

# uphill

## Week 3: Golgotha—The Impact of the Cross

### WELCOME

In Pastor Bryan's sermon this weekend, he addressed three people who seemingly had a random divine encounter with Jesus on Calvary. What's a divine encounter you've had in your life that changed your faith journey towards Jesus? Perhaps it was a person, song, message, or church.

### WORSHIP

This week is known in the Christian world as "Holy Week." It is the week starting with Palm Sunday leading into the death and resurrection of Jesus (otherwise known as Good Friday and Easter). The evening before Jesus would be hung from a cross, he instituted the Lord's Supper with his disciples. Read Luke 22:14-23 and then take communion together as a group. After everyone finishes, say a prayer of thankfulness for Jesus and the cross.

### WORD

1. Who were the three people Pastor Bryan pointed out for having a divine encounter with Jesus on Calvary? What was different about the three people and their interactions?
2. Pastor Bryan talked about the fact that Mark noted Simon from Cyrene's children. Why is this a significant detail in the story? What does this detail possibly tell us about the future of Simon's family?
3. Was there someone that changed the course of faith for your family? Do you know their story?

4. Read Mark 15:39 and Luke 23:40-43. The centurion and thief are both living in violent opposition to God until they encountered the cross. The cross became a place of awakening and redemption for both. What impact does the cross have on your life?
5. Unfortunately, the message of the cross and the gospel can become devalued over time for a Christ-follower. However, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:18, *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* Do you live as though you've been saved by the cross or as though your "goodness" is good enough for heaven? How can you keep the "power of God" important and powerful in your life?
6. Read Matthew 18:21-35. The core message of the cross is forgiveness. In the economy of the cross, when we are forgiven we are called (even required!) to forgive others. What does this story show you about how important the cycle of forgiveness and mercy is to God? What could happen if we ignore this call?
7. Depending on the person, it can be easy or hard to allow ourselves to be forgiven. Yet, for most people it is even harder to forgive others. Is there someone in your life you need to work towards forgiving?

### WORKS & WITNESS

1. Make a tangible step towards forgiveness this week. Whether it is wrestling with the forgiveness of God in your life or forgiving someone else, what's one thing you can do to allow God's redeeming work to make movement in your heart and life?
2. Easter Prayer Vigil. If you signed up for the Easter Prayer Vigil, don't forget to go. If you forgot or weren't able to sign up, feel free to show up at any time between 6pm on Thursday and 5:30pm on Friday. May God stir our hearts toward him and in turn stir our hearts to reach our city!