



**CONNECTION GROUP LESSONS
AND
LEADER'S ANSWER GUIDE**



Discussion Questions For Connection Group Leaders

“FROM CROSS TO CROWN”

Each week you will want to include the following components in your Connection Group meeting:

1. **Welcome** – This is a time for our group to have a little fun together and to get better acquainted with each other. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to glean insights into the life of each member. Use the group opener questions for this section of the meeting.
2. **Worship**—This is an occasion for us to turn our focus in the right direction. We praise and adorn the Lord for who He is and what He has done in our lives. Let the worship lead you into a time of Spirit-led prayer and ministry to each other.

<p>Ministry: Allow your group members to edify each other with the spiritual gifts that God has given to them. Pray for each other and allow the Spirit to minister through His people.</p> <p>Is there a prophetic word? (A word of exhortation, edification, comfort) Is there a word of tongues and an interpretation? Does someone need special prayer? Etc.</p>

3. **Word** – As a group, we open God’s Word, and we discuss the topic before us and learn how to apply the Word of God to our everyday situations. We take the sermon that was preached and make it applicable and practical to our everyday situations.
4. **Works** – We discuss and plan how we as a group will actively reach out to the lost and hurting around us. This is where we strategize how we will put “shoe leather” to the truth of God’s Word.

WHY THE CROSS WAS NECESSARY

Scripture Reference: Mark 8:31–33 | Romans 3:23–26 | Hebrews 2:14–17

Group Opener: (*Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.*)

1. When you hear the word “cross,” what is the first thought or feeling that comes to your mind?
2. Have you ever had to accept something difficult because you knew it was necessary? What did you learn from that experience?

Discussion Questions:

- Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*
 1. In Romans 3:23, it says, “All have sinned.” Why do you think Paul emphasizes that all people sinned?
 2. The sermon says sin is not just behavior but nature. What does that mean? How is sin more than just doing wrong actions?
 3. Why could God simply forgive sin without the Cross? What does Romans 3:24-26 teach us about God’s justice and righteousness?
 4. In Mark 8:31, Jesus said He must suffer. Why was the Cross not an accident but part of God’s eternal plan?
 5. According to Hebrews 2:14–17, why did Jesus have to become fully human? Why was it necessary for Him to die?
 6. The sermon says, “Until we understand the weight of sin, the Cross will feel excessive.” How has your understanding of sin affected how you see the Cross?
 7. Peter wanted glory without suffering. In what ways do you sometimes want blessing without sacrifice or obedience?
 8. The Cross shows both justice and love. How does this truth strengthen your confidence in your salvation?

9. The sermon says the Cross should humble us, steady us, and deepen our worship. Which of these do you need most right now? Why?
10. As we enter Holy Week, what practical step can you take to reflect more deeply on the Cross (for example: prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, repentance, reconciliation)?

Intentional Discipleship:

How can this passage bring transformation to my life? What specific action do I need to take? What practical lessons can we share with those we are discipling? *Please write it down! Start applying it! Please share it with others!*

CG Action Steps

- As a group, encourage one another to align each one's priorities to God's priority, the souls of men.
- Reach out to your CG members or house church members experiencing difficult times. Be an encourager.
- Encourage every member of the connection group to be a part of a house church.
- Make every effort to follow up on the members of your connection groups through social media platforms.
- Always have a spare Bible ready to hand out to anyone interested. If you hand out a Bible, follow up with the person by doing LTG. Only do LTG with a person of the same sex. If the recipient is a lady, endorse her to a lady and a man to a man.
- What leadership training do your members need to take? Have they all completed our IDT levels of spiritual development? If not, what is holding them back?

WHY WAS THE CROSS NECESSARY?

1. Why does Paul emphasize that *all* people have sinned? (Romans 3:23)

Key Truth: Universal guilt means universal need.

Leader Explanation:

- Paul removes every excuse.
- No one is righteous by nature.
- Romans 1 → pagan guilt.
- Romans 2 → religious guilt.
- Romans 3 → all are guilty.

Why this matters:

The Cross is not for “bad people only.” It is for everyone. We all stand equally in need of grace.

2. What does it mean that sin is not only behavior but nature?

Key Truth: Sin is internal before it is external.

Leader Explanation:

- Behavior = fruit.
- Nature = root.
- We sin because we are sinners by nature.
- Sin affects thoughts, desires, motives, and will.

Why this matters:

If sin were only behavior, self-improvement would be enough. But because sin is nature, we need a Savior—not advice.

3. Why couldn't God simply forgive without the Cross? (Romans 3:24–26)

Key Truth: God's justice must be satisfied.

Leader Explanation:

- God's justice is part of His character.

- He cannot ignore sin without denying Himself.
- The Cross demonstrates His righteousness.
- Sin was judged in Christ.

Summary Line for Leaders:

God did not ignore sin. He judged it—on the Cross.

4. Why was the Cross not an accident? (Mark 8:31)

Key Truth: The Cross was divinely ordained.

Leader Explanation:

- Jesus said He *must* suffer.
- The Cross was foreknown and planned.
- It was not political failure.
- It was not tragedy.
- It was God's eternal plan of redemption.

Summary Line:

The Cross was not Plan B. It was always the plan.

5. Why did Jesus have to become fully human and die? (Hebrews 2:14–17)

Key Truth: Only the God-Man could save.

Leader Explanation:

- Only a human could represent humans.
- Only a human could die.
- Only God could conquer death.
- Jesus is fully human and fully divine.

Results of His death:

- Sin's penalty paid.
- Death defeated.
- Devil's accusation silenced.

Summary Line:

He became like us so He could save us.

IT IS FINISHED

(The Work of Christ on the Cross)

Scripture Reference: John 19:28–30 | Isaiah 53:4–6 | 2 Corinthians 5:21

Group Opener: *(Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.)*

1. When you hear the words “It is finished,” what do you usually think about – relief, victory, sadness, or something else? Why?
2. Have you ever worked very hard to complete something important? How did you feel when it was finally finished?

Discussion Questions:

- Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*
 1. In Isaiah 53:4-6, the word “our” is repeated many times. Why is this important? What does it teach us about who Jesus suffered for?
 2. The sermon says Jesus was not just a victim, but a Substitute. What does substitution mean in your own words?
 3. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, what happened to our sin? What happened to Christ’s righteousness?
 4. What does it mean that Jesus “knew no sin”? Why is His sinlessness important for our salvation?
 5. When Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30), what exactly was finished? Why is this different from saying, “I am finished”?
 6. The sermon explains the word tetelestai as “paid in full.” What does this tell you about your debt of sin before God?
 7. The Cross shows both judgment and love. How does knowing that your sin was judged in Christ affect the way you see God?
 8. The sermon says we cannot contribute to our salvation. Why do you think people still try to “earn” God’s acceptance?

9. The proper response to the Cross is to repent, receive, and rest. Which of these do you need to grow in right now — repentance, receiving grace, or resting in Christ's finished work?
10. If the work is truly finished, how should that change the way you live daily — especially when you feel guilty, afraid, or uncertain?

Intentional Discipleship:

How can this passage bring transformation to my life? What specific action do I need to take? What practical lessons can we share with those we are discipling? *Please write it down! Start applying it! Please share it with others!*

CG Action Steps

- As a group, encourage one another to align each one's priorities to God's priority, the souls of men.
- Reach out to your CG members or house church members experiencing difficult times. Be an encourager.
- Encourage every member of the connection group to be a part of a house church.
- Make every effort to follow up on the members of your connection groups through social media platforms.
- Always have a spare Bible ready to hand out to anyone interested. If you hand out a Bible, follow up with the person by doing LTG. Only do LTG with a person of the same sex. If the recipient is a lady, endorse her to a lady and a man to a man.
- What leadership training do your members need to take? Have they all completed our IDT levels of spiritual development? If not, what is holding them back?

IT IS FINISHED

1. Why is the word “our” repeated in Isaiah 53:4–6?

Key Truth: The suffering was substitutionary and personal.

The repeated word “our” shows:

- Jesus did not suffer for His own sins.
- He suffered for *our* sins.
- The guilt belonged to us.
- The penalty fell on Him.

Isaiah is emphasizing that this was not random suffering. It was intentional substitution.

2. What does substitution mean?

Key Truth: Christ stood in our place.

Substitution means:

- He took what we deserved.
- He bore our penalty.
- He stood where we should have stood.

He was punished so that we could be forgiven.

Without substitution, there is no gospel.

3. What happened to our sin and Christ's righteousness? (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Key Truth: There was a great exchange.

- Our sin was imputed (credited) to Christ.
- His righteousness is imputed to us.

He was treated as if He had lived our sinful life, so that we are treated as if we lived His righteous life.

This is called justification by grace through faith.

4. Why is Christ's sinlessness important?

Key Truth: Only a sinless substitute can save sinners.

If Jesus had sin:

- He would need a Savior Himself.
- He could not represent us.
- He could not bear our guilt.

Because He "knew no sin," He could take ours.

5. What was finished when Jesus said, "It is finished"? (John 19:30)

Key Truth: The work of redemption was completed.

Finished means:

- The debt of sin was paid.
- The sacrifice was accepted.
- The mission was accomplished.
- The covenant requirement was fulfilled.

Nothing remains to be added.

Salvation is not partly finished — it is fully accomplished.

6. What does "paid in full" mean for our debt of sin?

It means:

- No remaining balance.
- No future payment required.
- No partial forgiveness.

The Cross did not make salvation possible.

It secured it completely.

RAISED FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION

(The Resurrection of Christ)

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:1–6 | Romans 4:25 | 1 Corinthians 15:17–20

Group Opener: *(Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.)*

1. What is one word that comes to your mind when you hear the word “Resurrection”?
2. Have you ever experienced a situation that looked hopeless at first, but later turned into victory? What happened?

Discussion Questions:

- Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*
 1. In Matthew 28:1–6, why is it important that the tomb was empty? What does the empty tomb prove?
 2. The angel said, “He is risen.” Why is it important that Jesus was not just revived, but truly risen?
 3. Romans 4:25 says Jesus “was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.” What does this mean in your own words?
 4. What is justification? How is it different from sanctification?
 5. According to 1 Corinthians 15:17, what would happen if Christ had not risen from the dead?
 6. Paul calls Jesus the “firstfruits” in 1 Corinthians 15:20. What does this picture teach us about our future?
 7. The sermon says the Resurrection is the Father’s “Amen” to the Son’s “It is finished.” How does this strengthen your assurance of salvation?
 8. Why do you think some Christians live as if their justification is not secure? What fears or doubts usually cause this?

9. The Resurrection is not only a future hope but a present power. In what area of your life do you need resurrection power right now?
10. Because Christ is risen, how should this change the way you face: suffering? temptation? death?
11. The sermon encourages us to “live as those who belong to a risen King.” What practical changes should that bring to your daily life?

Intentional Discipleship:

How can this passage bring transformation to my life? What specific action do I need to take? What practical lessons can we share with those we are discipling? *Please write it down! Start applying it! Please share it with others!*

CG Action Steps

- As a group, encourage one another to align each one's priorities to God's priority, the souls of men.
- Reach out to your CG members or house church members experiencing difficult times. Be an encourager.
- Encourage every member of the connection group to be a part of a house church.
- Make every effort to follow up on the members of your connection groups through social media platforms.
- Always have a spare Bible ready to hand out to anyone interested. If you hand out a Bible, follow up with the person by doing LTG. Only do LTG with a person of the same sex. If the recipient is a lady, endorse her to a lady and a man to a man.
- What leadership training do your members need to take? Have they all completed our IDT levels of spiritual development? If not, what is holding them back?

RAISED FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION

1. Why is the empty tomb important? (Matthew 28:1–6)

Key Truth: The Resurrection is historical and bodily.

The empty tomb proves:

- Jesus truly rose.
- Death did not hold Him.
- Christianity is based on real events, not emotions.

If the body remained in the tomb, the gospel collapses.

2. Why is it important that Jesus was truly risen, not just revived?

Key Truth: Resurrection is victory over death, not survival of death.

Revival means returning to mortal life.

Resurrection means entering glorified, immortal life.

Jesus did not come back to die again.

He conquered death permanently.

3. What does Romans 4:25 mean?

“He was delivered up for our offenses and raised for our justification.”

This means:

- The Cross dealt with sin.
- The Resurrection declares the verdict.

The Resurrection is God's public declaration that the payment was accepted.

The Cross removed guilt.

The Resurrection confirms justification.

4. What is justification? How is it different from sanctification?

Justification:

- A legal declaration.
- God declares the sinner righteous.
- Happens once.
- Based on Christ's finished work.

Sanctification:

- A life-long process.
- Growth in holiness.
- Changes our behavior.

Justification changes your status.

Sanctification changes your life.

5. What if Christ had not risen? (1 Corinthians 15:17)

If Christ had not risen:

- Faith would be useless.
- Sin would still condemn us.
- Preaching would be empty.
- Death would still rule.

The Resurrection is essential to salvation.

6. What does "firstfruits" mean? (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Firstfruits means:

- The first portion of harvest.
- A guarantee that more is coming.

Jesus' Resurrection guarantees:

- Our future resurrection.
- The defeat of death.
- The coming new creation.

What happened to Him will happen to those who belong to Him.