

# La Novela de Dios

## Episode 11 – Mission Complete



### group discussion flow

#### connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
  - Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
  - Start by stating: “Genuine love is willing to sacrifice self for someone else.”
- Then, surface experiences:
- “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
- “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “This is also true in the Christian life.”
  - Illustration(s):

#### notes & preparation checklist

##### pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

##### connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

#### hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

##### Choices:

**Mark 14:32-65**  
**Luke 23:32-56**  
**Luke 24:1-33**

Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.

##### Commentary:

**Mark 13:32-65**—Jesus, knowing that he was about to die in order to rescue people from their sin, goes to the garden to pray. Because he knows how difficult this will be, he asks God to make another way. He is obedient, though, and wants God’s will more than his own.

**Luke 23:32-56**—The very son of God is sentenced to die. The people are so enraged that they want him killed more even though Pilate says he has done nothing wrong. In between two criminals, Jesus dies for the sins of the world. Even when He is dying, he has compassion on the man who has faith and says that he will also be in paradise.

**Luke 24:1-33**—Death could not defeat the hero of this story. Just like he said he would, Jesus rises from the dead and appears to the disciples. Now that this has happened, he teaches them about the scriptures and explains that He is the rescuer they have been waiting for.

##### hear

**Mark 14:42-35**

1. Why does Jesus ask God to “take away this cup?”
2. Jesus knew exactly what was about to happen to him. If he was God and could save himself, then why did he go through with it?

**Luke 23:32-5**

1. Why do you think the people wanted Jesus to die even after Pilate said he didn’t think he deserved to die?

2. Why did Jesus respond the way he did to the

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below: “What can we learn about God or our response to God?”

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: “Genuine love is willing to sacrifice self for someone else”

This is the climax of the entire story of the Bible. We’ve seen how God created people, how people chose to do their own thing and go their own way, and how God has used faithful men and women to redeem bad situations. But here, we see the ultimate rescue. After seeing pictures of this in the lives of Abraham and David and after hearing prophesy from Isaiah, it’s finally happening. Jesus, fully man and fully God has come to rescue the world.

He did not come as a political hero or as a warrior riding a white horse, like we might have expected. This was a different kind of rescue. Jesus came because people were slaves to their sins and bad choices. They were oppressed by sinful men and they themselves were oppressing others. The earth God created, which was once perfect, was fallen and desperately needed God. People needed someone to pay the price for what they had done. Because of this, Jesus who deserved no punishment, took on the sins of the whole world and died so that we might be made clean.

second criminal on the cross?

##### ○ Luke 24

1. Why did the angel respond the way he did to the women who were looking for Jesus’ body?
2. Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead? How would the gospel be different if Jesus had stayed dead?
3. What do you think it means that Jesus “interpreted to them all of the scriptures concerning himself?”

#### apply that to life

- State the main lesson: “God sent a rescuer to take the punishment for the sins that people have committed.” Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:  
*In your own words, why did Jesus die? Why was that a good rescue?*  
*How does it affect your life that Jesus is alive, not dead?*  
*“What is one action you can take this week to apply the hope you have in serving a resurrected God?”*
- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

#### notes & preparation checklist

##### apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

#### tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

#### notes & preparation checklist

##### tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who “tell” easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.