

Annual Theme: "God's Love Seen In 2018"

Series: God Loves People - Yes, Jesus loves people who don't believe in Him or who aren't sure what they think about Him. Pontius Pilate was the cynical Roman governor of the district of Judea. He was unsympathetic to religious Jews and religion itself. He had no room for the superstitious claims of prophets, priests, or would-be messiahs. He was a secular person concerned about Roman order and personal advancement. Pilate also represents how Jesus loved and handled atheists—and how we should.

Jesus Loves Atheists

John 18:28-38

- 1. Be Confident (vv. 28-32)**
- 2. Be Engaging (vv. 33-35)**
- 3. Be Respectful (v. 36)**
- 4. Be Clear (v. 37)**
- 5. Be Ready (vv. 37b-38)**
 - A. For a Positive Response
 - B. For a Negative Response

LifeGroup Questions:

BEGIN IT (5min) – time praising the Lord & pray that God leads the study.

OPEN IT (10min) – Why is it easier to observe religious traditions than to love other people?

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Read John 18:28-38 and review Sundays' sermon outline together. Pause at each point of the sermon to allow sharing questions, comments and contributing thoughts about the message.

1. When, like Jesus, have you been willing to stand your ground regardless of the consequences?
2. How would you answer the question, "What is truth?"?
3. In what settings might you need to stand up for the truth this week regardless of the consequences?
4. When and why might we allow the pressures of the moment to compromise our beliefs or standards?
5. When have you been tempted to do what works rather than what's right?

APPLY IT (15min) – What is one new thing you've learned from studying Sunday's sermon with your LifeGroup?