



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: The Gospel According to Peter  
Text for the Week: Mark 15:33-41  
Message for the Week: The Nonnegotiable Element  
Theme for the Week: Dying Twice

### Week 6

#### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

When have you been separated from someone you love? What was it like?

#### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

#### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Mark 15:33-41](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## **Respond / Reflect:**

Other than Jesus, which death has affected you personally in the deepest way? Why?

How was Jesus' death different from all other human death?

What aspect of the cross was most painful for Jesus? The physical or spiritual?

Why is death a non-negotiable element of being a follower of Jesus?

Why is prayer a non-negotiable element of being a follower of Jesus?

Does it help our suffering to know that Jesus also suffered? Why or why not?

Share one or more mini-deaths (dead ends, rejections, bewilderments, snubs, losses, abandonments, betrayal, unanswered questions, wrong turns, etc.) that you have experienced and how it impacted your life.

## **“Try It!”**

Explain to someone what the death of Jesus Christ means to you.

## **Prayer:**

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Pray this prayer together:

*Father, we confess that we have sinned and our sins have separated us from you. We thank you for sending Jesus Christ to be our Savior and to reunite us with you. Thank you for forsaking your Son so you will never forsake us. Thank you for accepting his suffering and death as payment for our sins and offering us salvation. Thank you for the privilege of praying with Jesus as we face the mini-deaths of daily life and prepare for our final death. Looking forward to the day of resurrection, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Connecting with Neighbors**

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to give something up to deepen our relationship with God and each other. Each day during the month of April, take time during your day from doing something else to connect with one of your neighbors. You could stop and say hello, bring them a plate of cookies, help them with spring clean-up in their yard, go for a walk together through your neighborhood or a nearby park, have them over for dinner, bring them flowers to enjoy, or something else the Spirit of God prompts you to do.