

Small Group Guide: "The Last-Minute Yes"

Series: Bad Boys of Easter

Week 4: The Criminal on the Cross

Scripture Focus: Luke 23:32–43

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for His grace and patience with us. Ask Him to help you see Him clearly—not through your circumstances, but through Jesus. Pray for hearts that are open to surrender.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Have you ever realized too late that you should have done something differently? What did that moment feel like?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- Things are not always as they appear – Our experiences can distort how we see God.
- We often confuse life with God – When life is good, we assume God is good; when life is hard, we question Him.
- Two people can experience the same circumstances but respond very differently.
- One criminal wanted rescue, not repentance.
- The other criminal chose surrender over control.
- Salvation is not about timing—it's about surrender.
- You don't need to fix your life before coming to Jesus—you bring your need.

Discussion Questions (30–40 minutes)

Read Luke 23:39–43. What differences do you notice between the two criminals?

Why do you think one saw Jesus clearly while the other didn't?

When have your circumstances shaped how you viewed God?

Which response do you relate to most right now—and why?

Where are you wanting God to fix your situation more than transform your heart?

Practical Applications (15 minutes)

Identify one area you are struggling to surrender.

Pray daily: "Jesus, help me trust you with this."

Take one step this week that reflects trust instead of control.

Closing Exercise (10 minutes)

Complete this sentence: "One thing I need to surrender to Jesus this week is..."

Challenge for the Week

Every day, pray: "Jesus, I trust you with this."