

Misunderstood Authority

SETTING THE SCENE

SCRIPTURE

12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are

Week of September 6, 2026

not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." 13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

HEAD to help us examine what the word shows and let in what's true.

- What stands out to you as you read this passage?
- Where do you notice authority and power being misunderstood in this story?

HEART to help us wrestle with what we believe and be with each other in it.

- When you truly imagine the reality of this scene, where does your heart feel challenged or comforted by Jesus?
- Pilate knows what is right, but is willing to sacrifice almost anything to preserve his own power. What are you tempted to protect even when it pulls you away from obeying God?
- How does the example of Jesus help you trust that God is accomplishing his redemption in your life through all circumstances?

HANDS to help us bring the truth into our lives and go out into the world with the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus was secure enough in the Father's authority that he didn't have to defend or prove himself. Where could you stop trying to prove yourself this week?
- Read Isaiah 53:4-5 below and give space for a time of prayer as a group in response:

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities, upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group.
- **Listen:** We value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after someone shares gives them a true chance to finish. A Pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** Allowing silence in the group provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, gather their thoughts in order to share, and genuinely consider what others have shared.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Curious:** By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use "I" Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

If you need childcare reimbursement please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. You must submit within 30 days of attending group.

