The Grove
BIBLE CHAPEL

LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 10.25.26 Pulpit Curriculum

Cornerstone

Main passage: Luke 23

Big Idea: There is no neutrality at Calvary…the cross changes everything!

Faces in the Crowd

1) Simon of Cyrene

[Acts 2; Acts 11:19,20; Acts 13; Mark 15:21; Romans 16:13]

- When the cross wreaks havoc on your plans in order to reveal your purpose
- Simon was not randomly selected from the crowd to help Jesus carry the cross; God providentially chose Simon for that purpose. Nothing is coincidence in our own lives.

A. Describe a time in your life when your plans did not meet your expectations (perhaps your world got completely turned upside down). What did the Lord teach you in that season/situation? How was your faith challenged and/or strengthened? _____

_____

B. Simon literally carried a cross, and in Luke 9:23, Christ tells his disciples that if anyone wants to follow Christ, they must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. In what ways are you joyfully denying yourself and "carrying a cross" for Christ and the gospel? _____

_____

2) The Thief

[Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Rom. 3:10, 11]

- When the person on the cross is your only hope
- The thief on the cross is one of the most beautiful examples of salvation by grace through faith alone. Salvation is not achieved; it is received.

The Progression of the Thief Towards Faith

1) He feared God
2) He took ownership of sin
3) He saw Christ as sinless
4) He asked Jesus to "remember me"
5) He believed in Christ's Kingdom

C. Ephesians 2:8–9 teaches that we are saved by grace through faith, not by our own works. How does understanding that salvation is a gift from God change the way we live, treat others, and grow in our love and fear of Him?

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D. What part do good works play in the life of a believer?

_____

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3) The Centurion

[Mark 16:39; Isaiah 53:7]

- When the cross transforms hard-hearted pride into whole-hearted praise

E. Christ never tried to defend Himself or retaliate when he was being beaten and crucified. What does His example teach us about humility and trusting God when we face difficult or unjust situations in our own lives? _____

_____

F. How does the Lord use suffering to reveal His character and reach others for His glory? _____

4) Joseph

[John 19:38]

- When the cross produces courageous faith
- No true faith continues in secrecy

G. John 19:38 describes Joseph of Arimathea as a (secret) disciple of Jesus because he feared the Jewish leaders, yet a follower of Christ cannot be ashamed of following Jesus or ashamed of the gospel. In what ways has fear of man negatively impacted your followership of Jesus Christ? Who in your life can hold you accountable regarding this? _____

_____

5) The person of The Grove Bible Chapel

[Rev. 7:9; 1 Cor. 1:18]

- The cross is still demanding a response

H. What does it look like for you to respond daily to the hope of the cross?

_____

I. What earthly distractions do you need to throw off that are hindering your eternal perspective? _____

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