

Heaven Made Possible Life Group Question

Warm Up: What is your favorite kind of candy?

Read Luke 23:32-43 and discuss the following questions.

1. What part of the crucifixion described in this passage most impacts you? Why does that detail speak so significantly to you?

2. While being executed and mocked, Jesus declares through praying for his enemies that he holds no grudge or ill will towards them. What do you find to be the most difficult obstacle you have when letting go of a grudge? Briefly describe a time you forgave someone who had deeply hurt you. How were you able to do that?

3. We know that Jesus' prayer for his enemies did not absolve them of their sins. To obtain forgiveness for their sins they would have to ask Him for it. So . . . why do you think it was important for Jesus to forgive them even before they asked? What does this teach us about forgiving others before they ask for forgiveness?

4. The two criminals crucified beside Jesus saw and heard all the events that were taking place as Jesus was executed. They also shared the unique perspective of being executed beside him. Even though they saw, heard and shared the same unique perspective, they each had differing opinions about who Jesus was and what He was doing. What do you think allowed one criminal to see Jesus as the Savior and the other to see him as a hoax? What does this say to us about our own ability to see God's activity in our world today?

5. How does it make you feel that Jesus would forgive a violent criminal and promise him a place in Heaven? Do you think most church-going Christians believe they are more worthy of a place in Heaven because they are not violent criminals? What is the danger of this type of thinking?