DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: How do you discern God's direction for your life?

OVERVIEW: How do we know that God loves us? How do we know that Jesus loves us? The old children's song says that we know "for the Bible tells me so." But just saying that God is love, and that God loves us, is not how we assured of God's love. We know that God loves us, and how much He loves us, because Jesus died for us. In this study we are going to take a look at the crucifixion of Jesus, and learn more about its meaning and significance for our lives.

- 1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
- 2. When you hear the details of Christ's death on the cross, how does it make you feel?
- 3. Jesus could have chosen to come to earth during any point in history. If He had come back in the twenty-first century, He would have been executed by lethal injection. Why do you think He chose to come to earth during the time when the Romans were executing people in such a horrible manner?
- 4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15. The theology of Calvinism holds that Jesus only died for the elect, or those God chose in advance for salvation. This is referred to as "Limited Atonement." The theology of Arminianism, on the other hand, holds that Christ died for everyone. This is known as "Unlimited Atonement." According to this verse, who did Christ die for? Why did Jesus die?

IT IS FINISHED The Gospel of John — Week 60 John 19:16-42

- 5. In 2 Corinthians 5:15, what does it mean that God wants us to no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ?
- 6. Read Isaiah 53:5-6. Why did Christ die? What does it mean that "we are healed by His wounds"?
- 7. Read Romans 3:25-26.
 - a. What does it mean that "God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood"?
 - b. What does it mean that Christ was crucified to "demonstrate" God's righteousness?
 - c. What does it mean that "in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed"?
- 8. 1 John 2:2 (ESV) says, "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." What does it mean that Christ is "the propitiation for our sins"?
- 9. When He died, Christ's last words were, "It is finished" (Jn 19:30). What did He mean?

The Last Word: "How did Christ's crucifixion save us? It's because He nailed it."

