



## **Group Discussion Guide: The Centurion's Perspective | April 2, 2023**

### **Begin your group by catching up with one another (20 minutes).**

Ask each person to share about how they're doing at work, at home, and how their families are doing. Give each person space to share as much or as little as they want about each bucket.

### **Split into smaller groups to read Scripture, practice silence, answer some reflection questions, and pray (20 minutes).**

Have each group read **Mark 15:16-39**.

This series is all about encountering Jesus. So, as you read instruct your group to imagine themselves at the scene. Place themselves there. Tell them to use their imaginations – what would they see? Hear? Smell? How would they feel as onlookers or bystanders?

Instruct each mini-group to do the following as they read the assigned text:

- Read the text one time through out-loud.
- Pause for a few moments of immersion in the story.
- Re-read the text.
- Discuss the following three questions:
  - (1) What was imagining yourself in this story like for you?
  - (2) What stood out to you from this story?
  - (3) What specific things in the above Scriptures did the soldiers do to Jesus? List out as many as you can.

Finally, to wrap up this opening, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.



**Come back together as a large group to debrief and recap the sermon (30 minutes).**

- Go around your circle and have each person share what stood out to them from your smaller group discussions.
- In your own words, describe what this past weekend’s sermon was about.
- What part of this sermon deepened your faith or challenged you most? Explain.
- In his sermon, Emerson drew three application points out for us: (1) loyalty to Jesus; (2) zeal for Jesus; and (3) obedience to Jesus. Which of these three could you to grow in? Explain.
- Think again about the area you could grow in. What would growing in that area look like practically? How can you grow in loyalty, zeal, or obedience?
- If you were to take the King and soldier relationship with Jesus 100% seriously, what changes would that evoke in your life? Or, in other words, what does this relationship compel you to do differently in your life?
- Since Caesar was called the “Son of God,” that phrase is not just a statement of Jesus’ relationship to God the Father, it’s an idea that connotes ruling and reigning, loyalty and allegiance – like how a soldier might relate to a king. With that in mind, how would you describe who Jesus is to you? Is he your King? Are you his loyal soldier? What would that relationship change in your life?
- What does Jesus going to the cross tell you about the kind of King he is?
- Now, take a few moments to pause and reflect. Do you sense any invitations from God as a result of your time tonight? Is there something you need to trust him with? Is there a stronghold you need to let go of? Is there forgiveness you need to ask for? Is there a step of obedience you need to take? Is there thankfulness you need to express? Share that with your group and then take that into your prayer time as you wrap up.

**Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.



- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.