



To Be or Not to Be - Week 6 Be Self-Aware, Not Arrogant - Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts:

- **Have you ever had a moment of surprising clarity?** What happened that allowed you to have a fuller, truer perspective?
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs and the message? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Eddie shared, "When people are forced to see themselves, they are more likely to consider the kind of person they want to be. Self-awareness is an essential ingredient for relational and spiritual health." **What are some people, places, or activities that help you see yourself with greater clarity?**
- Revisit the story of the two men who were crucified next to Jesus. **Read Luke 23:32-43.** Have someone read the passages out loud if you're in a group. Try to imagine the scene in your mind—including details such as what you hear and see, what emotions are present, etc.
 - What do you notice about each of the men as they talk to Jesus?
 - What do you notice about Jesus?
 - Is there a word or phrase that stands out from this passage?
- The first man gave Jesus a self-serving test—asking him to save himself and him from the cross. Eddie shared, "Believing in God means trusting that his plans for me are better than my plans for myself. Instead of asking God for the life you want, make God your life." **How do these words challenge you? Are there situations where you find yourself tempted to make a selfish deal with God?**
- Eddie offered three takeaways from this story:
 - The difference between late and never is everything.
 - The proper posture with Jesus is to beg, not bargain.
 - If you experience it in Christ, death is not a loss.**Which of these do you need to embrace today? How can you do that?**
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- **Self-awareness is an essential ingredient for relational and spiritual health.**
- Luke 23:32-42 – Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.
The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”
One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself – and us, too, while you’re at it!” But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- 1 Peter 2:24 - He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.
- **A lack of self-awareness undermines spiritual progress.**
- Luke 23:39 - One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself – and us, too, while you’re at it!”
- **the court of public opinion**
- Romans 3:23 - Everyone has sinned. We have all fallen short of God’s glorious standard.
- 1 Corinthians 1:18 - The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction, but we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.
- **a faulty test**
- **Believing in God means trusting that his plans for me are better than my plans for myself.**
- Luke 23:40 - But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.”
- **There is a difference between desiring something from God and desiring God.**
- Acts 5:41-42 - The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: “Jesus is the Messiah.”
- **Instead of asking God for the life you want, make God your life.**
- Philippians 3:7-8 - I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.

- **You can't have an unshakeable faith, if it depends on God giving you things on your wish list.**
- **The difference between late and never is everything.**
- Luke 23:42 - "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."
- **The proper posture with Jesus is to beg, not bargain.**
- Matthew 7:22 - "On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me...'"
- **If you experience it in Christ, death is not a loss.**
- John 3:17-18 - "God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son."