

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE SWORD" APRIL 09 & 10

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 came to wield The Sword, but it was not the sword of rebellion as the world knows it. Jesus came to turn everything upside down by standing firm and showing that real power is found in suffering and serving.

3

INTRO QUESTIONS:

About 10 minutes

Who is your favorite superhero from comics or films and why?

Many times superheroes pay the price for doing the right thing to save others, while the villain tries to take power and innocent people pay the price. What about heroes is so attractive?



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Jesus asked them, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me?" - Mark 14:48 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Mark 14:43:52.

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.

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read John 18: 1-11. In this passage in the gospel of John, how does the world try to wield power and how does Jesus show his power?

Different kingdoms place different values on the things of life. Read Luke 6:20-22, 24-26. Describe what is important in the kingdom of heaven verses the kingdom of this world.

We tend to be like Peter - we want to follow Jesus, but too easily reach for the sword when challenges confront us. Consider a situation where you are tempted to reach for a metaphoric sword. What would Jesus have you reach for instead, in order to bring the Kingdom of heaven to earth?

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?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 5 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to pray this suggested prayer each day. Next time discuss what this practice resulted in for you.

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out

Jesus gives us a living example of humility and power that is demonstrated in suffering and serving. How is God calling you to become more like Jesus this week by following his example? Offer yourself to God in prayer and set your heart to live this out.

Pray

As you look to Jesus' example, invite God to give you a whole new perspective on what real power is.

Put yourself in this narrative of Jesus' arrest. Talk to God about what that must have been like and about any thoughts and emotions that you notice.

Thank God for his beautiful, counterintuitive plan to send Jesus to suffer in your place, for your sins.

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. Close in a time of popcorn prayer. The leader will open and close the prayer.