

Small Group Lesson
"Seven: Today" Week 1

For the Leader: Into our busy lives enter the gift of 40 days where we come face to face with what matters most. Not the regret of the past nor the anxiety of the future, but fully embracing the gift of today as we examine Jesus "Seven" last words upon the cross.

If you are a new group or have new group members, please allow time on the front end to get better acquainted. Discuss what time group will end. Consider having a time keeper mark the time 10 minutes before time to close. Use the DVD, Lesson and your Life Steps as small group tools, not as a mission to be completed.

Group Check In with New Members: Tell us about your family, where you are from, how you came to Pathway and the most exciting or fulfilling experience going on in your life in the present days.

Group Check In with Familiar Members: How is your practice of the spiritual discipline, "spending time with God" going? Tell us when and how you go about spending time with God.

OPENING PRAYER: If you are a new group or have new members in your group, assure everyone no one will be asked to pray out loud or read scripture on a moment's notice. If everyone knows each other, inventory who is willing to pray and read out loud.

Memory Verse: We will have two different memory verses during this series. Consider challenging the group to work on together, even reciting out loud in unison. Be creative.

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

WATCH THE VIDEO (Time – 9 Minutes plus)

Scripture Readings and Questions:

Luke 23:39-43; Why do you think the one criminal had a change of heart and the other didn't? What big choices are you facing today that could alter your tomorrow?

Deuteronomy 30:11-20; What choices are presented in this passage that you need to make today?

Psalms 90; A prayer of Moses while leading Israel as they wandered through the desert for 40 years.

- What words would best describe your first impression of this Psalm?

- (Vs1) What kind of emotions does the word "dwelling" or "home" evoke in you? How does recognizing God as your "dwelling place" or "home" impact how you live your life today?

- (Vs. 2-6) List all of the ways you can see how God and we humans differ.

- (Vs.12) Why is it important to remember life is short? How does this knowledge impact your daily priorities? Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why? "You don't really know how to live until you really know you are going to die."

Message Notes: Primary message take away.

Wrap Up: Make sure everyone understands the meeting time and place for next week. Ask for prayer requests. Consider creating prayer partners each week, female to female, male to male.

Closing Prayer

