



Life Group Work Sheet

John 19:17-42 - The Crucifixion, More Than The Eye Could See

August 18, 2013

If passages such as John 19 tell us the specific events of the crucifixion and Jesus' death, passages such as Isaiah 52-53 tell us the purpose of Jesus' sacrificial death. This Life Group lesson looks to Isaiah to help us understand the work of Jesus and what his death has done for all who believe in his name.

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

1. Have you ever seen the Passion of Christ? If yes, what were your thoughts after seeing the movie? Did it change the way you thought of the cross? Did it change *you*? Why does that movie (and others like it) have such an impact on us?

Most will likely say that *The Passion of the Christ* 'put flesh' onto the words of the Gospels' accounts of Jesus' crucifixion because we are a visual people. But if they are honest, this conscious change was only temporarily. This shows us the importance of being intentional about reminding ourselves of the truth of the gospel and of Jesus' work on our behalf.

Part 2 - Sermon Review

2. Read Isa. 52:13-53:12. Does this passage give us any more insight into the account of Jesus' crucifixion in John 19? What does it tell us about the *purpose* of the crucifixion?

As I mentioned in the introductory paragraph, passages such as this one in Isaiah give us an understanding of the purpose of the crucifixion. This purpose is Jesus' death on our behalf that we may enjoy fellowship with God.

To make this connection between these two passages clear, it may be helpful to read the story of the crucifixion of John 19 immediately after reading Isaiah 52-53. After doing this, take a few minutes and make connections between the two passages. Ask questions such as, "Isaiah 53:7 says that [Jesus] did not open his mouth. Where do we see this obedience in John 19?"

This type of exercise will help your Life Group instill confidence in themselves concerning the authority and power of Scripture.

3. Read Isa. 53:4-6. Jesus' death on the cross not only cleanses us from sin; it also takes away our grief and sorrow. What are some griefs that you have borne? Some sorrows? How are these 'borne' and taken away by Jesus on the cross? Do you feel freedom from these griefs and sorrows? If not, how do you give those areas to Christ?

This passage is not saying that good Christians don't have grief or sorrow in their life. If that's the case, then the apostles and Jesus himself were not very good Christians! The truth is, grief and sorrow are a part of the fallen order of creation. Just as death exists in the world because of sin, so also do grief and sorrow.

Passages such as Rom. 8:18-25 wrestle with this 'already-not yet'. Yes, Jesus has borne our sorrows and griefs on the cross; but at the same time, we still face these things as a part of life.

The work of Jesus on the cross gives us hope for the future. There will be a day where there is no more grief and sorrow (Rev. 21:3-4), and the promise of this day because of the work of Christ gives us hope in the midst of this day.

4. Jesus' death also brings us peace (v. 5), yet in the midst of our busy and fast-paced society we often lack peace. What is the peace that Isaiah refers to? How do we cultivate it in our lives? What are some practical ways for us to do so?

The 'peace' (*shalom*) that Isaiah refers to here is much more holistic than a cease of conflict between nations (or people) or an inner quiet. When Isaiah speaks of peace, he refers to a completeness that comes from living in restored relationship with God, creation, and those around us. This peace is what we yearn for in the coming kingdom. And much in the same way that grief and sorrow still exists today, so also we do not have full peace today.

But that does not mean that this peace is completely possible in this life time. Peace with God comes through the work of the cross and living in faithful obedience to Jesus.

Cultivating this peace in our lives takes an intentional effort to cling to the cross. If this peace is found through the work of the cross, it makes sense to go there first, does it not?

5. Read Isa. 53:7-10; John 19:24, 28, 36-37. Jesus' peace and obedience throughout this dark day shows his confidence in God's control over everything. How is God's control over everything a relief to us when we face our own struggles?

This question ties back to Pastor Kurt's sermon from last week on God's sovereignty and control over all the events of the crucifixion.

Some of you may be interested in asking this question in the reverse format: "If God weren't in control of everything, why would that not offer any sort of comfort?"

God's control in the midst of these dark times reminds us that he has a plan. And that plan is for our good and his glory, no matter how bad things may seem to us.

6. Read Isa. 53:11-12. These verses help us to understand the gospel. What is the gospel? Do you know anyone living far from God? Would you be willing to share this good news with them?

This closing question is intended to get the focus of your group on those outside of your group and outside of the church.

After hearing this good news from John and Isaiah, take a few minutes as a group to reach a conclusion on what the gospel is in its simplest form.

After reaching that conclusion, encourage everyone in your group to think of someone in their circle of influence who doesn't believe this good news. If they don't have any non-Christians in their circle of influence, then encourage them to make friends with non-Christians so that they can share the good news with them.

Try to point your group outward. Be a light in your community!