

Small Group Curriculum

Week of 3-17-13

1. The symbol of Christianity, the cross, is unlike any of the other major religions. Why do Christians make an image of a form of capital punishment the symbol of their faith? What does this say about the centrality of Jesus' death and resurrection to our faith?
2. Have a volunteer read Mark 15:21-41
3. What strikes you about the description of Jesus' crucifixion? Why is it significant that Mark included so much historic detail in the account?
4. Crucifixion was an especially cruel method of execution reserved for the worst of criminal and was intended to terrorize onlookers into submission. What effect do you think the crucifixion had on the crowds who participated in the "Triumphal Entry?" What about Jesus' disciples?
5. Have your group take a second look at verses 26-32. What unintentional prophecies did the mockers make about Jesus? What do these prophecies communicate about God's sovereignty over the events of the day? How does this help us trust him during our suffering?
6. Read verses 33-34 and Romans 5:8-9. What does it mean that Jesus absorbed God's wrath? How does a proper understanding of the Trinity keep us from viewing Jesus' crucifixion as Divine child abuse?
7. Read verses 34-37. Jesus experienced separation from God. What do you think Jesus felt during this time?
8. Read verses 38-39. What does the tearing of the curtain communicate about Jesus' work on the cross? What about the confession of the Roman Centurion?
9. Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What would motivate Jesus to take on our punishment? What should our response be to this love?
10. Optional: Download the sermon transcript to Pastor Rick Gamache's "The Father's Cup." Read it out loud as a small group and discuss: <http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/the-fathers-cup-good-friday>