The Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion of the King

Scripture passage
The Arrest of Jesus: John 18:1-14
The Trial of Jesus: John 18:33-37
The Crucifixion of Jesus: John 19:16-30

In presenting Jesus arrest, trial, and crucifixion, John focuses on Jesus’ royalty and kingship, in contrast to the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) that focus on Jesus humanity.

Discussion Questions
1. Read John 18:1-14. How do Jesus’ appearance and actions in this account support John’s purpose of revealing Jesus divinity? What is the significance of Jesus’ answer “I am”?
2. What is the “kingdom” that Jesus speaks about in John 18; 33-37?
3. What does it mean for us to accept Jesus as our King? How do we live in the kingdom Jesus spoke about during our life on earth?
4. John’s timeline differs from the Synoptic Gospels so that the Last Supper and foot washing ritual with the disciples occurred “before the Festival of Passover and the Crucifixion occurs on the day of preparation for Passover. Why is this significant?
5. Read John 19:16-22. What claim did the “public notice written and posted on the cross” make about Jesus? Why do you think it was written in three languages?
6. Read John 17:1-5. How was Jesus’ glory revealed on the cross? How did Jesus glorify God through his crucifixion?
7. Read John 19:30. What do you think Jesus meant by his last statement on the cross, “It is finished”, since the Resurrection had not happened yet? In other words, what was finished?
8. The Synoptic Gospels emphasize Jesus’ humanity. John’s Gospel emphasized Jesus’ divinity and kingship. How do the two approaches work together to reveal the person and ministry of Jesus?

Moving Forward
God’s saving mission for humanity was completed in Jesus Christ on the cross. Consider any new learning/insight from the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus that you learned this week and share the experience with someone. Read John Chapters 20-21 for next week.

Closing prayer
Merciful God, thank you for your son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the amazing gifts of salvation and forgiveness. Let us always be mindful of your great love for us. Let us walk in the light of Christ with love and faith all the days of our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen