

## Small Group Questions | Pilate on Trial | John 18:28-40



John 18-21 primarily focuses on the arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. John 18 focuses on the unfair, unjust, midnight trial of Jesus. The first half of John 18 focuses on the Jewish part of the trial while the second half focuses on the Roman part of the trial. In today's passage, we will see Jesus brought before Pilate for the Roman phase of His trial. To best understand this passage, we need to put on the lens of a lawyer and consider the legal system of the first century. Think about the sermon and work through these questions as a group.

1. Every healthy society has good rules. If you look at the safest cities in the world, you will find good rules in place. What are some of the safest and least safe cities or countries in the world? Talk about the difference between these places.
2. We learned the following three parts of Jesus' trial were illegal: 1) it was done through treachery and without the appropriate paperwork; 2) it started with a private hearing from Annas the High Priest; 3) it broke Jewish Law. How does knowing this make you feel?
3. **Read John 18:28-32.** History never painted Pilate as a compassionate man, but it seems he wanted nothing to do with the trial of Jesus. **Read Matthew 27:19, Mark 15:1, and Luke 23:13-16.** What do these verses teach us about Jesus' innocence?
4. The Jewish leaders brought charges against Jesus. **Read John 4:25-26, 5:16-18, and Matthew 22:15-22.** Jesus claimed to be God, healed on the Sabbath, and talked about tax laws. Are these charges worthy of death? Why or why not?
5. **Read John 18:32-38.** Pilate engaged Jesus in a conversation that was dripping with legal sense. This interaction teaches us about the legal trial Jesus endured. Where does this passage give you the hope of heaven and Jesus' coming Kingdom?
6. Jesus told Pilate that His Kingdom was a from another place. Take some time in your group to talk about what matters most to kings of the earth (land, people, taxes, etc.). What is Jesus' primary focus in His Kingdom?
7. Jesus said, "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." What does the Bible teach us about truth? See **Exodus 20:16, Titus 1:2, John 14:6, and 2 Timothy 2:15.** Think about how our world would be different if everyone told the truth. How has the truth of God transformed the way you live your life?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for God to continue to transform your life with His truth.