

Lake Mead Discussion Guide

Week of Nov 8

FAMILY

Remember to coordinate with your group in the next couple weeks a time to have a special group gathering that is in place of your regular meeting or another date. This can be an afternoon together at the park, dinner out, or even a road trip with everyone's families (with every group member's safety concerns met).

Church at Lake Mead Announcements:

- **Thanksgiving Picnic** will be this Sunday Nov. 15 at 1pm out on the school's football field. Bring your own lunch and we will provide the drinks and dessert! Let the church know that you and your family are coming by texting **PICNIC** to 702-825-8201.
- **Christmas Eve Services** will be Thursday Dec. 24 at 3pm and 5pm.

Opening Question:

- Where do you go for your source of news these days?

BIBLE

(Context: Jesus has just been arrested and taken to Pontius Pilate to be judged. The leaders of the Jewish elite wanted Jesus dead but the Romans did not allow them to execute the guilty under their own law. So that meant that Pilate had to make the decision to appease the crowd and execute Jesus or set him free.)

Read **John 18:33-38** **ESV**

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

- What question did Pilate ask Jesus and what does this reveal about Pilate's perspective on the situation?
- Pilate asked Jesus what he had done to cause the chief priests to turn on him. What had Jesus done that caused this?
- Revolutionaries often tried to rise up against the brutal Roman occupation of the Jewish homeland. What made Jesus different than those?
- Earthly kingdoms are based upon force, pride, the love of human praise, the desire for domination, and self-interest. What do we know about God's kingdom and how does that kingdom differ than ours?

Lake Mead Discussion Guide

- Some people use their political ideas as weapons to hurt, belittle and degrade those who disagree with them. How is the idea of Jesus' kingdom being "not of this world" help us take a different approach?
- Pilate then asks sarcastically, "So you are a king?" Jesus affirms that is why he came. What will be different about Jesus' rule when he comes back a second time to earth?
- What does it mean to be "of the truth" (v37)?
- (LEADER: This is an optional question based on time) Pilate asks "What is truth?" because he doesn't really believe that Jesus could be the king of truth. In today's age some think there is no true truth about God; there is only my truth and your truth and one is as good as the other. It's offensive to claim that Jesus is the only way. Have you encountered this before and if so what did you say in return?

PRAYER

- Here are some topics to pray about this week in your group. You can pray them all together or have volunteers choose which topics they will cover.
 - **Our Neighbors:** Pray for those that voted the same way you did and for those who didn't. Also pray that Christians would have the heart of Jesus who "saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt 9:36).
 - **Our Civic Leaders:** Pray for the salvation of those who are in leadership of our nation. Ask the Lord to remove all envy and selfish ambition. "For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice" (James 3:16).
 - **Our Judges:** Pray for our judicial system and lawmakers—that justice for all, tempered by mercy and compassion, will guide our nation. "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another'" (Zech. 7:9).
 - **Our Media:** Pray for truth to be an established standard in our news media. "In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds" (Ps. 45:4).
 - **Our Church:** Ask the Lord to help strengthen the trumpet call to intensive prayer, so that it is heard throughout the Church. "Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing" (1 Tim. 2:8).