



## A Tree Fit For A King

### Opening Questions:

-What is something that someone else paid for on your behalf and left an impact on you?

### Read Acts 5:27-32

-The Greek word for "gospel" means "very good news." Based on the claims that Peter makes here, what is the gospel? Why is it good news?

-The word for "cross" in the phrase "hung on a cross" in the Greek is the same word for "tree." Think back on your learnings from this series so far. What insights do you have that help you see the Biblical depth in Peter's words? What themes and stories come to mind?

-What is significant about Peter describing Jesus not only by the title of "savior," but also "**archégos**" (originator, author, founder, prince, leader)?

### Read John 18:28-40 & 19:1-20

-The Jewish leaders chose to bring Jesus to Pilot seeking crucifixion instead of stoning him themselves (i.e. like Stephen in Acts 7). What is the gospel writer's clear understanding of why these events occurred in the way that they did? How does this affect how we interpret all of the different details in this story?

-What is significant about Jesus telling Pilot, a governor in the Roman Empire, that his kingdom is "not of this world" (e.g. "not from this world")? What differences can you identify between the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of Jesus?

-What is the importance of Jesus making it clear to Pilot that he had no power over him except what had been given to him from above?

-**Read Psalm 2.** What does Jesus being lifted up as the King of the Jews mean for the rest of the world?

-How does our tree series bring greater clarity to the scene where Jesus is carrying the cross to the place where he will be crucified?

### Application:

Pastor Silverio ended this week's message by comparing the act of following through with forgiveness with the feeling of death and by pointing out that we can't ignore Christ our King's command to forgive others.

-In what ways has the act of forgiveness "felt like a death" in your own life?

-Take a moment and think if there are any "receipts" that you are holding on to that the Lord is calling you to forgive. Ask the group to pray for you as you seek to obey Jesus with this.

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.

Guided prayer: God of mercy and forgiveness, help us to change our perspective about those that have offended us and give us the inner strength to forgive them. In the name of Christ our King we pray, amen.