

Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

The Trial of the King!

[John 18:28-40](#)

Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Describe a time when your faith in Christ was under attack by those who oppose Christ. How did the Holy Spirit help you in this situation?
2. Describe a time when you were involved with someone (or an organization) that was so determined to accomplish their goals that they compromised all truth and integrity.

Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. [v. 28] Why was Pilate in Jerusalem at this time? Where was his home? Why was it so important that the Jews not be defiled right at this time? Describe the irony in their refusal to be 'defiled.'
2. [v. 29-30] Why did Pilate not immediately agree with the leaders in condemning Jesus? How did the Jewish leaders respond?
3. [v. 31] What was Pilate's ultimate concern at this point? How did he try to defuse the situation?
4. [v. 32] Why was it important that Jesus be crucified and not put to death in any other way?
5. [v. 33] What was the primary accusation against Jesus that the Jewish leaders made Pilate and that they also hoped he would rubber-stamp?
6. [vv. 34-37] In these verses, look carefully at the exchange between Pilate and Jesus. There are two different understandings of king and kingdom given. Describe each of them.
7. [v. 37b-38a] For what purpose was Jesus born and for what purpose did he come into this world? What does the word "truth" mean in Scripture and in particular in John's gospel and letters.
8. [v.38b] What is Pilate's judgement about the accusation brought against Jesus? Why is this surprising?
9. [v. 40] Describe the irony of Barabbas being set free while Jesus was condemned.

Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. In this passage the Jewish leaders are to blame for Jesus' death (in the next passage we will see that Pilate as the Roman governor is also to blame). In what sense are we also personally responsible for Jesus' death?
2. Jesus states that he came to "bear witness to the truth." Do you find this difficult to do in your life and work? How does Jesus, our King, encourage us? See [John 14:16-17; 15:26-27; 16:13](#)
3. Jesus states he is King. The citizens of his Kingdom are those who listen to his voice. What does it mean to you that you are a citizen of the Kingdom of God? Is this something that is important to you or do you view your relationship with Jesus more on personal terms?