



Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

"Jesus' Sacrifice" Sunday 28th March 2021

WELCOME: As Easter approaches, we're planning a self-guided reflective service on Good Friday, you can come and go between 9am and 10am. We're also planning an all-ages, church family service on Easter Sunday – we'll send out a link to RSVP soon.

DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE FROM ED THIS WEEK:

The AIM of this study is for us to experience a deeper knowledge of the Lord Jesus so that we know more, trust more, love more and obey more as His devoted followers. Let's be inspired to experience a deeper engagement with Him - to SAVOUR (taste) just how priceless our relationship is.

JESUS CHOSE a PATHWAY of Shattering Sacrifice. Let us understand with our hearts what we need to change, to sacrifice to express passionately that we ARE "prisoners of His love."

Let's look at three engagements of Jesus which are awesome:

Engagement with the Father;
Engagement with Roman soldiers;
Engagement with Pilate

BACKSTORY TO JOHN 19.

Read Luke 22:39 - 44. Spend 30 seconds in silence visualize Jesus' human engagement with His Father.

Jesus' PATHWAY required total surrender to the Father's Plan.

- **When did you last surrender to Jesus, (we often sing/pray it!) and what did you surrender?**

Read John 19:1 - 3. Spend 30 seconds in silence visualizing this engagement with Roman soldiers. Savour how Jesus felt experiencing such cruelty, such injustice.

JESUS' MOCKING made Him look like a victim, He would have felt totally dehumanized and degraded. The physical torture and abuse would impact His spiritual, mental and emotional state.

- **We are hardly ever mocked for our faith, but imagine and share together how you would feel if you were.**
- **If your character/identity was attacked, mocked, how would knowing Jesus give you courage to face it and OVERCOME?**
- **How are we strengthening our priceless faith, love and hope IN HIM?**

Read John 19:6 - 11 Spend 30 seconds in silence visualizing Jesus' engagement with Pilate. How Pilate felt, (v.8) how Jesus felt.

Remember, a few hours earlier, Jesus' had felt totally degraded and dehumanized.

- **But now, how does Jesus respond to Pilate's claim to have the authority to release Him or crucify Him, v.11a?**

For Jesus, His perspective was determined by focussing on His Father's authority - the Kingdom realm, the Heavenly realm. In His priceless relationship with His Father, NOTHING ELSE MATTERED! Even in the Cross, He knew that His Father would demonstrate through HIM, POWER, VICTORY, AND ETERNAL GLORY.

- **In a crisis when you felt shattered, have you determined to refocus, so that your perspective was Kingdom-centred, and you knew that HE would be glorified as you depended on the Spirit's POWER AND AUTHORITY.**
- **How will you start afresh, strengthen and savour your priceless engagement with Jesus on HIS PATHWAY?**

This week continue to engage with 5 x 5 x 5– take 5 mins for 5 days and dig deeper in 5 ways.

Pray together:

Pray that we would make time this week to reflect on Jesus's sacrifice, to know that what he accomplished changed our lives forever. Pray for strength in the face of crises and temptation and for opportunities and confidence to share the Good News of Jesus with someone this week.