

## The Questions At The Cross

### Two Questions Then And Now:

Luke 23:26-39

- ▶ Why is this **happening**?
- ▶ Why isn't God **doing something** about it?

### The Obvious Answers:

- ▶ God doesn't **care**.
- ▶ Jesus must not **be God**.

### Three Responses:

- ▶ **Confusion and tears**
- ▶ **Personal gain**
- ▶ **Mocking**

### The Real Question:

Isaiah 40:12-31, Job 38-42:6, Deuteronomy 29:29, Exodus 19:16-19

- ▶ How **big** is your **God**?

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## THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

### **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

### **SERVE**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

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### **The Obvious Answers:**

- ▶ God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Jesus must not \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Three Responses:**

- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Real Question:**

Isaiah 40:12-31, Job 38-42:6, Deuteronomy 29:29, Exodus 19:16-20

- ▶ How \_\_\_\_\_ is your \_\_\_\_\_?

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**NORTH COAST**  
**community  service**

As the new quarter begins, be sure to check out our Community Service website to see how you can get involved and serve our community. Serve a meal, tend to a garden, donate baby supplies, or participate in a special event. Visit [northcoastcommunityservice.org](http://northcoastcommunityservice.org) for a list of available projects.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 15, 2012

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## Welcome to the Winter Quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Winter Growth Group quarter. Your first meeting will include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss your Growth Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish this.

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God *change our lives* from the inside out!

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to choose a new mode of transportation for your daily use, and it wouldn't affect your ability to get from place to place, which one from the list below would you choose and why?

- Sports Car
- Quad
- Motorcycle
- Speed Boat
- Skateboard
- Horse, Camel, etc.
- Limo
- Train
- Bicycle
- Police Car
- Fire Truck
- Other

2. As you look toward 2012, what are one or two things you're looking forward to?

3. Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or principle most challenged you, confused you or caught your attention?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we were asked, "How big is your God?" How do the following verses describe who God is and/or how he relates to us?

Psalm 116:5

Isaiah 40:28

Hebrews 12:29

I John 4:8

I Timothy 1:17

2. An obvious theme from this week's teaching is that life can be difficult, and a sense that God is not present can seem to be the reality of the situation. What hope does Psalm 46 give us to hold onto even though God may seem to not be present in the midst of life's difficulties?

## TAKING IT HOME

1. **HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD?** As you look to this new year and quarter, are there any character traits or descriptions of God you especially want to keep in mind?

2. What are you looking forward to in this new Growth Group quarter? Is there anything you personally want to put extra focus on to grow yourself spiritually?

Possible ideas for you personally:

- Serving others
- Time with family
- Personal time with God
- Additional time on Growth Group homework
- Prayer
- Using my gifts & abilities
- Words of kindness/encouragement
- Other