

No Greater Love

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the sermon by Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

In this powerful message, I walked us through the breathtaking reality of what Jesus willingly sacrificed when He came to earth and went to the cross for every one of us. Jesus -- who is fully God, who existed before creation itself -- chose to humble Himself completely, becoming fully human and bearing our sin, sickness, and spiritual death so that we could go free. Because of what He accomplished at the cross, we can live in the truth of those three world-changing words: it is finished.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:16 (NKJV)

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a time someone did something unexpectedly kind or sacrificial for you -- big or small. What did it feel like to be on the receiving end of that kind of love?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting into it

In the sermon, I shared the story of the parents in the Midwest who died shielding their baby from a tornado. What does that image stir up in you, and how does it help you picture what Jesus chose to do for us on the cross?

2. Digging deeper into love

Romans 5:8 tells us "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." He didn't wait until we got our act together. How does that change the way you personally receive God's love -- or does it? Be honest!

3. Wrestling with the mystery

I talked about the mystery of Jesus being fully God and fully man at the same time -- and how He went from the highest heights to the lowest depths for us. Does that kind of sacrifice make God feel more real and relatable to you, or does it raise more questions? What questions do you still sit with?

4. "It is finished" -- what does that mean for your life?

When Jesus cried out "It is finished," I explained that sin, death, fear, sickness, and lack were all addressed at the cross. Is there an area of your life where you're still living as though it isn't finished -- still straining under something Jesus already paid for? What would it look like to actually believe it's been paid in full?

5. Love that costs something

1 John 3:16 doesn't stop at Jesus laying down His life -- it says we also ought to lay down our lives for one another. What does that kind of sacrificial, others-focused love look like practically in your relationships right now? Where does it feel easy, and where does it feel genuinely costly?

6. The cross as reality, not just doctrine

I said in the sermon: "If it's just a thought, if it's just a doctrine, it has no power -- it's gotta be a reality." What's the difference between knowing about the cross in your head and actually living from it in your heart? Has there been a moment in your life when the cross shifted from information to transformation?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose one specific area where fear, guilt, or a persistent struggle has had a grip on you -- something you've been carrying as though it hasn't already been dealt with at the cross. Write it down on a piece of paper, and then write "IT IS FINISHED -- PAID IN FULL" over it in bold letters. Put it somewhere you'll see it every day (your mirror, your phone wallpaper, your desk). Each time you see it, speak this out loud: "Jesus bore this for me. I don't have to carry it anymore." Come back next week ready to share what happened.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Revelation over information -- Pray that the sacrifice of Jesus moves from head knowledge into a deep, life-changing heart reality for every person in your group this week.
 - Freedom from fear and bondage -- Pray specifically against the spirit of fear that tries to keep us living as though the cross didn't work -- ask God to help each person walk in the freedom Jesus already purchased for them.
 - A fresh gratitude for the cross -- Ask the Holy Spirit to give your group a renewed sense of awe and thankfulness for what Jesus willingly gave up to come to this earth and go to Calvary for each of us personally.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Leader tip: Don't feel pressure to get through every question. Let the conversation breathe. If your group gets stuck on one question and it's going deep -- stay there. That's the Holy Spirit at work!