



When Jesus Christ, the Son of God, left heaven and entered our world an epic collision ensued. This collision calls for a decisive, immediate and radical response. You cannot remain neutral toward Jesus. You must decide how you will respond to him: You can either reject him and face God's judgment or repent and believe the good news – that the kingdom of God is near. The essential question is how will you respond to Jesus Christ today?

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Who do people say Jesus is today? How does their perception of Jesus effect how they respond to him?
2. Read Mark 15:33-39. Amazingly the Roman centurion, not the disciples, is the first person in the gospel of Mark to make a confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. According to v.39 what led him to make this confession?
3. In order to understand the cry of Jesus (v.34), we must understand the significance of the darkness (v.33). In the Bible supernatural darkness during the day represents God's judgment and wrath for sin. When we put anyone or anything at the center of our lives other than Jesus we walk in darkness. Consider these three dimensions of spiritual darkness:
 - **You can't see your way forward** – you search for meaning and purpose in all the wrong places instead of being satisfied in bringing glory to Jesus by following and obeying him.
 - **You can't see your true self** – you look to find your worth in people and things instead of in Jesus.
 - **You can't see others** – you live for self instead of living to love and serve others freely.When have you experienced any of these effects of spiritual darkness?
4. Jesus cried out “My God, My God why have you forsaken me?” because he took on the punishment for our sins and in so doing his intimacy with God the Father was broken. His cry was a cry of love for you and me. How does it make you feel that Jesus was forsaken by God so that we would never have to be?
5. Mark doesn't give us many details of what the centurion saw when Jesus died. He only tells us that when Jesus breathed his last breath, the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn from top to bottom. Looking at Hebrews 10:19-27, what are the benefits and the warning given as a result of this “new and living way” being opened to God's presence?
6. Compare the response of the religious people gathered around the cross to the pagan soldier – what's the difference? **Only by confessing Jesus as the Son of God can you be transformed from darkness into the presence of God.** To confess means to admit something is true for you. Can you hear the cry of Jesus on the cross - for you? Can you see the way he died on the cross - for you? How will you respond to Jesus' death, like the crowd or the soldier? How will you live differently as a result?