

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question:

1. Do you have an Easter ritual?

Pray: for God's help to be struck again by Jesus' death & resurrection.

Read: Matthew 26:47-27:56 & 27:57-28:20

Questions about the passage:

1. Read the first section and take some time to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. What do you notice? What links the various moments together?
2. What is the significance of Jesus' quoting Psalm 22? Have someone read Psalm 22.
3. Do the same for 27:57-28:20.

Questions for us:

- What does the cross mean for us? Consider 1 John 4:10, 1 Peter 2:24, Galatians 3:13 and any other passages you can think of.
- How important is the resurrection to our faith? See 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.
- What does the resurrection mean for us? How can this bring joy in some of our life situations? See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Acts 17:31.

Pray: that Village would be a disciple making Church.

Homework: an hour this week to reflect and pray

Remind: Easter Gatherings - 9am Good Friday & Easter Sunday

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For the next bunch of weeks, until Easter, we will be working through the end of Matthew's gospel (starting at chapter 17) as Jesus continues his ministry up to it's final endpoint - his death & resurrection.

This week, Jesus accomplishes his mission. His humble service leads him all the way to the cross where he suffers the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual consequences of sin. But for his faithfulness, he receives the promised reward of eternal life as God raises him from the dead in power.

Questions about the passage:

- Read the first section and take some time to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. What do you notice? What links the various moments together?

Encourage the group to take it slowly. To reflect and consider. You can ask additional questions like, how would Jesus be feeling, what is he experiencing, why is this happening this way?

- What is the significance of Jesus' quoting Psalm 22? Have someone read Psalm 22.

Psalm 22 is fascinating and important to see that Jesus isn't just quoting the first verse. He would be aware of the whole Psalm which ends on a victorious note. This is a cry of anguish but in hope of victory.

- Do the same for 27:57-28:20.

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Questions for us:

- What does the cross mean for us? Consider 1 John 4:10, 1 Peter 2:24, Galatians 3:13 and any other passages you can think of.

Encourage the group to consider these passages and to explore all the things the cross means for us.

- How important is the resurrection to our faith? See 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

I think this is self-explanatory from the passage. But maybe you can ask, is that how you see the resurrection? Is it at the centre of your faith?

- What does the resurrection mean for us? How can this bring joy in some of our life situations? See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Acts 17:31.

Take time to reflect on the hope that our resurrection means. Encourage people to think about some of the troubles they are facing. Health issues, financial issues, relational issues etc. What does the resurrection mean for these things?