

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Death of Death

LUKE 23:26-43

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinners. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe Jesus' claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // LUKE 22:63-23:25

1. Read Luke 22:63-23:25.
2. What does this passage tell us about God's character?
3. How does this passage increase your love for and delight in Christ?
4. Discuss the various ways the religious leaders, Pilate, Herod, and the crowd responded to Jesus. How are we tempted to do the same? How does the gospel free us to repent and live joyfully as a child of God?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // LUKE 23:26-43

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview/Big Idea: In accordance with God's sovereign plan of redemption, Jesus was crucified as a criminal that we might live as God's children.

1. Read Luke 23:26-43.
2. In verse 26, Simon of Cyrene was made to carry Jesus' cross, presumably because Jesus couldn't do so any more. What does this tell us about the severity of the beatings Jesus received?
3. Verse 27 details women who were lamenting and mourning. Why? How does Jesus respond in verses 28b-31? What does his prophetic response mean? To what "days" is Jesus referring?
4. What's the significance of Jesus being crucified between two other criminals? See Jesus' earlier words in Luke 22:37 speaking of how he's the fulfillment of Isaiah 53:17.
5. In verse 34, what does Jesus say/pray from the cross? What did Jesus mean when he said, "they not know what they do"? What does Jesus' prayer reveal about himself?

6. Notice the details at the end of verse 34, “they cast lots to divide his garments.” Read Psalm 22:18. What’s the significance of this seemingly passing detail?
 7. How do the crowds and the soldiers treat Jesus in verses 35-36? Why?
 8. Discuss the irony regarding the sayings to Jesus and sign over him in verses 37-38.
 9. In verses 39-41, how do the criminals treat Jesus? What is the reason for the different way each criminal viewed Jesus?
 10. What is the one criminal’s request to Jesus? How does Jesus respond?
 - a. What’s the significance of the word “today” in Jesus’ response?
 - b. Notice Jesus says “you will be *with me*.” Why is that important?
 - c. What is Paradise?
 11. Identify three ways this passage reveals the character of God.
 12. If you were to use this passage, especially verse 39-42, to share the gospel with a non-Christian, how would you go about doing that?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Follow up from the previous week(s).