

SERMON SERIES: The Final Chapters
SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:66-71
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff
DATE: March 18-19, 2017

Small Group Discussion Guide

for leaders (see below for participants' guide)

Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

Getting Acquainted

- **What is one takeaway from your last small group meeting? How are you doing putting it into practice in your life?**
 - As routine opener to group meetings, this question encourages individuals to apply your discussions in their lives. It also brings continuity & intentionality from meeting to meeting.
- **We do not know why Good Friday is called “Good Friday” in America. In other countries it’s called Holy Friday, Passion Friday, Sorrowful Friday, Long Friday, Friday of the Lament or something like that. It’s called somber things, not “good.” If you could name the Friday before Easter, what would you call it? Why?**
 - This question sets the stage for the Bible Exploration and helps people get to know one another on a personal level.

Bible Exploration

- **Read Luke 22:66-71 as a group and reflect on Jesus’ interaction with the religious leaders. What stands out and why? Are there things you don’t understand? Discuss.**
- **What can we learn from Jesus’ willingness to embrace the suffering he would endure? Why did he do it?**
- **Have you contemplated the truth that Jesus’ suffering was in part because of your sin, so that you could be forgiven and made right with God? Does it shape your daily life? As a group, discuss ways Christ’s sacrifice can give us a new perspective?**
- **In his sermon, Mike makes four key points and invites us to respond to who Jesus is and what he did for us.**

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 - Jesus claims to be God.
 - Given what he claims, Jesus is either God or a bad man.
 - We have to decide.
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- **What have you decided about Jesus?**

 - **If you have not been a follower of Jesus, is there something holding you back from taking that step today? If not, you can pray a prayer of commitment to follow him now. Acknowledge you are a sinner in need of his sacrifice to make you right with God. Ask him to forgive your sins, and in your own words commit to follow him as your Lord. Share this decision with your small group and talk about next steps in your journey of following Jesus.**

 - **If you are a follower of Jesus, is there anything holding you back from full devotion to Christ? If so, you can pray a prayer of recommitment right now. Acknowledge your sin, seek his forgiveness and ask for renewed power from his Spirit.**

 - **What is one takeaway from this week's discussion you can begin applying to your life this week? Be specific, and be prepared to share next time how it went.**

Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of "conversational" prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.

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