

# Small Group Guide: The King Crucified

Holy Week Journey - Day Four

## Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand the significance of Jesus' crucifixion and to help the group see how the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Christ's suffering.

## Ice Breaker (5-7 minutes)

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "Good Friday"? Does it seem contradictory to call a day of suffering "good"?

## Key Takeaways

1. **Jesus' crucifixion was not an accident or interruption—it was the fulfillment of God's plan** revealed throughout the Old Testament scriptures.
2. **Every detail mattered:** From Jesus' silence before accusers to the soldiers gambling over his garments, each element fulfilled specific prophecies about the Messiah.
3. **"It is finished"** (quoting Psalm 22) signals both the completion of Jesus' suffering and the certainty of the coming kingdom.
4. **The suffering and the kingdom cannot be separated:** Jesus' death was necessary for salvation, and his resurrection confirms the promise.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text (15-20 minutes)

1. The video mentions several specific details of Jesus' crucifixion that fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (his silence, divided garments, unbroken legs, piercing). Why do you think John was so careful to point these out to his readers?
2. Read Psalm 22 together as a group. What strikes you about this psalm written hundreds of years before crucifixion was even invented? How does it connect to Jesus' experience?

3. Jesus quotes from Psalm 22 on the cross, saying "It is finished." What do you think he meant by those words? What was finished?

### **Going Deeper (15-20 minutes)**

4. The video states that "Jesus' crucifixion is not an interruption in the story, but the moment towards which the story has been moving all along." How does this change the way you read the Old Testament?
5. Why do you think Jesus remained silent before his accusers instead of defending himself? What does his silence communicate?
6. The soldiers mockingly called Jesus "the king of the Jews," unaware they were speaking truth. What irony do you see in the crucifixion scene? How does Jesus display his kingship even in his suffering?

### **Closing Prayer**

Spend time in prayer:

- **Thanksgiving:** For Jesus' willingness to suffer for our sins
- **Confession:** For times we've failed to appreciate the significance of the cross
- **Intercession:** For those who don't yet understand why Good Friday is good
- **Anticipation:** For the resurrection hope that follows Jesus' death