



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide  
The Cross Changes Everything – Part 2  
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:**

- Have you ever had someone randomly or secretly pay for your bill somewhere? What happened?

**INTO THE WORD:**

1) What was one big takeaway you had from the message this week? What really stuck with you?

2) Read Galatians 2:15-21

Leader tip: this parallel passage is all about justification for those who have put their faith in Christ. As you guide the conversation it's helpful to compare being Jewish to being religious, or a church-attender or a good person – someone who feels justified by their good life. The Jews struggled with Jesus because they felt righteous by the law and did not want to submit to Him and the cross.

a) As you read this passage, how are people in our day and age like the Jews, thinking that everything in their life is OK, and that they might not need God?

b) What do you think it means to "rebuild the system I tore down"? What does this look like in someone's life?

Teaching Tip: We only come to salvation through faith in what Jesus did. When I begin to rebuild rules and behaviors as a means to make myself feel righteous, I stray from the cross, and am no longer living by faith in Him. This can take many forms in someone's life, but it is always an activity or work that makes us feel better about ourselves.

c) How does vs. 19 and 20 tell us we are to live? What does that look like to you?

- d) In vs. 21 if there was another way to be justified what does that mean about the cross and Jesus' death? If that is so, what does this mean about other religions, and people who say there are other paths to eternal life?

Teaching Tip: It's an incredibly important principle for believers to realize: God is very clear that Jesus is the only way. If there were other ways, then Jesus' sacrifice would have been in vain.

#### **APPLY THE WORD:**

- 3) Share any area in your life that is probably unhealthy, but you somehow are justifying the behavior. What does the justification look like?
- 4) We often compare ourselves to others to justify our life. Who are we supposed to compare ourselves to, and how does that make self-justification possible or impossible?
- 5) Look at your own life and think about what it means to let Christ live in us, and us count ourselves as dead? How could this look throughout the day?
- 6) What does it mean to you to have "right legal standing" before God through Jesus Christ? Are you accepting this for your life? Where might you struggle to accept it?

#### **PRAYER TIME:**

- *Pray for each other in the group, to fully accept the cross and the grace of God, and to allow Jesus to live in each other. Pray specifically for those areas where people are struggling to accept the grace of the cross.*