

TALK IT OVER

Small Group Discussion The Cross

PRAYER:

Pray for the needs represented in your group:

SHARING:

What does the cross of Jesus mean to you?

What was it like for you (before coming to know Jesus) to reject the notion of a God who died on a cross? How did you come to a place of faith in Christ and the value of the Cross?

Explain why people reject the cross (in your own words) and what you believe people are looking for from God? (what do they want God to do or be for them, rather than them having a gift from God, the Cross?)

We keep trying to make Jesus the Savior we want.

The very things that Jesus had were not the things we wanted Jesus to have.

READ:

Isaiah 53:1–12

Take frequent stops as someone reads the passage aloud. Raise your hand when you want the reader to stop and make a comment on the portion just read.

Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus and the Cross is amazing and so enlightening.

Isaiah 53:4-6 gives God's description of people.

What are people like? What is every human's true nature? How do your friends, family or coworkers respond to the idea that people are naturally sinful? How do people respond when you use the word sin, instead of mistake?

Why are people bent on having their own way?

How can we take steps to show our neighbors and friends the value of the love of God? What have you found to be a benefit in sharing faith with them?

DISCUSSION:

What sticks out to you the most from our teaching?

REVIEW and DISCUSS:

1/ God's plan was different from the Jesus people wanted, so God knew we would miss Jesus when He came.

The cross is the perfect mirror of the human condition.

The cross is a reminder that Jesus took our place and stood in our space.

2/ God's purpose was to tell the story behind the story: God is love!

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. (NIV)

The cross cannot be understood apart from love.

PRAYER:

Pray for those far from God (first name only)

Pray for our church's efforts at Easter. Who will you invite? Pray for them.

April 14, 2019

