

DISCUSSIONNOTES

3.31.19

[O P T I C S]

Jamie explained how he wants us to see the cross through the eyes of Jesus' disciples, His closest friends. "They had heavy hearts because of the cross. I want us to try to understand their thoughts and feel their emotions. But most important, I want us to feel their joy when they found the true meaning of the cross." Read **John 16:33**. What can happen if we forget about this verse? How did Jamie tie this verse in with his sermon?

"It is incredible, but the cross, originally a symbol of suffering and shame, has become a symbol of endurance and pride." Read **Galatians 6:14**. Have you ever had the wrong idea about Jesus, and/or the cross? Jamie explained the disciples were disillusioned with Jesus. They were disappointed even though Jesus told them many times what was to happen. Read **Luke 9:44-45** and **Luke 24:21**. How can we shift our focus to what Jesus has already told us instead of what we want, think and hope for? What can we learn from the disciples in this scenario? Discuss.

Read **2 Corinthians 10:3-4** and **1 John 2:17**. "The weapons we use are not weapons of the world." How does the cross have the power to lead us to victory here on earth? How can we use the cross as a weapon? After discussion, read **1 Corinthians 1:24-25** and **1 Corinthians 1:18**. Did your answers match or go along with these verses? If someone asked you what the cross meant, or "what is a cross?" what would you tell them?

Read **Isaiah 53:3-6**. Though it's hard to think about the horrible and distressing picture Isaiah paints for us, two facts changed the cross from a symbol of suffering to a symbol of hope and victory.

1. **The resurrection of Jesus.** Read **Romans 1:4**.
2. **The purpose of the cross changed everything.** Read **Hebrews 9:22**.

Read **1 Peter 1:18-20**. How does this make you feel? It's easy to be saddened and feel burdened with what Jesus went through for us, but as Charles Swindoll puts it, "*If you look at the cross and just decide, "Too bad," you don't understand the truth about Jesus. When we see the cross in light of the empty tomb we can say, "Totally awesome! Jesus Christ lives! He has conquered sin and death."*" What does the cross mean to you? What speaks to you most about what Jesus has done for you in your life? Explain.

Close in prayer by sharing any needs that need to be prayed over with your group. Share any hurts, pains and leave them at the cross. End by reading all together at once, **John 16:33**, reassured and hopeful!