

Hope on Trial | John 19:1-16

Opening Activity

The opening activity is designed to help you move into the lesson portion of your meeting time. The icebreaker questions will help to engage your group members in conversation.

- **Have any of you ever stood before a judge? What were some of the emotions you felt? Do you believe you were treated fairly and granted justice?**
- **Is there a difference between being treated fairly and being granted justice? Explain your answer.**

Scripture Reading

Ask one of your group members to read a portion the Scripture; make sure they are comfortable with reading in front of a group.

John 19:1-16

“Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, ‘See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.’ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, ‘Behold the man!’ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, ‘Crucify him, crucify him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.’ The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.’ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, ‘Where are you from?’ But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, ‘You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?’ Jesus answered him, ‘You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.’”

“From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, ‘If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.’ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, ‘Behold your King!’ They cried out, ‘Away with him, away with him, crucify him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar.’ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.”

Transition to the Video

As the leader, you will want to help the group move into the video session and direct them to the notes section in their participant guide. There are different ways to accomplish this transition, here are two examples:

- **Read the section on page 32 in the study guide and ask your group: “How does character produce hope?”**
- **Or, simply ask your participants to turn to page 33 in the study guide as you begin the video.**

Notes from the Video Session

1. We find *hope* in our **circumstances** when we take a close look at the Gospel story. (John 19:1-5)
2. We find *hope* in the **Gospel** because everything Jesus did through His sacrifice on the cross was based on the authority of God, and not of man. (John 19:6-11)
3. We find *hope* in **Jesus** because He is the true King. (John 19:12-16)

Transition from the Video

As the leader, help the group move from the video session into the discussion time. There are different ways to accomplish this transition, here are two examples:

- **Ask your group members: “What insights did you gain from the video?”**
- **Or, direct their attention to the discussion questions provided on page 33.**

Discussion Questions

Guide your group members through the discussion time using the questions below:

1. Were you ever bullied as a child? What happened?
2. In view of Pilate’s convictions (vs. 4, 6) why would he allow Jesus to be struck and beaten?
3. Pilate claimed he saw Jesus as innocent, yet his actions allowed for his mistreatment. Where do your convictions and actions not match up? How can the group pray for you as you align your convictions and actions?
4. What does Pilate’s fearful response to the crowd show about him?
5. When have you made a decision based on fear and ambition, rather than what is right? How do you feel about that decision now? What would you change?
6. How does a substitutionary view of the atonement affect the way we view our faith?

Group Prayer Time

Ask for a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit in your Life Group as you experience the power of the cross.

- Lift up one person who you know is under the penalty of sin and ask for the boldness and courage to share the Gospel with them.
- Pray for a fresh understanding of your sin and the penalty you deserve under the law. Thank God for His grace and the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

