



Life Group Story Guide (Week 5)

Theme: “Raising The Bar: Moving Beyond The Rules”, **Story Guide 5: Luke 23:32-49** (JESUS And The Two Criminals)

Open in Prayer, Welcome, Introductions & Review of Life Group Guidelines

Hook Question: Can you recall a story or personal experience where you or someone you know had to figuratively step down, so that someone else could step up? Please share.

Background of tonight’ story: For those unfamiliar, JESUS is the main character in the Bible. He refers to Himself as the Son of Man, He was born of the Virgin Mary, and He begins to perform what was recorded as miracles and teachings in His adult life to the Jewish people. This, however, creates a conflict with the religious leaders of the Jewish people at the time known as the Pharisees. Although sound and truthful, many of the works and teachings of JESUS created a discrepancy with the lifestyle and teachings of the Pharisees. For this reason, the Pharisees sought to kill JESUS using the politics of the Roman Empire. Today, we'll dive into the following events that transpired leading to JESUS' death.

Tell the Story: This week’s Bible passage is found in **Luke 23:32-49**

Rebuild the Story

Read the Story out loud (look for additions or omissions)

Questions:

- According to the Old Testament, a sacrifice was offered at the 9th hour. In verse 44 of the passage we read, the text mentions how the Earth was darkened until the 9th hour, while JESUS hung on the cross right before He died. Is there a correlation between these two? Share your thoughts.
- Had you hung on a cross too, which of the criminals do you think you would have identified the most with?
- How does the way JESUS died speak volumes to the way in which He loves you?
- We read in verse 45, the veil in the temple that traditionally separated the people from GOD’S presence, broke, splitting in two as JESUS is giving His last breath. Is there a veil in your life that you need JESUS to split so that you can once again or for the first time enter into His presence? Please share.

Review & Retell the Story

Assign Next Week's Story: Psalm 23:1-6

Close in Prayer