

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 23: Plain Talk from the Messiah
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Have you ever been involved in a conversation when someone was listening to you but not really hearing you? What was that like? Can you think of examples of how pain has impacted your life? How did you respond to the pain? Was there something you could learn from it? Share this with one another if you feel comfortable doing so.

Digging In: Luke 18:31-34

1. What stood out to you most after reading this text?
2. What was written about the Son of Man by the prophets? Talk about some of the Messianic prophecies. How would you categorize them? What would be some identifiable characteristics of the coming Messiah?
3. What would 1st Century Jews expect from their Messiah?
4. It seems Jesus was telling the disciples in what would happen in language that was very plain and easy for them to understand. What do you think was the “disconnect” between what Jesus was saying and what His disciples were hearing?
5. Does the phrase “its meaning (or this saying) was hidden from them,” bother you at all? Was God hiding the meaning from them? What is happening in this text? Why would it be difficult to grasp what Jesus is saying?

Reflection:

1. Can you think of any situation(s) today where we could be hearing a clear word from God but somehow we are not “hearing” what He is saying? How can we avoid being in this position?
2. Could this passage be saying something about our tendency to try to avoid going through painful situations? What lesson(s) can we learn from Jesus facing and dealing with what was ahead for Him in Jerusalem?
3. What is one way we, as a group, can respond together to this message?

Prayer: Holy God, give us ears to hear you and eyes to see you. Break down the barriers that keep us from connecting with you in passionate relationship. Move our hearts to love and service. We love you God.