



## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: THE CROSS

### Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' crucifixion fulfills numerous Old Testament prophecies, demonstrating His identity as the Messiah.
2. Even in His suffering, Jesus showed compassion for others (the thief on the cross, His mother).
3. Jesus' declaration "It is finished" signifies the completion of His mission and our salvation.
4. Our response to the cross determines our relationship with Christ.

### Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon contrasts the four soldiers gambling for Jesus' clothes with the four women mourning at the cross. What does this contrast reveal about different responses to Jesus? Where do you see yourself in this scene?
2. Discuss the significance of Jesus refusing the pain-killing narcotic on the cross. What does this reveal about His commitment to His mission?
3. The thief on the cross received salvation through a simple, sincere confession of faith. How does this challenge or encourage your understanding of salvation?
4. The phrase "It is finished" (Tetelestai) means "paid in full." How does this impact your view of Christ's work on the cross and your own standing before God?

5. The sermon mentions Pilate's belief in Jesus' innocence, yet his actions were driven by fear of man. In what areas of your life do you struggle with letting the fear of others influence your actions or beliefs?

**Practical Applications:**

1. Take time this week to read and reflect on Psalm 22, noting the prophecies fulfilled in Christ's crucifixion.
2. Practice sharing the gospel using the story of the thief on the cross as an example of simple, saving faith.
3. Identify an area of persistent sin in your life. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you view that sin in light of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
4. Look for opportunities to demonstrate Christ-like compassion to others, even when you're facing difficulties yourself.
5. If you haven't already, consider how you might respond to Jesus' sacrifice by either accepting Him as your Savior or recommitting your life to following Him more closely.

**Closing Prayer:**

Thank God for the finished work of Christ on the cross. Ask for His help in living out the implications of the cross in your daily life.