



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

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

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."*