



## Sermon-Based Study Guide | Menlo.Church

This guide is designed to guide a group discussion around the weekend sermon. You can also use this as an individual, but we highly recommend finding a friend and inviting them to discuss with you. Menlo Church has Life Groups meeting in-person and online using these guides. We'd love to help you find a group: [Click here for our group finder.](#)

### What you will find in this guide:

A discussion guide for groups and individuals. If you are using this as an individual be sure to engage with each question in a journal or simply in your mind as you prayerfully consider what you heard in the sermon and seek to discover what God is inviting you to know and do.

## Sermon-Based Discussion Guide for Groups and Individuals

February 26, 2023 – Phil EuBank

### Last Words - Forgive

Every group is different; please choose the questions that relate best to your group, and don't feel like you must get to every question.

### Connect

- Have you decided to fast from something during lent? What lead you to that choice? (*Read the Fasting guide in the Lent Devotional for guidance on fasting*)
- What are you planning to add into your rhythms as you fast? (for example: reading lent devotional, prayer or a weekly service role)

### Engage

#### Read Luke 23:32-38

- Where did they take Jesus? What was significant about this spot?
- Who was watching Jesus' crucifixion?
- What did they say about Jesus?
- What do you notice about Jesus in this passage?

### Apply

- Phil encouraged us to imagine Jesus saying this phrase for each of us "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." What emotions and thoughts do you have imagining Jesus saying these words for you?
- 'Remember what they forgot' The leaders forgot what they should be looking for, not just in the Messiah but in how those around him would respond. Where have you been forgetful about God or how God is at work around you?
- Is it easy for you to receive forgiveness and healing? What is a practical next step for you in moving deeper into God's love and forgiveness?

## Prayer

Spend time sharing in your prayer needs together and praying for each person that shares. The following is a prayer by Henri Nouwen that you can read for your group and can use in your personal prayer during the week.

A Lenten Prayer by Henri Nouwen

“The Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are not times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me.

Amen.”

## Going Deeper

### Lent Resources:

Check out our Lent resources at the link below. This includes a digital version of our devotional guide and a new season of Menlo Meditations.

<https://menlo.church/last-words>

### Menlo Midweek Podcast:

Tune in every Wednesday for a conversation with the previous week’s speaker. It’s a deeper dive into the message and an engaging time to learn, reflect, grow—and have fun.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/menlo-church-sermon-podcast/id129950807>