



February 24 & 25, 2018  
Pastor Andrew Kraye-White  
andrew@eaglerockbaptist.com

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”  
Hebrews 12:2

### AT THE CROSS WITH THE ROMAN SOLDIER (From Matthew 27)

<sup>26</sup> “So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified. <sup>27</sup> Some of the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment.

<sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him.

<sup>29</sup> They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup> And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it.

<sup>31</sup> When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then

they led him away to be crucified...<sup>34</sup> The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he had tasted it, he refused to drink it. <sup>35</sup> After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat around and kept guard as he hung there. <sup>37</sup> A sign was fastened above Jesus’ head, announcing the charge against him.

It read: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

*The Hardened Skeptic*

## Three Unexpected Lessons

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”  
Ephesians 2:4-5

### MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior for the first time
- Memorize Ephesians 2:4-5
- Ask God to give me compassion for the hardened skeptics of this world
- Pray that God would provide me with the opportunity to invite the hardened skeptic in my life to join us at ERBC for Easter
- Get the most out of the weekend’s teaching by attending my LIFE Group this week



For podcasts, past messages, spiritual growth resources and more, visit Eagle Rock Baptist Church online at:  
[www.EAGLEROCKBAPTIST.com](http://www.EAGLEROCKBAPTIST.com)

## Discussion Questions - Week #6

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "The Hardened Skeptic," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### GETTING STARTED

1. For most Americans, when you think of the cross, you think of Christianity. What are the most popular brands you can think of that are equally recognizable by their symbol?

2. In the message, we looked at an example of a hardened skeptic who eventually came to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. What Christian beliefs or biblical passages have you struggled with and how did you come to trust in them?

### DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read Luke 19:1-10. Why did the crowd complain about Jesus' choice of dinner companion?

Can you think of any modern parallels for the tax collectors in our day?

What do you think it was about Jesus that attracted religious outsiders?

In verse 10, Jesus defined the purpose of his ministry. As a disciple of Jesus, how do you feel you're doing living in light of that purpose?

What could you do to be more purposeful in this area?

4. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. What stands out to you most in this passage?

How would you have felt in Ezekiel's shoes preaching to a field full of bones?

Why do you think Ezekiel responded to God's question in v.3 the way that he did?

What does the valley of dry bones represent in this story?

How is God's call on your life similar to the command he gave to Ezekiel?

How could this passage give us hope and encouragement as we go about our daily lives?

5. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. According to Paul, why does God give us new life in Christ?

What's the purpose of our new life?

Based on this passage, what similarities do we share with the hardened skeptics of this world and what sets us apart from them?

In what ways could this passage motivate us to share the good news?

How could this passage serve as an antidote to pride?

### TAKING IT HOME

6. Who are the unexpected people in your life with whom God wants you to share his unexpected gift? Take a moment to pray for that individual by name.

7. How can the group be praying for you to have a compassionate heart for the hardened skeptics in your life?

### PRAYER REQUESTS