

THE GOSPEL

according to John

'Written so that you may believe'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Gospel with a friend or with a group

16th Session **THEME: Why bother about truth?**

1. Icebreaker & prayer 10 minutes to get started

Someone says: 'To me Christianity seems to be intolerant, judgemental and claiming to have the only truth.'
How would you respond?

2. Read: John 18:28-40 15 minutes

- Look again at 18:28-32. What strikes you in these verses?
- Look again at 18:33-38a.
 - What strikes you in the way Jesus responds to Pilate?
 - Pilate said: 'What is truth?' He didn't wait for an answer. Though he might have found an answer, if he really wanted to know it. (See John 14:6, see also Proverbs 2:1-6). Why do you think, was Pilate not interested in hearing the answer?
- Look again at 18:38b-40. Three times Pilate would confirm Jesus innocence (See also 19:4, 6). Why didn't he release Jesus?

3. Look again at John 18:28-40 20 minutes

To stand for the truth may have a price and cost you your comfort and safety. Jesus stood for the truth. But the religious leaders wanted to get rid of Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pilate also delivered Jesus over to crucifixion, though he knew Jesus was innocent, because he feared the crowd.

- Why did Jesus pay this price?
- Read I Timothy 6:11-16.
 - In these verses Paul reminds Timothy of the confession he has made and of the confession Jesus has made before Pilate. What does he encourage Timothy in, by referring to this?
 - And what does this mean for us? Take some moments of silence to think and pray about this, then share.

4. End with prayer

Digging deeper (information to read before or after the meeting)

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 says that a man who is hanged on a tree is cursed by God. The religious leaders did not just want to sentence Jesus according to their own laws, they wanted Pilate to crucify him (which they were not allowed to do), probably also because of what Deuteronomy says. If you now read Isaiah 53 (pay attention especially to verse 4) and if you also read Galatians 3:13-14 you may discover more about the depths and the riches of the Gospel!