



Community Group Discussion Guide

## Week of February 17, 2019

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us on the cross, so that we would experience forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God.

**This Week's Text:** 2 Samuel 18-19:8

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith." **Galatians 3:13-14**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text? What have you learned so far from our study of 1 and 2 Samuel?
- Briefly recount the events of 2 Samuel 12-18. What are some ways God's word has been fulfilled over the course of these chapters?
- How did David prepare his army for the inevitable battle with Absalom's forces? Do you think David volunteered to join the battle out of bravery and a commitment to justice? What final order did he give his commanders and what does this tell us about his motives (verse 5)?
- Like David do you honor your children (or anything else) above the glory and honor of God? Discuss the importance the apostle Paul's admonition to grow in love along with knowledge and all discernment to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:9-11)?
- Why is it significant that the narrator describes David's enemies as "Israel?" How had the nation been enticed to rebel against God's anointed and against God himself? What is the role of church leaders, and how do we avoid falling for human craftiness over biblical truth (Ephesians 4:11-14)?
- What does the narrator imply in 9a (reference 2 Samuel 17:14)? What is the narrator underscoring by stating that Absalom was "suspended between heaven and earth?"
- In what ways was Absalom an anti-Christ and therefore cursed by God (Deuteronomy 21:23, 27:16, 20; Joshua 8:29, 10:27)? In what ways did David fail miserably in this chapter? Discuss

how Jesus is the greater Son of David who became a curse – not for his sin but for ours – to redeem us (Galatians 3:13).

- Do you think Joab was justified in defying David's order by killing the rebel Absalom? Was David's response to the messengers' good news entirely proper (2 Samuel 19:1-6)?
- Explain the difference between the gospel (the declaration of "good news") and advice. How have you responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission by demonstrating and declaring the gospel to those in your community and spheres of influence?