



Getting to Know You...



Find a favorite picture on your cell phone and show it to others in the group. Why did you choose that photo?

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Digging In: Please take a moment to read Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-24

- What are some similarities between the role of a shepherd and the role of a godly leader?
- Why do you think these verses inspired hope in the hearts of believers living during the time of the prophet Ezekiel?
- Which phrases from these verses are most comforting to you?

Digging In: Please take a moment to review Matthew 27:27-31

- List all the ironies that you can find in this account.
- How did Jesus demonstrate absolute authority even when he was at the depths of his humiliation?
- Though Jesus' death on the cross was the ultimate act of humility, how does the cross also display God's glory?

Application:

- Are you someone who likes to be in control? Is it challenging to surrender control to God? How does today's gospel reading (Mt. 27:27-31) help you to gladly follow Jesus' lead?
- Review the major world and local events of the past year. Though we can't read the mind of God, speculate on why God allowed some of these things to happen and what good he was accomplishing through it.
- Look back on your own life this past year. Are there things that seemed terrible at first but now you can say like Joseph did to his brothers, **"God intended it for good"** (Genesis 50:20)?
- The theme of this Growth Group series has been, "Thankful Heart... Thoughtful Life." How does the assurance of Jesus' sovereign control as King of kings affect your daily life? What thoughtful action will you take this upcoming week?

Closing Prayer Suggestion: Can you think of any hymns or Christian songs that glorify Jesus as King? Search for it in the hymnal or on YouTube and use that song as your closing prayer.