

Study Questions *(Suggested time: 40 min)*

Please complete these questions before your group meets.

- 1) What was impactful for you from the weekend's message? Was there anything you had a question about?

- 2) In last week's passage, we saw how the Jewish leaders wanted so badly to have Jesus crucified that they were willing to break Jewish law, meet in the middle of the night and not follow the correct protocol for a Jewish trial. In verses 28-32, we see their hypocrisy continue. Jesus is taken from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, which would have been Pilate's residence. The Jewish leaders will not enter Pilate's residence because they did not want to be defiled for entering a Gentile's home as it would have prevented them from eating the Passover meal.

At times each of us struggles with hypocrisy, representing ourselves as better than we are, desiring more to follow the rules than actually love Jesus.

- a. What are these areas in your life?

- b. Read James 5:16. How do you think the practice of confession would help heal some of the areas of hypocrisy in your life?

- 3) In verses 33-37 Pilate and Jesus have a conversation about Jesus' kingship. In our democratic society we struggle to understand Jesus as a king. We sing songs about Jesus as King, songs like Crown Him with Many Crowns, or King of My Heart.
 - a. What does it really mean for Jesus to be King over your life?

 - b. Is there an area of your life that you struggle to submit to Jesus as King? Would you be willing to share that with the group?

c. What would it look like to submit that area to Jesus as King?

4) In verses 37-38 Jesus and Pilate talk about truth. Jesus states that he has come to testify to the truth and that everyone who is of the truth hears His voice.

a. When did you first hear and understand the truth of who Jesus is?

b. How has knowing and understanding the truth changed your life?

Prayer *(Suggested time: 10 min)*

A significant part of creating unity with God and one another is being open and honest with our lives. Praying with a group of people may be a new experience for you, or it may be familiar. Whether or not you choose to verbalize your prayer, everyone participates in sharing this time before God together. Here are a couple of suggestions of how you can pray together as a group.

1. Think of a characteristic of Jesus' life and example that is praiseworthy. As these characteristics come to your minds, take turns speaking them in simple sentence prayers, "Jesus, thank you for being _____." or "Lord, we praise you for _____."
2. This is a group prayer time where each person in the group will pray. Before you start, tell everyone, that if someone is not comfortable praying out loud in the group setting, they can pray privately and say "Amen" when they are finished. That will let the next person know it is their turn to pray. The group leader will start the prayer time.