



Together for the 757

Impact Group Study: Minor Prophets

Together for the 757

We are part of a culture that celebrates the individual. And while it is true that God has wonderfully made and uniquely gifted each of us, He designed us for each other. He adopted us into a family and told us that we should be known by our love for one another. The church **together** is the strongest witness to our community.

So, this year we are diving headfirst into what this means. Our theme is ***Together for the 757***. Together we will study the 12 Minor Prophets. They are called Minor not because they are of lesser importance, but because their messages are shorter. While their messages may be brief, they pack a punch.

These sermons are delivered not to individuals but to nations. God's heart has always been to create a people for Himself, not merely people for Himself. These often neglected books will come alive as we see themes of justice, love, forgiveness, hope, goodness, respect, and more, all to be experienced together.

That's why I'm so glad that you are a part of an Impact Group. You are living what the prophets were trying to stir the nations up to do, and that is to come together to worship God as He desires. God created Israel to be a light to the nations. She never fulfilled God's intent for her. Now, God birthed His church to be light to the world. Jesus prayed that our unity would manifest itself in love, which would cause the world to believe in the one true God. We get to be the answer to Jesus' prayer as we come together, worship together, serve together ... ***Together for the 757***.

Week 1: Micah

Introduction

Micah introduces himself by telling us where he's from, Moresheth Gath. This was about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem on the border between Philistia and Judah. This was an agricultural part of the region, outside of the governmental centers. That knowledge gives us a little bit of insight into why Micah will stick up for the lowly and oppressed, spending much of his time addressing the powerful leaders in the capital cities of Judah and Israel.

Date

Micah is a pre-exilic prophet. His ministry occurred during the demise of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. This was a demise that Micah prophesied. He also spoke to Judah, who seemed on a roller coaster ride of sorts. During Micah's ministry Judah alternated between good and evil kings.

Purpose of the Prophecy

Micah paints a courtroom scene where God's people stand trial because of their unfaithfulness. This book demonstrates the just punishment that is coming to both Israel and Judah. God reminds his people how he looked after them and how he cared for them when they cared only for themselves. The book ends on a note of hope and a call to the Lord as the only source of salvation and mercy.

Primary Application for Today

Much of the sin mentioned in the book involved injustice toward the lowly. There are shady business deals, robbery, mistreatment of women and children, and a government that lived in luxury because of the hard work of the people. This book should cause us to stop and ask if there is any injustice in our own hearts and lives.

Week 1:
Micah 1:1-5:15
Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Introduction:

1. Introduce yourself and share your hopes for this Impact Group.
2. If you were with us as we went through several of the Minor Prophets in the fall, what do you remember? What impact did those books have?

Begin:

1. Have you ever been in a courtroom setting? What was that experience like?
2. Watch this link: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/micah/>

Explore:

1. Who is summoned in Micah 1:2? For what purpose?
2. Because of the judgment God is bringing to Samaria and Jerusalem, Micah mourns in Micah 1:8. Describe that mourning and the instructions he gives to the people in 1:10-16.
3. Look at Micah 2:1-2. How would you characterize that society?
4. In Micah chapter 3. what groups of people are addressed? How would you describe their leadership?
5. In chapter 4 we get a glimpse of the Lord's leadership. How does He lead differently?
6. According to Micah 5:2-6, what are some characteristics of the Messiah?

Week 1:
Micah 1:1-5:15
Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Apply:

1. Have you ever mourned over your sin? What would be some proper expressions of mourning today?
2. We see in this section that people lay in their beds plotting evil. What do you think about when you are lying in bed? How can we think rightly about God, our world, and our circumstances?
3. How does God lead you? How can we become sensitive to His leading and guidance in our lives?
4. We see some of the characteristics of Jesus in chapter 5. What are some characteristics of Jesus that are important to you, and how can you demonstrate them to others this week?

Week 2:
Micah 6:1-7:20
Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Review:

1. What has been one highlight and one frustration since the start of the new year?
2. Last week, we talked about demonstrating the character of Christ toward others. Did you have the opportunity to do that this past week?

Begin:

1. Have you witnessed a verdict being delivered in a court case? What is that moment like?
2. Can someone summarize the first half of Micah's prophecy that we talked about last week?

Explore:

1. Look at Micah 6:2. How is that similar to the beginning of the book? What is the point of that repetition?
2. In Micah 6:3-6, God asks Israel to remember what He had done for them. What examples does He give, and what makes those examples significant?
3. In Micah 6:8 God tells the people what he expects of them. Describe those expectations.
4. In Micah 6:9-16 we see that while the people forgot what God had done, God does not forget about what the people have done. What does that tell you about God and man?

Week 2:

Micah 6:1-7:20

Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Explore:

5. Look at Micah 7:1-7. Compare and contrast the response of the people and the response of Micah as the guilty verdict is delivered to Israel. What causes Micah to be able to respond to that verdict differently?
6. Look at Micah 7:14-20. How would you describe the ending of this prophecy. What does it say about God, who does not forget, that Micah's prophecy could end like this?

Apply:

1. We see from this section that it is easy to forget what God has done. Do you take the time in your family to remember what God has done in your lives? What do those moments look like?
2. We see that God requires that we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. What disciplines are needed for that to be true of us?
3. In a world full of bad news, how can we, like Micah, live with hope and optimism? What is the impact of Christians not living with hope and optimism?
4. How can you share hope this week?

Week 3: Jonah

Introduction

Jonah, whose name means “dove,” is perhaps the best known of the Minor Prophets. Even little children know about his adventure with a big fish. However, sometimes what is missed is his actual prophecy. A careful study of this prophecy reveals themes of God’s love for all humanity and what our attitude should be regardless of the task He calls us to.

Date

Jonah was a pre-exilic prophet. He prophesied during a time of relative prosperity and safety in Israel. But, Jonah wasn’t called to Israel. He was called to Assyria. Assyria was on the fast track to being not just a mere nation, but to becoming the evil superpower of the day. During the time of Jonah’s prophecy there was some infighting and internal disagreements taking place in Assyria, which likely contributed to their receptivity to Jonah’s message.

Purpose of the Prophecy

The book of Jonah is unique among the Minor Prophets because the book is more about a prophet than by a prophet. Most of the books have numerous oracles from prophets we don’t know a whole lot about. With Jonah, there is only one oracle, but we develop a good sense about the man. The primary point of the book is to demonstrate God’s love and concern for all people and his readiness to extend mercy to anyone if they will repent.

Primary Application for Today

The lessons we can take from the prophet Jonah are many. We should learn that we cannot run and hide from God, that any assignment he gives us is a privilege, that God can use difficult life circumstances to reach others, to love and care about all people, and so much more.

Week 3:
Jonah 1:1-2:10
Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Review:

1. What reasons have you had to be joyful this past week?
2. Last week, we talked about looking for opportunities to share hope and to be marked by our optimism and joy. Were you able to do that?

Begin:

1. Have you ever resisted doing something you knew was right? How was that experience?
2. Watch this link: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/jonah/>

Explore:

1. What could have been some of the reasons that Jonah resisted going to Assyria?
2. As Jonah flees from God in chapter 1, what happens? What does this say about God?
3. Look at Jonah 1:11-16. How difficult was it for the sailors to throw Jonah overboard?
4. Even in Jonah's disobedience, the Lord caused the big fish to swallow Jonah. What was the purpose of the fish swallowing Jonah? What could God have allowed to happen to Jonah? The fish was God's grace, but do you think it seemed like God's grace at the time?

Week 3:
Jonah 1:1-2:10
Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Explore:

5. In chapter 2, Jonah prays. What does Jonah remember? Based on that, would you say this is a prayer of desperation or a prayer of faith? Why?
6. Is Jonah's primary need a relationship with God or to be obedient in that relationship? What lessons can we take from that?

Apply:

1. Is there anything that God is calling you to that you've been resisting?
2. Have you ever experienced negative consequences because of poor choices you've made? Considering Jonah, what do you think the purpose of those negative consequences might be?
3. Jonah had a relationship with God but needed to grow in his obedience to God. What would be a next step of growth in your life?
4. Is there something radical and costly God is calling you towards as you make disciples?

Week 4:
Jonah 3:1-4:11
Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Review:

1. Did you do anything hard this last week?
2. Last week, we talked about how we all have a next step to take in our obedience to following Jesus. Were you able to begin taking that step this last week? If so, how is it going and if not, what is holding you back?

Begin:

1. Is there someone in your life that you would have a hard time seeing God go to special efforts for that person?
2. Can someone summarize the first half of Jonah's story that we talked about last week?

Explore:

1. In chapter 3, when God calls Jonah to go to Nineveh, how does Jonah respond?
2. How do the Assyrians respond to Jonah's message? What might have caused the Assyrians to respond so well?
3. Based on the repentance of the Assyrians, how did God respond? What does this say about God?
4. How did Jonah respond? What are the characteristics of God that Jonah complains about? Why might Jonah have responded this way?

Week 4:

Jonah 3:1-4:11

Together With Peace and Sacrifice

Explore:

5. God used a plant as an illustration for Jonah. What was God's point?
6. In Jonah's story, what did God do for Jonah and what did God do to Jonah? Do you think there were any lessons that Jonah failed to learn?

Apply:

1. God allowed Jonah to be his messenger to the Assyrians, even though Jonah didn't want to go. What does that say about God? How should Jonah have felt about everything? How should we feel about the opportunities God gives us?
2. How can we develop an attitude and a lifestyle that promotes seeing all people know and follow Jesus?
3. God asked Jonah what it profited him to be angry. Do you ever struggle with your emotions? What can we do when we know our emotions aren't lining up with what's true?
4. Jonah had some unlearned lessons that for us are obvious and ugly. What lessons do you still have to learn, and how can we avoid blind spots in our own lives?

Week 5: Habakkuk

Introduction

Habakkuk, whose name means “embrace,” truly embraced the cause of justice for his people. His prophecy, like Jonah’s, is unique among the Minor Prophets, but for a different reason. While the other prophets primarily represented God to the people. Habakkuk represents the people to God.

Date

Habakkuk is the last of the pre-exilic prophets. By this name, the Northern Kingdom Israel had long been captured by the Assyrians and so Habakkuk’s prophecy concerns God’s plans for the Southern Kingdom Judah. We are able to be quite precise with the dating of this prophecy because we know it occurred after the fall of Nineveh in 612 BC and before the invasion of the Babylonians in 605 BC.

Purpose of the Prophecy

The primary purpose of this prophecy is to show that God will use Babylon as a means of disciplining Judah. This is hard for the prophet to understand at first, because Habakkuk knows that Babylon is even more evil than Judah. However, the prophet comes to a place of trust in God to use even the wicked things of the world to bring about good.

Primary Application for Today

The primary lesson for Christians today is that we live by faith more than by reason or feelings. We should have faith that even when we can’t see or understand how, God is at work, even using the evil things of this world to bring about good.

Week 5:
Habakkuk 1:1-2:1
Together With Faith and Justice

Review:

1. What was something that you learned this last week?
2. Last week, we talked about the privilege of God using us, sometimes even in situations we don't want. What were some ways you saw God use you this past week?

Begin:

1. Have you ever had a conversation take an unexpected turn?
2. Watch this link: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/habakkuk/>

Explore:

1. How does Habakkuk begin his conversation with God? What is bothering him?
2. How does God begin His response in verse 5? What does this tell us about divine answers to human problems?
3. Look at Habakkuk 1:6-11. What is God's answer? How are the Chaldeans (i.e., Babylonians) described? How does this response align with the character of God?
4. Look at Habakkuk 1:12-17. What does Habakkuk know to be true about God? What is Habakkuk struggling with now? Which do you think was harder to think: God was absent or to know He will use evil people to enact discipline?

Week 5:

Habakkuk 1:1-2:1

Together With Faith and Justice

Explore:

5. Despite his confusion, what does Habakkuk do in 2:1? What does this say about Habakkuk?
6. What do you learn about evil, faith, humanity, and God from this section?

Apply:

1. Do you have any questions for God? If you did not like the answers to some of those Questions, how would that effect your view of God?
2. When life doesn't make sense to you, what is your first reaction? What should it be?
3. Have you ever seen God use evil for good in your life? How can we develop a long-term vision of life, rather than being so consumed with our present circumstances?
4. When life is hard and confusing, what do you do? We saw that Habakkuk was determined to remain faithful to where God had stationed him. What are the benefits of serving even when life is hard? Where has God stationed you? What has He called you to do there?

Week 6:

Habakkuk 2:2-3:19

Together With Faith and Justice

Review:

1. Did you have any interesting conversations this last week?
2. Last week, we talked about being faithful even when life is hard and confusing. Did you have any opportunities to walk in faithful obedience even when things didn't make sense this week?

Begin:

1. How would you define trust?
2. Can someone summarize the first half of Habakkuk's conversation that we talked about last week?

Explore:

1. As God answers Habakkuk the 2nd time, what does He want Habakkuk to do (Hab. 2:2)? What would be the purpose of that?
2. In Habakkuk 2:4, God tells Habakkuk something that is repeated numerous times in the Bible, "the righteous shall live by faith." What does that mean?
3. In Habakkuk 2:6-20, God pronounces a series of woes against the Babylonians. What are they guilty of?
4. In chapter 3, Habakkuk remembers God's faithfulness to Judah. What causes him to reflect upon those memories?

Week 6:
Habakkuk 2:2-3:19
Together With Faith and Justice

Explore:

5. Look at Habakkuk 3:17-19. How would you describe the end of this prophecy? How had Habakkuk's faith grown?
6. Do you think Habakkuk understood why God was doing what He was doing by the end of this conversation?

Apply:

1. What does this conversation between Habakkuk and God teach you about prayer?
2. If God can use unbelieving, evil people like the Babylonians to accomplish His purposes, what does that say about how God can use us?
3. We see in this passage that it is possible to be used by God and still judged for sin. How should that effect the way we live and serve?
4. Habakkuk ends by essentially saying even when everything seems bad, he will praise God because God is still praiseworthy. What does praising God in the storms of life produce?

Week 7: Nahum

Introduction

The name Nahum means “consoler.” He was given a specific mission and that was to tell Assyria of the judgment that would soon be coming against them. This might not seem very consoling, but for God’s people, who had suffered under the rule of this brutal empire, it surely must have brought some comfort.

Date

No king is mentioned in Nahum so as to provide a precise date. However, enough background is given to know that by this time Assyria has conquered the Northern Kingdom, Israel, but has not yet fallen. Therefore, most scholars estimate that this prophecy probably took place somewhere between 630 and 615 BC.

Purpose of the Prophecy

Nahum is the second prophet (Jonah) to deal with the Assyrians. His message is that God’s wrath is slow but certain for those who are godless and evil. He also stresses God’s mercy for those who repent and seek refuge in God.

Primary Application for Today

There are times that we sense the darkness in the world around us. Nahum lived during a very dark time. The faithful few must have wondered how long they would have to resist cultural and spiritual compromise. Nahum reminds us that God is at work even in the darkest moments to bring justice and hope to a weary world.

Week 7:
Nahum 1:1-15
Together With Faith and Justice

Review:

1. How have you been encouraged by our Impact Group so far?
2. Last week we discussed the importance of praising God even in the storms of life. What are you praising God for in your life?

Begin:

1. Have you ever seen someone get a leg up because of their evil character?
2. Watch this link: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/nahum/>

Explore:

1. How does Nahum describe God in Nahum 1:2-8? Does he highlight any characteristics of God that you often don't think about?
2. How is Assyria described in verses 9-11?
3. What is the fate of Assyria in verses 12-14? What would make this message difficult to believe?
4. What is Judah instructed to do in verse 15? What makes that important?
5. What do you think Judah might have been thinking as they saw Assyria conquer Israel and continue to thrive despite their evil ways?
6. What do you learn about sin and God from this first section of Nahum?

Week 7:
Nahum 1:1-15
Together With Faith and Justice

Apply:

1. Oftentimes, we see the prophets begin an oracle by talking about the character of God. How often do you reflect on the character of God? What is some good that comes from that?
2. Evil does seem to prosper for a time. How would you counsel a friend who is tempted to cut some corners?
3. Sometimes the consequences for sin can take a long time before being fully realized. What does that say about God? How should that cause us to look at situations? What is the benefit of sometimes having delayed justice?
4. God called Judah to focus on the feasts and their faith. Where should our focus be today?

Week 8:
Nahum 2:1-3:19
Together With Faith and Justice

Review:

1. Between Micah, Jonah, Habakkuk, and the first part of Nahum, has there been a prophet that you have really resonated with so far?
2. Last week we talked about focusing on Jesus while living in a sin-cursed world. Were you able to bring the light of Jesus into any of the places where you live, work, study, or play this past week?

Begin:

1. Have you ever seen a movie that ends on a sour note? How did that leave you feeling?
2. Can someone summarize the first half of Nahum's prophecy that we talked about last week?

Explore:

1. Read Nahum 2:1-10. What is going to happen to Assyria? What might it have been like if you were living through this?
2. What are the Assyrians screaming for in this section, and what does God instruct Assyria's captors to do?
3. Look at Nahum 2:11-13. What causes God to do this? What is the biblical principle being taught in this section?
4. Read Nahum 3:1-7. Here Assyria is compared to a "prostitute." In what way is she a prostitute? How will the nations respond to Assyria's demise?

Week 8:
Nahum 2:1-3:19
Together With Faith and Justice

Explore:

5. Look at Nahum 3:14-19. What does the prophet sarcastically tell the Assyrians to do to no avail? What will become of Assyria's military strength?
6. Describe the ending of this prophecy. How is it different than the other prophets? What would be the reason(s) that the prophecy ends this way?

Apply:

1. What do you learn about humanity and God from this section? How are God's goodness and justice demonstrated in this book?
2. Nahum, while preaching about Assyria, delivered his message in Judah. What would have been the proper response for the people of Judah as they heard this message? What lessons are we to take from this prophecy today?
3. Where does your confidence lie regarding your safety and security? How can we grow in our confidence in Jesus, and how do we impart that confidence to others?
4. While hope is not at the forefront of this prophecy, what hope can be derived from this book?

Week 9:
Luke 23:24
“Father, forgive them”

Review:

1. How has studying the Minor Prophets encouraged and challenged you?
2. Last week we talked about imparting the confidence we have in God to others. How did you do that this week?

Begin:

1. Do you have any Easter traditions?
2. As an Impact Group, let's work on memorizing the 7 statements of Jesus from the cross. This week we'll focus on the first two: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" and "Today you will be with Me in paradise." As a group, without looking, let's say those two statements 3 times.

Explore:

1. What strikes you about the first statement Jesus spoke from the cross?
2. Who was Jesus referring to in this statement?
3. What was the condition of the people when forgiveness was offered?
4. While forgiveness was offered to everyone, would everyone experience the joy of forgiveness? Why or why not?

Week 9:
Luke 23:34
“Father, forgive them”

Explore:

5. In what ways did the people not know what they were doing? If they did know what they were doing, what would they have done?
6. Compare and contrast the knowledge and the power of Jesus to the knowledge and the power of the people. Considering that, what makes their actions so remarkable?

Apply:

1. Is there anyone in your life whom you need to forgive? What makes forgiveness difficult?
2. Sometimes you will hear someone say, “I know God forgives me, but I just can’t forgive myself.” How would you counsel someone who is trapped in this fallacy?
3. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and bless those who curse us, and to forgive 70 times 7. He also tells us to shake the dust off our feet as a testimony against those who will not listen. How do we apply both?
4. How should we deal with recurring offenses that open up old wounds?

Week 10:

Luke 23:43

“Today, you will be with Me in paradise”

Review:

1. We recognize that Jesus has made us for relationships. How are those relationships tested and challenged on Earth?
2. Last week we talked about forgiveness. Did you experience any offense this last week that you were able to extend forgiveness?

Begin:

1. Has someone ever told you something that was almost impossible to believe, but it turned out to be true?
2. As an Impact Group, we're working on memorizing the 7 statements of Jesus from the cross. Last week we focused on the first two: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" and "Today you will be with Me in paradise." As a group, without looking, let's say those two statements 3 times. Now, let's add the next two: "Woman, behold your son" and "Why have You forsaken Me?" Let's now say all 4 statements, without looking, 3 times.

Explore:

1. What strikes you about Jesus' 2nd statement from the cross?
2. Did the criminal who was asking to be remembered deserve to be remembered? What would cause Jesus to make this promise?
3. In this scene, Jesus was crucified with two other men. How do those crucifixions reflect all of humanity?
4. What does it say about Jesus that as He was about to undergo the most important death in all of history, He could still have a conversation with the criminals next to Him?

Week 10:
Luke 23:43

“Today, you will be with Me in paradise

Explore:

5. The criminal realized that he was punished justly for his sin—in other words, he deserved to die for what he had done—and at the same time paradise could be offered to him. What do you learn about sin, consequences, and grace from this scene?
6. What do you learn about salvation from this scene?

Apply:

1. If Jesus would treat a criminal who deserves to die this way, what does that tell you about how we should treat others?
2. The other criminal joined in with the crowd, hurling insults at Jesus even from his cross. Have you ever just joined in with the crowd? How do we learn to follow Jesus even when the crowd doesn't?
3. Jesus, with all that was going on, was in the moment to have a conversation. How do we develop the skills of listening well and having real conversations with people? What is the value of having a meaningful conversation?
4. We see that Jesus is great enough that anyone can be saved. How can you take your light to wherever you live, work, study, and play this week? What is your strategy for making disciples?

Week 11:

John 19:26-27

“Woman, behold your son”

Review:

1. We've seen, even from the cross, how important relationships are to Jesus. What relationships in life do you treasure?
2. Last week we talked about a strategy for making disciples. How did that strategy play out this last week?

Begin:

1. What are your most favorite things about your family?
2. As an Impact Group we're working on memorizing the 7 statements of Jesus from the cross. So far we've got the first 4: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do," "Today you will be with Me in paradise," "Woman, behold your son," and "Why have You forsaken Me?" Let's now say, all 4 statements without looking 3 times. And let's add the final three statements, "I thirst," "Into Your hands I commit My spirit," and "It is finished." Now, let's say all 6 without looking.

Explore:

1. What strikes you about Jesus' 3rd statement from the cross?
2. How might Mary have felt in the moment? Look at the words Simeon spoke to Mary in Luke 2:34-35. Do you think she was feeling that pierce of the sword in her soul now?
3. The crucifixion had happened so fast, and yet on the cross what does this statement show Jesus is concerned about?
4. What does it say about Jesus that He wanted to make sure his mother was taken care of once He was gone?

Week 11:
John 19:26-27
“Woman, behold your son”

Explore:

5. Read 1 Tim. 5:8 and consider this example of Jesus. What are the implications for our own familial relationships from Jesus' example?
6. How do we reconcile our responsibility to our families with our commitment to Jesus in light of statements from Jesus like “Anyone who does not hate his father and mother is not worthy of Me?”

Apply:

1. When you love much, you open yourself up for pain. Have you experienced that?
2. How are your relationships within your family? Are there any relationships you would like to grow in?
3. With all that was happening to Him, Jesus still maintained a focus on others. How can we live others-centered lives?
4. How we interact with our family is often one of our greatest testimonies to a watching world. What are some rhythms that your family has intentionally developed so that the testimony of your family is strong and impactful to others? Are there any new rhythms you would like to start?

Week 12:
Matthew 27:46
“Why have You forsaken Me?”

Review:

1. How has this Impact Group encouraged and challenged you? How have you grown in your relationship with Jesus and others over the last 12 weeks?
2. Last week we talked about the importance of family. Did your family start any new rhythms this last week?

Begin:

1. As a Group, we've been working on memorizing all 7 statements of Jesus from the cross. They are: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do," "Today you will be with Me in paradise," "Woman, behold your son," "Why have You forsaken Me?," "I thirst," "Into Your hands I commit My spirit," and "It is finished." Now, let's say all 7, without looking, 3 times.
2. How have these 7 statements from the cross impacted you?

Explore:

1. What strikes you about Jesus' 4th statement from the cross?
2. To "forsake" means to abandon or to leave helpless. What insight do we get concerning the emotion of Jesus in this moment?
3. Jesus had experienced a lot in his time on earth, but this is the first time He'd truly felt alone. Which pain do you think was greater—the physical pain of the crucifixion or the spiritual and emotional pain of being cut off momentarily from God the Father?
4. What was Jesus bearing at this time, and because of that what was He experiencing?

Week 12:
Matthew 27:46
“Why have You forsaken Me?”

Explore:

5. Was this a cry of distress or distrust? What does it say about Jesus that He could remain faithful even while being cut off to bear the sin of the world when He, Himself, had never sinned?
6. When Jesus cries out, He is quoting from Psalm 22 (a messianic psalm). That is the same psalm His tormentors mocked Him with. What is Jesus communicating by quoting from the same psalm they used in jest?

Apply:

1. Have you ever felt alone? How does it impact you to know that Jesus knows that feeling?
2. Jesus remained faithful even while unjustly enduring so much and being momentarily cut off from God the father. How can we remain faithful when life is unfair and we feel alone?
3. Do you think God has ever cried out about us, “My child, My child why have you forsaken Me?” Would that cry be warranted?
4. The only reason Jesus felt that abandonment was because of our sin. What does that tell you about Jesus? How then, can we demonstrate that type of love to others?



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