



Group Leader Guide

“Who Is Jesus And What Did He Do For Us?” – Building Blocks

October 12-13, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Ben Foote kicks off a new series this week called **Building Blocks** that will lay out the basics for having and living out a faith in Jesus Christ. This week he covers who Jesus is and what He did for us by examining some Jesus’ “famous last words” recorded throughout the four Gospels. These phrases Jesus uttered while hanging on the cross, along with His “second first breaths” of the resurrection, help us understand Jesus better, why He came, and what He accomplished.

// Biblical Context: Old Testament References

Psalm 22: When Jesus says, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” He is directly quoting **Psalm 22:1**. This is a psalm that David wrote a thousand years before Jesus. It is a psalm that describes a righteous sufferer in the hands of enemies, but also hope and a petition to God that He will deliver him. It ends with this declaration: “they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, *that he has done it.*” (**Psalm 22:31 ESV**, emphasis mine) “He has done it” (“it” being the securing of salvation) sounds very familiar to another quote from Jesus on the cross: “It is finished!” Psalm 22 has a lot of allusions to the crucifixion, which makes sense of why Jesus would be identifying with it and quoting from it. Here are a few:

Mockery: “All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!” (**v. 7-8**)

Thirst: “my tounge sticks to the roof of my mouth” (**v. 15 NIV**)

Pierced: “they have pierced my hands and feet” (**v. 16**)

Casting Lots for Clothes: “they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots” (**v. 18**)

Alongside these allusions of suffering, the latter half of the psalm also alluded to the salvation that Jesus will procure: “The psalmist expects not only that God will deliver and vindicate him, but also that God’s salvation will extend to the poor (**v. 26**), and the rich (**v. 29**), to generations that have died (**v. 29**), and to generations yet to come (**v. 30**). Indeed, God’s salvation will be so comprehensive that: “All the ends of the earth will remember ad turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. (**Psalm 22:27-28 NIV**)”*

Also, the word for God that Jesus uses here was the Aramaic Eloi or Eli, which sounds very similar to the Hebrew and Aramaic for the name “Elijah.” This is why people thought that he was calling for Elijah to come and help him directly after this (in Matthew 27:47-

49). Elijah was seen as sort of a “patron saint” for rabbis in need.

Psalm 31: Jesus quotes **Psalm 31:5** when He says, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” This is another psalm written by David in a time of suffering. However, David, like Jesus, trusts God to deliver him through this trial despite the current circumstances. This quote also shows that Jesus *willingly* gave His life up. He wasn’t forced by God to pay for the sins of humanity. He was one with God in the decision and action.

// New Paradigm

When Jesus says, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (**Luke 23:34**), He is actually saying something different than the Old Testament. In the OT, people like David and the prophets commonly asked God to avenge them by defeating their enemies. Jesus, instead, sets a new paradigm by practicing what he preached: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” (**Luke 6:27-28**) Instead of calling down curses on the people who were executing Him, he asked for their forgiveness. Also, being near death is commonly a time when someone would confess their own sins. Instead, Jesus confesses the sins of the people, echoing the fact that He was taking their sins on Himself and suffering the punishment.

// In Preparation

This series is all about introducing the foundations of our Christian faith. For those of us that are already believers, it is meant to be a re-introduction and re-energization of our faith. So, in preparation, re-familiarize yourself with the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Read these passages again, praying for it to sink in even deeper. Pray that God will show you something new in his Word, some new appreciation for the depths of love that He showed to you on the cross.

Alongside the Gospel accounts, also read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12 to better appreciate God’s plan long before Jesus was born.

// References

* Wright, Christopher J. H. *To the Cross: Proclaiming The Gospel From the Upper Room to Calvary*. IVP Books, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2017.

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2014.



Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Luke 23:34; Luke 23:43; John 19:26-27; Matthew 27:46; John 19:30; Luke 23:46

// Community Questions

1. Have you ever had to put together any IKEA furniture? If so, how terrible was it?

// Core Questions

1. Did anything hit home for you in hearing some of the last words of Jesus?
2. Ben says, “... he (Jesus) knows that if any of those things (marriage, kids, friendships, job, joy, your REAL LIFE) are going to get better, it’s going to be because we have a REAL relationship with God. And if we’re going to have a real relationship with God, we’re going to need to be forgiven.” In what way could (or has) a real relationship with God improved areas of your life?
3. Have you ever prayed a prayer similar to Jesus’ “why have you forsaken me?” prayer to God?
4. What hope does the resurrection give you in this situation and any future situations where life seems too much to bear, as if God had forsaken you?

// Challenge

This series is going to be full of the good news of Jesus Christ. Who He is, what He’s done for us, what it looks like to follow Him, and what to expect from a life WITH Him. It will culminate with baptism weekend, the biggest party we throw here at Flatirons! Who in your life needs to hear this good news? Who has God placed on your heart to invite to church so that they can bump into Jesus? This is the perfect series to invite non-believers. There’s no money talks, no big asks. There’s just Jesus. It’s gonna be a fun one! So be sure to be there every week and invite your friends!