

LifeGroup Leader Discussion Guide

Series: *What We Talk About When We Talk About the Cross*

Week: The Victory of the King

20260315

Key Text: Colossians 2:15

Big Idea:

The Cross is not merely a rescue mission for individuals—it is the **enthronement of the true King**. Through the Crucifixion, Jesus confronts and defeats the powers of sin, death, and evil. By refusing violent power, Jesus redefines victory. His Kingdom is a paradoxical one where **the throne is a cross and the crown is thorns**.

1. What ideas from the sermon caught your attention?

Leader Insight

This question helps people **surface what the Spirit may already be highlighting**. It also reveals what themes resonated most with the group.

Encourage people to reflect on:

- The **Cross as coronation** rather than only sacrifice
- The concept of **“powers and principalities”**
- Jesus redefining **victory through suffering love**

The passage in Epistle to the Colossians 2:15 describes Jesus **disarming the powers and authorities and making a public spectacle of them**.

Leader Tip

Let this question run longer than usual. Often the most meaningful discussion begins here.

If the group struggles, ask:

- “What surprised you?”
- “What challenged something you previously believed about the Cross?”

2. We are up against "the Powers"—systemic evils like racism, greed, or addiction that feel bigger than any one person. Where do you see these "powers" operating in our city today, and what does it mean to believe they have already been defeated?

Leader Insight

In the New Testament, “powers” refers to **spiritual forces that operate through systems and structures**. Paul uses this language throughout the New Testament (see also Epistle to the Ephesians 6:12).

Examples might include:

- Systems of exploitation
- Cultural idols of success or wealth
- Cycles of addiction
- Dehumanizing politics or racism

The Cross means **these powers no longer have ultimate authority**.

Leader Tip

Encourage honesty but avoid turning the discussion into **political debate**. The focus is **spiritual discernment**.

Follow-up:

- “How does believing Jesus has already defeated these powers change how we respond to them?”

3. If the Cross is Jesus’ actual enthronement, how does this change the way you view "weakness" or "failure" in your own life?

Leader Insight

The Cross overturns the world's definition of success.

In God's Kingdom:

- weakness can become strength
- suffering can produce transformation
- apparent defeat can hide victory

This theme appears throughout the New Testament (see Second Epistle to the Corinthians 12:9).

Leader Tip

People often carry shame around failure. This question invites them to **reframe their story through the Cross**.

Ask:

- "Where might God be working in something you previously thought was just failure?"
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4. Earthly kings rule by coercion and force, but Jesus rules by self-giving love. In what specific area of your life (work, family, social media) are you most tempted to use "earthly" power to get your way instead of "cross-shaped" love?

Leader Insight

Earthly power says:

- dominate
- manipulate
- win arguments
- control outcomes

Jesus' power looks like:

- humility
- sacrifice
- patience
- love for enemies

This is the ethic Jesus teaches in the Gospel of Matthew (Sermon on the Mount).

Leader Tip

Encourage **specific examples**:

- Parenting
- Workplace authority
- Online arguments
- Marriage dynamics

Ask:

- “What would cross-shaped leadership look like in that situation?”
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5. Paul writes that Jesus made a "public spectacle" of the powers. Since the world saw a dying criminal, but faith sees a victorious King, how can we help each other see God's "hidden" victories when things look bleak?

Leader Insight

Roman triumph parades displayed defeated enemies publicly. Paul flips that imagery—**the Cross itself is God's victory parade**.

But God's victories often appear **hidden or paradoxical**.

Examples:

- forgiveness instead of revenge
- perseverance in suffering
- faithfulness without recognition

Leader Tip

Encourage group members to become **“hope interpreters”** for each other.

Ask:

- “Who has helped you see God working when you couldn't?”

6. If Jesus is the reigning King right now, not just a future King, how should that change your "allegiance" to political parties, national identity, or even your own career goals?

Leader Insight

The early church declared "Jesus is Lord" in a culture that said **Caesar is Lord**.

This means:

- political identities are **secondary**
- national identity is **not ultimate**
- career ambition is **submitted to Christ**

Our primary citizenship is in God's Kingdom (see Epistle to the Philippians 3:20).

Leader Tip

This can be sensitive. Keep the focus on **ultimate allegiance**, not policy opinions.

Ask:

- "Where might Jesus challenge your priorities?"

7. Read Hebrews 2:14–15. Jesus died to free those who were held in slavery by the fear of death. How would your daily decisions change if you were truly, 100% unafraid of dying?

Leader Insight

Fear of death drives much of human behavior:

- hoarding security
- avoiding sacrifice
- protecting reputation
- refusing risk

According to Epistle to the Hebrews 2:14–15, Jesus **breaks that slavery**.

Freedom from death's fear produces:

- courage
- generosity
- faithfulness

Leader Tip

You might ask:

- “What risks for God’s Kingdom might you take if fear wasn’t holding you back?”
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8. Can you share a time when a "loss" or a period of suffering actually led to a spiritual breakthrough or "victory" in your character?

Leader Insight

This question helps people connect the **pattern of the Cross** to their own lives.

God often uses:

- disappointment
- grief
- failure
- waiting

to produce deeper faith and maturity.

Leader Tip

Model vulnerability if the group is quiet.

Encourage listening and affirmation rather than fixing.

9. If the King's primary weapon is forgiveness, how does practicing "radical forgiveness" toward someone who doesn't deserve it act as a "triumph" over evil in your specific situation?

Leader Insight

Forgiveness:

- breaks cycles of retaliation
- removes the power of bitterness
- reflects the victory of Christ

It is one of the most **countercultural acts of Kingdom power**.

Jesus embodies this on the Cross in the Gospel of Luke when He says, "Father, forgive them."

Leader Tip

Be sensitive—some wounds are deep.

Clarify:

Forgiveness **does not excuse harm**, but it **refuses to let evil control your heart**.

10. We live in the tension where the King has won, but sin, death, and evil are not yet destroyed. When you feel overwhelmed by news headlines, how does the "Jesus as King" perspective provide a different kind of hope than mere optimism?

Leader Insight

Christians live in the "**already but not yet**" of the Kingdom.

The victory has been won, but its full completion awaits the future.

Christian hope is different from optimism:

- optimism trusts circumstances will improve
- hope trusts **Christ reigns regardless of circumstances**

This vision is ultimately fulfilled in the Book of Revelation.

Leader Tip

Ask:

- “What practices help you remember Jesus is King when the world feels chaotic?”

Examples:

- prayer
- worship
- Scripture
- community