

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday?
Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

1. *Have you ever been a witness to an event or crime and had a different perspective about what occurred? What happened?*
2. *Of all the people who witnessed Jesus' life, who's vantage point would be most interesting to you? Why?*
3. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

Over the centuries, people have had different perspectives on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Sometimes we forget that there were even differences among the eyewitnesses that were actually there. Pilate had an outsider vantage point of Jesus and the events of his life, until the day he was confronted with the two most important questions. Who was Jesus & what had Jesus done?

- *From your own personal vantage point of Jesus and the Easter story of Jesus' resurrection, how would you answer these two questions? Who was Jesus? What has Jesus done?*

- *Many people struggle to answer the questions, "who is Jesus?" and "what has Jesus done?" How do we see Pilate struggle to answer these questions? How have you personally struggled to answer these two questions?*
- *Read John 18:33-19:16. As you read through the scriptures showing the narrative of Pilate and Jesus, what observations seem important to you? Why?*
- *What obstacles did Pilate have to overcome to discover the truth about Jesus? Do you find yourself experiencing any similar obstacles that Pilate faced?*
- *Read Matthew 27:24-26. From your vantage point, why does Pilate try to wash his hands of Jesus? Did this act accomplish what Pilate had hoped for? Are there moments where you attempt to wash your hands of Jesus?*
- *Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6. In what ways have you seen spiritual blindness exhibited? Do you think spiritual blindness is descriptive of Pilate's vantage point of Jesus? Why?*

Digging Deeper

- *Do you think someone like Pilate can ever come to faith in Jesus? What verses support your perspective? Have you ever known someone that you thought could never become a Christian who eventually did? What changed their minds?*
- *If you could invite anyone to church on Easter Sunday to hear the story of the resurrection of Jesus, whom would you invite? How will you take the time this week to actually make the invitation?*

Vantage Point: “ponTIUS Pilate”

John 18:33-19:16 // April 9th, 2017

John 18:33-35 (ESV) ³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”

From Pilate’s Vantage Point WE DISCOVER

The two most important Questions:

Who is Jesus?

What has Jesus done?

John 18:36-37 (ESV) ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Jesus confronts us as an unavoidable king

1. WHEN JESUS IS UNAVOIDABLE WE ARE TEMPTED TO AVOID.

Matthew 27:24 (ESV) ²⁴ Pilate saw that he wasn’t getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. The responsibility is yours!”

2. WHEN JESUS BECOMES PERSONAL WE ARE TEMPTED TO MAKE HIM IMPERSONAL.

John 18:38-40 (ESV) After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰ They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

3. WHEN JESUS IS SPECIFIC WE ARE TEMPTED TO MAKE HIS WORD’S UNSPECIFIC.

John 19:8-12 (ESV) ⁹ He (Pilate) entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above...”

4. WHEN A CHOICE ABOUT JESUS BECOMES URGENT WE ARE TEMPTED TO BE INDECISIVE.

John 19:12-16 (ESV) ¹² Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you release this man, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.” ¹³ When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your king!” ¹⁵ “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back. ¹⁶ Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them

to be crucified.