

# Believe

JOHN

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## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: John 19:16b-30*

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

### Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

**Bible Reading:** John 19:16b-30

### Sermon Summary:

When we read of Jesus' crucifixion in the four Gospels, there is no doubt a lot of overlap. But if we are willing to allow John to be John & resist the urge to flatten out his specificity by adding in what the other three Gospel writers wrote, then we begin to see the point of view that John wanted us to see about Jesus. For that we need to pay attention to what he emphasised & what he left out. For instance, in John's account there are no dramatic events like earthquakes, darkened skies & curtains being torn in two. What is emphasised is the inscription of the charge against Jesus, the four women at the cross, & the sour wine he drank. As we explore these points further we immediately recognise that these things were common for all who were crucified. But is there a deeper, more profound level to these points that John wanted us to see? Absolutely.

### Discussion:

1. Use Jn. 2:1-11 & 19:16-30 to find repeated words or characters. What significance does the literary device '*inclusio*' have? What are authors trying to help us with?
2. Most people would agree that there are seven signs that Jesus performs in John to help us believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31). When you read Jn. 2:18-22, what does Jesus also

include as being a sign for people to believe?

3. How common was it for a Roman criminal to carry his own cross? What is the deeper meaning that John wants us to see about Jesus as he carried his cross alone?
4. For a soon-to-be crucified man to have a charge written down & paraded before him as he walked to the site of his crucifixion was very common. But what deeper thing does John want us to see about this regarding Jesus?
5. What is the significance of Jesus speaking to his mother as he hung on the cross?
6. Jesus drank the sour wine just before he died. On the one hand he was thirsty, but what is the profound meaning behind him drinking the sour wine?
7. Talk about the significance to you that Jesus willingly drank God's sour wine so that you could drink God's good wine (Jn. 2:10). What has your experience been of God's rich abundant life (Jn. 10:10)?

### **End with Prayer.**

- Praise God for his obedient Son who willingly came to this earth to die for humanity so that all could have free access to God once again.
- Pray for one another.