

/// REMEMBER THIS

Intro: We all like to believe what we *want* to be true. We craft stories that make us comfortable, excuses that protect our pride, and illusions that let us keep control. But what happens when the truth confronts us? Jesus the King. He challenges every assumption, every shortcut, every compromise. In this week's discussion, we'll see Him before Pilate, facing a world that wanted a king who fit their expectations, not the truth. As we explore John 18:28–40, we'll wrestle with the hard question: will we choose convenience, comfort, or cultural approval—or will we submit to the truth that alone can set us free?

Life Group Helps: Please take a few moments to read through the instructions below in preparation for the following group discussions and the use of the provided material.

Before the group meeting:

1. Spend time engaging the “Passages for Study/Discussion” with prayer.
2. Read through all the material.
 - + As you look through it, you will find helpful tips that will allow you to better facilitate the discussion.
 - + At times, CBC may provide sermon notes, and in the meantime, your sermon notes would be beneficial.
3. Think through ways you can help your group to apply what is being taught instead of “knowing” what’s been taught.

At the Group Meeting:

1. Summarize/Read the “Intro”
2. Assign readers for the passages outlined in the “Passages for study” section.
3. Walk your group through each question (or as many that time will allow). Use the leader guide to facilitate the discussion.
4. Summarize the “Review & Reflection” section. Reading this aloud may be helpful.
5. Share your thoughts on how you and your group can begin to apply what was

learned in this lesson. Help them formulate ideas for reading, studying, and meditating on the scriptures.

Bottom Line: The truth about Jesus is the only truth that can set you free.

Main Passages for Study: John 18:28-40

Leader's tip: Reading the main passage is vital every week. Some folks in your Life Group (LG) may have missed Sunday, and they need a deeper context to understand where the discussion is going. We prefer that our LG's get into the Bible for themselves, too. Finally, don't think you need to get through all the questions. This is a guide, and the Holy Spirit and people's needs may dictate more time on one question or another, and therefore, you cannot discuss all the questions... and that is perfectly fine! Enjoy!

I. Discussion Questions

- 1. What's something you're convinced about that other people strongly disagree with?**
- 2. In John 18, the religious leaders avoided entering Pilate's house so they wouldn't be ceremonially unclean—while plotting Jesus' execution.**
- 3. Why do you think someone can look very "religious" on the outside while their heart is far from God? How does religion create a mask of our true selves?**

+ 1 Samuel 16:7

- 4. Pilate seemed to know Jesus was innocent, but he still handed Jesus over.**

Why do you think people sometimes ignore the truth when accepting it would cost them something?

+ John 3:19, "Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

+ See also: Matthew 16:24-25; Mark 8:34-35; Luke 9:23-24; John 12:24-25; Romans 12:1; Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26

- 5. Respond to this statement: “We should be very concerned if we believe any version of Christianity doesn’t require us to change.”**
- 6. Even though people acted unjustly, God’s plan for Jesus’ crucifixion was still unfolding.**
- 7. How does it change your perspective to know God can work through situations that seem unfair or chaotic?**
- 8. Draw a connection between Proverbs 29:25 and Pilate in the main passage for this week’s study?**
- 9. If Jesus truly is King, what would surrendering more fully to His rule actually look like in your life right now?**
- 10. What are you committing to think differently, do differently, or believe differently because of this week’s discussion?**
- 11. How can others pray for you this week?**