

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday April 5, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Mark 15:15–39**, we see a moment where Jesus is not trying to prove Himself through power, but inviting people to recognize Him through sacrifice. He is not avoiding suffering or silencing the crowd—He is willingly laying down His life. Many of us wrestle with the tension between wanting clarity and certainty, yet being asked to trust and believe in moments that feel confusing or uncomfortable. This passage moves us from observing what happened to considering how we respond personally. The goal is not just to understand the cross, but to decide what we believe about Jesus and how that shapes our lives.

Main Passage:

Mark 15:15–39

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Last Breath!

READ ALOUD

Mark 15:15–39

Opening Question: When have you experienced a moment that changed how you saw something or someone?

- What stands out to you about how Jesus is treated in this passage?
- What do you notice about how different people respond to Jesus?
- What does this passage reveal about who Jesus is and what He came to do?
- How might this passage challenge the way people typically think about power, control, or success?

APPLY

- What is one area of your life where you struggle to fully trust Jesus right now?
- Where might you be influenced more by the “crowd” than by what you know is true?
- What would it look like to respond to Jesus personally instead of just observing Him?

RESPOND

- What is one step you can take this week to respond to who Jesus is?
- Who is someone you could talk to or pray for as a result of this conversation?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Read Aloud: Continue reading Mark 15:40–47 or into Mark 16:1–8

- What do you notice about who stays near Jesus after His death?
- How does this section deepen your understanding of what just happened?
- What themes continue from the crucifixion into what follows?

PRAY

Take a moment to quietly reflect on what stood out to you. Ask God to help you trust Him where it feels difficult. Bring before Him any areas of doubt, fear, or resistance. If needed, ask for forgiveness and a renewed heart. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice, His grace, and His power to change your life.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Mark 15:15–39

- What happened to Jesus in this story?
- How did different people treat Jesus?
- What does this story show us about who Jesus is?
- Why do you think this moment is important?

For younger children: Encourage them: “Jesus loves you and chose to give His life for you, you can trust Him.”

For older kids or students: What does it mean for you personally to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Mark 16:1–4
- **Day 2:** Mark 16:5–8
- **Day 3:** Mark 16:9–11
- **Day 4:** Mark 16:12–14
- **Day 5:** Mark 16:15–20

What's Going On?

This passage captures the crucifixion of Jesus, the central moment in the Gospel story. It reveals both human rejection and divine purpose, Jesus willingly lays down His life, and even in His death, people begin to recognize who He truly is.

A Bit of Background

Crucifixion was a Roman execution method designed for public humiliation and slow death. Victims were placed low enough for people to see them closely, reinforcing fear and control.

The centurion's response is significant because, as a Roman outsider, he recognizes something about Jesus that many insiders missed.