

onechurch

bigIdea



All of us have a past and made bad choices. We have all been stained. And there is nothing that you and I can do to fix our stain problem. Many people think that isn't fair. That God isn't fair by holding us to such a high standard that no one could live up to it. God isn't fair. And, in fact, we don't want Him to be fair. Because for Him to cover our stains, He cannot be fair. He must be something more than fair.

BIG IDEA: Jesus takes our stain and gives us a clean slate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When has someone been blamed for a trouble that you caused? Tell about that experience and how you felt.
2. Talk about a time when you were unjustly accused of something. How did you respond? How do you feel about the unjust accusations that Jesus faced?
3. Does it bother you that Chris said, "God is not fair?" Why or why not?
4. *Read Isaiah 1:18 with Isaiah 64:6.* Does this seem contradictory? Why or why not? In Isaiah 64:5-6, who is trying to do the cleaning? In Isaiah 1:18, who is doing the cleaning?
5. *Read John 18:28-38.* Discuss the interaction between Pilate and the religious leaders. What do you think about why they refused to go into the palace? What did Jesus mean by "My kingdom is not of this world?" How is his kingdom different? Why did Pilate ask "What is Truth?" How would you answer that question?
6. *Read Luke 23:8-12.* Why would Herod treat Jesus this way? Do we ever want Jesus to put on a show for us? How do you respond when people mock Jesus today?
7. *Read Matthew 27:15-25; John 19:1-15.* Why did Pilate offer them a choice between Jesus and Barabbas? Why would they choose Barabbas over Jesus? What do you think about Pilate's wife's dream? Was Pilate a victim or responsible for his actions? What do you think you would have done?
8. Talk about Barabbas: What type of people get the death penalty within the justice system in America? What do you suppose Barabbas was thinking when he heard the crowd calling his name? How did he feel when they came to tell him he was now free – that Jesus was going to die on the cross built for him?
9. *Read 1 John 4:9-10.* How do you feel about Jesus taking the cross that was meant for You?
10. *Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.* In your own words, what does reconciliation mean? Do you have any story in your life that illustrates this? What does God do through Christ (v. 18)? Through us (v. 20)? For us (v.17-18)?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

11. What do Pilate's and Barabbas' histories tell you about God's sovereignty (that God is in control)? Does the Lord's sovereignty excuse our choices and actions—in other words, does the end justify the means? What light does Romans 8:28 shed on these issues?
12. *Read 1 John 1:8-9.* Write your definition for the word *confession*.
13. *Read Romans 3:20-23.* When did you come to the place that you realized you had fallen short of God's standard? What did you do about it?

THINK ABOUT IT

Because of Jesus, Barabbas could walk free. He was no longer under condemnation, no longer in the deep shadow of death. By Jesus dying in his place, he got his life back. How real to you is Christ's substitution for you on the cross?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Are you carrying any guilt around with you? Is there anything that you need to come out and confess?

TAKE COMMUNION

If we can't fix our stain, then we have to stop trying and look for the One who can remove our stains. Last week, you started to keep a list of the sins—big and small. You should have brought those to group tonight. Take a portion of those paper sins and wad them up and put them in the bottom of your communion cup. Then take communion with the group.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21