



## MARK: Why Jesus Died

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 6, 2025

### Life Group Discussion

**CONNECT:** *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- When did you first remember understanding the gruesomeness of the crucifixion? How did it impact your faith?

**GROW:** *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Scripture: [Mark 15:21-41](#)

Observation:

- o What are the key details that Mark mentions in Jesus' crucifixion?
- o Where do you see someone expressing faith? What is unique about them?
- Interpretation:
  - o Read [Psalm 22](#). What parallels do you see in this lament to Jesus' crucifixion? (see pp. 594, 601-602 of the *NIV Application Commentary*)
  - o Read [Amos 8:9-10](#). How is this prophecy applicable to Jesus? What does darkness symbolize spiritually? (see pp. 591-592 of the *NIV Application Commentary*)
- Application:
  - o What does it look like to practice gratitude for the cross this week?

**GO:** *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What are you going to do about what you learned today? Write a simple "I will..." statement that is something you can focus on until the group meets again. Share your statements with each other.

**Pray:** Spend time thanking Jesus for the cross. Give everyone a few sticky notes and have them write something about their gratitude for the cross on each one. Pray for the group to understand more deeply the impact of the cross as we get closer to Easter.



## MARK: An Unlikely Calling

Pastor Sarah Burt

April 13, 2025

### Life Group Discussion

**CONNECT:** *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

One of our Dream Disciple Roles is an Embedded Influencer. The defining statement is: “I understand how God has purposefully gifted and positioned me to multiply his work in the world.” As you consider that statement, answer this question: Where has God placed you in this season of your life?

**GROW:** *Engage with God’s word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

**Scripture:** [Mark 15:42-47](#)

#### Observation:

- What do we learn about Joseph of Arimathea from Mark? Compare that with descriptions in the other three gospels (Matthew; Luke; John)
- Consider Joseph’s actions (and inaction) between Thursday night and Friday. Compare him with others in the narrative (Peter, the women, the Centurion).

**Interpretation:** [see *The NIV Application Commentary* pp.596-597]

- What can we learn from Joseph’s actions and inactions (positive and negative)?
- Read [John 19:38-40](#) – How does John’s account give us a fuller picture of what happened?
  - John’s gospel calls Joseph a “disciple” of Jesus. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? [Ask the group to share Scriptures that describe discipleship]

#### Application:

- In what area of your life do you need to Be Aware and take courage as an Embedded Influencer? Is there a circle in which you need to Beware of the influence on you?
- How will you prepare yourself to be an Influence wherever God calls you?

**GO:** *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- Ask yourself this Embedded Influencer Question: What is one situation in my life right now that I am uniquely equipped to influence?

**PRAY:** Take turns praying for one another to grow as Embedded Influencers, prepared to follow Jesus as you live out God’s story every day, everywhere.



## MARK: Despite Our Failure, Jesus Never Fails

Pastor Derek

April 20, 2025 EASTER

### Life Group Discussion

**CONNECT:** *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

**GROW:** *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Scripture: [Mark 16:1-8](#)

- Observation:
  - Put yourselves in the women's shoes (sandals). What might have been your emotional and mental state as you approached the tomb?
  - Carefully look at the words of the "young man dressed in a white robe." What does he say? What are his instructions? What is the response of the women?
- Interpretation: (see pp. 610-630, *NIV Application Commentary*)
  - Compare these two announcements :
    - [Mark 1:2-8](#) What was God about to do?
    - Mark 16:6-7 What has God done?
  - What does the angel mean by "just as he told you"? (see [Mark 8:31](#); [9:31](#); [10:34](#))
  - Consider the importance of these three phrases:
    - *He has risen. He is not here. He is going before you.*
    - How might the women's fear and flight be explained? (consider Mark 4:41; 6:50; 9:6; 10:32; 14:50-52)
- Application:
  - "Faith rests on the proclamation of the resurrection and going to see Jesus." (*NIV Application Commentary* p.621) Will the disciples meet him in Galilee?
  - Where is Jesus waiting for you? Will you meet him there? What is holding you back?

**GO:** *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

What is God saying to you?

What are you going to do about it?

"I will..."