

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*

**Communion: Luke 23:44-49**

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Sunday, December 3, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions  
or family or personal devotions*

1. Did the children's presentation remind you of your own experiences or those of your children?
2. How does your heart respond to the ministry of Helping Hands?
3. Joel spoke of the darkness that fell over the world at the crucifixion. Read also Isaiah 53:4-6 and share what our Lord Jesus Christ might have been experiencing during those first few hours on the Cross.
4. What darkness do you observe today?
5. Discuss the tearing of the temple curtain and its significance to us as Christians today, especially with a look through the lens of the Reformation.
6. Are there any curtains between you and Christ?
7. What do you feel when you think of death?
8. Joel mentioned that when Jesus died on the Cross, He died with "confidence" (verse 46), that it was like the next stage, or walking through a 'door' into life with God as He committed His Spirit into God's hands. (Read also Psalms 31:5) Why do you think Jesus had this confidence to fully absorb and die for our sins and to commit His Spirit into God's Hands?
9. Read the account of Christ's death in the four Gospels: Matt 27:50, Mark 15:37, Luke 23:46 and John 19:28-30. How are they similar? What is the difference in the detail reported by Luke?

10. Joel noted that Jesus' final words were quoted from Scripture – read Psalm 31 in its entirety and then focus on verse 5 as it relates to this event.
11. As part of our response to Christ's loving sacrifice on the cross, Joel used the lyrics of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* to encourage us to be thankful and not take the Lord's death for granted. As you reflect on the verses of this hymn, what applications can you consider for your life, especially from the last line?

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

[Isaac Watts, pub.1707](#)