

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Crucifixion

Icebreaker:

- Which of these violent deaths affected you the most: a) John F. Kennedy, b) Martin Luther King or c) John Lennon?
- Ultimately, which of these people will be remembered most? Why?

Read: Matthew 27:27-44

1. Why were the soldiers so cruel in this case? What does that say about their view of Jesus? Of themselves?
2. Why does Jesus need Simon's help? What shape is Jesus in?
3. For what "official" reason is Jesus crucified (v. 37)?
4. What three groups taunt Jesus? Why these particular insults?
5. How is this scene like a mock coronation? What did Jesus actually deserve?

Heart Questions

1. If Jesus came today, who would "crucify him"? What would be the charge against him? Where would you be?
2. In what way does the agony of these insults deepen your appreciation of what Christ did for you in his death?
3. How have you made Jesus King in your life?
4. What words can you use to express your feelings to Jesus about his crucifixion?
5. How can this group pray for you?