
Matthew Chapter 27

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Do you have an overactive imagination? Why do you think you do/don't? Describe one of your most overly imagined scenarios to your friends/leaders. After hearing your scenario do those listening agree that you do/don't have an overactive imagination? Why/why not.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter Jesus suffers and dies. He is a very healthy young man who is educated and well respected by many and yet He dies. This obviously had to take some extreme circumstances. We tend to become calloused to fact of Jesus' death because we hear and talk about it so much. But have you ever thought of the reality of His death? Have you ever imagined what it would have been like to be there and see it all happen? Do you understand what death is like?

Have you ever seen an animal or any type of mammal die? In the Old Testament times hundreds of thousands of sheep were sacrificed to help people understand the consequences of sin and what death was really like.

Ellen White says that we should spend a thoughtful hour each day contemplating the life of Christ—especially the closing scenes. Spend some time doing this with your group now. Close your eyes if it helps you to focus and pray for understanding as someone from your group reads this chapter out loud. Mrs. White instructs us in this same passage to allow your imagination to grasp each scene. Ask the reader to read slowly so that you will have the time to grasp as much as possible.

Describe what it was like to listen and try to picture everything that was taking place. Was it a good or bad experience for you? Explain. Would you like to engage scripture like this more often? Why/why not?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Spend some time practicing reading scripture as we are instructed in the Spirit of Prophecy and as we have just done now using your imagination and focusing on the gospels. Here is the entire quote of how this is done properly.

“It would be well to spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of Christ from the manger to Calvary. We should take it point by point and let the imagination vividly grasp each scene, especially the closing ones of His earthly life. By thus contemplating His teachings and sufferings, and the infinite sacrifice made by Him for the redemption of the race, we may strengthen our faith, quicken our love and become more deeply imbued with the spirit which sustained our Savior” (Maranatha, p. 77).

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray for the Holy Spirit to be with you as you read scripture in this manner.