



LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus Gives His Life

Mark 15:21–47 • Nov 29, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Attend to Jesus' death and burial and consider how the crucified Son of God changes our understanding of hope and faithfulness.

Before you lead

Read Mark 15:21–47 slowly. The account includes crucifixion, mockery, darkness, Jesus' death, witnesses, and burial. Do not let the later resurrection remove the weight of this scene. Allow 6 minutes to welcome and read, 7 for Head, 10 for Heart, 9 for Hands, and 3 for prayer.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 6 min • Head 7 min • Heart 10 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 15:21–47 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. What do the mockers demand in verses 21–32?

Follow-up: What do they think Jesus must do before they will believe in him?

Leader note: They demand escape from the cross. Consider how their expectations miss the meaning of his mission.

2. What happens at Jesus' death in verses 33–39?

Follow-up: What does the centurion recognize?

Leader note: Attend to darkness, Jesus' cry, his death, the torn curtain, and the centurion's response. Avoid explaining away his suffering.

3. Who witnesses these events and cares for Jesus' body in verses 40–47?

Follow-up: How do the burial details connect this scene to what follows?

Leader note: Notice the women, Joseph's courage, confirmation of death, and the known burial place.



HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. When are you tempted to think God is present only if suffering ends quickly?

Follow-up: How does this passage challenge that expectation?

Leader note: Allow lament. Jesus' death does not make another person's pain small or easy to understand.

5. What makes it hard to accept a rescue you cannot bring about yourself?

Follow-up: How do pride or shame affect that response?

Leader note: Use Mark 10:45 as a clearly identified wider connection if the group needs help discussing Jesus' saving purpose.

6. What might it cost you to let others know you follow Jesus when they dismiss him?

Follow-up: What do you notice about Joseph's courage?

Leader note: The response can be quiet and practical. Avoid making courage depend on public prominence.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. How could you make room this week to reflect on Jesus' death without rushing past it?

Follow-up: What passage or practice would help you pay attention?

Leader note: Choose a manageable time for reading, prayer, or worship that fosters gratitude.

8. Who is going through something painful and needs you to keep showing up for them?

Follow-up: What practical care could you offer without trying to explain everything?

Leader note: Follow the example of people who remain attentive and provide care when they cannot change the outcome.

Close in prayer

Thank Jesus for giving his life. Bring him our grief, pride, and need, and ask for grateful trust and courage to stay near people who are suffering.