

PEOPLE OF PASSION: WOMEN OF THE CROSS

· All In Group Discussion Guide ·
Week of March 10

SCRIPTURES

Luke 23:26-30

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills, “Cover us.”

Matthew 27:55-56

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

PEOPLE OF PASSION: WOMEN OF THE CROSS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Question:

Do you own a cross of some kind? Maybe a necklace, or earrings, or a gift you were given? Why do you think it is that so many people, Christian and non, wear crosses?

Questions:

1. Pastor Josh tells us the historical meaning of the cross in Rome. How did that history strike you? Was it surprising?
2. How have you pictured the crucifixion of Jesus in the past?
3. Pastor Josh says that the women in the story remind Christians of their calling to look at the pain of the world. Do you think that's true? If so, where have you seen it?
4. Pastor Josh says that this story shows us how pivotal women were in the early church. Where has your life been touched by great women of faith?
5. Pastor Josh says one of the meanings of the cross is that God is for us, no matter what. What has the cross meant to you in your life?

Closing Question & Application:

What did God say to you during the conversation today?

How might you live out that learning this week?

Prayer:

A leader opens in prayer then says to God, "We now lift up prayers for our world." Leave a time of silence during which people can briefly name their prayer requests. After each request, the leader will say "Lord in your mercy," and the whole group will respond "hear our prayer." Once it seems the group is done naming prayers for the world, repeat the same thing this time inviting people to pray for our country, then our church, then our loved ones. Once done, the leader will close in prayer.

