

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE CUP" APRIL 02 & 03

SERIES OVERVIEW:

More than any other historical figure Jesus has been studied and written about and yet so many still wonder, who is Jesus, really? Cutting through the noise is the fast paced action packed Gospel of Mark. Mark presents the life of Jesus in two symmetrical acts: His IDENTITY as the King over all things and His PURPOSE in dying on the cross. As we explore the life of Jesus we will find Him to be unpredictable but reliable, meek but powerful, authoritative but humble, human but divine. As we encounter Jesus we must all consider the significance of the life of Jesus the King in our own lives.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE:

About 3 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

A seconds to read

Jesus is overwhelmed by the task that lies before Him, so much so that He begs His Father to take away The Cup of suffering that He must drink. And yet through the anguish of knowing that He would drink the full wrath of God, Jesus shows us the power of obedience that is rooted in love.



April 2 & 3, 2022

"Abba, Father," [Jesus] cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." - Mark 14:36 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Mark 14:32-36.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?
Be curious...and then do it.



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

3

INTRO QUESTIONS:

About 10 minutes

What is your "go-to" when you face difficulties? (a run, a nap, a friend/family member, a food, other?) Describe why.

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

In the Old Testament the cup is a metaphor for the wrath of God. (See Ezekiel 23:28-35 and Isaiah 51:22.) Jesus did more than die - He took on Himself all sin from all mankind and drank the cup of wrath on our behalf. Most people don't like to think about the wrath of God placed on them personally, but do want a God who fights against the evil atrocities in this world. Why is it beneficial that our God has righteous anger against evil, and is willing to do something about it? How does understanding the extent of God's wrath help you understand the extent of His love?

In Jesus's suffering and grief He: 1) Reaches out to his closest friends to be with Him and pray for Him 2) Prays for Himself asking the Father for it to be taken away and 3) He submits to His Father's will in the situation. Have you tried these practices in your life in the midst of suffering, doubts, or fears? If so, what have you found to be helpful and what is challenging for you?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 5 minutes

Read this section aloud. Ask the group to think of a particular situation they are facing this week. Discuss: What would it look like to surrender to God's will in this situation?

Invite the group to pray this suggested prayer each day and discuss next week any observations about how God was at work.

TAKE IT DEEPER



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



REACH

Live It Out

*Jesus demonstrates total surrender to God's will. What might it look like for you to surrender to God in the same way this week? Begin with this prayer each day, **"Father, may your will be done in me and through me today."** Then watch for opportunities to live this out, trusting the Holy Spirit to empower and lead you.*

Pray

As you pray, imagine being in the garden with Jesus. Notice anything that stirs your thoughts and emotions and talk to God about that.

Explore calling God Abba or Daddy in prayer. Express to God what this feels like and wait for his response.

Thank Jesus for pushing through unimaginable suffering for you and for the sake of the world which he loves.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 10 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a few moments of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally. Break into pairs. What current suffering, doubts, or fears are asking Abba Father to take from you today? How might you ask God to trust Him and His will to be done in this situation? Share with your partner and pray now for each other.

The leader may close the group with the following prayer leaving a time of silence where noted:

"Dear Jesus, we remember your time in the garden and what you faced on our behalf. We sit with you in that place thanking You and being present with You now... [silent prayer] Abba Father, Daddy, thank You for being a good, good Father who loves us and is willing to protect us against evil. We bring our thoughts and emotions that are stirring in us now and listen to what You are saying to us... [silent prayer] Jesus, thank You for pushing through unimaginable suffering for each of us here and for the sake of the whole world. Thank you for loving us with unimaginable love. Amen."