ICON

THE EMPOWERING INVITATION
OF THE CROSS

Discussion Guide

PART 2

Bible Reading

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." [50:10]

Galatians 5:22-23
"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" [56:51]

2 Timothy 4:7
"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." [01:10:15]

Observation Questions

1. In connection with 1 Corinthians 1:18, what does Jesus' death and resurrection accomplish that makes the cross an expression of power rather than defeat? [53:02]
2. What everyday examples show how patience, gentleness, and self-control in Galatians 5:22-23 benefit the people around a believer? [58:01]
3. What kinds of strength can a person use to help someone else succeed? How does this move beyond simply stepping aside? [01:03:15]
4. In 2 Timothy 4:7, what does Paul emphasize when looking back on his life? How does that differ from measuring success by finishing ahead of others? [01:09:51]

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Interpretation Questions

5. Why might giving someone else credit or priority look foolish to a person focused on status? How does the power of the cross in 1 Corinthians 1:18 challenge that understanding of success? [55:06]

6. How does Paul's focus on faithfulness in 2 Timothy 4:7 help distinguish healthy ambition from achievement that has become a master? What might that difference look like in someone's working life? [01:02:28]

Application Questions

1. What "scoreboard" most often tells you whether you are doing well - work, money, relationships, appearance, or something else? When you feel behind, how does that affect the people closest to you? [41:06]

2. Think of a recent moment when someone moved too slowly, disagreed with you, or disrupted your plans. Which fruit of the Spirit did you most need in that moment? What could a Spirit-shaped response look like next time? [58:01]

3. Where are you finding it difficult to give up control because you are unsure how another person will respond? What would trusting God with your own faithful response look like, without trying to manage theirs? [01:00:13]

4. What strength do you have - experience, influence, money, ability, or connections - that could help a specific person move forward? What is one practical way you could offer it this week without needing credit in return? [01:03:22]

5. When you consider your current pace and priorities, what helps you remain faithful to Jesus, and what pulls you toward simply getting ahead? What is one change you could make this week to give more attention to what matters most? [01:10:24]

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