

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

This week we consider the reaction of the Jewish leaders during the trial of Jesus. Determined to kill Jesus, they shout something we wouldn't expect from leaders of the oppressed Jewish people. They say, "We have no King but Ceasar!" With your group, explore why we so easily pledge our allegiance to kings who aren't God, and why it is loving of God to insist that Jesus, not Ceasar (or anyone else) is the True King.

- 1. In several places in the Bible, and all throughout history, people crave a strong leader to take charge even when it hurts the people in the end. Where do you think that craving comes from?
- 2. Has there been a time in your life when you have given yourself over to a "Ceasar" –to a leader, or a product, or a person who you thought would give you safety and prosperity? Why do you think you were able to get tricked into trusting something or someone other than Jesus?
- 3. If we pledge our allegiance to something or someone other than Jesus, does Jesus stop being King? If so, in what ways? If not, then why does it matter that we acknowledge Jesus as King?
- 4. We often talk about Jesus being given to us out of love. Usually when we say that, we think of the way that Jesus is a sacrifice in our place. But it is that same love that caused the Father to give Jesus to us as King.
 - How is it loving for God to insist that we worship and pledge allegiance to Jesus?
 - The Bible tells us that when it comes to our worship and love, God is a jealous God. Does this make Him a selfish God? Why or why not?
 - God doesn't just want our worship, recognizing Jesus as King, He insists on it. Close your time together by reading Philippians 2:10-11. Pray.

DAILY WORSHIP - BIBLE READINGS:

JESUS CONDEMNED/NO KING BUT CAESAR