

Vision Based Curriculum

Honor God ...
Make Disciples

April 9, 2017

Warm Up

In the days leading up to Easter, it's important for us to take time to fix our eyes on the cross and reflect on the greatest event in human history. When Jesus was crucified, there were many spectators present, and it's interesting to think about the variety of reactions found in that crowd. Many were totally unaware of the significance of the moment, some choosing to mock Jesus, some simply observing. Others, however, like Jesus' mother Mary and John the disciple, stood before the cross aching for their Savior, recognizing the magnitude of His sacrifice, trying to simultaneously process incredible loss and hold onto hope. Mary, John, and those like them were fully aware, fully present, and fully engaged at the cross. The cross is a place a price was paid, releasing each of us from the debt of our sin, which would have led to our eternal death. It's a place where decisions are made. There is no neutrality when people face the reality of the cross; they say yes to Jesus, or they say no. The cross is a place of new beginnings, providing a clean slate for each of us who call Jesus, "Lord." It's a place of hope for the future. It's a place of healing. And it's a place of freedom. As we reflect on these truths this week, may God draw us even closer to Himself, and may our hearts be stirred for those who need to know the freedom found at the cross. Let's ask God to lead us to those who need to hear the Easter message this Sunday and be obedient to invite them to join us!

Word

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16–17, ESV)

Application

- Talk about the crucifixion of Jesus and what it must have been like to be there in person. How do you feel when you reflect on the events of that day?

- Discuss the truths of reaching people that PJR talked about Sunday. Which of these is most greatly hitting your heart in the days leading up to Easter this year?
- Talk about your inner response as you reflect on the truths of the cross. How is God moving you to reach out to others this Easter? Who has He put on your heart to invite to an Easter service this year?

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.
- Thank Jesus for His incredible sacrifice on the cross.
- Thank Him for all of the amazing benefits you experience because of His great act of love.
- Praise Him for paying your debt, for giving you a new beginning, for giving you hope for the future, for healing you, for setting you free.
- Ask God to reveal even more to you about the implications of the cross.
- Pray for those you know who are lost, and ask God who He wants you to invite to Easter this year. Ask Him for boldness, wisdom, and opportunity to invite them.

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