

PREACHING CURRICULUM

The Object of Your Faith

John 19:17-30

*"Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross.
It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."*

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read John 19:17-22. What was significant about the inscription Pilate put above Jesus on the cross? Why did the Jewish leaders object to it?

Read John 19:23-24. Why is it important that the seemingly spontaneous action by the soldiers was actually a fulfillment of Scripture?

Read John 19:25-27. What do we learn about Jesus from the fact that he provided for his mother while he was on the cross? What does it tell us about him?

Read John 19:28-30. What is the significance of Jesus' final words from the cross, "It is finished"? What does this mean for us today?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Consider each of the following statements. How is the word "faith" being used in each of them? Compare and contrast the different definitions of faith that are implicit in these statements.

"Faith is only for weak-minded religious people. I don't need it, because I believe in Science."

"I have faith that this will all work out in the end."

"I believe in the power of faith."

"I don't know if it's true or not, but I choose to believe it by faith."

"Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ."

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

What is more important, your faith itself, or the object of your faith? Is it possible to place your faith in the wrong object? Explain your answer.

From this passage in John's Gospel, why is Jesus worthy of our faith? How does John demonstrate to us that Jesus is completely trustworthy?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

When our faith feels weak, what should we do about it? How do we build our faith? Where should we be putting our focus?