



TOGETHER CHURCH

**GUARDRAILS
THAT HELP US
STAY THE COURSE AS A
DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH**

Week 4: March 28 – April 3

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes)
Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Pray for people who need to know Jesus or get connected to a church family (see the IMPACT Month Prayer Guide). (5-6 minutes)

Hook Question (5 minutes): When was a time you experienced extreme, physical pain?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

Jesus' triumphal entry was a glorious event. The recognition and celebration of Jesus as Lord had brought excitement to the people of Jerusalem. However, Jesus knew this celebration would not last long. The same people who were praising Him and calling out "Hosanna!" would soon mock Him and demand His crucifixion.

On the night of Passover, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. The chief priests took Jesus and placed Him on trial before Pontius Pilate. Pilate found no guilt in Jesus. However, the chief priests had been working to turn the people against Jesus. They grew so resentful towards Jesus that Pilate gave them two choices. The first was to release Jesus. The second was to release Barabbas who was a high-profile murderer. Out of their anger they cried, "Crucify, crucify him!" Pilate released Barabbas and condemned an innocent Jesus.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would not be esteemed by man. Instead, He would be "wounded for our transgressions" and "crushed for our iniquities." He would be oppressed and like a sheep led to be slaughtered, He would remain silent (Isaiah 53). Before Jesus was crucified, He was whipped 50 times minus 1. He was mocked and spat on. A crown of thorns was placed on His head, then He was given His cross to carry to the place of "The Skull" where He would be crucified. All this suffering had to take place for Jesus to defeat sin and death.

When Jesus could no longer carry His cross, Simon of Cyrene was chosen to carry the cross for Him. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Mark 15:21-41: (12 Minutes per section): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild the Story: Group members retell the story as well as possible.

Read the story from Mark 15:21-41: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: Learn to talk about God's word with others. **(Take as much time as needed.)**

- What sticks out to you about this story?
- What does this story teach you about yourself or people?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- How have you betrayed Jesus?
- What is God speaking to you about? How do you need to apply this story to your life?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in Prayer.