

# Growth Group Preparation Questions

For the week of April 17, 2022

Life Changing Miracles: Matthew 27:45-28:5-10, Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7

**Big Idea:** God's miracles led to people's belief.

**Goal:** To prompt everyone to see salvation is miraculous.

## Prepare

This week we're diving into Matthew 27:45-28:5-10 asking God to prompt us to see salvation is miraculous. The personal preparation time and discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we've learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

**Watch** Pastor Shawn's sermon, *Life Changing Miracles*, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go.

**Read** Matthew 27:45-28:5-10, Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7

**Pray:** Father, help us better understand the miracle of salvation.

## Connect

1. What do you do when you see a warning light on the dash of your vehicle?
2. What miracle are you praying for today?

**Discussion** Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like.

Our growth groups questions are a bit different this week, attempting to guide you through the experience of Good Friday through Easter and beyond. For these questions, put yourself into the story as a person living in Roman occupied Jerusalem in the first century making your way through the city on Passover.

1. **Read Matthew 27:45.** What immediately came to your mind when the sky became dark? What questions came to mind? Describe your emotions. What Old Testament stories might come to mind? What is your conclusion?
2. **Read Matthew 27:46.** As you walk by the hill where crucifixions occur, you see the man, Jesus, so many had been talking about and perhaps you even saw and heard yourself. You hear His words. How does this change your understanding of the darkness, if at all? How does Passover color your thoughts and understanding?
3. **Read Matthew 27:50-51.** As you continue through the city you stop by the Temple only to experience this incredible occurrence. What do you know about this curtain? Describe the setting such as the noises, the looks on faces, any commotion. Why do you think this happened based on what else you've experienced on this wild day? What other possibilities come to mind? What emotions rise up? What are your concerns? What is your conclusion?
4. **Read Matthew 27:51b-53.** You stop by a local baker's shop to have a bit of unleavened bread with some olive oil and process the amazing events you've experienced after Sabbath. As you sit outside you see what is described in these verses. Now for this one, you need to think about what isn't said in these verses. What do you think these people looked like (did they have glorified bodies, still wearing grave clothes or less, are they recognizable)? Now

what is going through your mind? Describe your mental, emotional, and physical responses. What is your conclusion after seeing all these events?

5. **Read Matthew 28:1-10, Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7.** It has been a couple of months since the strangest day of your life. As you walk near the Temple, you hear a man telling a crowd about Jesus and explaining the cause, meaning and purpose of those stunning events. Describe your immediate reaction. How does this change the way you live the rest of your life, both from the perspective of a first century person in Jerusalem and who you are today?

**Closing Prayer** This prayer section is a guide to help process with God what you've learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, seeking the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God and themselves while also helping and encouraging toward growth.

**Admire:** What have you learned about God through this sermon, discussion, and Scripture? Praise Him for it. **Possible response:** God we praise You, our miracle working God of salvation!

**Admit:** What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you as areas where you are falling short? Confess it to God. **Possible response:** God, we confess we sometimes let the Easter story become commonplace.

**Aspire:** What is a specific change you want to see in your life or action you and/or your G2 could take based in this time of interaction? **Possible Response:** God help us better understand and be transformed by the miracle of salvation.

**Ask:** Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.