



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROCHESTER

### Sermon Discussion Guide January 11, 2026

#### Refresh

Read Matthew 27:51-54 to get the Scripture passages back in your mind.

#### Discuss

We were reminded of the connection between the darkness at the crucifixion and God's judgment being poured out on Christ. How does understanding the cross as a moment of divine judgment deepen your appreciation of Christ's substitutionary work? How should this shape the way we approach the Lord's Table?

The tearing of the temple curtain signaled the end of the old covenant system and the opening of access to God through Christ. What are some of the implications of this new access to God? In what ways do believers today still struggle to live as though access to God is truly open and complete?

Pastor Mark drew a parallel between the earth shaking at Mount Sinai and at Calvary. In what ways are the events at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19 and the crucifixion connected? How does this point to the work of Christ on our behalf as those who were subject to God's law?

How do the circumstances in Matthew 27:52-53 serve as a sign that death has been defeated? Why might this display of the power of resurrection inform the way we think about suffering, grief, and hope in this life?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 together as a group. How should these verses change the way we think about death and eternity? Who is someone you might be able to encourage with these truths over the course of this next week?

The centurion responded to the circumstances he witnessed by declaring, "Truly this was the Son of God." What aspects of the crucifixion narrative should cause us to respond with awe and reverent fear? What rhythms can we establish to cultivate this type of awe and reverent fear in our lives?