



## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 6 March 24, 2024  
"More Than Christian"

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for everyone gathered here today and ask that you surround us with your powerful, life-changing presence. Thank you for loving each of us and for calling us to walk with you. We come before you as we meet and declare our dependence on you.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Luke 23:33-43 (NIV)

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

#### Luke 9:24-25 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

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## INTRODUCTION

Many people believe in the first century person named Jesus. But Jesus didn't ask for people to just *believe* in him. He invited people to *follow* him. So, what does it look like to be a follower and not just an admirer?

Jesus says that if you want to be a disciple of his, you need to take up the cross and follow him. To take up the cross signifies that living life the way you want to live has come to an end. We are called to say no to us and submit to Him. Jesus is inviting us to give our lives away to something other than us that's bigger than us. So are you an *admirer* or *follower* of Jesus?

## QUESTIONS

1. Read Anthony Thompson's courtroom speech to the man who murdered his wife, Myra. His speech can be found on the internet. What emotions does it evoke? Why?
2. Read Luke 23:33-43 (on page 1). What are some characteristics about Jesus that Luke was trying to highlight in this passage?
3. How do you justify accepting the forgiveness of God while resisting the Lordship of Christ?
4. Are you more Admirer than Follower? If so, what's keeping you from going all-in?
5. Read Luke 9:24-25 (on page 1) aloud. What key words stand out to you? Would you say your faith is costing you anything presently? If so, what? If not, should it be?

## FINAL APPLICATION

We all fall short in at least one area of our lives. While we and those around us need grace, we can't neglect that hypocrisy is a big reason Christianity is not taken seriously by those outside the faith. What's one way you're currently being a hypocrite? With the help of God and others, how could you change that?