

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Not in a small group? Contact us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: What's the story behind your most memorable scar?

Group Discussion: (Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, *use questions 3 & 4 for this week*. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)

1. What characteristics come to mind when you think about Jesus' appearance? Read and discuss Isaiah 53. Does it surprise you that Jesus is not physically described in the New Testament by the authors that knew him (Matthew, Luke, John)? Why or why not?
2. Read and discuss John 1:18, John 20:29 and 1 Peter 1:8. Pastor Tom said "if we are more than able to love supremely a God we cannot see, doesn't that put our focus on our appearance in a much healthier place and more balanced perspective? Why are we concerned with our appearance when God has asked us to believe without seeing? Why are we more blessed when we believe without seeing Him?"
3. Read the quote from Spurgeon in the Message Notes (on reverse side). Is it difficult for you to view Jesus' scars as trophies or royal jewels? Pastor Tom taught us that these "imperfections" point us to the perfection of His sacrifice for our sins...magnifying His remarkable love for us. How might our scars have redeeming value? Show healing? Demonstrate love?
4. Read John 20:24-29, Luke 24:36-40 together. Jesus does not hide His scars but instead uses them to identify Himself. We all have visible or hidden scars that identify the journey we are on. To whom do you reveal your scars? Why do we see some scars as noble while others we keep hidden? How does God see your scars? How can you let Him use your scars to help others on their journey?

Just for You

Take some time this week to re read Isaiah 53. What do Jesus' scars mean in your life? Have you allowed his scars to heal yours? Take a few minutes to listen to these different songs about scars:

- *What Scars Are For:* <http://tinyurl.com/whatscars4>
- *And With His Stripes We Are Healed:* [http://tinyurl.com/scars healed](http://tinyurl.com/scars%20healed)
- *Scars:* <http://tinyurl.com/wedonthave2hidescars>

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

"SACRED SCARS"
DECEMBER 7, 2014



"Sacred Scars"

December 7, 2014

By Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at

pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

...I want to focus our attention on a question that has intrigued people for _____ but has never been satisfactorily answered...and by the end of our message today we will understand why it's never been answered; but also, what's much more important to know.

1. What Does Jesus Look Like?

There is no _____ description of Jesus anywhere in the New Testament. The _____ physical description of Jesus' appearance is from the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah (note *Isaiah 53:2b*).

His appearance was ordinary. _____.

On His looks _____ He wouldn't have stood out in a crowd.

Immanuel = "_____ with us"

Sometimes a picture only tells part of the story, or even _____ us from the important.

Jesus wants us to imitate Him (note *Ephesians 5:1*); but to imitate His character, to do His _____, to follow His teachings, and to bring others to Himself.

Note John 1:18; John 20:29; 1 Peter 1:8

If we are more than able to love supremely a God we cannot see, doesn't that put our focus on our appearance in a much _____ place and a more balanced perspective?

2. His Sacred _____ (note *John 20:24-29*)

Note Luke 24:36-40; John 20:19, 26; Zechariah 12:10a; Revelation 1:7a; 5:6a, 12; 13:8
Jesus could have removed those scars to _____ the shame of the cross. But instead He kept those scars and _____ people to His scars...

"Beloved, these are to Jesus what they are to us; they are His ornaments, His _____ jewels, His fair array. He does not care for the splendor and pomp of kings. The thorny crown is His diadem-a diadem such as no monarch ever wore."

"Nor are these only the ornaments of Christ: they are His *trophies*-the trophies of His _____. Have you never seen a soldier with a gash across his forehead or in his cheek...every soldier will tell you the wound in battle is no disfigurement-it is His _____." (Spurgeon)

These "imperfections" point us to the perfection of His s _____ for our sins.

Like nothing else ever could, Jesus' scars display and highlight and _____ His remarkable love for us.

We can become satisfied with our "selfie":

- Not every _____, hurt, injury, and scar we experience in this life is the result of loving sacrifice...
- But there are some "scars" we do not have to _____ or be embarrassed about...
- These scars of love and sacrifice are precious and never need to be photoshopped away.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



RIVERSIDE NOTES
Sermon: "Sacred Scars"
Series: *Selfie Satisfaction*
December 7, 2014

...I want to focus our attention on a question that has intrigued people for centuries but has never been satisfactorily answered...and by the end of our message today we will understand why it's never been answered; but also, what's much more important to know.

1. What Does Jesus Look Like?

There is no physical description of Jesus anywhere in the New Testament.
The primary physical description of Jesus' appearance is from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah (note Isaiah 53:2b).

His appearance was ordinary. Normal.
On His looks alone He wouldn't have stood out in a crowd.
Immanuel = "God with us"

Sometimes a picture only tells part of the story, or even distracts us from the important.
Jesus wants us to imitate Him (note Ephesians 5:1); but to imitate His character, to do His will, to follow His teachings, and to bring others to Himself.

Note John 1:18; John 20:29; 1 Peter 1:8
If we are more than able to love supremely a God we cannot see, doesn't that put our focus on our appearance in a much healthier place and a more balanced perspective?

2. His Sacred Scars (note John 20:24-29)

Note Luke 24:36-40; John 20:19, 26; Zechariah 12:10a; Revelation 1:7a; 5:6a, 12; 13:8
Jesus could have removed those scars to erase the shame of the cross.
But instead He kept those scars and pointed people to His scars...

"Beloved, these are to Jesus what they are to us; **they are His ornaments, His royal jewels, His fair array.** He does not care for the splendor and pomp of kings. The thorny crown is His diadem—a diadem such as no monarch ever wore."

"Nor are these only the ornaments of Christ: they are His *trophies*—**the trophies of His Love.** Have you never seen a soldier with a gash across his forehead or in his cheek...every soldier will tell you the wound in battle is no disfigurement—it is His honor." (Spurgeon)

These "imperfections" point us to the perfection of His sacrifice for our sins.
Like nothing else ever could, Jesus' scars display and highlight and magnify His remarkable love for us.

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