



# THE FINAL WEEK

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## INTRODUCTION

## The Final Week—Part 4

During the Easter season, we focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus, but often overlook the time leading up to his arrest.

Was Jesus a victim of a cruel scheme or did he orchestrate those events to bring about God's eternal plan? We are launching the new series, *The Final Week*. Let's explore how the days leading up to the trial, death, and resurrection of Jesus were all part of God's eternal plan to save the world.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think a lot of people only attend church at Christmas time and Easter? How can we take advantage of the opportunities we have during these occasions?
2. How do you think most people feel about Jesus? How do you feel about Jesus? How is your answer different than that of most people?
3. Read Matthew 26:31-35 and Matthew 26:56. Why did the disciples all abandon Jesus? Have you ever been in a situation where you were afraid to identify yourself as a follower of Jesus? Explain what happened and how you felt about it.
4. Read Matthew 26:59-68. What was the real reason the religious leaders wanted Jesus to die? In verse 64, Jesus quoted from Daniel 7:13-14. What do we learn about Jesus's identity from the prophet Daniel?
5. Why do you think people struggle with the idea that Jesus might be the only way to God? Why is it important we understand he is the only way—that not all religions point to God?
6. Read Mark 15:1-15. Why do you think Pilate turned Jesus over to be crucified even though he knew he was innocent?
7. Read Matthew 27:45-46 and Isaiah 53:5-11. Why do you think God the Father turned away from his own son? How was this love?
8. What can we do in appreciation for all Christ as done for us?

## APPLICATION

It's difficult to stand up for what is good, what is right, or what you believe in when there is a cost involved. If you've ever been in a situation that makes you feel ashamed, unpopular, or inadequate, you've probably felt the urge to hide your beliefs. This is not an uncommon feeling to have, so why is it so important to stand up for your own beliefs, even if you're alone?

Jesus faced the greatest trial of His life alone. His disciples deserted Him, the religious leaders falsely accused and condemned Him, the civic leaders and soldiers beat Him and handed Him over to be crucified, the crowd blindly joined in the attack, and Jesus' own father seemed to abandon Him. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and we can be bold in Him. You may fail at times, but if you put our trust in Jesus, He will lead the way for you.

## KEY VERSES (HCSB)

Matthew 26:31-68  
Daniel 7:13-14  
Mark 15:1-15  
Matthew 27:44-46  
Isaiah 53:5-11