

DISCOVERING LIFE TOGETHER SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
PART 5 — ENDINGS & BEGINNINGS: *The Crucifixion: No Greater Love*

NOTES:

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study

For Starters: Share some examples of people who sacrificed much, even gave up their lives, to save others. Why do we resonate with these stories? Who has sacrificed much for you?

The Basics: Read John's account of Jesus' torture, crucifixion, death, and burial in John 19:1–42. What stands out to you and why?

Quick-Fire Round

1. Consider the physical and emotional pain Jesus experienced as He was flogged and crucified. Why do you think John was short on gory details (see 19:1 and 19:18)?
2. Read John 19:28–30. What did Jesus mean by "It is finished?" What specifically did Jesus finish on the cross?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17–21, John 1:29, Galatians 3:13–14, Romans 3:25–26, and John 15:13. On the cross and at His death, Jesus became sin. He took on all sin, faced the full wrath of God. What does this mean? What does this mean to you?
4. In John 19 find and discuss the multiple Old Testament prophecies Jesus fulfilled on the cross. How was Jesus' death not an accident but *mission accomplished*? Read and discuss Isaiah 53; Psalm 22:1–2, 7–8, 15–18; Psalm 69:21; and Zechariah 12:10.
5. Read John 3:16–17, Romans 5:6–11, 5:17–21, Romans 10:9–10, and Ephesians 2:8–10. The cross reveals God's great love for us. What personal response does this require? Have you taken a step of belief in Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

Challenge: The cross of Christ should cause us to stop, reflect, consider, and make changes in our lives, for today and eternity. How can you live differently as a result of the crucifixion?

Memorize Romans 5:10–11 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Prayer: *Father, I may never fully comprehend the greatest act of sacrifice you accomplished for me as Jesus gave up His life willingly so I might live. Help me never forget the cross and may it motivate me to walk with you by faith and love others. Amen.*

Passion Week Personal Study: Spend time every day reading, reflecting on, and praying through the Gospel crucifixion accounts. Ask God to show you His love, grace, and mercy. What is He asking of you in response? Matthew 27:32–56, Mark 15:16–41, Luke 23:18–49 and John 19:1–37.