Growth Group Lesson
April 1 & 2
Jesus on the Cross - Matthew 27:27-61

Spend some time praying with your group. Ask God to focus your mind during this Easter season as we look to the cross. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, for being the sacrificial lamb for your sins.

Get to know one another:

1. What's a favorite family tradition that you have for Easter?

Last Week: Jesus is brought before the governor, Pilate, who questions him about the accusations made against him by the chief priests and elders. Despite Pilate finding no fault in Jesus, the crowd demands that he be crucified. Pilate ultimately gives in to their demands, washing his hands of the matter and allowing Jesus to be taken away to be crucified.

Read Matthew 27:27-61

2. Imagine you are present at the scene that you've just read. What is your reaction? (Physically? Emotionally? Spiritually?)
    a. What do you imagine you would be doing and feeling if you were there?
3. What is the symbolism of the scarlet robe, crown of thorns, and staff that the soldiers put on Jesus? **Verses 27-29**
4. Read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and compare them with our verses.
    a. Who was mocking Jesus as he hung from the cross? **Verses 39-44**
    b. Why did these people mock Jesus? **Verse 45; John 3:18-21; Ephesians 4:18-19; Proverbs 4:19**
    c. Would you have been a 'mocker' of Jesus on his crucifixion day?
5. What is the significance of the temple curtain tearing in two from top to bottom? **Verse 51; Hebrews 9:1-15; 10:19-23**
    a. How can we experience the new way of God through Jesus' sacrifice? **John 14:6; Romans 3:22-24; Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. Who is the Centurion, and what is the significance of his statement Jesus was the "Son of God"? **Verse 54**
7. Why did Jesus die on the cross and what did he purchase for us? **Romans 3:21-26, Hebrews 2:14-18, Acts 2:22-41**
    a. What does this mean to you personally?
    b. How has this changed how you live your life (specifically)?
8. Are there any areas of your life that need to be affected by this reality that have been neglected or protected? How would you like to begin surrendering those to Jesus this week?

Spend some time praying with your group.

- If you have not made Jesus your King or savior, talk with your growth group leader or another group member about how you can be part of Jesus' Kingdom.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to evaluate your commitment to the King.
- Ask God to reveal to you whom you should invite to the Easter services. Ask for boldness to approach the people He has revealed to you.