SIGNIFICANCE IN SUFFERING

25 AUGUST 2024



²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

— Matthew 27:28–30 (NIV)



HOOK



Start the conversation by saying...

Has someone ever completed your chore, school assignment, or work task for you? Who was it? What happened?

ENGAGE



Go deeper with this...

What is the most you've seen a friend or family member sacrifice for you?

LINK



Connect to God's truth by sharing...

- Crucifixion was a Roman punishment, a criminal's punishment meant to humiliate and kill slowly.
- During Jesus' crucifixion, He was given the most humiliating, painful, and shameful treatment.
- All His disciples had abandoned Him. Yet He had said long before the crucifixion to "take up your cross and follow me." (Matthew 10:38)
- Taking up your cross means letting Jesus lead in your life.
- Completely surrender to Him, because He is in control and knows what's truly best for you.

PAUSE

Pick a question and pray together...

Discuss Together (pick one)

- Do you truly understand what happened on the cross when Jesus died? What questions do you have? How would you describe its significance in your life?
- How do you believe you can take up your cross and follow Jesus? What are some things in your life today that you feel are not honoring to God or completely in submission to Him?

Pray Together (pick one)

- Pray for a daily revelation and experience of who Jesus is and what He did for you on the cross.
- Surrender your life to Jesus daily, knowing He is sovereign and knows what's best for you.

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"Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

— Matthew 10:38 (NIV)

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

— Matthew 27:54 (NIV)