

St. Matthew's  
*Passion*  
DISCUSSION GUIDE

# The Kangaroo Court

Matthew 26.36-46

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:*

- **Free Sale | Saturday, March 17, 9-12pm** Please join us for a great opportunity to declutter and GIVE outgrown women and children's clothes, toys, shoes, accessories, etc. and bless others in the community. Please donate starting Feb. 18 in the bins outside of the mechanical room and women's restroom in the lower level. All are invited to attend (invite friends, neighbors, coworkers) to the free sale, whether you have given or not, and TAKE what you need and be blessed. Everything is FREE!
- **New City Guys' FIRE | Friday, March 23rd 7p @ the Preveritas'** Join other guys from the church to eat and drink and visit together around some firepits in the Preveritas' backyard. BYO food and drink.
- **Men's Retreat April 20th & 21st** | Join the men of New City for our 2nd annual Men's Retreat (not at Camp America this year, we've upgraded to Higher Ground). The early bird registration deadline is March 19th. Visit the website and/or the City for more information.
- **Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) | the week of April 1st Once again, New City will be partnering with Interfaith Hospitality Network to host families in need.** Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is a family homeless shelter located in East Walnut Hills that partners with the faith community to provide shelter and food for families in need. Each week different congregations in the city host 4 families for the week, starting Sunday at 5pm to the following Sunday at 6am. In most cases this is done at IHN's own facility. New City will be hosting at Grace Place, which is located in College Hill. New City will begin hosting families starting Easter Sunday evening, April 1st through Sunday morning, April 8th. This is a great opportunity for New City to serve those who are experiencing homelessness in our city. For more information and to sign up to serve visit the City.
- **Missional Motherhood Saturday, April 7th 9-11:30a** | Missional Motherhood is designed to engage and encourage mothers of all ages as we seek Biblical direction in living intentionally as mothers. We will meet at New City on Saturday, April 7, 9 – 11:30. The format will include coffee & breakfast, a speaker and small group discussion time. Come to learn, engage with other moms and be encouraged! There is nothing to prepare or read prior. Our APRIL SESSION will focus on teaching the gospel to our children as well as to ourselves with some teaching from Susie Hammitt. We will have resources and ideas for you- Come, let's learn and share together! RSVP required on the City by Tues, April 3.

## OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer: *God our Father, we come tonight to grow in our understanding of you. Help us together to understand and apply your Word to our lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

## OPENER

Ryan asked in the sermon, "if you know the ending of your story, how would you live differently?" Knowing where you are in life, what is one opportunity you passed up that you wish you would have taken?

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

*We believe that people experience and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also hearing from other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight.*

1. **Read Matthew 26.47-68.** What are some of the things that stood out to you? What do you see that are surprising, unjust, strange, or ironic?
2. Who are some of the people who turned against Jesus in this passage? How did they each misunderstand who Jesus is?
3. Jesus tells Peter in verse 52, "For all who take the sword will perish by the sword." How do you understand this statement? How does it affect your posture toward the world?
4. Jesus chose to remain silent and passive in the proper moments, are there places or issues that followers of Jesus should remain silent? What are some things that we should speak up for?
5. Jesus says, "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27) Can you share some ways your faith has inconvenienced you or forced you to give up something?
6. Jesus says in John 15:20, "A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." How does that make you feel about your walk with God? Is this something you expect would happen to you in the future?
7. Jesus willingly took the way of the cross, is there a different way for us Christians in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? If not, what does the way of the cross look like for us?
8. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 together, how is the Peter who wrote this different from the Peter who drawn the sword in the Garden? How does Peter's transformation, and his words in 1 Peter, encourage you in your walk with Jesus?

## PRAYER:

End your community group time in prayer. You may elect to just lead the group in a closing prayer, pray together as a large group, or break into smaller groups to pray. You can share requests, or simply pray about the things you discussed tonight.