



*That You May*  
**HAVE LIFE**

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*women's*  
BIBLE STUDY



women's | BIBLE STUDY

LESSON *Seventeen*

Christ Crucified

**J**esus was arrested, tried, and convicted. Now the time had come for Him to die. In a death marked by pain, brutality, and shame, Jesus was nailed to a cross. At the moment He gave up His spirit, He stated, “It is finished.” Jesus had died for the sins of the world; He had accomplished what God sent Him to do. Once Jesus was confirmed dead, He was placed in a new tomb by some of His secret followers. The good news? Though all hope seemed lost, Jesus’ story was not over.

## SLOW DOWN

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This story might be familiar to you. If so, slow down. Read through it a couple of times and take notes on the new details you notice. Soak it in. Don’t overlook the pain. Spend time thinking about the sacrifice of your Savior.

## TWO MEN

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Jesus was crucified with one man on either side, though John does not tell us anything about them. Read Luke 23:32-43 for more details.

## CROSS

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The other Gospels say Simon carried Jesus’ cross. John is not in contradiction with the other Gospels, but instead was written with a specific perspective. “...John, even though he makes room for the suffering, greatly emphasizes the sovereign plan of the Father and the Son’s obedience.”<sup>93</sup>

## TITLE

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“It was customary to write on a placard the crime of which a condemned person had been found guilty and fix it above his head or tie it around his neck.”<sup>94</sup>

**Read John 19:16b-42 before answering the following questions.**

1. These events took place on what has come to be known as “Good Friday” (Easter weekend). Give some reasons why this day is actually good.

**Read John 19:16b-30.**

2. John remembered and included many unique details about Jesus’ death. What are some of them? How do these details help you better understand the story?
3. What is ironic about the sign, “King of the Jews” which was hung on Jesus’ cross?

4. In Jesus' greatest moment of pain and need, He was concerned about someone else. How does Jesus demonstrate care for His mother in verses 25-27 and what does this reveal about His character? Why might He entrust His mother to John rather than His own brothers and sisters?

5. Put yourself into the story. You are one of Jesus' closest disciples. You were there when He made the lame man walk and raised Lazarus from the dead. You heard His claims to be the bread of life and the good shepherd. You risked everything and believed. Now Jesus has been beaten, abused, and nailed to a cross. He is bruised, bleeding, and gasping for breath. You believed in Him for life and now you are watching Him die. What are you thinking and feeling? How are you responding?

6. Fill in the blank below from verse 30.

"When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and he \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_."

Read John 13:1. With this context, what is finished? What did Jesus mean in John 19:30?

**Read John 19:31-37.**

7. Jesus has given up His spirit. How did the executioners confirm Jesus was truly dead?

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## KING OF THE JEWS

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"...Pilate's malice serves God's end. The Lord Jesus is indeed the King of the Jews; the cross is the means of his exaltation and the very manner of his glorification."<sup>95</sup>

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## CRUCIFIXION

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The means of death through crucifixion was actually asphyxiation. Though the victims were in pain and lost a lot of blood, eventually they suffocated.

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## NEAR THE CITY

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The place of crucifixion was chosen purposefully. The intention was that all passing in and out of the city would see the criminal's death as a warning to obey the law.

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## SOUR WINE

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Jesus drinking the sour wine is not the same drink mentioned in Matthew 27:34. The rejected drink was made of wine and myrrh, given as a sedative to dull the pain of crucifixion.

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## BROKEN LEGS

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The typical practice was to leave criminals on the cross until they died. However, in this case Passover was the next day. Therefore, they likely used an iron mallet to break their legs and hasten death.<sup>96</sup>

## DEATH

By the time John was written some people believed Jesus only appeared dead when He was placed in the tomb. The author of this gospel was trying to make it clear that Jesus was truly dead.

## WITNESS

The witness mentioned in verse 35 is likely John himself, the beloved disciple.

8. Read verse 35. Why did the witness tell his testimony of the death of Jesus?

Because of this man's testimony many have placed their faith in Jesus. If you are a believer, who played a key role in your salvation? If not, who are the people He has placed around you who do know Christ and could help answer your questions about the faith?

9. Chapter 19 repeatedly speaks of Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament Scriptures. Through this, God wanted people then and now to recognize Jesus as the true Messiah. Draw a line between each Old Testament prophecy and its fulfillment in John 19.

<b>Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12</b>	<b>John 19:24</b>
<b>Zechariah 12:10</b>	<b>John 19:28-29</b>
<b>Psalms 22:1-21</b>	<b>John 19:36</b>
<b>Psalms 69:21</b>	<b>John 19:37</b>

10. Imagine that someone is hearing this story for the first time. They ask you the questions, "Why did Jesus have to die? How is His death the only way to life?" How would you respond? (For help, see 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18)

## JESUS' DEATH

Jesus' death is incredibly significant for believers then and now. Read the following verses to find out how: Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 1:5.

Read John 19:38-42.

11. Jesus died a dishonorable death of a criminal, yet His burial was honorable. List some of the details of His burial:

After looking at the events surrounding Jesus' burial, how do you see Joseph and Nicodemus demonstrate bravery?

12. Read the Scripture below and underline what stands out to you.

*"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?'" Matthew 16:24-26*

*"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20*

*"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:4-8*

Considering the passages above, how will you live differently this week in light of Jesus' death?

## JOSEPH

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According to Matthew 27:57 and Mark 15:43, Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy member of the Sanhedrin, the council of Jewish leaders.

## NICODEMUS

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Nicodemus' story is found in John 3. At that time he would only approach Jesus under the cover of night.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15

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"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

## ACTIVITY

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Turn to page 162 for an optional activity on trusting Jesus through suffering.

13. From this chapter we see that Jesus truly suffered. He is the only God with scars. The only God who decided to experience the pain and hardship His people experience. How does knowing He experienced immense suffering help you in your pain today? (See Appendix: Suffering)

“I find it strangely comforting that when Jesus faced pain he responded much as I do. He did not pray in the garden, “Oh Lord, I am so grateful that you have chosen me to suffer on your behalf. I rejoice in the privilege!” No, he experienced sorrow, fear, abandonment, and something approaching even desperation. Still, he endured because he knew that at the center of the universe lived his Father, a God of love he could trust regardless of how things appeared at the time.”

– Philip Yancy<sup>97</sup>

14. Take a minute to sit in the tension of the closed tomb. After all the hope Jesus proclaimed in His name, He was now dead. Many who followed Him were feeling hopeless. When was the last time you felt hopeless? In the challenges you are facing today, what has Jesus told you in Scripture about the life He came to give you? What Scriptures can help you during these hard times?



## BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?



## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Suffering

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Suffering. If you believe in Jesus, then suffering is certain to be a part of your life (John 16:33). And yet, it likely catches you off guard whenever it comes knocking on your door. Suffering takes many forms: disease, grief, abuse, rejection, uncertainty, loss, seemingly unanswered prayers, and the list goes on and on. But God understands. Jesus Himself experienced great suffering, and He did it for you.

*“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not...But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:3, 5)*

**Take a minute to pray and ask God to help you complete this activity with honesty and vulnerability.**

1. What hardship or suffering are you currently enduring? What is difficult in your life right now?
2. How have you responded? (Emotions you have experienced, actions you have taken, thoughts in your head, sin that you have fallen into, etc.)
3. How do you feel toward God in the midst of your challenges? What are you believing about His character? What doubts, if any, have you had about Him? Is there anything you want to tell Him that you have been trying to hide or are scared to share?
4. Do you believe that Jesus understands and wants to help you in your suffering? Have you felt closer to Him or further away from Him in your pain? Explain.

Read and meditate on Romans 8:31-39 and Hebrews 4:14-16 before answering the following questions.

5. What did it look like for Jesus to trust God as He headed toward the cross? What does it look like for you to trust God in your suffering?
6. What promises can you cling to in this hard season? Who around you can help you process and remind you of truth?



*It is ok to wrestle with hardship. It is ok to question in suffering. Furthermore, it is important to understand how you are really feeling in the midst of your pain. Remember, God is big enough to handle whatever you might throw at Him. He hurts when you hurt. He will never leave you. And He loves you more than you could ever imagine. You are not alone.*

Notes