



## **Group Discussion Guide: Barabbas' Perspective | March 26, 2023**

**Begin your group by catching up with one another (10 minutes).**

Ask, “What were your highs and lows from this past week?”

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

Have each group take one of the following passages to read: **Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:18-25; and John 18:18-40.** 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?

Here are the instructions for each mini-group as they read their assigned text:

- Read the text one time through aloud.
- 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 your from this story?

(3) In what ways did this story deepen your faith, love, and regard for Jesus?

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

**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.



- Who was Barabbas? What stood out to you most from Barabbas' story?
- If you were in Barabbas' shoes, what would you have been thinking as Jesus took your place?
- Has someone ever taken the punishment for something you did wrong? What was that like? How did it impact you and your relationship with that person?
- Take a few moments to imagine you're Barabbas standing before a judge with your record of wrongs about to be laid bare. Imagine you know you're about to receive a just punishment for those things. But just as you're about to be taken away, Jesus takes your place. How would that make you feel?
- What does this act of substitution tell you about God's love for you?
- Read **2 Corinthians 5:14-21** and all of **Romans 5**. What does Paul tell you about what Christ did on the cross for you?
- What part of this sermon deepened your faith or challenged you most? Explain.
- 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.