

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Prayer

- “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” Matt. 5:44. This week, pray for those who oppose Christianity.

Introduction

- As we near the crucifixion in the gospel of Mark, hatred for Christ is exposed. We will consider how to avoid the mistakes of Pilate, the crowd, the council, and the soldiers.
- *Which group or person in this story stands out to you?*

Read Mark 15:1-5

- *What does this section teach us about Jesus?*
- *What is a biblical way to respond to false accusations?*
- *What do you think it would have been like to be in Pilate’s shoes?*

Read Mark 15:6-15

- *Knowing Jesus’ innocence, why would the crowd choose Barabbas?*
- *What are some ways that we are like this crowd?*
- *What role does envy play in this story?*
- *How can we avoid envy?*
- *In our day, what would it look like to be different than the crowd for the cause of Christ?*
- *Do you think Pilate is equally guilty as the crowd and the council?*

Read Mark 15:16-20

- *What do these verses teach us about human nature?*
- *What are the ways that our culture mocks Jesus?*

“One Another” ing...

- Each discussion guide this year will feature one of the scriptures’ “one another” statements. These instructions guide us on how to love one another.
- This week, *comfort one another*. (1 Thess. 4:18, ESV)