EASTGATE

Small Group Leaders Guide

"God in the Hands of Angry Sinners"

63 Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. 64 They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?" 65 And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.
Jesus Before the Council
66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, 67 "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, 68 and if I ask you, you will not answer. 69 But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." 70 So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips." (ESV)

63 The men in charge of Jesus began poking fun at him, slapping him around. 64 They put a blindfold on him and taunted, "Who hit you that time?" 65 They were having a grand time with him.66 When it was morning, the religious leaders of the people and the high priests and scholars all got together and brought him before their High Council. 67 They said, "Are you the Messiah?" 68If I asked what you meant by your question, you wouldn't answer me. 69 So here's what I have to say: From here on the Son of Man takes his place at God's right hand, the place of power." 70They all said, "So you admit your claim to be the Son of God?" "You're the ones who keep saying it," he said. 71 But they had made up their minds, "Why do we need any more evidence? We've all heard him as good as say it himself." (The Message)

Discussion Guide

The following questions are meant to spark a conversation about the passage. Use any of them that seem fitting for your group or pull questions from the wonderwhat entry for this passage.

- What was a time that you gave in to pressure from others to do something? How did it turn out? When did you ever pressure someone else to do something or make a decision?

- Jesus is pressured to give an answer about his identity. Why do you think he didn't he make a stronger defense for himself?

- What do you think would have persuaded the religious leaders to let Jesus go? What could have convinced them that he was Messiah? When you interact with closed minded people, how do you feel, and how do you normally respond? How does your normal response match up to Jesus'?

- What is the most frustrating about someone not listening to you or your side of a story? Why do you think it frustrates you? What can we learn from Jesus' example in this story? How can we respond more like him?