

Small Group Discussion Guide

Series: *Between Two Trees* | Part 3: *The Tree That Bore A Curse*

BIG Idea: Jesus willingly carried the curse that began at the first tree.

Application: Lay down the guilt and shame Christ already carried for you.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: What is something you have tried to fix before realizing it was bigger than you could handle on your own?

1. The sermon described the curse as the spiritual consequence of sin entering the world. How have you seen the brokenness of this world show up both around you and inside you?
2. In Deuteronomy 21:22–23, the tree became a public picture of judgment and curse. What stood out to you most about that image?
3. The message said, “The law exposed the curse—but could not remove it.” Why is that distinction important?
4. The sermon compared the law to a mirror. How does that illustration help you understand what God’s law can and cannot do?
5. Galatians 3:13 says Christ rescued us from the curse. What does the word “rescued” communicate that words like “helped” or “improved” do not?
6. The message emphasized substitution. How would you explain in everyday language what it means that Jesus “took our place”?
7. 1 Peter 2:24 says Jesus “personally carried our sins.” How does that word personally deepen your understanding of the cross?
8. The sermon said, “You do not have to carry what Christ already bore.” What are some ways Christians still try to carry guilt, shame, or regret after hearing the gospel?
9. What does it mean to say the cross was a divine exchange, not just a tragedy? How does that change the way you think about Good Friday and salvation?
10. What is one burden—guilt, shame, regret, fear, or unworthiness—you sense God inviting you to lay down this week?

Prayer Prompt: Take time to pray honestly together. Thank Jesus for carrying what we could not bear. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any guilt, shame, regret, or striving that still needs to be surrendered, and pray for the grace to live in the freedom Christ purchased at the cross.

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