



**Week 8 -  
When Hope  
Seems Lost**

**LifeGroup  
Discussion  
Guide**

**How to use This Guide:**

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the discussion questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

**Discussion Questions:**

**Begin your study by sharing thoughts on this question.**

Consider the events of Easter week. What was accomplished on our behalf by these events?

**Read Mark 15:21-47**

- How would you respond to someone who says that any man could have fulfilled these prophecies simply by manipulating events and doing certain things?
- Theologians use the terms “substitutionary atonement,” “propitiation,” and “reconciliation” to describe what Jesus accomplished. Should the church continue to use these terms? How would you explain these terms to a person not familiar with theological/biblical concepts?
- When you see a cross, do you think of it as “glorious” or “horrible”? Explain.
- What took place that showed the inhumanity and cruelty of crucifixion as a method of execution? Why did God ordain that this would be done to His Son?
- Could Jesus have avoided going to the cross? Was He capable of coming down from the cross? What kept Him there?
- How would you respond to someone who said the darkness that descended during the crucifixion was a natural phenomenon?
- Explain in your own words why Jesus exclaimed, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
- How might the Jews have responded to the tearing of the curtain in the sanctuary? What does it mean for Gentiles?
- How would you respond to those who theorize that Jesus didn’t really die on the cross? Why is this fact important?
- What is the significance in Mark reporting that, of all Jesus’ followers, only a few of the women were there during the crucifixion, and only they and two converted Jewish leaders were there at His burial?
- Read Mark 15:24 in light of Psalm 22:18. Then read all of Psalm 22 and write down every allusion to this psalm (explicit or implied) in Mark’s account of the crucifixion.
- Jesus was crucified between, and thus identified with, two criminals. What significance does this have for your life?

**For Further Study:**

Read Luke 22:42. What does Jesus’ prayer say about His character in light of what was about to take place? What implications does this have for us as we strive to become Christ-like?

**For Thought and Discussion:** The story of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion is one of betrayal, brutality, despair, and pain. Yet we know even before His death that redemption was promised to be coming soon. We know that the story does not end at the cross. When hope seems lost, remember that Sunday is coming!

**Next Steps**

What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?

**What did God say to you today through His Word? And what are you going to do about it!**

Go to [www.mycornerstone.org/next](http://www.mycornerstone.org/next) to learn more about your next step