



## **In the Flesh – John 18-19**

March 24 | Group Discussion Guide

**Begin by catching up on your week (10 minutes).**

Have each person share a high and a low from their past week.

**Transition into reading Scripture and prayer (30 minutes).**

Begin your time by reading and praying through the account of Jesus being arrested, tried, crucified, and buried. After each of the below sections, pause and allow space for people to reflect and share anything with God they'd like to say to him. This is a whole group exercise. So, the point is to read each section of the text aloud and then to allow space for people to pray aloud. After each section is read and after some quiet with no one praying, as the leader, feel free to move folks into the next section of reading until you are finished.

Reading 1: **John 18:1-14**

Reading 2: **John 18:15-40**

Reading 3: **John 19:1-16**

Reading 4: **John 19:17-30**

Reading 5: **John 19:31-42**

After this final reading, as the leader, pray to close this portion of your group time, thanking God for his sacrifice on the cross for us!

**Discuss the sermon and John 18-19 (20 minutes).**

*You may not get through all the questions, that's okay. Feel free to read these ahead of time and pick a couple that fit your group best.*

- What did you notice from your time in **John 18-19** or what resonated from Emerson's sermon on these chapters? Why do you think that aspect of the text or sermon stood out to you?
- In his sermon, Emerson talked about how Jesus was *just the right* person to save us. No one else could have done it. Do you ever go through life operating like you can save yourself? How so? What leads to that kind of activity in your life?
- In the sermon, Emerson also talked about what the cross means. He said that, for John, the cross means that Jesus dies in our place, that Jesus triumphs over Satan, sin, and death, and that Jesus reconciles us to God. Pick one question below to talk through one of these aspects of Jesus' death on the cross:
  - Have you ever sat with the reality that Jesus died in your place? How did that affect you? How has it compelled you to live differently in your life?
  - Are there any places in your life where Jesus' triumph on the cross has made a tangible impact on anything you've been wrestling with but couldn't overcome on your own?
  - Why is it good to know that, despite the ups and downs, Jesus reconciles you to God?
- Lastly, Emerson talked about the "Mandate of the Cross." How has the cross propelled you towards obedience? Where is the cross propelling you towards obedience presently?

## Finish with logistics and prayer requests (10 minutes)

1. **Inform your group** about the study devotionals available to help you walk through gospel of John series! You can find that material at [thecreek.org/devotionals](http://thecreek.org/devotionals).
2. **Find a time** to attend one of the Holy Week prayer nights at The Creek and attend the upcoming Good Friday service. You can find information at [thecreek.org/Easter](http://thecreek.org/Easter).
3. **Sign up to serve** for one of our Easter services! You can find serving info for Easter weekend at [thecreek.org/Easter](http://thecreek.org/Easter).
4. **Finish your group** session by sharing prayer requests and praying.