

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

50 DAYS WITH JESUS – PART 7

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- Share about one of your favorite teachers from your education. Why did they rise to the top?

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Brainstorm: Set a time for 60 seconds. How many details concerning the arrest/trial/crucifixion can your group name?
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Describe your understanding of Jesus' sacrifice when you were in approximately 5th grade and when you were in 12th grade.
- Throughout Jesus' trial/crucifixion he showed strength. Take a few moments and share those instances with your LifeGroup.
- Express how Jesus' sacrifice builds you up instead of tears you down?
- What is your response to the understanding that Jesus sacrificed for us, even though he doesn't need us?
- Debts must be repaid. Even if forgiven, the debt is "absorbed" but the person to whom it was owed. What debts of yours has Jesus paid through the Cross.
- Take some time and express all the varying perspectives of authority that play out through the trial/crucifixion of Jesus.
- Alternative history. What would it have looked like if Jesus had NOT allowed himself to be crucified? What would be different?
- How does someone "lose their life" by "taking up their cross?" What does carrying your cross look like in your life?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Jesus, Your teaching cuts right to our hearts, challenges us not just to be better versions of ourselves, but to be like our teacher. Thank you for your sacrifice. All authority is yours. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- Uh, this one is easy. Do the reading plan! www.flagchurch.com/jesus

Mark 8:27-37 (NIV)

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?