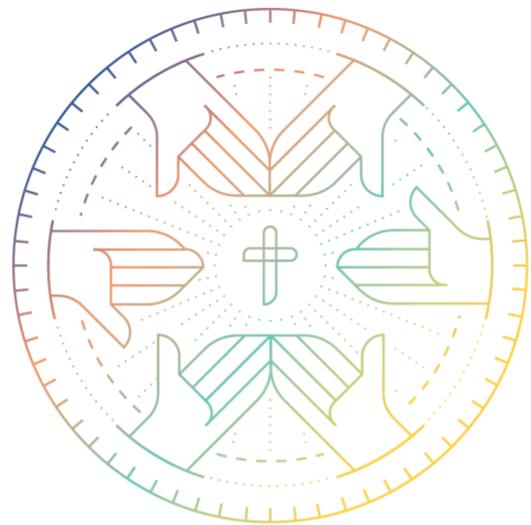


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## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

As David spoke of how Jesus divided time through His birth (BC - AD), what event in your life is a dividing line for you (beyond the obvious- your point of salvation)? Perhaps being adopted, healed, married, becoming a parent, graduating college, losing a spouse, etc. How does that line still affect your life today?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What most stood out to you from Pastor David's message?

Did you spend time last week reflecting on forgiveness and how you might have needed to ask it or give it each day? Share your experience with your group.

## INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

**Read Luke 23:32-43.**

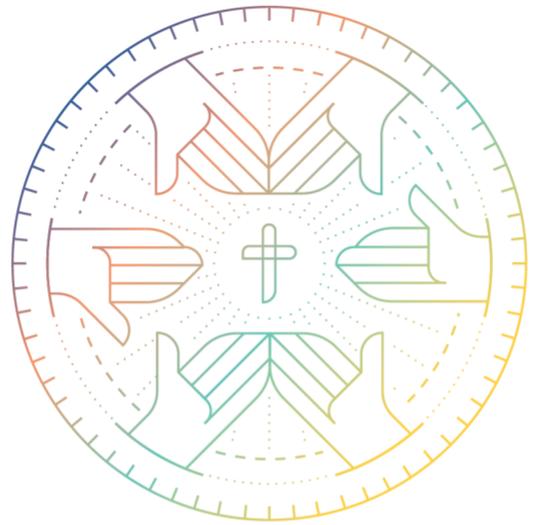
In the passage, we see Jesus being crucified between two criminals. What significance does this placement have in terms of symbolism and fulfilling Old Testament prophecies? **Read Isaiah 53:12.**

Reflecting on the interaction between Jesus and the criminals in the Luke 23 passage, how does this demonstrate the power of forgiveness and redemption even in the latest, darkest moments? **Read Matthew 5:44.**

In the passage, one of the criminals asks Jesus to remember him when He comes into His kingdom. What does this request reveal about the criminal's understanding of Jesus' identity and kingdom? **Read Matthew 16:27.**

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Consider the response of Jesus to the repentant criminal in Luke 23:43, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." How does this statement reflect Jesus' authority over salvation and His ability to offer immediate grace? **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.**

Reflecting on the dialogue between Jesus and the repentant criminal, what does this interaction teach us about the nature of salvation, the condition of the human heart, and the limitless grace of God? **Read Romans 10:9-10.**

## APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

Which of the above takeaways from this passage seem most applicable to you and your life today?

David left us with these five truths:

1. You only have two choices with Jesus: curse Him or cry out to Him.
2. Today matters!
3. Being "with Jesus" is the only answer to suffering, pain and death.
4. You can have hope in death.
5. The greatest value in life is Christ alone.

Which truth compels you to respond to Jesus today?

## DAILY THIS WEEK

Each morning this week, as you awake to a new day, complete this sentence in prayer, "Father, I cry out to you today, asking you to \_\_\_\_\_." He is listening.

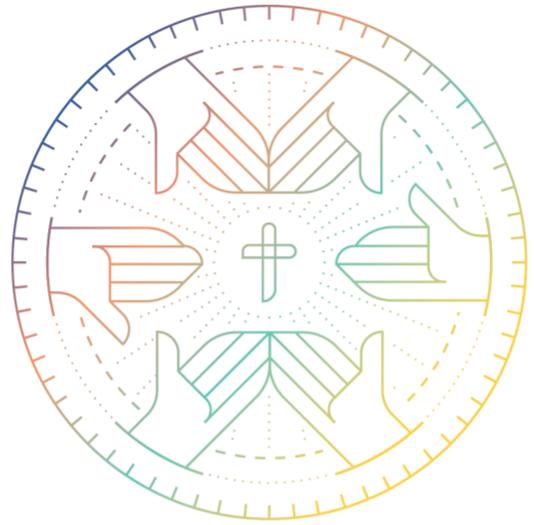
Send a note, text or email to someone who is struggling with sickness, pain, or the death of a loved one. Encourage them to find strength today in Jesus. Spend a few minutes praying for that person as you reach out to them.

Perhaps you could place something in your pocket each day this week so that when you feel it there, you could remind yourself that Jesus is real, and he is with you.

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## PRAYER

*Our Savior and Lord Jesus, thank you for all that we can learn from just a few of your words on the cross. You demonstrated to us that you identified with us as fallen beings who still desire to follow you. You know us and you accept us. Remind us that we are never too far from you to be forgiven in that moment. You are our Savior and our king. We worship you today with our whole heart. Amen.*