of Prayer and Fasting; PHC Chapel available 12:00pm-3:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 9: 9:30am Sanctuary Service & 11:00am Great Room Service



Highs and Lows, >10 minutes

Have each group member share one good moment and one difficult moment from the past week.

Responses from Sunday Worship, >10 minutes

Before we begin our discussion about the Scripture reading from this past week, is there any part of this past Sunday's worship service that impacted you in a significant way?

READING AND MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

Have a member of the group open this time of Scripture reading and discussion in prayer. Then, have a different member of the group read the passage below.

Matthew 6:19-24

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Questions for Small Group Reflection from “Journey to the Cross”

Ask the question associated with each day one at a time. Take a moment to scan that specific day’s devotional to re-familiarize yourself with the content, then share your response with the group.

1. Day 17: *If you haven’t discussed this topic in your responses to Sunday’s worship service, ask: how does the way you spend your time, money, and energy reveal what you truly value?*
2. Day 18: How can a perspective on God’s sovereignty help you deal with the surprises of life? What are some things you can do to live with joy and hope amid the uncertainties of life?
3. Day 19: Does your confession of sin often feel like a cry for help? Why or why not?
4. Day 20: Looking at a typical day, what percentage of your time is spent grumbling and what percentage is spent giving thanks?
5. Day 21: How do you usually respond when you are confronted by your sin— excuse, deny, minimize, or confess? What factors contribute to how you respond at different times?
6. Day 22: Have someone read aloud the end of this day’s devotional, beginning with, “During this season when you are letting go of the things of this world....” How can you grow in your satisfaction in God himself while still being thankful for the gifts he gives?
7. Day 23: Does your level of sacrifice to develop your relationship with God match the level of sacrifice you make to do other things? Why or why not?

Personal Disciplines for the Week:

- At the top of an index card, write the words, “Grumble Card.” Fold that card and place it in your pocket each morning. Every time you catch yourself complaining or grumbling about something or someone during the day, discreetly pull out your card and draw a dash. Keep tracking your grumbling habits each day this week. Plan to report your results to your small group next week. Yes, this will be some combination of painful and hilarious.
 - Note 1: If you are tempted to grumble, but remain quiet— that’s a step in the right direction, so no mark is necessary! You can track those moments as well.
 - Note 2: If you are tempted to grumble, but choose to respond to that temptation by thanking God for difficult people/circumstances in your life because you know he is using those situations to teach you patience and compassion— that’s even better! It’s good to track those victories and share them with your group.

CLOSING PRAYER

Take prayer requests.

Have a group member read Psalm 62:5-8 to open your prayer time.

Each small group member should pray a brief, simple prayer for the person next to them.

Psalm 62:5-8

Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.

Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.

“Journey to the Cross” 40-Day Reading Plan Schedule

Days 1-4: Ash Wednesday, February 22 to Saturday, February 25

Days 5-10: Monday, February 27 to Saturday, March 4

Days 11-16: Monday, March 6 to Saturday, March 11

Days 17-22: Monday, March 13 to Saturday, March 18

Days 23-28: Monday, March 20 to Saturday, March 25

Days 29-34: Monday, March 27 to Saturday, April 1

Days 35-40: Monday, April 3 to Saturday, April 8

Easter! Sunday, April 9