

Waging Peace (6 of 7)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, March 24th, 2024



Series Focus: At the beginning of Holy Week, Jesus looked out over Jerusalem and cried aloud, “If only you knew the things that make for peace.” And then Jesus spends each day confronting injustice, calling out oppressors, and contending for peace. But what if—despite our familiarity with the events of Holy Week—we have not fully understood or embraced how Jesus makes peace and calls us to do the same? Join us for Lent as we journey with Jesus through Holy Week and discover anew why he is called the Prince of Peace, and what it looks like when we are waging peace like him.

Sermon Title: No More Hammers & Scapegoats

Scripture Reading: Matt 26:57-27:61; Mk 14:53-15:47; Lk 22:54-23:54; Jn 18:19-19:42

Sermon Focus: It’s Friday of Holy Week. Jesus was arrested and a trial was held in the middle of the night. Jesus goes before the Sanhedrin, King Herod, and Pilate, where he is sentenced to die by crucifixion. We need to remember how we got here and take a deeper look at Jesus’ final hours if we’re going to understand the meaning of the cross. In the sixth message of our series, Pastor David invites us to see how Jesus is the definitive revelation of God and why we must give up our hammers and scapegoats.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message with sharing a story from Jason Porterfield's book, *Fight Like Jesus*. Have you heard messages like the one the Christian camp speaker gave to make sense of God's wrath and the meaning of Jesus' death? If you don't feel this is an accurate depiction of God the Father and the meaning behind the death of Jesus, how do you understand biblical concepts like wrath and Jesus' atoning sacrifice, according to the Scriptures?
2. According to Luke 4:1-30, Jesus decides what kind of Messiah he will be in the wilderness and then is rejected at his hometown in Nazareth. How does Jesus' miraculous escape challenge the common evangelical thinking that Jesus only came to earth to die for my sins rather than show us how to live and love?
3. Think back to what Pastor David shared regarding Pilate's presentation of Jesus and Barabbas to the crowd. Matthew wants his readers to see that we have a choice to follow Jesus the Messiah or Jesus Barabbas (Matt. 27:17): "Which Jesus do you want?" Have you ever noticed that before? Which Jesus do you see the church in America following today? How are we doing at Grantham?
4. Read John 18:36 where Jesus responds to Pilate's question, "Are you a king?" What is Jesus saying about the nature of his Kingdom? If it's not like the kingdoms and empires of the world, what does he mean? What are worldly kingdoms like? And how does Jesus reveal the Kingdom of God to be different?
5. Share about someone you know who lives by a spirit of mercy and forgiveness. How do they reflect Jesus? And what effect has this person had on others?
6. Reflect on the response of the Roman Centurion in Mark 15:39. Why is his confession so significant? What can you imagine led to his confession?
7. In what ways do you see Christians in America today using "hammers" and scapegoats in their response to increasing fears and frustrations? What would it look like for us to repent and begin embodying the Jesus way? Be specific.
8. In one word, phrase, or sentence, share what God spoke to you through the message, *No More Hammers and Scapegoats*. Once everyone has shared, go to God in prayer as a group. Pray for each other and for the church in our country.