

Small Group Lesson
"Seven: Forsaken" Week 3

For the Leader: The pain of Jesus physical death was only exceeded by the emotional darkness of feeling forsaken by God while hanging on the cross. Ever been there? Are you there right now? The primary goal for this session is to create an atmosphere where group members feel safe sharing, if any, their unresolved stories of suffering and faith.

Suggested Group Check In with New Members: What is your earliest memory of faith in or having questions about God?

Suggested Group Check In with Familiar Members: When you hear "Jesus and the cross", what is the first word or phrase that comes to mind? Why? What does our memory verse mean to you?

Opening Prayer: Consider praying for those in the world who suffer on a daily basis.

Memory Verse: "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 – 8.5 Minutes)

Scripture Readings and Questions:

Matthew 27:45-46

- Why do you think the sun stopped shining? What does it signify to you? (Vs. 45)
- What does the loudness of Jesus voice, tell us about his physical, mental and emotional states? (Vs. 46)
- Why do you think the New Testament writers emphasize the suffering of Jesus on the cross? (Hebrews 4:15)
- How would you describe your trust in God? (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- Have you ever felt forsaken by God? When and why? If you were able, how did you move toward healing and wellness?

Leaders Note: As you plan your gathering, please allow plenty of time for story sharing, encouragement and prayer.

Wrap Up: Make sure everyone understands the meeting time and place for next week and begin discussing when you are going to meet during Holy Week. Many groups will meet on Thursday, March 29, have a meal and share communion together. Some will make it a family gathering. Some groups will assemble in the sanctuary sometime between 4-6 PM and receive communion there and then go out to eat together or recess to someone's home. Let your group develop their own Maundy Thursday plan.

Closing Prayer