

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Proven Innocent, Declared Guilty

LUKE 22:63-23:16

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinners. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe Jesus' claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // LUKE 22:31-62

1. Read Luke 22:31-34. How does Jesus praying for you (cf. Hb. 7:25) compel you to joyfully trust and obey him?
2. Read Luke 23:39-46. How does Jesus struggle in the garden encourage you? What does Jesus' prayer tell you about who he is?
3. In Luke 54-62, Peter denies Jesus three times. What is it about God the Father and the Lord Jesus that enable them to receive those, like Peter and us, who once rejected him? What aspects of God's character does this reveal to us? Praise God for who he is!

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // LUKE 22:63-23:16

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview/Big Idea: The innocent Jesus was declared guilty that we who are guilty might be declared righteous.

1. Read Luke 22:63-71.
2. Observe the ways Jesus is being treated in verses 63-65—identify them in the text. Why would God allow such treatment of his eternally beloved Son?
3. In verse 66, who are the leaders conducting the (sham) trial? Why is this significant?
4. In verse 67, what is the "Christ"? Why was the council intent in finding out if Jesus was claiming to be the Christ?
5. What do you notice about Jesus' response in verse 67b-69? Why does Jesus answer like this?
6. Read Daniel 7:13-14. Assuming the council members were familiar with these verses, how would they have understood Jesus' statement?

7. In verse 70, who is the council asking if Jesus is (see John 5:17-18)?
 8. How does Jesus respond? How do these leaders respond?
 9. Read Luke 23:1-16.
 10. Who is Pilate? Why did the Religious leaders bring Jesus before Pilate?
 11. What charges do they bring before Pilate according to verse 2?
 12. Which accusation does Pilate choose to question?
 13. What does Jesus' answer mean?
 14. What's significant about Pilate's conclusion in verse 4?
 15. Why does Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
 16. In verse 9, why doesn't Jesus answer Herod?
 17. According to verses 13-16, what verdict do both Pilate and Herod give about Jesus? What's significant about this?
 18. Why does Luke repeat Pilate's conclusion regarding the innocence of Jesus?
 19. In verse 16, what does Pilate say he will do? If Jesus is innocent, why does Pilate say/do this?
 20. What does this passage tell you about the character of God? How does this passage increase your delight in Christ?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Where are you being tempted? How is your prayer in this area? Are you using the grace of the gospel to strengthen your brothers and sisters?