



LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

# The King Who Was Rejected

Mark 15:1–20 • Nov 22, 2026 • 35 minutes

**Aim** See how envy, crowd pressure, and mockery surround Jesus' condemnation and respond to him with truthful allegiance.

## Before you lead

Read Mark 15:1–20. Notice the different roles of the chief priests, Pilate, the crowd, and the soldiers. Mark names envy and Pilate's desire to satisfy the crowd. Keep responsibility specific to the people described; do not turn this account into blame against an entire people.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

**Suggested timing** Welcome, prayer, and reading 4 min • Head 7 min • Heart 12 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

## HEAD

### Understand the passage

Read Mark 15:1–20 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

#### 1. How does Jesus respond to Pilate and the accusations in verses 1–5?

*Follow-up:* What surprises Pilate?

*Leader note:* Observe Jesus' brief reply and his silence before the continuing accusations.

#### 2. What leads to Barabbas's release and Jesus' condemnation in verses 6–15?

*Follow-up:* What does Pilate know, and what does he choose?

*Leader note:* The passage names envy, influence, and the desire to please the crowd. Barabbas is released while Jesus is handed over.

#### 3. How do the soldiers mock Jesus in verses 16–20?

*Follow-up:* What do their actions show they believe about Jesus as King?

*Leader note:* Their costume and gestures ridicule a king. Readers are invited to recognize the authority they fail to see.



## HEART

### Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

#### **4. When have you gone along with a group despite knowing something was wrong?**

*Follow-up:* What felt hard or costly about disagreeing?

*Leader note:* Keep the reflection personal rather than using Pilate only to criticize public figures.

#### **5. When does envy make it hard for you to welcome or honor someone else?**

*Follow-up:* What do you fear their success says about you?

*Leader note:* Discuss how comparison can distort judgment without assuming all disagreement comes from envy.

#### **6. What do you find hardest to face about Jesus' humiliation?**

*Follow-up:* How does this scene challenge your ideas about power?

*Leader note:* Let the group notice his suffering without treating cruelty as entertainment or offering quick explanations.

## HANDS

### Put the passage into practice

#### **7. Where could you stand against unfair treatment instead of quietly going along with it?**

*Follow-up:* What is a wise action you could take?

*Leader note:* Consider refusing mockery, correcting a false claim, or supporting someone being mistreated.

#### **8. How could honoring Jesus as King change a choice you make this week?**

*Follow-up:* What pressure will you need help to resist?

*Leader note:* Connect allegiance to a specific decision and ask the group to pray about it.

### Close in prayer

Honor Jesus as the true King. Confess where envy or the desire for approval has shaped our choices, and ask for courage to act justly and follow him.