

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



SUMMARY

Jesus referred to himself as the "Son of Man" when referring to himself, particularly when predicting his death and resurrection. Jesus used this title to connect himself to Daniel 7, where the Son of Man approaches God's throne to receive complete authority over everything. However, Jesus emphasized that his path to the throne went through execution, burial, and resurrection. There are 4 key purposes of Jesus' death: to bring us near to God by dying for our sins, to serve as our example by correcting our selfish ways, to fulfill Scripture as God had purposed, and to establish a new movement or creation where all believers have equal standing before God.

INTRO PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the profound meaning of Jesus' sacrifice, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to understand the depth of Your love shown through the cross. Help us to see beyond the physical suffering to grasp the purpose and power of Christ's death and resurrection. Guide our conversation today, Lord, and reveal to each of us what You want us to learn about Your Son's sacrifice and how it should transform our lives. May we leave this discussion with a renewed appreciation for what Jesus accomplished for us. In Your name we pray, Amen.

ICE BREAKER

What's a movie or book that was difficult for you to get through because of its emotional intensity, but you felt was worth experiencing anyway?

KEY VERSES

- Matthew 20:28
- Matthew 16:21
- Matthew 26:64
- Daniel 7:13-14
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus often referred to himself as "the Son of Man" rather than directly saying "I" when predicting his death?
2. Jesus' death accomplished things that changed history. Which of the four purposes of Jesus' death mentioned in the sermon resonates most with you personally?
3. How does understanding Jesus as both the suffering servant and the future ruler of all nations affect your view of him?
4. Jesus said, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." How should this shape our approach to leadership and service in the church?
5. In what ways might we be like the disciples who were more focused on positions of power than on Jesus' coming sacrifice?
6. The sermon mentioned that Jesus died to establish "one new humanity" with equal access to God. How should this truth influence how we view and treat others who are different from us?
7. What aspects of Jesus' death do you find most difficult to understand or explain to others?
8. How can we keep the significance of the cross fresh in our minds without becoming numb to its meaning over time?

LIFE APPLICATION

This week, reflect on how you 'carry God's name' in your daily life. Choose one area where you struggle to represent God well (perhaps at work, with family, or in how you speak about others), and intentionally focus on reflecting God's character - His mercy, grace, patience, and steadfast love - in that specific situation. Keep a journal of how this mindfulness changes your interactions and attitudes, and be prepared to share with the group next time how God worked through your efforts to honor His name.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- God reveals Himself as Yahweh - merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- There is a tension in God's character between His forgiveness and His justice that is ultimately resolved in Jesus Christ.
- God 'takes up' our sin, dealing with it in various ways that allow us to remain close to Him despite our rebellion.
- As God's people, we carry His name and are called to represent Him faithfully in the world.
- God's steadfast love is a loyal, promise-keeping love that endures through all circumstances.

ENDING PRAYER

Lord Yahweh, we stand in awe of Your character - Your mercy, grace, patience, and steadfast love that never fails. Thank You for revealing Yourself to us and for taking up our sin through the sacrifice of Jesus. We confess that we often fail to represent Your name well in this world. Forgive us and help us to live as faithful witnesses who reflect Your character to those around us. May we carry Your name with honor this week, showing others the same mercy, grace, and patience You have shown us. Renew our confidence that Your promises never fail and that Your faithfulness continues through all generations. In the name of Jesus, who perfectly revealed Your character and bore our sins, we pray. Amen.