

**Argyle LifeGroup Discussion Guide
Week 5**

"The Story of Jesus: The Hour of Darkness"

**1. Read John 17:4 (NIV) Jesus said,
"I have brought you glory on earth
by finishing the work you gave me to do."**

Talk about the satisfaction of completing a task.

**2. Read Mark 15:15-19 (NIV)
15 "Wanting to satisfy the crowd,
Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged,
and handed him over to be crucified."**

**17 "They put a purple robe on him,
then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head.
Mark 15:18-19 (NIV)**

18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

19 "Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him."

What would make people treat the Son of God this way?

**3. Read Mark 15:21 (NIV)
21 "A certain man from Cyrene,
Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus,
was passing by on his way in from the country,
and they forced him to carry the cross."**

What is the significance of someone carrying Jesus' cross.

**4. Read Mark 15:23 (NIV)
23 "Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh,
but he did not take it."**

Why do you think Jesus refused this?

**5. Discuss these statements:
"Why did Jesus have to suffer and die?"**

"Couldn't God just choose to forgive us of our sin?"

**6. The cross is all about forgiveness.
What does it mean to be forgiven by God?
How are we supposed to forgive each other?**

**7. Discuss these statements:
Forgiveness means that the debt has been paid in full.**

When you choose to forgive you choose to cancel the debt.

**Forgiveness always has a cost.
That's why so many of us choose not to forgive.**

8. Tell of a time that you were in total darkness.

**9. Discuss this statement:
We are in spiritual darkness when we turn away from God as our true light
and make something else the center of our life.**

10. Read Mark 15:34-39 (NIV)

34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

**36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink.
"Now leave him alone.**

Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

37 "With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last."

38 "The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

What is the significance of the curtain being torn?