**LIFE GROUP GUIDE
JTF #27 – What it cost God**

*[Help for leaders: Remember, this is a guide and not a script. Ask follow-up questions to help your group get at the deeper answers. A tip on asking questions about the passages… try splitting them into three different types: Observation – what does the passage say? Interpretation – what does the passage mean (for original readers and us)? Application – what should we do in response? Ask people how it makes them feel, how it challenges or encourages them.]*

**CONNECT IN with one another – Icebreaker questions**

Wimbledon 2017 kicked off this week! What do you enjoy most (or least!) about the competition?

**CONNECT UP with God**

* Please read Luke 23:26, 32-54
* **Breath – v46**
	+ What do we learn about the breath/Word of God through the following passages: Psalm 33:4-9; Job 33:4; Ezekiel 37:4-14; John 1:1-5, 14; Hebrews 1:1-3.
	+ By focusing on Jesus’ last breath in Luke 23:46 Luke pictures Jesus as both our creator and our redeemer. How do Colossians 1:15-20 and Philippians 2:5-8 help us understand this? What do they tell us about God’s use of power?
* **Darkness – v44-45a**
	+ What do you understand by the word ‘sin’? According to Romans 8:7 and 1 John 3:4, what is the essence of sin?
	+ On Sunday Andy quoted Martin Luther’s definition of sin, “Man curved in on himself.” What do you think about this definition? What other definitions have you found helpful?
	+ John Stott wrote (The Cross of Christ, p77): “The agony in the garden [Gethsemane] opens a window on the greater agony of the cross. If to bear man’s sin and God’s wrath was so terrible in anticipation, what must the reality have been like?” How does this affect your attitude to sin?
	+ How easy do you find it to accept that, on the cross, Jesus took on himself the punishment your sin deserves? (Cf 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Galatians 3:13-14)
* **Temple Curtain - v45**
	+ What was the role of the curtain in the Temple? *[Help for leaders: emphasises holiness and unapproachability of God]*
	+ Break you group up into pairs: ask them to articulate the significance of the torn Temple curtain in their own words.
	+ Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What does this passage teach us about reconciliation? *[Help for leaders: these verses should help you move people towards our response to the cross, which is not just awe and worship, but also mission]*
* **Interactions and Reactions**
	+ Which of the following characters in this passage to you most identity with? Why? Soldier, Robbers (split into non-repentant and repentant), Centurion and Joseph of Arimathea.
* Conclude with 1 John 1:9. Please read this verse and apply it to your group. Spend time confessing your sin to one another and receiving God’s forgiveness. *[Help for leaders: if you feel it is unlikely that people will be willing to this before the whole group (let’s be honest, this is highly likely!) you may want to split people into pairs, or get people to write specific things down and then dispose of them (the paper, not the people).]*

**CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you**

* What will you take from Sunday’s sermon that will help you explain the gospel to your friends and family?
* At the conclusion of this study, and after your time of confession as a group, please take some time to pray for those in your life who you would like to see come to faith in Jesus.