



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide  
The Cross Changes Everything – Part 1  
LEADER GUIDE

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS:** - Remember the C's of Small group health:

**CONTENT** - *biblical, intentional, and conversational*

**CONSISTENCY** - *regular meetings and interactions with one another*

**CCARE** - *sharing life's ups and downs with grace, love and encouragement*

**CELEBRATION** - *celebrating God's grace to us and having fun together*

**COMMISSION** - *participating in what God is doing now during our lifetime on earth*

**CHARACTER** - *as a leader – growing in my example for my group*

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**ICE BREAKER:**

- What weird or annoying habit of your spouse took you the longest to get used to?
- Share one of your personal pet peeves or something that really grates at or even offends you.

**INTO THE WORD:**

1) Before you listened to the message ... when you saw a cross what thought(s) came to your mind? If you wear any cross jewelry, why?

2) Read Isaiah 53:2-12

*Leader tip: this passage is very descriptive and moving. Consider a time of worship, prayer or quiet reflection as you read this.*

a) As you read this passage, develop a list of all the reasons this unnamed servant suffered.

b) How does this passage teach us that the servant's death was not merely that of a martyr?

c) What does vs. 10 reveal about God? How does this challenge you?

*Teaching Tip: Verse 10 teaches that God planned or ordained the death of Jesus; or to say it another way, the death of Jesus was a unilateral act inside the God-head of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.*

d) If someone asked you, "Why couldn't God have accomplished salvation another way?" What would you tell them based on this passage?

*Teaching Tip: Look in particular at the following verses: 5-6; 10-11*

### APPLY THE WORD:

3) Read and discuss the following quote:

*"...we can only grasp [the Cross'] sweetness if we first grapple with its offense. If someone understands the Cross, it is either the greatest thing in their life or totally repugnant to them. If it is neither of those 2 things, they haven't understood it." [Tim Keller]*

4) Right now in your life is there anything the cross is offending? How can you embrace that offense in order to experience God's love and transformation?

5) Evaluate your life (words, actions, etc.) and our church as a whole based on this: "The church's goal ought to be that if someone is asked why they are not a Christian, the answer would be because the gospel offends me ... not because Christians offend me."

### PRAYER TIME:

- *Use the prayer time simply to worship, praise and thank God for the Cross and the good news of "Jesus in my place."*