

Questions from Luke 23:26, 32-24 (Feel free to read the whole passage in the group, to give more context – verse 26 to 34 or even all the way to verse 43.)

1. Simon of Cyrene was made to carry Jesus' cross and walk behind him. Of all your childhood chores (laundry, yard work, dishes, caring for pets, etc.) which was your least favorite? Which ones did you have to be forced to do? How do you think Simon would feel about this "chore" he's being forced to do – especially given the "large number of people" (v. 27) who were there?
2. Jesus asks for forgiveness – and really, by extension, offers his own forgiveness – to those who have participated in his crucifixion in some way – watching, following along, driving the nails in, dividing up his clothes, and so forth. Why do you think he would do this? When have you extended forgiveness in the midst of a trying time? ("Trying" is obviously an understatement for what Jesus was experiencing!) Was that easy or difficult to do? Why? What impresses you about Jesus here? How do you think his statement impacted those who heard it?
3. Is forgiveness easy or difficult for you to extend to others...or does it depend on the situation? Talk about your experience of forgiving others.
4. How about your experience of asking for forgiveness – is that easy or difficult to do? Talk about your experiences of asking for forgiveness.
5. What have you experienced as the result of asking for/extending forgiveness (reconciliation, peace, mutual understanding, hostility, frustration)? What has been your experience where forgiveness didn't occur (silent treatment, hurt, frustration, peace, reconciliation)?
6. Where is a relationship in your life that needs some forgiveness – either asked for or extended? What is stopping you from seeking forgiveness? How can the group be praying for you in regards to that?