

WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus Made His Way to the Cross so that we could have a way to the Father.

BIBLE

Matthew 27:15-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21;
Ephesians 2:4-5

ABOUT THIS WEEK

This week, we're looking at one of the most powerful moments in Jesus' journey to the cross—the story of Barabbas. We'll explore how Jesus took the punishment that we deserved so that we could have a way back to God.

Let's Break the Ice // [Optional] Discipleship Moment Follow-Up:

- Have you ever been in a situation where something wasn't fair? Maybe you got blamed for something you didn't do, or someone else got away with something they shouldn't have. What happened, and how did that make you feel?
- Last week, the discipleship moment was to talk to someone whose faith you admire and ask them if they would be willing to be someone you can confess to. Did anyone have those conversations? How did it go?

Before We Open Our Bibles

- Was there anyone here who put their faith in Jesus today?
- What stood out to you from the message this week?

Bible Study

Read Together: As a group, read Matthew 27:15-26 (*Telos Bible Page Numbers: 969*)

- What do you think it was like for Barabbas to hear the crowd chanting for his release?
- Why do you think the crowd chose to free Barabbas instead of Jesus?

Read Together: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (*Telos Bible Page Numbers: 1135*)

- What does it mean that Jesus "became sin for us"?

Read Together: As a group, read Ephesians 2:4-5 (*Telos Bible Page Numbers: 1153*)

- According to this passage, why did God save us?
- What does it mean for our everyday lives that salvation is a gift and not something that we earn?

Make it Real:

- Barabbas was set free while Jesus took his place. In what ways do we sometimes take our freedom for granted?
- What's one practical way you can show gratitude for what Jesus has done for you this week?

3. Prayer

Pray that we would truly grasp the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and live in response to it. Ask God to help us accept His grace and walk in the freedom He offers.

4. [Optional] Discipleship Moment: Love Like Jesus

This week, identify one person who needs to experience grace. Show them kindness in a tangible way, whether they "deserve it" or not. Some options may be encouraging them, offering forgiveness, or exhibiting an act of service.