

# Life Group Discussion Guide

## “It Is Finished” — The Cross as the End of What We Lift Up

### Primary Texts:

- John 12:32
- John 19:30

### 1. Opening Reflection — Why Good Friday Makes Us Look

#### Opening Question (Icebreaker):

- When you think of Easter, what usually occupies your heart or attention first—celebration, tradition, rest, family, or reflection?

#### Read Together:

- *John 19:16–18*
- *Isaiah 53:3–6*

#### Discussion:

- The sermon says that Good Friday slows us down and forces us to face the cross before rushing to Sunday.
- Why do you think we sometimes prefer to move quickly past the cross to resurrection joy?
- What do we risk losing when we avoid sitting with the weight of the cross?

#### Key Thought:

The cross is not something we decorate—it is something we stand before.

### 2. Understanding Sin — “Sin Is What We Lift Highest”

#### Read Together:

- *Genesis 3:4–6*
- *Romans 1:21–25*

#### Discussion:

- The sermon defines sin not merely as breaking rules, but as **misdirected worship**.
- How does this definition challenge the way you normally think about sin?
- In Genesis 3, the temptation is elevation (“you will be like God”). How do you see that same temptation today?

#### Personal Reflection (optional journaling):

- What things do people often lift up today instead of God?
  - Success
  - Control
  - Image
  - Productivity
  - Being right
  - Being strong
  - Approval

**Supporting Scripture:**

- *Matthew 6:21* — “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**3. The Cross — God’s Great Replacement**

**Read Together:**

- *John 12:32*
- *2 Corinthians 5:21*

**Discussion:**

- Jesus says, “When I am lifted up...”
- According to the sermon, Jesus is lifted up **in the place of everything we have lifted up**.
- What does it mean that the cross doesn’t just expose false saviours—but replaces them?

**Reflection Question:**

- Why is it both offensive *and* beautiful to hear: “You cannot save yourself—but Jesus was lifted up for you”?

**Key Statement:**

The cross ends our striving by placing Jesus where our false hopes once stood.

**4. Religion vs the Cross — The Sign Above His Head**

**Read Together:**

- *John 19:19–22*

**Discussion:**

- Why do the religious leaders want the sign changed?
- What does this reveal about religion’s desire to control the narrative?

**Group Question:**

- In what ways do we still try to edit the cross—softening it, managing appearances, or relying on performance instead of grace?

**Supporting Scripture:**

- *Galatians 2:21* — “If righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.”

**5. “Tetelestai” — It Is Finished**

**Read Together:**

- *John 19:30*
- *Hebrews 10:11–14*

**Teaching Moment:**

- *Tetelestai* means:
  - The work is complete
  - The debt is paid
  - Nothing is missing
  - Nothing remains undone

**Discussion:**

- How does knowing the work is truly finished confront anxiety, self-effort, or perfectionism?
- The sermon says anxiety often reveals what we are lifting higher than Jesus.
- What tends to steal your peace most quickly?

**Supporting Scripture:**

- *Colossians 2:13–14*
- *Romans 8:1*

**6. Our Response — “Take Up Your Cross” as Daily Surrender**

**Read Together:**

- *Luke 9:23*
- *Matthew 11:28–30*

**Discussion:**

- The sermon clarifies that taking up your cross is not about chasing suffering, but about letting false saviours die.
- What does “daily surrender” look like in ordinary life (work, family, pressure, fear)?
- “Lord, I will not worship what cannot save me.”

## 7. Communion Reflection

### Read Together:

- *1 Corinthians 11:23–26*

### Reflection:

- Communion is not something we do for God—it is something we receive from God.
- As you imagine receiving the bread and the cup, what burden does God invite you to lay down?

### Quiet Moment:

Encourage 2–3 minutes of silence for personal prayer and surrender.

### Closing Prayer

#### Suggested Prayer Focus:

- Gratitude for the finished work of Jesus
- Confession of misplaced worship
- Release of control, fear, and striving
- Rest in Christ's completed work

### Final Truth to Carry Into the Week

- ***Tetelestai.***  
It is finished.  
You do not need to add to it.  
You are invited to live from it.