

MARK

READ ALOUD: MARK 15:1-20

Pursue

In our text this week, Jesus is brought before Pilate, tried, and condemned for crimes he did not commit, yet he remained silent. Crying out for his crucifixion, the Jewish leaders and people ask for the release of Barabbas, a criminal. Pilate, responding in fear to their demands, condemns Jesus, and he is beaten, whipped, mocked, and sent toward the cross alone.

- **Throughout the book of Mark, Jesus predicted his trial, condemnation, abuse, and mocking, but how does Jesus respond in the text this week? What does this teach us about the nature and character of Jesus/God?** (Hint: There are several “right” answers.) **What encourages and challenges you about his response to his unjust humiliation?**
- **What is significant about Barabbas, a criminal, being released while Jesus is condemned?** (Hint: consider the theological term - Atonement)
 - **As a group, discuss how this impacts your faith in Jesus.**
 - **What do you think the impact is of not regularly remembering and thanking God for the atoning work of Christ?**
 - **How does remembering and thanking Jesus for his atoning work influence your everyday life? (ex. how you interact with your spouse, coworkers, kids, barista, etc., how you relate to Jesus in prayer, reading the Word, or singing praise to him, etc.)**
- **As Jesus walks through the text this week, he is truly alone. His disciples have abandoned him, Peter has denied him, and he has now taken the place of a criminal, yet he continues. Hebrews 12:2 states, “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”**
 - **Jesus had hope that there was a joy set before him. What do you think was this joy? As you face life on this side of heaven, do you live life with the same hope and joy of Christ?**
 - **How can your group help and encourage you toward greater hope in Jesus?**

Practice

Let’s worship together!! On someone's phone, look up and play the song “Man of Sorrows” or “Hallelujah, What a Savior!” (If you have someone who is able to sing or play music, have them lead this song!) Group members are welcome to sing along, listen in silence, or pray. Whatever the Spirit is leading. After you enjoy this song, have 2-3 members offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to Jesus for his atoning work!

Proclaim

There are people in the spheres in which we work and live who face the suffering of sin and brokenness in this world with no hope. Have each group member share the name of one person they are going to be praying for and looking for opportunities to share with in their lives.