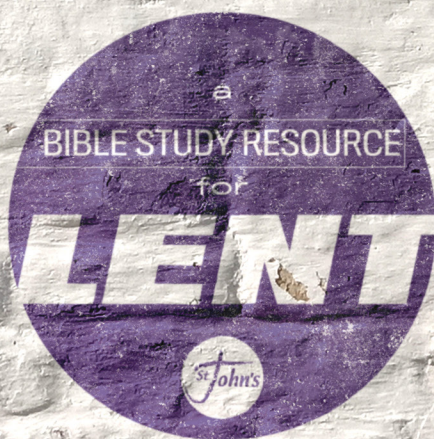


*and yet we're*  
**FORGIVEN**

Betrayed, Denied, Mocked, Murdered, and Buried



EMBRACING THE PASSION STORY OF JESUS

STUDY GUIDE



*and yet we're*  
**FORGIVEN**

□ Betrayed, Denied, Mocked, Murdered, and Buried □

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## And Yet We're Forgiven

Small Group Study Guide

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# Small Group Essentials


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## THE FOUR KEYS

**Four** key ingredients should be a part of every small group:

 **The Word of God:** Whether we study straight from the Bible or study the Bible through devotional books/guides, we are committed to GROWING from the Word of God in Christ.

 **Growth:** We are here because we want to GROW and see our lives transformed to be more like Christ. As part of this GROWTH we commit to pray for each other. We seek to encourage each other and hold each other accountable in the steps of our discipleship process: CONNECT-GROW-SHARE.

 **Acceptance:** As members of this Small Group we seek to accept each other unconditionally as Christ does each of us, seeking to build strong friendships rooted in Christ.

 **Confidentiality:** Everything shared in this group stays with this group. Gossip and slander are unacceptable. Like Christ, we seek the best for each other.

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# How to Use this Book

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Each week the format will be as follows:

## **Welcome, Introduction, Ice Breakers and Opening Prayer, Reading the Four Keys**

We encourage you to spend a few minutes getting to know each other and reviewing the Essentials of Small Groups.

## **Setting the Stage**

Read the text for the lesson each week. Members are encouraged to bring their bibles and read from their bibles. This can be read out loud as a group, taking turns, or read by one member.

## **Discussion Questions**

Answering all the study questions is not expected or required. Your group may have robust discussion on just a few, or they may move quickly through many. If possible, answer at least one question from each section: Getting Started, Digging In and Application.

## **Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer**

Please take time to note any praise reports and prayer requests. Please keep these in prayer during the week. You can utilize the closing prayer given, or say one of your own.








 Welcome, Introduction, Ice Breakers and Opening Prayer

 Read 'Small Group Essentials - The Four Keys' on PAGE 2

 Setting the Stage - Read the following verses together: Mark 14:32-52

 Read Unpacking the Theme and Answer Discussion Questions:

## UNPACKING THE THEME

It must be difficult to be omniscient. When Jesus drafted his team of disciples, he called up hotheads, cowards, cheats, and some who hardly knew the game. Although they spent three years in training, they committed abundant errors. They were sinners; nevertheless, Jesus chose them. But one stands out: Judas. How does an omniscient God choose a traitor to carry out his work? While the other disciples made mistakes, Judas was playing for the other team. And Jesus knew it the whole time. Long before the Last Supper, when Jesus would tell his disciples about the impending betrayal by one of their own, Jesus foretold Judas's treachery when he exclaimed, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" (John 6:70). Surely, Jesus knew.

Praying in Gethsemane on the night of his arrest was not the first time Jesus sought respite in that garden. "Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples," (John 18:2). Gethsemane was a garden or orchard at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Gethsemane means "oil press" and maybe Jesus chose that place to meet and pray with his closest earthly companions whenever he felt pressed. Perhaps it was peaceful, or quiet, or private—a place for prayer, rest, and solitude. Jesus often met with his disciples in Gethsemane with awareness that it would someday be

the site of his betrayal. Undeniably, Jesus knew. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane understanding that he would soon carry the weight of all mankind's sin in a grueling death that would fulfill his mission on earth.

The burden was immense. Jesus was “overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” and Luke records the very real condition called Hematidrosis, wherein an individual's perspiration is bloody in times of severe distress and anguish (Luke 22:44). Upon Judas's arrival in the Garden, Jesus declared, “The hour has come,” (Mark 14:41). Offering himself as a sacrifice for all the sins and ugliness of the world, past, present, and future, would be incomprehensible agony.

Certainly, Jesus knew. Jesus knew everything, and yet, he loved. He came to us. He healed the sick and nourished the hungry. He celebrated and mourned. He forgave sins. He befriended the outcasts. Jesus knows everything, and yet, he still loves. He comes to us. He heals the sick and nourishes our weary souls. He celebrates and knows our mourning. He forgives our sins. He calls us, “Friend.” It must be difficult to be omniscient. But, Jesus did difficult things, because of his great love for us.

## GETTING STARTED

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1. Can you think of a time that you were hurt or betrayed by a friend? Would you have allowed yourself to become friends with that person, if you had known in advance that you would be hurt or betrayed?

## DIGGING IN

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1. Compare Mark 14:36 with Mark 10:38, and read Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17-23, and Jeremiah 25:15-28. In the Old Testament, the cup of wine was commonly used as a metaphor for God's wrath against disobedience, while “drink the cup I drink” was a Jewish idiom meaning to share a common fate. What does that tell us about why Jesus was “deeply distressed and troubled” (Mark 14:33)? How can this give us hope?

2. Compare Mark 14:38 with Psalm 51:12. In his love and care for his disciples, Jesus wanted them to watch and pray so that they would not fall into temptation. What temptation did he want them to guard against? How can prayer help you avoid temptation?

## APPLICATION

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1. Read John 2:19-22. In his omniscience, Jesus had foreknowledge of Judas's betrayal and his own eventual arrest, trial, suffering, and death. He also knew that he would rise from the dead triumphantly. How does your trust in God, and His forgiveness and salvation, give you strength to face the challenges of this world? Name a favorite verse or hymn that gives you strength or comfort in the face of the world's challenges.

2. Mark 14:33 says that Jesus took Peter, James, and John further into the garden along with him when he went to pray. Bible scholars believe that Jesus had a particularly close relationship with these disciples. Identify a person or persons who you can draw closer to in times of trial, because of their wisdom, compassion, loyalty, or willingness to pray for and with you.

## Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

---

Lord Jesus,

We praise you and are in awe of your omniscience. You know all things, and yet you choose to love us. We confess the sins that sent you to the cross in our place. We are sorry for the sins that we have committed against you and others, for the times that we have betrayed or hurt someone we love. We thank you for your willingness to suffer in our place, so that we never have to face God's wrath for our sinfulness. We ask that you strengthen us to face challenges in this world, knowing that we will share in your eternal glory. Amen.






 Welcome, Introduction, Ice Breakers and Opening Prayer

 Read 'Small Group Essentials - The Four Keys' on PAGE 2

 Setting the Stage - Read the following verses together: Mark 14:53-72

 Read Unpacking the Theme and Answer Discussion Questions:

## UNPACKING THE THEME

If you were unjustly accused and under investigation, imagine how it would feel to see one of your best friends being interviewed about it on network news? Instead of standing up for you, he or she was shouting angrily, "Stop questioning me. I have no idea who you're talking about, so of course there is no way we could have ever been friends."

While Jesus must have been grieved by the denial of his Godhead (verses 63-64) and by the very ones who should have recognized him—the chief priests, scribes, and elders, how much more the words "I do not know this man" pouring from a friend's mouth must have added to his anguish. For three years Jesus and Simon and the other disciples grew close as they traveled up and down the dusty roads of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea together; not only was Simon one of the three "inner circle" disciples, he was the only one to whom Jesus gave a nickname: Peter (Petros = rock).

Yes, some day Simon Peter would become a rock-solid leader of the early church . . . but before growing into his name, Peter messed up along the way. He tended to speak without thinking (see Mark 8:31-33), which culminated around the fire in the chilly courtyard with his loud declaration of independence from any relationship with his teacher and friend. Lest we smugly think,

"We would never do something so shameful," now would be a good time to consider if there are other, quieter ways to deny our Savior. And of course, there are—have we not failed to speak up at school, work, family gatherings, anywhere it might be a bit uncomfortable (if not hazardous to our career or social standing) to acknowledge Jesus as the reason for an idea or decision or action that went against the flow of society? With Peter as an example, we can reflect on our own sin and weep (verse 72) and then rejoice when Jesus offers us forgiveness and restoration--just as He did to Peter (as recorded in John 21:15-19). Finally, we can take hope that the last words Jesus spoke to Peter (and still speaks to us) are not words of condemnation, but of purpose: (from John 21:19, 22) "Follow me."

## GETTING STARTED

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1. Read Mark 14:66-70. A denial often occurs after a person has been accused; what "crime" was Peter being accused of by the servant girl and others in the courtyard? What might have been the consequences of being convicted of that crime?

## DIGGING IN

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1. Read Mark 14:26-31. A few hours before Peter's denial, he has a heartfelt conversation with Jesus. What additional insight does this give to the scene of denial? (You can also read verse 47 to discover a violent action Peter took before the denial.)

2. Read John 21:15-19. After the resurrection, Jesus addresses Peter as "Simon, son of John" (his "old" name), and asks him the same question three times; how does this make Peter feel? (verse 17). Why do you think he felt that way?

## APPLICATION

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1. Read Acts 4:8-13. This time Peter--not Jesus--is the one standing before the religious rulers. They demand to know "by what power or name did you do this [healing]?" How can Peter's response encourage us after we sin by denying Jesus?

### Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

---

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your Word, which tells us the good news of Peter's repentance, restoration, and bold witness. For Jesus' sake, forgive us when we deny you by what we say or don't say, by what we do or don't do. For Jesus' sake, fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we overflow with your love in both words and actions, and may Peter's confession fill our mouths as well: "Lord, you know I love you." Amen.






 Welcome, Introduction, Ice Breakers and Opening Prayer

 Read 'Small Group Essentials - The Four Keys' on PAGE 2

 Setting the Stage - Read the following verses together: Mark 15:1-20

 Read Unpacking the Theme and Answer Discussion Questions:

## UNPACKING THE THEME

“Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing” John Stuart Mill, British philosopher and economist, 1867. The Sanhedrin had condemned Jesus to death. Since Rome did not allow the Jews to enforce the death penalty, Jesus is taken to Pontius Pilate, the sole authority with this power. He is not convinced that Jesus is guilty, and tries to reason three times with the crowd gathered outside the palace. But Pilate, “wishing to satisfy the crowd,” ordered the innocent Jesus to be first scourged and then taken away to be crucified.

An unlimited number of blows with the whip were allowed. After the scourging, a battalion of soldiers mocked Jesus’ kingly attributes, perverting them. They pressed a crown of thorns on His head, put the purple robe on Him, and struck and spit on Him again and again. No one defended Him; instead He was denied and made fun of as had been prophesied. Pilate, to avoid trouble, allowed the soldiers to mock the Son of God. He did the self-serving thing, not the right thing, causing him to be forever known as a moral coward.

Evil deeds are often helped along when no one stands up for what is right. Sometimes we ignore injustice because we think that we cannot make much of a difference. Albert Einstein said: “What is popular is not always right; and

what is right is not always popular.” As Christians, we are to stand up for the right no matter what the situation or consequence. Just as Pilate is accountable for his choices, God also will hold us accountable for ours. Yet, the Good News is that we are forgiven by Him, for His blood has fully redeemed us.

The price Jesus paid for our salvation was very costly, yet the innocent, Holy Son of God endured the mocking and the torture willingly because of His great love for us. We pray that God will give us the courage to make one choice at a time to do the right thing. He promises to equip us with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will strengthen us to face and conquer the challenges and temptations of life.

## GETTING STARTED

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1. What kind of man, politician or administrator do you think Pilate was? What clues do you find in Mark 15:1-20?

## DIGGING IN

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1. Review the emotional and physical torture inflicted on Jesus. Do you think that Jesus the prisoner received more torture and cruelty from the Roman soldiers than was usual? What are the reasons for your answer?
  
2. The Bible does not say specifically about how Jesus reacted to the torture, other than to remain silent, but Isaiah 50:6 and 53:7-8 give some insight into Mark 15:15-20. What do these verses say about what Jesus endured?

## APPLICATION

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1. Mocking is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as: “making fun of something or someone in a cruel way, or to treat with scorn or contempt.” Do you think that mocking someone is a sin? Have your actions or your words ever mocked the name of Jesus? If so, what were the circumstances?

2. How does it make you feel that Jesus went through this torture willingly? See Isaiah 53:3-6 and 11-12. Refer also to John 10:17-18. Does that fact inspire you in any way? This week, talk to Him about it in prayer and thank Him for His willing sacrifice to save you. “The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).



## Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

---

Dear Heavenly Father,


Thank you for willing the innocent Lord Jesus to be beaten and cruelly mocked in our place. Forgive us when we have thoughtlessly mocked others. Help us throughout this Lenten season as we study your Word that we may hear it, learn from it, and keep it. Help us to rely on you to guide us through trials and struggles. Please keep reminding us of how Jesus always gave His love to others when faced with injustice and unfairness. Give us the strength to follow His example. In His holy name we pray, Amen



 Welcome, Introduction, Ice Breakers and Opening Prayer

 Read 'Small Group Essentials - The Four Keys' on PAGE 2

 Setting the Stage - Read the following verses together: Mark 15:21-32

 Read Unpacking the Theme and Answer Discussion Questions:

## UNPACKING THE THEME

In Isaiah 53:3-6, hundreds of years before crucifixion was practiced by anyone, God's Word says this:

<sup>3</sup> *He was despised and rejected—  
a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.  
We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.  
He was despised, and we did not care.*

<sup>4</sup> *Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;  
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.  
And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,  
a punishment for his own sins!*

<sup>5</sup> *But he was pierced for our rebellion,  
crushed for our sins.*

*He was beaten so we could be whole.  
He was whipped so we could be healed.*

<sup>6</sup> *All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.  
We have left God's paths to follow our own.  
Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.*

No one could have imagined the scene carried out on Golgotha (the place of the skull) where Jesus was crucified.

Crucifixion was used by the Roman Empire during a time when the justice system regularly used strangling, stoning, burning and even boiling in oil as methods of torture and execution. Crucifixion was intentionally used to make a public display and lingering memory for both witnesses and those who heard about it later.

In Jesus' case, the political statement of the Romans was meant to destroy the idea that this "messiah" or "king" was any different than those who came before or after him. In the midst of the cruel intentions of Jesus' death, God created a very public display of His love and the blood of His own Son shed for the forgiveness of sins for all... even those who murdered him. Those of us who sin. We are the murderers and the forgiven.

The crucifixion was not the end of the story. The public display meant that hordes of people would see Jesus beaten, flogged and nailed to a cross. They would see His blood spilled to the ground. They would see the promises he had made come to an end. This was the purpose for the Romans. For those who condemned him, this display was the final statement about rebellion and disruption. For God, this was the beginning of the unimaginable story of the Gospel.

## GETTING STARTED

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1. In Old Testament times, sacrifice was a regular practice, so the sight of blood was already associated with forgiveness. As you hear the message of the Gospel, that Jesus died to redeem you and has declared you righteous before His Father, do you often reflect on the cost of the redemption? Yes or no? Why or why not?

## DIGGING IN

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1. Read Jeremiah 31:33-34. The Old Testament is full of promises from God to His people, the Israelites. Forgiveness was offered through the shedding of blood and although they continued in their rebellion and disobedience, God remained and remains faithful. Do you know of any Old Testament stories where God demonstrated His faithfulness to His people?

2. Read Luke 22:20. How are we reminded, and do we receive the promises of God's faithfulness and forgiveness today?

## APPLICATION

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1. As we consider the fact that our sins, are the very sins that Jesus bore on the cross, how can you both reflect on the cost of the sin and the grace found in the forgiveness of those same sins daily?

## Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

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Romans 5:21 NLT

*"So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the sacrifice you made to redeem us, restore us and fulfill your Father's promise of eternal life for us as we stand guilty before Him, but appear righteous because you took our place for the punishment of our sin. We love you. Please, Holy Spirit, dwell in and with us as we share the "good news" of the Gospel with those who do not know and have not yet heard that the Father's love is for all people. In the name of our beloved Savior, Amen.








 Welcome, Introduction, Ice Breakers and Opening Prayer

 Read 'Small Group Essentials - The Four Keys' on PAGE 2

 Setting the Stage - Read the following verses together: Mark 15:33-47

 Read Unpacking the Theme and Answer Discussion Questions:

## UNPACKING THE THEME

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We have come to the last chapter of our story of Jesus' mission on earth. By his death on the cross he has fulfilled his Father's plan of salvation for the world. This plan began before the world did. God in his all-knowing love knew his children would one day need a savior. Jesus, God's own Son, was the spotless Lamb of God. He has suffered, died, and finally buried for the sins of the whole world. All that the prophets foretold has occurred. There is no need for priests to sacrifice animals or sprinkle blood on altars. Jesus has become the perfect one-time sacrifice.

We may say that story is terribly sad. It is impossible for us to understand how a father could give his son such a difficult mission. It is also beyond our reason to see how one man's death could be the punishment for our sins. Yet Scripture says, "he was pierced for *our* transgressions, he was crushed for *our* iniquities, the punishment that brought *us* peace was upon him, and by his wounds *we* are healed." [Isaiah 53:5.]

Because of Jesus' death, a great exchange took place between God and us. Because of Jesus' death, we receive life forever in heaven. His purity took the place of our sin. Our darkness was replaced by his light. His power to overcome Satan became our personal victory. His humiliation became our

joy—knowing our sins are forgiven. We have peace with God.

Many stories have epilogs which tell what happens after the book ended. The epilog of our story is the most joyous one of all. Just as the candle of Tenebrae (Latin for Darkness) is returned into the sanctuary during a Good Friday service, we rejoice that the light of Jesus is beaming through his triumphant resurrection. His disciples thought the women were crazy when they excitedly told that they had seen Jesus alive. But when Jesus appeared to them on the evening of that first Easter, they saw for themselves that their beloved friend and Savior was truly alive. Our response is to bow in praise and gratitude to God's everlasting mercy and grace.

## GETTING STARTED

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1. Why was Jesus willing to die?
2. Why is the day Jesus died called Good Friday?

## DIGGING IN

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1. Why did Jesus feel left alone to suffer? (verse 34, 1 Peter 3:18)

## APPLICATION

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1. How can you show your gratitude for the gift of forgiveness and salvation?

### Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

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Dear Jesus,

Your horrible death on the cross brings healing and forgiveness to my soul. This blessing upon me is so great that I can hardly understand it. Give me faith to live in confidence that I belong to you and as your loving and grateful child. I will serve you forever. AMEN.

*...and yet we're forgiven.*

# LEADER'S GUIDE

## Week 1: Betrayed

### GETTING STARTED

1. Participants can share if they are comfortable. Answers will vary.

### DIGGING IN

1. While Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, his sorrow and distress was not due to his impending physical suffering and death (although that was also likely distressing). Rather, he was distressed by the knowledge that he would suffer the full wrath of God for the past, present, and future sins of all mankind. Jesus was perfect, holy, and sinless. He had never disappointed the Father, nor suffered any separation from Him. Jesus was sorrowful to bear the punishment of all sin, even though he accepted his Father's will and fulfilled his mission on earth. This can give us hope, knowing that Jesus already bore the weight of our punishment and we will not have to face God's wrath for our rebellion.

2. Knowing that his disciples would soon face tribulation and adversity, Jesus wanted them to avoid the temptation to become unfaithful. Jesus knew that a strong spirit, through prayer and connection to God, would help them overcome their physical weaknesses. We face daily temptations that threaten to distract us from God or turn away from him in fear, disappointment, or anger. Only through regular and consistent prayer, worship, and study of God's Word, can we find the strength to avoid these temptations.

### APPLICATION

1. Although Jesus knew that suffering the punishment for the sins of the world would bring incomprehensible suffering, he knew that he would be triumphant. His suffering, albeit tremendous, would be temporary, and would result in eternal glory and the reconciliation of believers to himself. Jesus knew the end of the story. Likewise, our temporal suffering will give way to eternal life with Christ in Heaven.

2. Personal answers will vary. Encourage participants to share, if comfortable.

## Week 2: Denied

### GETTING STARTED

1. Being "with the Nazarene, Jesus" (v. 67); Being "one of them" (v. 69); Being "a Galilean" (v. 70) Consequences: being arrested and/or put to death with Jesus.

### DIGGING IN

1. His heartfelt confession "Even though they all fall away, I will not" as well as his cutting off the servant's ear in defense of Jesus both show how much he desired to be faithful to Jesus, which makes his denial even more devastating.
2. Peter was grieved, perhaps because of the obvious reminder that he had denied Jesus three times.

### APPLICATION

1. Peter's response is a bold declaration of the name of Jesus. We can be encouraged by his example because he did not stay "stuck" in denial, but through the power of the Holy Spirit went on to be a bold witness for Jesus.

## Week 3: Mocked

### GETTING STARTED

1. Answers may include: powerful, sarcastic v 9, perceptive, for he saw that the priests envied Jesus v 10, he wished to satisfy the crowd v 15. However, he does try to persuade the crowd that he should let Jesus go three times, in Mark 15:8-9, 11- 2, and 14-15, so he was unsure of what he should do and could be called weak. **Background:** Pilate rules over Judea, Idumea and Samaria. His title is Roman Procurator, he is the imperial governor. It is his responsibility to approve and carry out the execution of anyone sentenced to death by the government of the people whose lands he rules. For Judea, the government is the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin is the Jewish High Court presided over by the High Priest. It has 70 members, including chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law. The Sanhedrin condemned Jesus to death on the charge of blasphemy, (Mark 14:62) but Rome had taken away the right of the Jews to execute criminals. If the Sanhedrin could have carried out this sentence, Jesus would have been stoned according to Mosaic Law. The Jews

changed the charge from blasphemy to treason, hoping Pontius Pilate would sentence Jesus to death. The Romans would execute by crucifixion, thus fulfilling prophecies such as: Psalm 22:1-20, and Mark 10: 33, 34. Pilate had a bad reputation. In a letter from Agrippa I, cited by Philo, a Greek philosopher, Pilate is called harsh, cruel, proud, violent and greedy. In another reference, Philo calls Pilate inflexible, merciless and obstinate.

## DIGGING IN

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1. The answers will vary, but they should reflect that it was clear that there was an unusual amount of detail shown by the soldiers in the elaborate mocking of Jesus. There could be varied reasons for this, but unfortunately the Bible does not say. The hatred could have been Satan's influence. As a Roman prisoner, He could be brutally flogged and torturously mocked, but not killed until the crucifixion. Considering the large number of soldiers involved, He very well could have been tortured and mocked more severely than other prisoners. **V. 15** Having scourged Jesus. Scourging was a common practice before crucifixion. It was a severe beating with a multi lashed whip with bone and metal intertwined in it. There is no information from the Bible as to the number of lashes that He received. **V. 16** The whole battalion. From 200 to 600 men were involved in this mocking and torture. **V. 17** The purple cloak mocks royal robe, the crown of thorns was a painful parody of a crown. **V. 19** Again and again He was struck in the head with a staff and spit upon. **V. 20** They fell on their knees, making fun of His claim to be a king. He was alone as well, with no support from His followers and had been sleepless for at least 24 hours. **Background:** Flogging and crucifixion were used for criminals and slaves, not Roman citizens. There was no limit for the number of lashes administered in flogging by the Romans. It was so brutal that many prisoners died from the beating. It was common for soldiers to mock prisoners; however, these soldiers seemed to take special pleasure in mocking Jesus and perverting all the kingly practices they could come up with. The number of lashes limited to 40 comes from Jewish law in Deuteronomy 25:3. The Jews would inflict 39 blows, so as not to accidentally break the Mosaic Law. The Romans had no such limits.

2. Isaiah 50:6 gives a prophetic description of the torture when it says: "I offered my back...they tore out my beard". The passage also mentions the insults and spitting. Isaiah 53:7 predicts that Jesus would be treated harshly

and be afflicted but did not open His mouth. Isaiah 53:8 “He was led away after an unjust trial, but who even cared?” Isaiah 53:8 foretells that because of His own people He was wounded. It was for our sins that Jesus suffered.

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## APPLICATION

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1. Each person will have had different experiences and opinions, so the answers will vary. Mocking someone is a sin because you are inflicting mental cruelty upon that person. Mocking the name of Jesus or standing by and allowing it to happen is also a sin. However, thanks be to God that we are a forgiven people by the sacrifice of Jesus, and we can confess our sins to Him and receive forgiveness.

2. Answers will vary

## Week 4: Murdered

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### GETTING STARTED

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1. Each response will be a personal reflection.

### DIGGING IN

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1. Examples: Genesis 9 - Noah: God would never again destroy the earth by flood, Genesis 12 - Abram/Abraham: From the line of Abraham all nations will be blessed, 2 Samuel 7 - David: From the line of David, God would bring a king who would reign forever, Jeremiah 31 - New Covenant see reading. There are many more.

2. Through Word and Sacrament - The Bible reminds us of the history of God's love, promises and faithfulness, while both baptism and the Lord's supper offer forgiveness and physical reminders of the fact that we, each one of us, has been claimed by God to be His own.

## APPLICATION

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1. Coming face to face with our own sins, daily, reminding us of the amazing

and unfathomable grace God shows and has shown. The greater our sin, the greater His grace. As we confess our rebellion big and small against the law and will of God, we come to know the love He has shown that we will never be able to completely comprehend. Thanks be to God! Time in His Word by the work of the Holy Spirit reminds, restores and ensures that we come to know that the sacrifice of God's Son was meant specifically and especially us.

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## **Week 5: Buried**

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### **GETTING STARTED**

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1. He knew his mission was to seek and save the lost souls. He obeyed his Father who sent him. (Luke 4:18-21)
2. The death of Jesus is "good" because as a result of it our sins are forgiven and we are restored to a right relationship with God. It is extremely "good" for us.

### **DIGGING IN**

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1. In order to satisfy God's justice, Jesus in his humanity experienced our total sinful condition. All our sins were transferred to him. In that moment he was banished from the presence of God, his Father. Now we will never be abandoned by God.

### **APPLICATION**

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1. Answers will vary.



# ICE BREAKERS

to do with your group if time allows

Take something from your wallet/purse and tell how it relates to you.

Tell about the most positive conversation that you had today.

Tell about the most interesting thing that happened to you today.

Tell about the most humorous incident that you experienced in the last year.

My favorite fun activity when I was a child was...

The thing that drives me crazy is...

We celebrated Easter when I was a child by...

My favorite movie of all times is...

My idea of a great vacation is...

My favorite food is...

If I could visit any era of history, I would visit...

My favorite childhood memory is...

My favorite leisure activity is...

Tell about the best birthday present you ever received.

Share one of the happiest days of your life.

Describe what your day was like today.

If you had to move and could only take three things with you, what would you take?

While growing up I saw God as...

What would you do if someone willed you a million dollars?

If you could do anything you want this time next year, what would it be?

# Thank You

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# Betrayed, Denied, Mocked, Murdered and Buried

## Embracing the passion<sup>1</sup> story of Jesus.

[1. **Passion** *noun* from Late Latin: passionem "suffering, enduring"]

The Light and life of Easter are so much more profound when we understand the depth of forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross. He was Betrayed, Denied, Mocked, Murdered and Buried—paying the price for our past, present, and future sins. Each one of us takes part in the Passion Story... We denied Him. We mocked Him. We murdered Him. We buried Him! ....***And Yet, We're Forgiven*** by Him!

This Lenten study attempts to lead us to repentance of our part in Jesus' suffering and death, but it also looks toward Easter and rejoices in the forgiveness we receive from our Risen Lord!

AND YET WE'RE FORGIVEN | MARK CHAPTERS 14 & 15

**this belongs to:**

St John's Lutheran Church of Orange



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