



John 19:16-42 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Have someone read John 19:16-24. Many of us have read about Jesus' Passion before; does anything stand out to you from this reading? Did you notice anything that you hadn't noticed before?
- John notes that Jesus "went out, bearing His own cross." Why do you think John tells us this fact?
 - Ben said that Jesus bears His own cross because He trusts the Father's plan totally, and so He chooses willingly to die. What do we learn about Jesus from this fact?
 - What do we learn about the Father?
 - What do we learn about the relationship between Jesus and the Father?
 - What does Jesus' trust teach us about trusting God? What does trusting God entail? What may trusting God *not* entail?
 - Why do you think that Jesus trusts the Father so much?
 - What does it practically look like for us to cultivate a similar trust of God?
 - Why is it more important to trust God in hard seasons? How does trusting God in hard seasons differ from trusting God in good seasons?

- In verse 19, Pilate inscribes the title “King of the Jews” on Jesus’ cross. Why do you think he does this? Why do the Jewish leaders get upset in verse 21?
 - Jesus, of course, really is King. How does Jesus’ kingship affect how we live and work in a city where power matters for so much?
 - Jesus, who is all-powerful, willingly died on the cross. What does His death reveal to us about the nature of true power? How does the way that Jesus uses power teach us to use power?
- Describe verses 23-24. What happens in these verses? Why do you think John includes these details?
 - Have someone read Psalm 22:1-18, 29-31. What does this Psalm seem to be about?
 - King David is the author of this Psalm, but he never experienced anything that this Psalm is describing. How could he write about this, then?
 - Ben noted that Jesus, at His death, fulfills ancient prophecy throughout the Old Testament, but John here is focused specifically on Psalm 22. What descriptions in the Psalm are fulfilled in Jesus’ crucifixion?
 - How does the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy help verify the truth of the crucifixion and resurrection? How might we use Old Testament prophecy when evangelizing to unbelievers?
- Have someone read John 19:25-30. What sticks out to you in this passage?
 - How would you summarize Jesus’ exchange with His mother, Mary, here?
 - What do we learn about Jesus’ character as He cares for His mother while He’s on the cross?

- Verses 28-30 are full of Old Testament imagery and symbolism. John, in fact, tells us explicitly that Jesus said “I thirst” to “fulfill the Scripture.” Have someone read Psalm 69:19-21. How does this fulfill Scripture?
 - Ben pointed out that Jesus’ thirst would not have just been physical, but spiritual, too. What was Jesus experiencing on the cross spiritually?
 - Ben discussed how thirst is almost always a metaphor for the emptiness that comes when God is not at the center. What is it in the human heart that moves God away from the center?
 - What are some things that we might try to put at the center of our lives, if not God?
 - Why do these substitutions for God always leave us thirsting, unsatisfied?
 - Jesus was perfect, so He had not sinned by putting something else at the center of His life. How is it, then, that He’s thirsting for God’s presence?
 - How might Jesus’ death provide us the power to keep God at the center of our lives?
- Hyssop, in Psalm 51, is a means of purification. Why might John draw our attention to this detail?
- Finally, Jesus declares, “it is finished.” What is finished? What has been accomplished?
- Ben said that what is finished is the work that Jesus embarked on from the beginning, the work that, as “grace upon grace”, would provide us access to God through the atoning death of Jesus. In what ways do you think people experience separation from God?

- Thinking back to your own life, what did it feel like to be brought into right relationship with God? How did that feel different from being separated from Him by sin?
- Have someone read verses 31-42. Again, what sticks out to you? What strikes you as important?
 - In verses 38-39, we meet a couple of characters. We first meet Joseph of Arimathea. What do you know about Joseph? What do we learn about him here?
 - Why is he afraid?
 - How does fear of others impact our faith?
 - How does fear of others manifest in our lives? What are some forms it can take?
 - How does our sanctification affect our fear of others? In other words, how does greater intimacy with Jesus reduce our fear of other people?
 - How can we practically check our fear of other people this week?
 - We also meet Nicodemus! What do you remember about Nicodemus?
 - How would you characterize Nicodemus in chapter 3?
 - How would you describe him in 7:50-52?
 - How, at the end of the book, does it seem like Nicodemus has changed?
 - Ben noted that where once Nicodemus was ashamed to be seen with Jesus, He now is lavishly and publicly anointing His body. What can explain this change?
 - Nicodemus was transformed totally by receiving the gift that Jesus offered in His crucifixion. In what other ways does the gospel offer transformation?

- What is it about the gospel that is so transformative?
 - What sets the gospel apart from mere behavioral modification?
 - How is it that Jesus' death changes *everything*, from our hearts to our behavior?
- In verse 41, John specifies where the tomb is. Where is the tomb?
Why does John draw attention to this fact?
 - What are some gardens that you know about in Scripture? What kinds of things do you think gardens symbolize or demonstrate?
 - How does the tomb's location in the garden clarify the purpose of Jesus' death?