

Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 19:31-37

Sermon Summary:

This short section is only recorded in the gospel of John. It highlights two things that happen to Jesus that fulfill scripture. Jesus' legs were not broken to hasten death because he had already "given up his spirit." Jesus' side was pierced and out came blood and water. Both fulfill OT scripture; however, they are also symbolic. The fact that Jesus' legs were not broken points to him being the real Passover Lamb. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The blood from his side symbolizes redemption, forgiveness, cleansing and reconciliation. The water symbolizes that his death brought life. When we believe, which is the goal of the writing, we have sin (unbelief) taken away, we are forgiven and brought into a life-relationship with God.

Discussion:

1. In order to familiarize yourselves with the Passover in the OT, read Exo. 12:1-14, 29-34, 43-47.
2. Jesus was crucified at the beginning of the Passover observance. What else makes Jesus' death significant?
3. What aspects of Jesus as the Lamb of God do you think the writer wants us to see?
4. In chapter 19 there are four incidents where scripture is fulfilled. What are they? Why does the writer emphasize scripture being fulfilled in relation to Jesus' death?
5. What do blood and water symbolize?
6. This gospel has less of the passion/suffering than the other three gospels. Why? What purpose does this gospel account serve?
7. What response does the writer, who was an eyewitness, want the readers to have?

End with Prayer