



Leader Corner

John 19:1-16

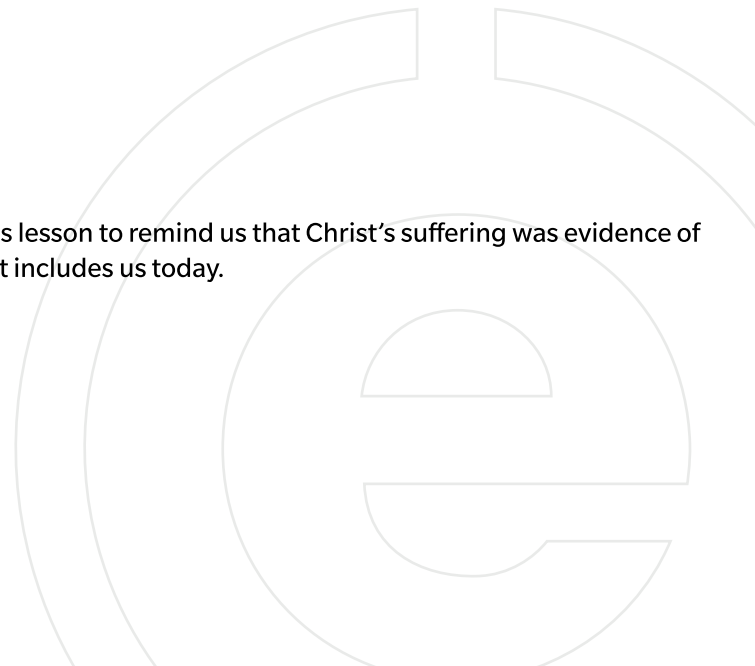
In this section of John, we see the political Pilate acting more righteously than the religious leaders as he speaks the truth about Jesus while the religious leaders avoid the truth in order to advance their agenda, which is both religious and political.

Refocus with Praise

Online, or from a hymnal, find the words to the old hymn "O Sacred Head Now Wounded." Read aloud, sing, or meditate on these verses.

with Prayer

Have someone open with prayer, asking the Lord specifically to use this lesson to remind us that Christ's suffering was evidence of His love for His own. That includes those who followed Him then, and it includes us today.



1. Have someone read aloud today's scripture: John 19:1-16.
2. What did you hear in Sunday's sermon that struck you as new or interesting.
3. In verse 11, Jesus points to "the greater sin," probably referring to Judas, Annas and Caiaphas over the sin of Pilate. Those Jewish leaders knew the written word of God, and Judas knew the living word of God, yet they rejected God's truth! What, if any, implications does our knowledge of God's truth have on our actions? See Luke 12:47-48, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, and 1 Peter 1:14-15.
4. Theologian Bruce Milne asserts that unlike in any other religion, our God in Christ, has entered into, and shares with humanity's suffering. In these verses, that suffering is depicted as physical harm, relational abuse, and emotional ridicule. Our God understands our suffering. Share what this means to you as you share the following passages: Psalm 56:8, 103:14, Matthew 26:38, Hebrews 4:15-16 and 1 Peter 5:7.
5. Read John 18:38, 19:4 and 19:6. Pilate states the truth about Christ, "I find no guilt in Him!" As Christ followers, we must understand this—Christ was not guilty of anything. He was Truth embodied; He was sinless. Contemplate Christ's sinlessness with the following scripture: John 8:29, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:22, and 1 John 3:5.
6. Please remember as we review the humiliation, suffering and death of Christ that if this was the end of His incarnation, we should be pitied. (See 1 Corinthians 15:16-20). But we worship, love and serve the resurrected, ascended and glorified Jesus Christ. Our hope and salvation is in Him. Mark 14:62, Ephesians 1:20-21, Philippians 2:8-11, Hebrews 12:2 and 1 Peter 3:22.

This week, encourage each other to consider the love that Jesus has for each one of us as shown in these scriptures. He endured humiliation and suffering to gain our salvation. Remember that in our suffering and in our love for Him and for one another, the Holy Spirit is developing Christlikeness in us.

For Further Focus

Pilate knew the truth of Christ's innocence but succumbed to the political and social pressures of his circumstances. How can we prepare to resist such error and serve Christ? See John 8:31-32, Romans 6:15-19, 12:1-2, 1 John 2:4-6 and 2:15-17.