WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Sermon Title: THIS IS NOT WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR
Key Scripture: Matt. 27:32, Mark 15:21, Luke 23:26
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/this-is-not-what-i-signed-up-for
Date + Speaker: March 22, 2026 | Pastor Mark Scarr

Big Idea:
Even when life takes unexpected detours, trust that God's plans are good and that keeping our eyes on Jesus helps us to keep going with purpose.

Starter:
How would you react to a sudden change in your plans? Would you laugh it off, stress out, or improvise?

Discussion:
1. Read the key Scriptures, what do they reveal about who Simon was, where he was coming from and what he was doing before the moment?
2. What specific actions did the soldiers take toward Simon?
3. What words or phrases in the key Scriptures show that Simon did not volunteer for the task?
4. According to the passages, how would you describe Simon's role in Jesus' journey to the cross?

Diving Deeper:
1. How can we reconcile unpleasant situations that God has allowed in someone's life, with the idea that God has a purpose. Jer. 29:11
2. What does Simon's experience teach us about being chosen by God, even without our consent?
3. How does the knowledge that Jesus also carried the cross help us to respond to difficult situations?

4. In the middle of a difficult season, what would it practically look like to “keep your eyes on Jesus”? Luke 23:26, Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-8.
5. How can our response to difficult situations influence others around us, like our family and community?

Personal Reflection/Prayer.
Take a moment to reflect: Is there something in your life right now, that you did not sign up for, that feels like a burden?

Prayer:
Ask God for the grace to trust His purpose, the strength to carry what feels heavy (2 Corinthians 12:19) and faith to constantly keep your eyes on Jesus.