



Seven Sayings from the Cross—Week 1 Luke 23:34 – March 5, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) Last Words of Jesus: First Steps to a Richer Life
-- Stu Epperson Jr. <https://bit.ly/3YXBBx7>
- 2) *The Cross and the Power of Forgiveness* <http://bit.ly/3EaEbYG>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW:

- Did you see “The Passion of the Christ” or another movie depicting the crucifixion? What do you think about it? How did you feel?
- What have been 2-3 defining moments in your life? Why were they so impactful?
- What term do you usually use to address God? Why?
- What other terms have you heard other people use to address God?
- How might your faith be affected if you started addressing God in your prayers as “Father”? How would it help you better understand the relationship between you and God?
- When was a time you had to forgive someone? How did your belief in the gospel and God’s grace help you to forgive the person who wronged you?



GROW:

- Why is it so difficult to forgive someone that has sinned against you?
- How does Jesus' prayer show us how God looks at our sin and us?
- In what sense can your sin be seen as a debt owed to God? How do you pay off a debt like that? On what just basis can God forgive this debt of sin?
- Imagine being there, hearing those words, "Father, forgive them." What do you think the soldiers thought when they heard what Jesus said?
- What does knowledge of sin have to do with Jesus' forgiveness? At what level did Jesus' killers understand what they were doing?
- Who was most responsible for killing Jesus? What responsibility do we bear for Jesus' death on the cross?
- In what way was Jesus' example of forgiveness used as a model in the early church? Check out: Ephesians 4:32; I Peter 2:13-24.
- When Jesus said, "for they know not what they do," was He saying that the ignorance of His executioners excused their behavior? Of what were those at the cross ignorant? What did they not know? Check out: I Corinthians 2:8; John 1:10-11.



SHOW:

- How does this passage shape how you see Jesus' humanity? His deity?
- Who is someone in your life that you need to forgive?
- Who is someone that you need to ask for forgiveness?
- Suppose your non-Christian neighbor, who has very little understanding of Scripture, asked you, "Why did Jesus die on the cross? What made His death different from the death of other great men? What is it that makes the cross so significant for you Christians, 2000 years after the fact?" How would you answer these questions?



Seven Sayings from the Cross – Week 2 Luke 23:35-43 – March 12, 2023

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KNOW:

- What is the most difficult or dangerous thing God has ever asked of you? Has there been a time God made something good out of bad circumstances?
- If you were placed in a position where you would have to die for your faith tonight, would you do it?
- Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive?
- Think of a time when you have been in a “no-win” situation. How did you feel? How did you respond? What was the outcome?
- Have you ever prepared for something for a long time—perhaps even years? If so, how did you prepare?
- When was a time you had a difficult time forgiving someone? How did your belief in the gospel and God's grace help you to forgive the person?
- We know someone, possibly ourselves, who has thought, “God could never forgive me.” How does this shape your understanding of grace?

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GROW:

- Verses 32-38 describe the crucifixion of Jesus. Luke divides the spectators into three categories: the people looking on, the rulers mocking Jesus, and the soldiers joining in the teasing. Which of these categories would you place yourself? What would be your response to what you were witnessing?
- Both criminals made a request of Jesus. What were the requests and how are the requests different from one another?
- Throughout scripture, we see Jesus interacting and offering salvation to people. And even now as He is being crucified, we see him interacting with these two criminals. What does that tell you about His desire to save the lost?
- Many in the first century would have seen Jesus' crucifixion, which represented a divine curse (see Deut. 21:22–23; Gal. 3:13), as grounds to reject him. How should we respond to Jesus instead?
- Consider the urgency in the words of the second criminal when he says. "Jesus, remember me...". What is the urgency of the gospel so important?
- Based on the passage, what is Jesus referring to as "Paradise?"



SHOW:

- This is the beauty of the gospel: rather than saving himself, Jesus sacrifices himself for our salvation and, never lapsing into self-pity, loves others to the end.
- Do you have an urgency to share the gospel with others?
- What in this passage causes you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust more deeply in his gracious promises?
- From this passage and our discussion today, what is one way you can live differently this week around others in a way that displays the kingdom of God at work in your life?
- Is there anybody that you have not forgiven? Is there anybody that you harbor bitter feelings against?



Seven Sayings from the Cross – Week 3 Luke 19:26-27 – March 19, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

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-- Stu Epperson Jr. <https://bit.ly/3YXBBx7>
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KNOW:

- When have you been asked to take care of someone? What was that experience like for you?
- What is something you want or hope to do before you die? What are some of the things on your bucket list?
- Have you or someone you know ever had to process an estate after someone died? What was that experience like?
- In this passage, Jesus, the Son of God is in the process of dying, showing his human nature. What are some normal human behaviors and responsibilities that are hard for you to picture Jesus doing? Why?
- What plan or instructions do you have for your loved ones if you were to die today? Do you have a living will or trust?
- Have you ever experienced firsthand a dying loved one? What were some of the most memorable things about that experience?

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GROW:

- Who besides the soldiers were with Jesus in His last moments?
- What did Jesus mean when He said, “Woman, behold your son” on the cross?
- With great effort Jesus spoke a few instructions as some of His last words. What did He request?
- Why do you think John included this scene for us?
- What does it mean for Jesus to make the broad and impersonal specific and personal in his relationship with his mother?
- How can you see the sovereignty of God throughout these verses?
- What does this passage reveal about Jesus' character and attitude towards his mother even in his darkest hour?
- Why do you think Jesus would ask John to take care of His mother? Why not ask His brothers?
- What does this request show about Jesus' heart? What does it show about the need to care for parents?
- How does Jesus' concern for his mother illustrate his compassion and redemption of his people?



SHOW:

- What are some practical steps we can take to embody Jesus' compassion and care for others, especially those closest to us?
- What can we learn from Jesus' example of taking care of an earthly and personal matter even in the midst of doing something cosmically important?
- How can we follow Jesus' example in seeing the needs of others and meeting them through the body of Christ?
- What are some important conversations we need to have with loved ones to prepare for our ultimate future?
- How can creating a will or trust help us clarify our last wishes and show love to our family and friends?



Seven Sayings from the Cross – Week 4 Mark 15:34 – March 26, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

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KNOW:

- Have you ever broken a bone? What happened?
- When was a time when you got lost as a kid?
- What's the worst injury you've ever had?
- Have you ever felt abandoned or forsaken by someone or something? How did you cope with it?
- How do you typically respond to moments of pain or struggle?
- What does it mean to you to have faith in God during difficult times?
- In what ways can we trust God even when we don't feel His presence or see His hand at work?



GROW:

- In verse 33, “darkness came over the whole land.” What does that darkness in the story mean? Why is it significant?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- In verse 34, Jesus is quoted saying "*eloi eloi lama sabachthani*" which is the Aramaic language. Aramaic was the common or colloquial language in Israel in that day. Why do you think Mark including this in the text? Why might it be significant?
- Why do you think Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 when he said those words? How does it relate to Jesus' crucifixion?
- In Isaiah 53:3-4, it says that the servant would be "despised and rejected by men," and that "we esteemed him not." How does this relate to Jesus' experience on the cross?
- How does the concept of substitutionary atonement, where Jesus takes on the punishment for our sins, tie into this passage?
- How can we reconcile the idea of God forsaking Jesus with the idea of God being loving and merciful?
- How does this passage illustrate the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ?
- What kind of isolation did Jesus experience in His death on the cross? How can we draw encouragement from the loneliness Jesus endured?



SHOW:

- How can we support and encourage fellow Christians who are going through difficult times of feeling abandoned or forsaken?
- How can we use this passage to deepen our gratitude for the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for us?
- How can we apply the lessons learned from this passage to our daily lives as Christians?
- How can we use this passage to remind ourselves of the depth of God's love for us?



Seven Sayings from the Cross – Week 5 John 19:28 – April 2, 2023

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KNOW:

- When is a memory where you remember being the thirstiest? How did you get in that situation? What was the experience of finally having a sip of water/liquid like?
- How have you seen the culture's thirst for certain things change over the course of your lifetime? What do you think has caused those changes?
- What is something you are currently thirsting for in your life? How do you think that thirst impacts your faith and relationship with God?
- Have you experienced God's living water quenching your spiritual thirst in a particular way? Can you share about that experience and how it impacted you?
- Have you ever experienced a period of spiritual dehydration? Can you share about that time and how you overcame it with God's help?
- How do you find the discipline to continually return to the fountain of living water? What challenges do you face in doing so, and how do you overcome those challenges?



GROW:

- How does Jesus' statement "I thirst" connect to His message of living water in John 4:14?
- How can we relate to Jesus' thirst and what are some temporary fixes we turn to in search of satisfaction?
- What does Jesus' physical thirst represent in terms of our deeper spiritual need for Him?
- In what ways does Matthew 5:6 relate to Jesus' statement "I thirst" and our spiritual desires?
- What does it mean to have an "earnest desire" for something in a spiritual sense, and how does it relate to coming back to the fountain of living water?
- How can the story of the woman at the well in John 4:5-30 help us understand the significance of Jesus' statement "I thirst" in John 19:28, and what can we learn from it?
- How can we differentiate between worldly desires and spiritual thirst and prevent ourselves from becoming spiritually dehydrated?
- What is the connection between spiritual thirst and spiritual growth, and how can we experience joy in coming back to the fountain of living water?
- How can we use our own experiences with thirst to relate to and minister to others who are spiritually thirsty?
- How does Jesus' offer of living water in John 6:35-36 relate to the spiritual nourishment he provides as the bread of life, and what can we learn from it?



SHOW:

- What are some practical ways we can seek to quench our spiritual thirst daily? What habits or rhythms could you build into your everyday life that could help you go to Him with your thirst more frequently?
- What can we do to encourage and support others who are going through a spiritually dry season?
- Pray for those currently in a dry season to be encouraged and supported by the group. Pray for those who are spiritually lost and thirsty, and for opportunities to show and share the message of living water with them.



Seven Sayings from the Cross – Week 6 and 7 Luke 23:46; John 19:30 – April 9, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

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Note: This guide combines Luke 23:46 (Father, into your hands I commit my spirit) and John 19:30 (It is finished)

KNOW:

- Does your family have any traditions at Easter? What do you and your family do together to make is special?
- Have you ever experienced a moment of profound peace or surrender like Jesus did in Luke 23:46?
- Can you share a time when you had to commit to something even though it was difficult or challenging? How did your faith help strengthen you in that situation?
- If you were in Jesus' position on the cross, what would you be thinking or feeling in your final moments?
- Have you ever had to face a difficult situation and found comfort in knowing that Jesus himself faced even more difficult circumstances?
- What role does faith play in surrendering our lives to God?

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GROW:

- Read Luke 23:46. What does Jesus mean when he says "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"?
- Read Psalm 31:5. Why do you think Jesus quoted from Psalm 31 in this moment, and what can we learn from this prayer of David?
- How does this saying demonstrate Jesus' trust in God even in his final moments? What does this saying teach us about our own faith and trust in God?
- Why is it significant that Jesus committed not only his physical body, but also the Spirit of God inside him, to the Father?
- Read John 19:30. What does "it is finished" mean to you as a Christian? How does it impact your faith?
- In what ways does the saying "it is finished" show the completion of God's plan for salvation? What do you think would have happened if Jesus had not said this?
- What is the significance of the temple veil being torn in two when Jesus died on the cross? How does this relate to the saying "it is finished"?
- How do the three things that were finished on the cross (the completion of prophecies, the judgment of sin, and the forgiveness of sin) impact your understanding of the meaning of "it is finished"?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus confirm that "it is finished"? What would have happened if Jesus had not risen from the dead?



SHOW:

- In martyrdom, Polycarp is recorded as saying on the day of his death: "Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong." What can we learn from the examples of other Christians, such as Polycarp, who repeated the saying of Jesus on the cross at the time of their death?
- How can we apply the lesson of "committing our spirit" to God in our daily lives, and what might this look like in practice?
- In what ways can we apply the saying "it is finished" to our daily lives? How can it help us to live out our faith more fully?
- How do these sayings of Jesus on the cross provide comfort to Christians who are facing death or other difficult circumstances?