

Unexpected Suffering

October 25, 2020



The Unexpected King: The Gospel of Mark

Group Discussion Guide

Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, designate someone to pray the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together. Before they do so, spend a few moments together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few seconds of quiet centering, have the specified person pray for the group.

Read this overview

During this 13-week series, we are going to be opening up the book of Mark together to study the life of Jesus—The Unexpected King. During this series, we'll gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what it really means to be his disciple.

This past weekend Emerson preached on **Mark 14-15** and the Unexpected Suffering Jesus experienced on the cross.

Scripture + Discussion

This week's goal is to consider the suffering that Jesus underwent during his Passion and to consider the implications of His death on our lives.

Take turns reading through all the way through **Mark 14:26-15:47**. Then, use the questions below to guide your discussion to hit on the above objectives.

Here are a few questions to help guide this time:

1. What from this sermon deepened your faith? What resonated with you?
2. In what ways do you feel like Jean Valjean and Peter, who felt "glum and broken?"
3. In what ways is the enemy holding you by the scruff of your neck trying to judge and condemn you? What is God, through Christ Jesus, saying to you about that?
4. As you read through the story of Jesus going to the cross and being crucified, what examples of suffering, shame, and degradation do you see him experience throughout?
5. What does Jesus endurance through that suffering tell you about the character of God?

6. **Read Isaiah 52:14; 53:2-12; Philippians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 2:2.** Why is the cross central to Christian belief?
7. Like Peter, in what ways do you falter in your faith, run away when the going gets tough, or deny Jesus when things don't go as planned?
8. What are ways you have acknowledged Jesus with your mouth, but when pressured, you deny him with *your body* or your actions?
9. What would it take for you to *transfer* what you say about Jesus to your very core? How would your life look different?
10. How do your thoughts about Jesus' suffering change how you want to live this week?

Challenge

At least once each day this week, take time to slowly read **Mark 14:26-15:47**. Sit with this passage. Let it wash over you. Notice Jesus. Let the love of God pour into your heart. See what he might do in you as you consider His son.

Accountability

Take some time this week to split into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the accountability questions below and go over the challenge for this week. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- Have you memorized **Philippians 2:5-11**?
- What has your time in God's word and prayer been like this week?
- What have you learned from Jesus this week?
- Have you consistently reflected the love of Christ to those in your life this week (such as your spouse, children, co-workers)?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

Finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.