

Small Group Study in the Book of Matthew
October 11, 2026

A suggested format for your group time

15 min – Fellowship

15 min – Prayer (using the four quadrants of the SG prayer sheet)

45 min – Study (see below)

Matthew 27:32-50

Passage Summary

Chapter 27: The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of Jesus

Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas. He undergoes a series of mock trials and accusations, ultimately condemned by the religious authorities and sentenced to death by crucifixion by the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The narrative depicts Jesus' suffering, endurance, and unwavering commitment to his mission, even in the face of immense pain and injustice.

<https://bibleverse.com/matthew-chapter-summaries/>

Jump Start Questions

- Why is the thought of dying a fearful thing to most people? What do we try to do to postpone our death for as long as possible? Why is it difficult to watch someone you love to die slowly?
- How does the world view the death of Jesus? As a believer, how does our understanding of the crucifixion of Christ differ from that of the world?
- How do you think angels viewed the cross? How do you think God the Father viewed it?

Matthew 27:32-37

- Why did the Roman detail compel Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross of Jesus? (No doubt, He was weakened by the scourging v. 26). Why did they try to give Jesus wine mixed with gall? (It was a type of anesthetic designed to dull the pain). Why do you think Jesus refused to drink it?
- What is significant about the soldiers gambling for His garments? (It was the fulfillment of prophecy Psalm 22:18). How did the soldiers view the crucifixion of Jesus? (They were more interested in stuff than the Savior.) Is this still true today?

- What was written on the placard above the head of Jesus? Was the statement true?

Matthew 27:38-44

- Who did they crucify with Jesus? Read Isaiah 53:13. What did Isaiah mean when he wrote, "He was numbered with the transgressors?"
- How did the people respond as they passed by the cross? Read Psalm 22:7-8. How did David know to write these words 700 years before they happened? Why did the religious experts not recognize they were fulfilling prophecy?
- Read John 1:11. What do you think John was referring to in this verse? (Jesus came to His own people...the Jews...and they rejected Him). Why did people reject Jesus today?

Matthew 27:45-50

- What unusual phenomenon occurred at noon that day? How does darkness symbolize judgment and death? What did Jesus cry out at 3:00 pm) Read Psalm 22:1. How did Jesus view His cross? What was it about the cross that Jesus dreaded so much?
- What did those around the cross think when they heard Jesus cry out? What happened when Jesus cried out a second time? (He yielded up His spirit). Do you think Jesus was fighting to stay alive as long as possible? How did Jesus demonstrate that He was in complete control of all the events that happened that day? (All was taking place according to prophecy and the plan of the Father).
- Was the death of Jesus a tragedy or a triumph? How do you view the death of Jesus? How has His death and resurrection changed your life?

Practical suggestions:

1. Please feel free to modify any question and include other text-based questions that you might find helpful for your group to help them think through the passage - specifically questions that lead participants to make comments *based on the text* (not just to give opinions).
2. Invite group members to make other observations they see in the passage. Have them to identify the specific verse where that observation is made.
3. Ask what application can be made out of these verses that will help a person to put into practice the truths in the passage?
4. Ask for volunteers to read the various sections. **Make sure you know the person you are asking to read is comfortable doing so. Please don't just assume and put someone on the spot.*
5. Be intentional about including everyone into the conversation. Asking an 'open' question directed to a specific person who remains fairly quiet is one simple way of inclusion (in other words, a question that may not have a specific right or wrong answer). An example of an 'open' question is: *What's your favorite part of this passage? Why?*
6. Remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and make both ministry and teaching a priority of your group time together.