

Good Friday Discussion Guide

March 30, 2018

Read Luke 23:26-56

Why is Good Friday “Good”?

When Jesus died the disciples thought they had lost. Jesus said He'd do some radical things like rebuild the temple, save His people from the bad guys, and usher the Kingdom of God into the world. But then – He died. It was over. Jesus never did what He set out to do. Everything the disciples had thought they'd been pouring the last few years of their lives into was all lost. But still, didn't Jesus talk about tearing down the temple before rebuilding it? Didn't He admit He had to die? Didn't He say something about rising again in a few days? Either way, all they knew was that they had to watch their friend die a brutal death on a cross, He was gone, and all they could do now was grieve and wait.

What does Good Friday mean for us?

We cannot look at the resurrection and forget that Jesus died. Conversely, we shouldn't look at the death of Jesus and forget that He rose again. They go together. Jesus would think it silly to discuss one without the other. BUT each changes how we see the other. When He died, the disciples were lost. They didn't know what to do. They didn't know what was about to happen. And when Jesus rose again, the way the disciples would reinterpret His death a few days earlier would change and be passed down through future generations forever. When He rose again, they went from believing: (1) they lost, (2) death defeated Him, and (3) the world would then stay the same, to looking back on His death and seeing that: (1) they won, (2) He defeated death, and (3) the world would never be the same.

Why did He have to die? To defeat death Jesus couldn't just get close to death – He had to embrace it. And because He as a human died for the sins of humans, sin was defeated as well. For forgiveness, death was necessary. The resurrection also was necessary.

On the original Good Friday Jesus died. That was it. Now on Good Friday, we have the privilege of knowing the whole story. Jesus rose again! He beat death! He beat sin! We are forgiven and can now enter into the presence of and relationship with a perfect God!

Some questions to discuss with your family:

- How does it feel to lose even when you've done the best you can? What emotions do you experience when this happens? What would it take to get past those emotions?
- Why would the disciples think it would have been weird to call this Friday good?
- Why do the death and the resurrection have to go together? Why can't we just have the death? Why can't we just have the resurrection?
- Why did the resurrection change how the disciples and the church saw the death of Jesus forever?

