



The Cross Happens

Main Scripture: Mark 15:33-46

Additional Scripture: John 1:4, Exodus 10:21-22, Joel 2:31, Matthew 8:12, Jude 6, John 19:38-39, Isaiah 9:2, Psalm 119:130

Hearing: Discussion Questions

- **Read Mark 15:33-34.** Why did Jesus cry out? What was the darkness and what did it represent during those three hours Jesus on the cross?
- Pastor Mike called us to get honest with your darkness. He defined darkness as the absence of not only light but life. Where is there darkness in your life? Where does darkness have more of a hold on you than you would like it to?
- The cross was the final stand against darkness: it is where Jesus atoned for the sins of the world. Take some time and theologically break down why Jesus had to be crucified and resurrected in order for our sins to be forgiven and our relationship with God restored.
 - What does atonement mean?
- Jesus created an alternate culture to the culture of darkness. In what ways do you best exemplify this new culture birthed out of Jesus life, death and resurrection with the way you live your life?
 - What aspect of the alternative culture of Jesus excites you the most?
 - What part of the culture Jesus created would you like to see more of in your life?
- **Read Mark 15:42-46.** Joseph did not acknowledge Jesus when He was alive but honored and followed Him after His death. He was a “secret disciple” of Jesus when He was alive. In what ways are you a secret disciple that need to come out into the light?
 - Where are you holding back in your life in regards to going public with your relationship with Jesus?
- Pastor Mike said “you could have something good, but if it is pointed away from God it is bad.” Give some examples that come from your own life that are “good” but that you need to turn back towards God.

Doing: Application

- Take some time to think about how you can affect and even create a Jesus centered culture around you instead of just resisting the world’s culture. Brainstorm with your small group and try to put that into practice this week.