

Questions for the Week



Connect (pick 1 question to ask the group)

1. Where have you seen God working in your life this week?
2. What are you trusting God for this week?

Study (Luke 23:26-43)

1. Which character in this story stands out to you the most and why?
2. In verse 34 Jesus asks for the Father to forgive them for what they “are doing.” He is offering forgiveness while they are committing the sin. How does it affect your perception of Jesus to know he offers forgiveness not only for your past, but for your present?
3. It’s easier to forgive someone for what they did than what they are doing. Is there anything going on in your life right now for which you need to offer forgiveness while it is happening instead of waiting for the situation to end?
4. Why do you think the two criminals had such different reactions to Jesus?
5. Have you ever found yourself reacting in anger to someone else’s goodness? Why do you think you reacted that way?

Reflect

1. Based on this passage, is there anything you personally need to confess, consider, or surrender to God?
2. Is there any relationship or situation in your life that this story applies to?

Leader Notes

Scholars agree that the Gospel of Luke uniquely emphasizes the way Jesus forgives and welcomes those who would have been religious outcasts. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than Jesus forgiving his Roman killers and the thief crucified next to him. As humans our natural reaction is to look at the people around us and think “at least I’m not like them.” Jesus removes our ability to compare ourselves to other by offering forgiveness to the person we look down on in the same way he offers it to us. Humility means accepting the unmerited grace of Jesus and giving that grace to others who do not deserve it.