

Vision Based Curriculum

Honor God ...
Make Disciples

March 26, 2017

Warm Up

As He hung on the cross between two criminals after being brutally beaten and mocked, Jesus could have focused on His own problems. Instead, by using His experience with crucifixion; to minister to the criminal who hung next to Him, Jesus taught us that we can take what we are going through and help others who are experiencing similar struggles. We are called to use our gifts and passions to serve others, and we minister best from the place we have struggled the most. Ministering to others shifts our focus from our own needs but also helps us to see the solution to the problems we face. Helping others through their struggles puts our problems in perspective and reminds us that there is purpose in our pain. When we use our challenges to help others, God steps in to offer them stability, support and salvation. We can keep an eternal perspective when times are difficult by remembering that Jesus offers us more than a better now; He offers a better place.

Word

“One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”” (Luke 23:39–43, ESV)

Application

- Think of a time when you were struggling and someone was there for you. How did this person help you get through your difficult situation? Discuss why it is important to have close friends who support you when you struggle and why being involved in a small group is essential.
- Why do you think it’s difficult for people to admit that they are struggling? How can you make sure you don’t disqualify yourself from helping others when you face your own

struggles? Discuss the ways God can teach you as you help someone else through a difficult situation.

- We are called to serve others by using our gifts, passions and our difficult experiences. Discuss how serving others can change your perspective. Share what you have learned from helping others through difficult situations.

Prayer

- Thank God for the community of believers He has placed you in. Thank Him for your Pastors, leaders, and friends.
- Pray that you would help one another honor and obey God always. Pray that the Church would always be united in fulfilling God's purpose on earth.
- Pray that the gospel would continue to be preached and more disciples would be made through the Church.
- Pray for our Easter efforts.
- Pray for you "One" that you will be inviting.

Engage

Areas your group can engage in as we approach Easter Sunday:

- "Invite Your One" –Write that person's name down and begin now to pray for them as a group.
- "Go Bags" – Engage your group in our efforts with our GO BAGS