



## SESSION ONE:



# Thorns Crown the Winner

## STUDENT HANDOUT

### Key Verses

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

*Mark 15:17–19*

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE THORNS:

1. How did you feel when you handled some actual thorns? What insights do you have now about Jesus' suffering?
2. If thorns are a symbol of the consequences of sin, what effect does sin have on you that is similar to what thorns can do to your body?
3. What "thorns" have you experienced in your life? Explain.
4. "Jesus never knew the fruits of sin . . . until he became sin for us. And when he did, all the emotions of sin tumbled in on him like shadows in a forest. He felt anxious, guilty, and alone." (Max Lucado, *He Chose the Nails*, page 26)

How did sin make Jesus feel anxious? Guilty? Alone?

5. Describe some of the "emotions of sin" that you have felt. Why does sin create these painful emotions in us?

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CROWN:

1. Why do you think the thorns placed on Jesus' head were called a crown? Why not a wreath or a circle?
2. Look up the following verses about symbols of honor. In each passage, what is the symbol of honor, and what is being honored?
  - c. Exodus 39:27–31
  - d. 2 Kings 11:12
  - e. 1 Corinthians 9:24–2
3. What did the Roman soldiers want the crown to do to Jesus? If we look at the crown from God's perspective and see how he transformed it into a gift for us, what does the crown really mean?
4. God can take whatever gives us pain and shame and transform it into a crown of victory.
  - a. What part do we play in that process?

- b. How then does God actually transform our thorns into a crown?  
(Look up Psalm 34:5–7 to see how God transforms shame into joy, and 1 John 1:9 to see how God clears guilt with forgiveness.)
- c. What might make it difficult to receive this gift of God’s victory over our areas of pain or shame?
- d. What changes would a person have to make if they want to receive the gift of God’s victory over something that’s giving them pain or shame?
- e. Is there anything giving you pain or shame you want God to transform into victory?

### EASTER/LENT FOCUS:

A great way to understand and receive God’s gifts of Lent is to read an Easter book. We are challenging all our students to join with the rest of the church and read *He Chose You* by Max Lucado in the weeks leading up to Easter. Reading this book will not feel like homework—we promise! It will give us a fresh look at the symbols of the Easter story, and it will help Easter be more meaningful than ever before. This week please read the first 3 chapters of *He Chose You*.