

Life Group #2: The Amazing Savior
Luke 23:20-49

Objectives: We want to see and experience the amazing Savior who died on the cross in our place so we could be right with God. We want to experience the gift of life he offers.

Getting to Know You (15 minutes)

Launch Use your own words... (3 minutes)
What are some different ways that people at MSU respond to Jesus?

In the Bible people respond in many ways as well. Some are curious, some want to follow Him, others are so angry they want to kill him. One phrase that gets repeated a lot is: "amazed". Over the next 6 weeks we are going to look at different passages in the Gospels in order to see this amazing Jesus with our own eyes. The Gospels are 4 "biographies" based on the life of Jesus.

Tonight, we are going to start at the end of the life of Jesus. We are going to look at a passage in the book of Luke that describes the death of Jesus. **Using your own words, describe why you think Jesus had to die.**
[Make sure to pass around info sheet for name, room #, phone, email, etc...]

Explore (20 minutes)

Read Luke 23:20-49

- **How would you describe Jesus in this passage? Why?**
- **What is attractive about Jesus in this passage?**
- **What is hard for you to take regarding Jesus in this passage? What do you not like?**

Digging deeper...

This passage has many interesting or even confusing things that happen. We are going to look a little closer at a few of them.

- **Jesus was challenged to save himself several times. If He is God, then why did he not save Himself and prove that He was God?** *(He had a greater purpose than proving He was God. His resurrection would prove His divinity. His purpose was to die on the cross for the sins of mankind. If He actually saved Himself, we all would*

be doomed because no one paid the penalty for our sin.)

- **Why couldn't Jesus save Himself and grant us forgiveness in some other way?** *(Read Romans 6:23. God determined that the only way sin could be paid for is by death. For us to get the gift of eternal life someone had to die for our sin. Jesus was the only person to ever live without sin, therefore He is the only one that could die for our sin.)*
- **How did the 2 criminals respond to Jesus?**
- **Why do you think they responded so differently?**
- **Verse 45 describes the "temple curtain being torn in two", what does that mean?** *(The curtain was the barrier that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. The Holy of Holies was the dwelling place of God. Only the High Priest was allowed into this place once a year after he had his sins paid for. The tearing of the curtain symbolized that through Christ's sacrifice, sin had been paid for and access to God was open to all who enter by faith in Jesus. Can cross reference Heb. 10:19-23)*

Apply (20 minutes)

- **What is amazing about Jesus in this passage?** *(He is others centered, He grants forgiveness to the thief, He asks for mercy for those that mock him, the centurion was amazed at how he died, He dies in our place.)*
- **If you were a person in this passage, who would you be? Who do you identify with and why?** *(options include Pilate, the crowd, religious leaders, Simon, mourning women, the 2 criminals, mockers, centurion, those that beat their breast, friends who followed at a distance)*
- **Jesus willingly went to the cross to pay for our sins so we could receive the gift**

of eternal life, how should we respond?

(accept his payment for your sin, allow Him to be Lord of your life, trust him with your day to day life, thank Him, spending time getting to know Him before deciding if you want to follow Him).

- **This passage portrays Jesus as an Amazing Savior. What keeps you from accepting Jesus as savior? Or if you have accepted Him as savior, what keeps you from trusting your whole life to Him? *(do in small groups?)***
- **What's a practical next step for you to explore, believe, or trust Jesus as savior and Lord?**
- **Pray in small groups**

Announce (5 minutes)

- Describe Real Life. Set up a time for family dinner and for going to RL together.
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