



Week of Dec 17 - a

Scripture: Mt 27:11-23

Main Idea: The Roman governor Pilate questions Jesus asking, “are you the King of the Jews.” Jesus would answer this question, but address none of the accusations from the chief priests and elders. It was prophesied that Jesus would go “like a lamb to the slaughter.” This is evidence of how Jesus laid down his life for our sins.

Questions

Preschool: How do you think Jesus felt since he knew his time on Earth was coming to an end?

Grade school: There’s a crowd of Jewish leaders, all of them hate and fear Jesus. They have only one thing they want; to find a way to have the Romans kill him. They don’t have that power, only the Roman leaders do. They don’t care if it’s true or not, only that they get him killed. Do you think part of the reason Jesus really didn’t try to defend himself is because he knew he had to die so God’s plan of salvation would be fulfilled.

Teen: Again, Jesus stays silent against the accusations, but answers the question of who he is. Why does Jesus keep using this approach? What can we learn from it?

Adult: How would you define the opposite of “like a lamb to the slaughter?” Most dictionaries don’t have one. Some definitions indicate that the person isn’t aware of the consequences of their actions, or has no choice, using words like patsy or dupe or unavoidable. Do you see Jesus in this light? Or do you see him resolutely making a conscious decision to be crucified? He could have fought, being terrified of the result of his trial, yet he appears to be calm. Just a few hours before he was praying that it be removed from him. What do you think gave him this calm? How can we tap into that strength when we face difficult times?

PRAYER REQUESTS

December Memory Verse:

Romans 8:28 (NIV)
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Week of Dec 17 - b

Scripture: Mt 27:24-44

Main Idea: In this passage Jesus is abused by the Roman soldiers and mocked with a crown of thorns, spat on him, and beat him. Then he is crucified and while dying people who didn't believe in him would walk by and mock him. How lonely and painful this must have been. What love our Father has for us to pay this price to redeem us.

Questions

Preschool: How grateful are you that Jesus loves us enough to die a painful death in order for our sins to be forgiven?

Grade school: Where do you think his followers were at this point? There were women who had followed him from Galilee. They were probably watching from a distance, I'm sure they were not allowed anywhere near him. His disciples at this point were scared, confused and were also possibly watching from a distance, unsure of what their next move should be. Jesus said, "no violence!"

Teen: Do you see the great love God has for you when you read these verses? When Life seems hard does it help to remember you are so very loved by your Lord and Savior? Does Knowing that Jesus understands pain, loneliness, and hard times help you?

Adult: The religious leaders of the time mocked Jesus saying they'd believe in him if he came down from the cross. Would they? Had Jesus done even greater miracles in his 3-year ministry? Can you think of some miracles that were done before the leaders, yet they didn't believe? Is today's world like this? They see or hear something that is contrary to their belief and won't change their mind? Why do we get so set in our minds that we're not open to the truth?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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