

# THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

LENT 2021  
LEADER GUIDE

## WEEK 5: HOSTILES 03.21.2021

### SESSION GOALS

This session's discussions and prayer will equip participants to:

- Explore how Jesus' experiences of humiliation during his Passion
- Reflect on faithful response to our experiences of humiliation in our lives

**SCRIPTURE: Mark 15:1-23**

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jesus arrives at the Praetorium, the headquarter of the Governor, not to overthrow the government but to be humiliated as "the King of Jews." Jesus is denied to be treated with justice from both religious and political authorities. Roman soldiers putting the sign "the King of Jews" for Jesus is perhaps not only bringing humiliation to Jesus, but also the Jews who were colonized at the time. Jesus' death is not just a personal disgrace, but a disgrace on the Jews as well. Plus, Jesus did not get to die with dignity at all. Jesus died in the most undignified way, his death was accompanied with the most excruciating pain possible, bringing the worst out of the one who is dying and the one who is watching the person die. This was one of the reasons why being crucified on the cross was the most shameful way to die- that only those who are in the lowest social class went through such a death as this.

As Jesus was on his way to be murdered by his own people and the injustice of the religious and political authorities, Jesus was humiliated to death (literally), by being physically, emotionally, and possibly sexually violated, stripped to be naked, denied, bullied, mocked, and denied of any justice he deserves. Most of all,

he was inhumanely tortured to death. According to Dr. Neel Burton, while shame comes from one's own appraisal of oneself, humiliation comes from others' appraisal of one in the form of denial of who they are. In the same token, we bring embarrassment on ourselves while humiliation is brought upon by others. Humiliation has long been used as a weapon to "keep people in line," serving as an incredibly abusive and powerful instrument for coercion and manipulation.

### SUGGESTED LEADER PREPARATION

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your preparation, and your class as you present this guide to your participants.
2. Carefully read the scripture and take note of what stands out to you.
3. With the insight you have gained during the scripture reading, go through the leader guide to add/modify/eliminate any discussion questions or activities according to the needs of the participants.

### LESSON PLAN

#### ENGAGE

**ASK:** Humiliation is one of the most difficult experiences we may go through in our lives. You feel humiliation when your status is lowered in front of others. What would be some differences between embarrassment and humiliation?

**SAY:** According to psychiatrist and author, Dr. Neel Burton, we bring embarrassment upon ourselves while others bring humiliation on us.

**ASK:** Last week, we discussed about shame. What are some of the differences between humiliation and shame?



**SAY:** Dr. Neel Burton says that shame is one’s own appraisal of oneself, while humiliation is others’ appraisal of one in the form of denial of who they are.

**ASK:** What would be the difference between humility and humiliation?

### EXPLORE

**ASK:** Workplace bully and school bullying is increasing each year. In 2008 poll according to Forbes, 75% of employees reported being affected as either a target or witness. In 2019, the rate spiked to nearly 94%. Why would this be the case?

**ASK:** Where do you witness humiliation in your life around you?

### COMMUNE WITH THE WORD

**ASK:** When Jesus’ status was lowered by others, especially by Pilate, Jesus speaks affirmative of his identity. How is he affirming his identity? (Refer to Mark 15:1-15)

**ASK:** Why is it important to affirm your identity when you are humiliated both in private and public?

### EMPOWER

**ASK:** What is your identity that you would like to affirm when you find yourself dealing with humiliation?

**ASK:** Jesus was denied of justice from both religious and political authorities. Being denied of justice is a form of humiliation. Whom do we see justice being denied to? How can we faithfully witness God’s faithfulness?

### CHURCH-WIDE MISSION: SHARING SHOES & JOY IN PERU

“After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they realized they were naked; they were ashamed and covered themselves with fig leaves (Genesis 3:7).

Ever since, we’ve worked to cover our shame. Bare feet or tattered shoes can cause shame for a child. Inability to provide shoes for their children can cause shame for parents. God made clothing for Adam and Eve because He loved them (Genesis 3:21). When we provide shoes for children in Peru, it shows that God loves them too. When we work alongside parents to complete a bathroom or make a home safer and more healthy, it empowers them. Acts of love replace shame with dignity.”

- Lanie Williams, Mission Coordinator



*Families line up outside a Family Hope Center in Lima, Peru, waiting their turn to receive new shoes.*

Join us in serving families in Peru by donating new shoes and socks, volunteering to sort and prepare shoes for delivery, or donate to help build more bathrooms.

### LAUNCH

Apostle Paul says:

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”

*May we proudly carry our identity in Christ, that nothing presses and motivates us more than Christ’s humility for us. Amen.*

