

WEEK 5 | APRIL 3

SERMON NOTES/REFLECTIONS

WEEK 5 | DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPENING PRAYER PRAY OUT LOUD TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, empty us of ourselves as we engage in Your Word. Show us more of You in *The Bigger Story*. Amen.

OPENER CHOOSE ONE

1. When have you been in a wild crowd: rock concert, sports game, protest march, other? How did it feel?
2. Share a time that you agonized over a major decision. How did you finally make your decision?
3. Share a time from your childhood when someone else took the punishment that you deserved.

REFLECT ON SUNDAY'S SERMON CHOOSE ONE

1. What were your "ah-ha" moments (did you feel convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon)?
2. What did you learn this week about how the Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus?

READ AND DISCUSS GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Read Matthew 27: 11-26 & Isaiah 53:6-12

1. Why did Jesus have to go to the Cross?
2. Why is this important for the world today?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

CONSIDER WRITING RESPONSES IN A GROUP JOURNAL TO BE PRAYED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

1. In your own words, how does what was shared this week about Jesus lead to a more fulfilling life for us?
2. Who do you know where you live, work, study, and play that is struggling by living under the law? Share the first name of the person God brought to mind. Commit to praying for them throughout the next two weeks.

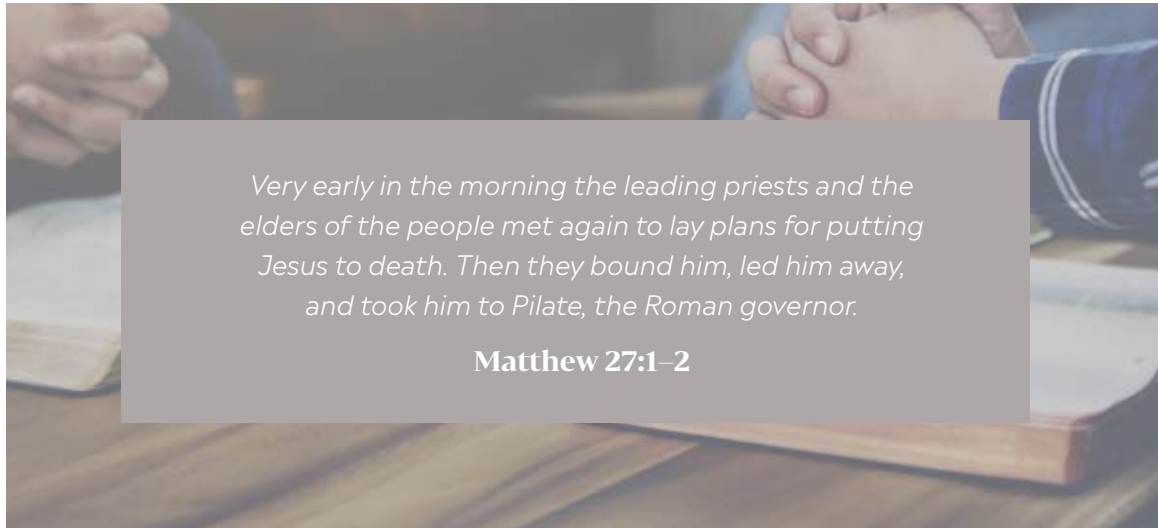
CLOSING PRAYER PRAY OUT LOUD TOGETHER

Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to save all of us from our sins. Jesus, thank you for becoming one of us and fulfilling the law through your sacrifice. Jesus, thank you for giving us a full life. Help us to see the full life your way. Holy Spirit, give us Your courage to live out this full life where we live, work, study, and play. Amen.

THE BIGGER STORY READING PLAN

JESUS WILLINGLY GOES TO THE CROSS

- M **APRIL 4** | Matthew 16
- T **APRIL 5** | Matthew 17
- W **APRIL 6** | Matthew 18-19
- TH **APRIL 7** | Matthew 20-21
- F **APRIL 8** | Matthew 22-23
- S **APRIL 9** | Matthew 24



Very early in the morning the leading priests and the elders of the people met again to lay plans for putting Jesus to death. Then they bound him, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

Matthew 27:1-2