Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Gospel of Mark. Today’s topic: THE TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS.

1. Examination before Pilate
   a) Mark 15:1-5 What impresses you about the examination of Jesus by Pilate?
   b) Mark 15:6-14 What are your thoughts about the choice of Barabbas as the prisoner to be released?
   c) Mark 15:15 Why did Pilate have Jesus scourged even though he believed Jesus was innocent? (Luke 23:4)
   d) What lesson can we learn for our lives today?

2. Abuse by the soldiers
   a) Mark 15:16-20 Was this a usual way to treat a prisoner? What is going on here? (Luke 22:63-65)
   b) What are your thoughts when you consider all the suffering that Jesus experienced? (See Isaiah 53:4-5)
   c) Mark 15:21 Who did the soldiers compel to carry the cross of Jesus and what is the significance of the detailed description of this individual?

3. The crucifixion of Jesus
   a) Mark 15:22-32 What impresses you as you consider Mark’s inspired record of the crucifixion of Jesus?
   b) Mark 15:33 What is the significance of darkness covering the land for three hours? (Psalm 18:11)
   c) Mark 15:34-37 What are your thoughts about the prayer Jesus offered from the cross, quoting Psalm 22:1?
   d) What other details were prophesied in Psalm 22 regarding the death of Messiah, 1,000 years before they occurred?
   f) What important truth about Jesus is clearly revealed during His crucifixion? 2 Corinthians 5:21

4. Events following the death of Jesus
   a) Mark 15:38 What was the significance of the veil of the Temple being torn from top to bottom at the exact moment when Jesus died?
   b) Mark 15:39 How was a Roman centurion impacted by the events he witnessed that day? What can we learn from his testimony?
   c) Mark 15:40-41 Why did Mark mention the women who were looking on from afar? (See also v.47)

5. The burial of Jesus
   a) Mark 15:42-45 Why did it take courage for Joseph of Arimathea to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus?
   b) Mark 15:46 What are your thoughts about the way Joseph of Arimathea cared for the body of Jesus?
   d) How can we prepare so we stand courageously as followers of Jesus rather than abandon Him?