



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Obedient to Death

TEXT: John, 19:17-42

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: There is nothing pleasant or, attractive about an execution. The only one I've ever seen was in a televised news report from Vietnam. A captured soldier was shot. It left a knot in my stomach for days. In Jesus' day execution was designed to be public and painful. The account of the crucifixion is not easy to read. You may be tempted to think that Jesus' death was a cruel mistake. It wasn't. Jesus' life was not taken from him; he laid it down willingly. It was part of his plan that included you and me. His cross was in a very real sense our cross.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you think about death, what feelings and thoughts come to mind?
2. Read John 19:17-27. Crucifixion was obviously a brutal and tortuous form of execution. Why do you think John leaves so much of the agonizing detail out of his account?
3. Three groups were involved in Jesus' death-the soldiers, the Jewish leaders and Pilate. How would you characterize each one's attitude toward Jesus? In what ways do their attitudes toward Jesus' parallel those of men and women today?
4. How do you think Mary, Jesus' mother, felt as she stood by the cross?
5. How is Jesus' tender care for her evident even while he is dying (Vs. 26- 27)?
6. Read John 19:28-42. What was the significance of Jesus' cry, "It is finished" (v. 30; see John 17:4)?
7. What evidence does John give that Jesus really died?
8. Why was it so important for John to establish the certainty of Jesus' death?
9. What feelings and thoughts would have gone through your mind if you had helped prepare Jesus for burial?
10. Where were Jesus' disciples during his crucifixion and burial (see 16:32)? Why do you think they were so conspicuously absent?

11. Under the same circumstances, do you think you would have been more like Joseph and Nicodemus or Jesus' disciples? Explain.
12. When it comes to public identification with Jesus, how is it possible respond in the same ways today?
13. What aspect of Jesus' death has made the deepest impression on you, and why?