



**Date:** 3.26.24

**Title:** Cursed and Disgraced

**Scripture:** Mark 15:29-32

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

Over the next 6 weeks we’ll be exploring the season of Lent. Lent is historically a preparation time for Easter. In its earliest iterations in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century Lent was introduced to prepare new converts for the commitment they were making in joining the faith. This participation was extended to those who had wandered from the faith as a means to bring them back to the faith. As we journey through Lent this year, we will consider the journey towards the cross from the 1<sup>st</sup> person perspective of Jesus, in hopes that we will better understand what we are being called into.

### **Teaching**

Jesus is paraded through the streets to Golgatha. Once there, he is nailed to the execution stake where passersby hurl insults at him and mock him. Crucifixion was not just the most horrific form of execution ever created, it was designed to be humiliating as well. This is why crucifixions were such public affairs. For those who wanted Jesus dead all along, they now had the chance to watch this man- who seemingly attempted to upset the prevailing order – die. But for some reason that was not enough. So they mocked him, laughing amid his suffering.

But in the midst of it all, the writer is whispering to us that it is precisely because he is king, because he will rebuild the temple, because he refused to save himself that he is saving others – these are the very reasons he stayed on that damned cross. This, proclaims the crucified Christ, is what the love of God looks like.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

1) Highs and Lows of your week?

### **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

1. What are your biggest unanswered questions about the cross?
2. Are there times you can remember drawing closer to tragedy or something hard? If so, why?
3. What is the most compelling part of the crucifixion for you?
4. Why do you think the Easter story had to go down this way?

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

### **Spiritual Practice:**

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Lent Week 6](#)

