

# Growth Teams

Week Beginning  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## Going deeper

1 Timothy is known as one of the 'Pastoral Epistles,' a letter written by Paul to one of his colleagues advising them on how to lead the church. In this section Paul is telling Timothy what the church should be praying for.

## Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

5. What reasons are given for praying for the secular authorities? Why are these important? (cf. vs. 3)
6. What is it that God wants? How should this make us pray for 'all men'?
7. Why does the fact that there is 'one God and one mediator' (vs. 5) make it important that we pray for everyone?
8. How does Paul's role as 'a herald and an apostle' fit with what God wants?
9. What should take priority: a government that brings us peaceful and quiet lives or the proclamation of the 'true faith'? How does that affect the priorities in our lives?

***Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.***

## Growth Teams

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday. If you are not already in a Growth Team, now is a great opportunity to give one a try.

With all the focus on the new government, this week we ask the question: 'Which government really matters?'



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## Which government really matters?

John 18:28-19:16 (page 1087)

*Space to take notes on the talk*

❖ **Pilate:** \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **The Jewish Leaders:**

\_\_\_\_\_

❖ **Jesus:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Starter question

- Can you think of a time you wanted to do something, but couldn't? How did you feel?

## Responding to the talk

1. What one thing from this week's sermon did you find really helpful, important or difficult to grasp?
2. Read John 18:28-32
  - a. What signs are there that Pilate cannot have everything his own way?
  - b. Why are the Jewish leaders forced to come to Pilate?
  - c. What suggests that Jesus is really in charge?
3. Read John 18:33-40
  - a. What kind of king does Jesus claim to be?
  - b. Why does Jesus say he came into the world? What benefit is there in accepting the truth? (cf. John 3:21; 8:31,32; 17:17)
  - c. How do Pilate and the Jewish leaders treat the truth?
4. Read John 19:1-16
  - a. What was Pilate trying to do by having Jesus flogged and dressing him up as a king before presenting him to the Jews?
  - b. Who does Jesus see as being really in charge? How does that help him? (cf. Matthew 10:28)
  - c. Look at what the Jewish leaders say in verse 15. What does this say about their attitude to God's Kingdom?

*If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.*

## Applying it to our lives

10. What would you say to someone who said, 'If only we had a decent government all our problems would be sorted out!'
11. Pilate says, 'What is truth?' How would you answer someone who asked you that question? (cf. John 1:14,17; 8:40; 14:6).