

Sermon Discussion Guide 3/24-3/30 VGroup Meetings

Sermon Title: Winning by Losing - Matthew 27:45-54

Distribute name tags as people enter. Take attendance in FellowshipOne / collect new guest information including address, phone & email, etc. Allow folks to mingle, fellowship, and settle in with each other. Download/email resources from www.vgroups.org. Source for study guide, covenant, and more.

Open the session with prayer.

Discussion Starter/Ice Breaker: (15-20 mins)

Easter is upon us! It's one of the easiest times to invite friends to church. Discuss some ways to start a discussion with people that will lead to inviting them to VillageChurch on Easter Sunday.

Discussion Questions: (45 mins)

1. Read the focus verses from the sermon together - Matt 27:45-54. Reflect on the 3 ways Jesus won by losing.
2. Let's explore the bible together and dig up more information about these 3 points.
 - a. Jesus suffered on the cross. Galatians 3:10-14, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:20-24, 1 Peter 3:18, Isaiah 53:1-12, Heb 2:9, John 19:31-37
 - b. Jesus gave up His spirit on the cross. Luke 23:44-48, John 19:28-30, Mark 15:37-39
 - c. Jesus surrendered His position & power to save the world. John 17:1-5, John 1:1-18, Heb 1:1-5, John 17:20-26, Matthew 28:18, Mark 4:35-39
3. Thinking about the verses above...
 - a. Why did Jesus have to suffer on the cross? To what extent did He suffer (Is 53)?
 - b. In John 19, why did the soldiers not break the legs of Jesus?
 - c. What is the importance of knowing that Jesus gave up His spirit on the cross?
 - d. Identify together the things Jesus sacrificed, beyond His life, to save the world.
4. In vs 51 we see the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. (Look at Hebrews 9:1-15 together as a support reference. If you are interested in knowing more about the veil, Tabernacle, & Holy of Holies see Exodus 26.)
 - a. Why is the curtain/veil being torn a major event? What is the significance of knowing the curtain was torn from top to bottom?
5. Think about the scene described in the focus verses & those witnessing everything as Christ gave up His life. Reread verses 51-54 paying closer attention to EVERYTHING going on.
 - a. How do the people around Jesus react?
 - b. How do you think you would have reacted?
 - c. What comparison(s) can be made with the "darkness" that covered the sky?
6. (Testimony/Review) Last week in 1 Cor 15:5-8, we saw strong evidence of why sharing our testimony - our 1st hand experience with The Living God - is so crucial. We are the "eyewitnesses" of God's power, love, & grace for the non-believing world. In looking at eternal life this week, has your desire or sense of urgency about exposing Christ to people changed? Think about this Fearless series & identify an area of your life where God has changed you from fearful to fearless. Pray God will help you share with someone who doesn't know Him.

Closing: Open the floor for discussion / questions.

Prayer Requests:

Close in prayer.

