

He Died from a Broken Heart

Companion Bible Study for LifeGroups to video “The Cross” by Mark Moore

***Note about the message: there is a music clip at the beginning that you may choose to fast-forward through; its not that lengthy, but may not matter much to you. Also, note that the audience where this was filmed was a youth crowd, and a couple of illustrations early in the message might not connect with your group - it's not a big deal, but wanted you to know. Message is very powerful regardless of audience.*

****Note about the optional ending: this would be a great evening to end with a short time of communion. Scripture verses are noted at the end if you choose to end this way.*

After watching the video, begin by simply asking

What's your immediate reaction? What's the first thing that strikes you as memorable from the message?

Q: Have you ever had a “broken heart?” Not the “Aww, that little kid in Mexico with the cute face and no shoes just broke my heart.” But a time when something hurt & cut deep. No need to tell the details, but can anyone share the feelings, emotions, and thoughts you may have had?

Q: Have you ever considered that Jesus died from a broken heart? Share any thoughts that come to mind in light of this idea.

Have someone read I Peter 1:18-19

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

Q: Our salvation came at a cost - a big cost. Think about the things in life that cost us a great deal, particularly things which cost us a lot of money. How do we value those things? What lengths do we go to protect that investment?

Q: Regardless of the amount of money we might spend on something, no greater investment has ever been made on anything than when God allowed his Son to be the substitute for you and I. Granted, we know this, and have heard this throughout all of our Christian journey. But here's the question: what difference does it make? What difference is it making in the

way we individually approach and live our lives?

Have someone read Mark 8:34-38

Q: What does it mean to take up our cross daily? What idea did Mark Moore give about this idea?

A Thought....

Thomas a Kempis, who wrote in the 1400's, was the author of the Christian devotional classic *The Imitation of Christ*. He wrote the following words about the contrast between those who profess to follow Christ and those who really follow Him:

“Jesus has many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few of them carry the cross. He has many friends who ask for consolation, but few who pray for affliction. He has many companions to share his meals, but few to share His abstinence. We all want to rejoice with Him, but few of us are willing to suffer anything for His sake. Many follow Jesus up to the breaking of the bread, but few go on to the drinking of the chalice of His passion.”

Q: Is it possible that many who follow Jesus do so only as long as they're comfortable doing so? Why? Is it possible that living in the “land of the free” has made us complacent?

A Thought....

A dog says, “You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, you must be God.”

A cat says, “You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, I must be God.”

Q: Does this sound familiar? Do we sometimes slip into “its all about me” mode and forget that it's really all about God? That it's really all about Jesus and what He did on the cross?

Listen to how *The Message* interprets Paul's words from Galatians 6:14

“For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate.”

Q: Rubber meets the road time: what do you boast in? Is it what you see in the mirror, or the Cross where your Savior paid the ultimate price for your sins? Is it in your

accomplishments and accolades and acquisitions, or in the Jesus who died of a broken heart?

A Thought:

Thomas a Kempis imagined Jesus' words to believers:

“With my hands outstretched on the cross and My body naked, I willingly offered Myself to God the Father for your sins. Everything in Me was taken up in that sacrifice of divine propitiation. In like manner, you must willingly offer yourself to Me as a pure and holy oblation, with your whole heart and soul, and as lovingly as you can. I ask nothing less of you but that you endeavor to resign yourself completely to Me. Whatever else you offer Me besides yourself does not interest Me: I do not seek your gift, what I seek is you.”

Optional Communion Ending

-communion elements

-perhaps soft music

Read or have someone read I Corinthians 11:23-29

Prayerfully distribute communion elements however you see fit and close the session.