

Leader Notes: Easter Experience

Session Three- My Pain is Understood

Before Everyone Arrives

Be sure to have watched the leader training videos on Disc 3 for great training on leading.
Be sure to test your DVD and watch the *intro* and *episode three* for “My Pain is Understood.”

Suggested agenda for a 90-minute group gathering:

25 minutes: welcome, appetizers, icebreakers, and connecting with one another.

30 minutes: intro video and main video

20 minutes: discussion

15 minutes: prayer requests, prayer, and departure

* Do your best to start and end on time each week

During Your Meeting

Without question this video is the most intense of the first three and arguably the most intense of the entire series. For Christians who have not seen the *Passion of the Christ* the concept that Jesus was beaten without mercy before going to the cross can come as a surprise. Be proactive and make sure that you pray with your people before this video is shown. Make sure that you have watched the session beforehand so you are able to stay at least somewhat composed while your group soaks in the drama.

After Watching the Video

Though you may have experienced this phenomenon already expect a time of awkwardness after the DVD concludes. Oftentimes, when silence begins to take control or the intense nature of the material begins to weigh down upon a group you might find that someone resorts to seemingly inappropriate joking. Don't be surprised by this and don't be offended if it happens. For most people confrontation, whether with another person or a particularly difficult idea, is unnatural and unwanted. If someone makes jokes after seeing the scourging of Jesus simply understand that this is part of their process in dealing with the material. As usual, we encourage you to model direction for your group by offering up comments, questions, or insights from the video before you expect others to talk. Allow your people talk and enjoy your opportunity to listen.

Prayer requests at a time like this could take a significant turn. Be prepared for either the prayer requests to become much more personal (a great thing!) or for no one to offer prayer requests whatsoever (a common response to Jesus' suffering!). If no one has prayer requests then simply pray to close the night thanking God for loving each of us enough to allow His son to endure such punishment.

Finally, before everyone leaves go over the section together. There is always a scripture verse to be memorized and some sort of assignment or challenge for group members to do before your next meeting. Take the opportunity to discuss why this is important and encourage everyone to participate.



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