

# Passion

## Six Discussions On The Suffering Of Jesus Christ



### Immanuel Lutheran Church, Buderim

#### **PASSION:**

**(Noun)**

- 1. From the ancient Biblical word 'pascho' and from the Latin 'passio' meaning SUFFERING.***
- 2. Powerful consuming emotion.***
- 3. Deep investment and commitment.***

# SOME INTRODUCTORY NOTES

## THE PROGRAM

Week 1 - Feb 21. "The Last Meal" John 13:1-17

Week 2 - Feb 28. "The Betrayal" John 13:18-30, 18:1-14

Week 3 - Mar 7. "The Trial" John 18:19-23, 28-40

Week 4 - Mar 14. "The Sentence" John 19:1-16

Week 5 - Mar 21. "The Execution" John 19:17-30

Week 6 - Mar 28. "The Death" John 19:28-42

Maundy Thursday - Apr 1 7.00pm Holy Communion

Good Friday 7.30am & 9.30am Stripping Of The Altar

Easter Sunday 7.30am & 9.30am Resurrection Celebration

## A NOTE ON WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF GROUPS

This discussion guide takes us on a journey through the six weeks of Lent.

We are asking you to commit as a group:

1. There is just ONE Bible reading each week.  
We ask individuals to quietly reflect on the Bible reading BEFORE you meet.  
Read it quietly and just sit and get to know it. Let it sink in deep.
2. When you meet, do what fits your group, or just follow this discussion guide!
3. Consider giving up something for these six weeks.  
This is called 'fasting'. Don't make your practice a public thing and boast about it.  
But the act of giving up something (like the internet, hot drinks, meat etc.) is a way to remind yourself of the sufferings of Christ and call you to prayer. It's a beautiful and simple practice to draw your attention back to Christ.

## A NOTE ON THE SUNDAY SERMONS

Each Sunday one of our pastors will preach on the Bible reading you discuss. But they will not answer all the questions. They won't explore the whole reading. They will just focus on one thing that the Holy Spirit draws them too. So, your discussion will probably be very different to the focus of the sermon!

If you miss the Sunday Sermon you can catch it on our website or LiveStream. If your group missed the sermon, you could even watch it together. BUT we would rather that you actually focus on the Bible reading!

## A BIT ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

As I reflected on the suffering of Jesus, I found myself jumping around in the four versions of the story - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - I was comparing details and noticing what each one focussed on.

Then I realised this is not how the books were designed to be written! You're supposed to read it through. So, this year we will just stick to (my favourite) and read the suffering of Jesus in the Gospel of John.

The Gospel of John is different. He wrote last, much later than the others (perhaps as late as around 90AD). The other three Gospels were already published long before and so John didn't need to say the same things again. He did repeat some details, but he also included other things that were missed by the others. John told the story from a different viewpoint.

The earlier three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) all have a similar timeline and focus on similar events and so they call them "synoptic" because they see (optic) together (syn). But John leaves out big events that the others zoom in on and takes us deeper meaning of events - if only we take the time!

# WEEK 1 “THE LAST MEAL” JOHN 13:1-17

## WELCOME

Welcome to your new group! Get started by welcoming warmly, providing hospitality, have a cuppa. Commit that people can say what they honestly feel and it will be respected. Commit to your group that you will listen and give everyone a go. Commit that this group will be safe for all.

## A FUN OPENING QUESTION

Have you met someone famous? Who, when, how?

If you could spend time with any living person, who would it be and why?

## READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER

John 13:1-17

## DISCUSS

What did you notice? What were you drawn to in this Bible reading?

What needs explaining or left you wondering something?

What does this Bible reading reveal about Jesus?

What in here is ‘good news’ for the world?

## OPTIONAL DISCUSSION POINTS

Notice verse 1, “having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end...” How does this introduction to the action explain what follows?

Notice verse 2, “the devil had already prompted Judas” Jesus washed the feet of Judas too (and gave him bread and wine). How does that sit with you? What does it say about Jesus?

See verse 8, “unless I wash you, you have no part...” What does this mean?

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!

# WEEK 2 “THE BETRAYAL” JOHN 13:18-30, 18:1-14

## WELCOME

You’re on a journey together for forty days. Get started by welcoming warmly, providing hospitality, have a cuppa. Commit that this group will be safe for all.

Have any of you given up something for Lent? What are you learning from it?

## A FUN OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer to listen or talk? (Be honest now!)

Can you think of a story, show, or movie that includes betrayal?

## READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER

John 13:18-30, 18:1-14

## DISCUSS

What did you notice? What were you drawn to in this Bible reading?

What needs explaining or left you wondering something?

What does this Bible reading reveal about Jesus?

What in here is ‘good news’ for the world?

## OPTIONAL EXTRA DISCUSSION POINTS

See John 13:18, “this is to fulfil scripture...” Jesus here quotes Psalm 41:9. Jesus constantly claims (and so do his followers) that the Psalms are about him! You might like to look at Psalm 41 (written almost a thousand years earlier). How many places in it can you see Jesus?

See John 13:20, “whoever accepts the one I send accepts me and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me!” What do you hear in this saying?

See John 13:27, “what you are about to do, do quickly!” What is this?

See John 18:5, 18:6, 18:8. Three times the words “I Am He” are repeated. In that ancient language these words here are a special and different way of saying “I am” (ego eimi). Jesus has said these words over and over through John’s Gospel. Why do people fall over when he says them? What is this?

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!

# WEEK 3. “THE TRIALS” JOHN 18:19-23, 28-40

## WELCOME

Don't forget to give a warm welcome. So how is this journey going? Hopefully you're settling into it by now. Just an important question: What is needed for you to feel safe? Make sure that as a group you are actually being 'safe' for each other. It's important to remember that different people might need different things to feel safe!

## A FUN OPENING QUESTION

What's something about you that most people wouldn't guess?  
What's an injustice in the world that really gets to you?

## READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER

John 18:19-23, 28-40

## DISCUSS

What did you notice? What were you drawn to in this Bible reading?  
What needs explaining or left you wondering something?  
What does this Bible reading reveal about Jesus?  
What in here is 'good news' for the world?

## OPTIONAL EXTRA DISCUSSION POINTS

Note that Jesus kind of has four or even five trials. First with Annas, second before Caiaphas (the high priest), third he is taken to Pontius Pilate, fourth he is taken to King Herod because Pilate doesn't want to deal with it and hopes Herod will make a hard decision (this one is not explored in John's Gospel), then fifth, Jesus is taken back to Pilate who gives in and commits him to be executed. So, if you thought red-tape was a modern invention, you haven't met the ancient Roman Empire!

See verse 36, “my kingdom is not of this world. If it were my servants would fight...” Notice how Jesus totally contrasts God's kingdom of grace with the 'world'. What do you notice in his words? What does Jesus mean by 'my kingdom'? How is his kingdom different?

See verse 37-38, “everyone on the side of truth listens to me... what is truth?” Why does think Pilate asks this question? Have you ever asked or wondered 'what is truth?'

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!

# WEEK 4 “THE SENTENCE” JOHN 19:1-16

## WELCOME

You're on a journey together for forty days. Always start with a warm welcome. So, you might like to check what people find welcoming! Have any of you given up something for Lent? How is it going? What are you learning from it?

## A FUN OPENING QUESTION

Do you have any favourite sayings? Are there things you repeat often? What are they? What really encourages you? What picks you up when you're down?

## READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER

John 19:1-16

## DISCUSS

What did you notice? What were you drawn to in this Bible reading?

What needs explaining or left you wondering something?

What does this Bible reading reveal about Jesus?

What in here is 'good news' for the world?

## OPTIONAL EXTRA DISCUSSION POINTS

See verse 1-3. John's description of this mockery drips with 'irony' as they call him what he truly is - the king and messiah. It's also a mockery of the Jewish religious leaders! What do you see in this moment?

See verse 11. "you would have no power... the greater sin!" These are some of the deepest words Jesus ever speaks. But notice that Jesus describes a sin as "greater." Often Christians say "all sins are equal" but this contradicts the way Jesus talks! All sins are an equal indication that our relationship with God is broken. All break us from God. But Some sins have bigger effect, are worse, deeper, harder to return from. What do you think?

See verse 15. "we have no king but Caesar..." What have the religious leaders done by saying this?

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!

# WEEK 5 “THE EXECUTION” JOHN 19:17-30

## WELCOME

Don't forget to give a warm welcome. Have you considered attending one (or all) of our Easter celebrations together? On Maundy Thursday we have something quiet, reflective and beautiful. Perhaps you could attend it together, or have a meal together that night?

## A FUN OPENING QUESTION

How many siblings do you have? Where in the order do you come?

Do you have some special (or funny) family traditions? Can you share one?

You might avoid this tough one or if your group is up to it, just dive right in and respect each other's opinions... Christians often express concern over violence in movies and media. And yet the Bible is a book full of violent stories. So, when is a violent depiction OK and when is it not? Is there a line or standard? How do you see it?

## READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER

John 19:17-30 (If you haven't tried a quiet time after reading, this is one to be silent for!)

## DISCUSS

What did you notice? What were you drawn to in this Bible reading?

What needs explaining or left you wondering something?

What does this Bible reading reveal about Jesus?

What in here is 'good news' for the world?

## OPTIONAL EXTRA DISCUSSION POINTS

What part of this description of Jesus' death impacts you most? What makes you saddest?

What part of this description of Jesus' death (if any) comforts or helps you?

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!



# WEEK 6 “THE DEATH” JOHN 19:28-42

## WELCOME

You’ve reached the last week of Lent! What has been new for the people of your group in this journey? Make sure you will finish well, celebrate and affirm each other!

## A FUN OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer hot or cold drinks? When you are really thirsty what do you reach for? How would you answer a stranger who asked you ‘Why did Jesus die?’

## READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER John 19:28-42

## DISCUSS

What did you notice? What were you drawn to in this Bible reading?

What needs explaining or left you wondering something?

What does this Bible reading reveal about Jesus?

What in here is ‘good news’ for the world?

How do you feel when you read of the burial of Jesus?

## OPTIONAL EXTRA DISCUSSION POINTS

See verse 35, “the man who saw it has given his testimony and his testimony is true...” Who is writing this? Is this the author of the Gospel? Why does the author never once name himself in the entire book?

See verse 36, “these things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled...” Through the crucifixion story the writer has quoted Old Testament psalms and prophecies (six obvious ones plus). Just look back through John 19 and find them. Which is your favourite?

See verse 38. Joseph of Arimathea is described as a ‘secret disciple’. He is accompanied by Nicodemus, a pharisee who visited Jesus secretly at night in John chapter 3. But we’re not told if Nicodemus is a follower of Jesus yet. Is he? What do you make of ‘secret followers’ of Jesus? Does this still happen in the world? Have you ever been a secret follower?

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!

# **The Three Great Celebrations Of Easter Weekend**



**Maundy Thursday - Apr 1  
7.00pm Holy Communion**

**Good Friday - Apr 2  
7.30am & 9.30am Stripping Of The Altar**

**Easter Sunday Apr 6  
7.30am & 9.30am Resurrection Celebration**