

## The Death of Jesus

April 13, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

### Open Up:

- What's one event or holiday you loved as a kid because of how your family celebrated it?
- If someone threw you a parade, what would people be waving instead of palm branches? (Be creative!)

### Read Together:

#### Matthew 21:7-11

*They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. **A very large crowd** spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "**Hosanna** to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, **the whole city was stirred** and asked, "Who is this?"*

#### Matthew 21:12-13

*Jesus entered the temple courts and **drove out all who were buying and selling** there. He **overturned the tables** of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"*

#### Matthew 26:26-28

*While they were eating, **Jesus took bread**, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "**Take and eat; this is my body.**" **Then he took a cup**, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **This is my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

#### Matthew 26:38-39

*Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "**My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.**"*

#### Matthew 27:22-23

*"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "**Crucify him!**" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "**Crucify him!**"*

### **Matthew 27:45-46 & 50**

*From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). ....And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.*

### **Romans 12:2**

***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

### **Discuss Together:**

- Why do you think the crowd had such a hard time imagining a Messiah who would suffer instead of conquer? How do we still wrestle with that tension today?
- Jesus challenged deeply held cultural and religious values. What beliefs or values in today's Christian culture might need to be reexamined in light of Jesus' example?
- In Matthew 21:12-13. What do Jesus' actions in the temple reveal about what matters most to Him in worship?
- In Matthew 26:26-28, Jesus redefines the Passover meal. What does this tell us about the kind of relationship He wants with His followers?
- Romans 12:2 talks about being "transformed by the renewing of your mind." What does that look like practically in your life right now? What influences might need rethinking?
- Jesus disrupted expectations—he didn't come as a conquering king but as a suffering servant. What expectations do we sometimes bring to Jesus that he might not fulfill the way we want?

### **Pray :**

Pray that God would help you see your life, your identity, and others through the lens of the

cross—not comfort, success, or power—and that he would gently reshape your imagination where needed.

**Action Step:**

Take time this week to identify one cultural value or narrative you've absorbed that might not align with Jesus' way. Reflect or journal on how the cross redefines that.