

# JESUS

through the eyes of...

## Week of April 2 – The Romans<sup>1</sup>

### **Overview:**

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some of the enemies he faced while on earth. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.<sup>2</sup>

### **Group Objectives:**

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups.***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Consider how Jesus related to the powers of his day and how we can follow his example.

### **DNA statement(s) tie-in:**

- *We are all for Jesus* – Jesus saves us from our past, remakes us to be like him, heals our broken places, and is coming back as our king.

### **Conversation Starters:**

- Have you ever been accused of something when you were innocent? How did you handle it?

### **Listening to God**

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

### **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

- ***Read Luke 13:1; 23:1-6; 13-25.***
  - Are the charges against Jesus political or religious in nature? Why does this matter?
  - What do we learn about Pontius Pilate?
  - How do you see Pontius Pilate? As an astute, powerful leader? A weak, greedy man? As a man caught between a rock and a hard place? Other?
  - How many times did Pilate claim to find Jesus innocent?
    - Do you think Pilate thought Jesus was innocent or did Pilate use this opportunity to further subject Jesus's accusers to his authority by making them beg for what they wanted?

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<sup>1</sup> This week's lesson was written by Jackie O'Dell and edited by Dawn Gentry.

<sup>2</sup> For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to [cccomaha.info](http://cccomaha.info).

- How does Jesus respond in the face of questioning, false accusations, and a sham trial? As Jesus' followers, what should we learn from his response?
- What part does Barabbas play in this story? What acts was he guilty of and then imprisoned for? Do you see yourself in the story of Barabbas? If so, how?
- **Read Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12**
  - What are people like according to this passage?
  - How is the "Servant" described?
  - How does this explain Jesus' response while on trial?
  - According to this passage, what did Jesus gain from his surrender?
  - What should our response be to what Jesus has done for us?

### **Leaning into Obedience:**

- How can surrender lead to ultimate victory? What does this look like in our daily life?
- How have you endured a season of suffering? What did you learn about God in that season?
- Who do you relate to in this story? Jesus? Pontius Pilate? Barabbas? The religious leaders? The crowd? How does this awareness make you want to be more like Jesus?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

### **Prayer Prompts:**

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.
  - In what areas of my life do I need to surrender to God's will?*
  - How is God calling me to be more like Jesus, as I see all that Jesus suffered for my sins.*
- Option: Pray this prayer together with your group from Romans 5:1-4:

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*

*Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Thank you, Jesus, for all you have done for each of us.*