



Small group discussion questions March 2018

Chapter & verse – John Proctor (page 20)

Read Mark 14 and 15, followed by John Proctor's article.

1. John's first paragraph describes the Easter story as one about 'a topsy-turvy world and an upside-down kingdom'. What inversions can you identify in the first of the two chapters John discusses, Mark 14?
2. The third paragraph of 'Chapter & Verse' explains the origins of the word 'passion'. What deep feelings does the passion story convey?
3. Read the examples John references in his fourth paragraph. Do you agree with his assessment of the passion in Mark as 'an intense experience of the senses'? What does this add?
4. John's fifth paragraph addresses the complexities of the passion story. He describes Jesus as 'deliberate, yet also driven – constrained and compelled'. What other words can you think of to describe Jesus' actions in Mark 14 and 15?
5. Mark 15:39 records what John describes in the article as an abrupt and astonishing moment. What is special about this confessional moment?
6. The article ends by John suggesting that encountering darkness in order to find light is 'part of the pattern of living the Christian life'. Can you think of examples where that might be true?

For further reflection: 'But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.'
Isaiah 53:5

Prayer: Jesus, you went into the darkness for our sakes. Help us to follow your path. Share with us strength and hope, that we too might come through into the light. Amen.