



# WE BELIEVE

EXPLORING THE NICENE CREED

## STUDY GUIDE NINE – FROM SERMON ON MAR 29/26

The crucifixion sits at the very heart of the Christian faith. It's not just something that happened to Jesus—it's something He chose for us. In this passage, we see both the depth of human brokenness and the astonishing love of God on full display. As we walk through John 19, we're invited not only to understand what happened at the cross, but to wrestle with what it means—and why it matters for us today.

### UNDERSTANDING THE SCENE

**Read John 19:1-30 together.**

As you read through the passage, what details or moments stand out to you the most? Why?

How does Pilate respond to Jesus throughout this chapter? What seems to be going on in him?

In **verses 4-6**, what reasons does Pilate give regarding Jesus' innocence? Why is that significant?

What do we learn about human nature from the crowd's response: "Crucify him!"?

### THE SUFFERING OF JESUS

Looking at verses **1-3** (the flogging and mocking), what stands out about the kind of suffering Jesus endured?

Why do you think John includes the detail of the crown of thorns and the purple robe? What are they mocking?

How does Jesus' willingness to endure suffering without resisting or retaliating shape your understanding of His love and mission?

## “FOR US” - THE MEANING OF THE CROSS

The creed says, “He was crucified for us.” Based on this passage, what do you think that means?

In **verse 11**, Jesus tells Pilate that authority has been given “from above.” What does this reveal about who is really in control of the situation?

**Read verses 17-18.** Jesus carries His own cross. What might this symbolize about His role in what is happening?

How do the events of the crucifixion reveal both God's justice and His mercy at the same time?

## WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THE CROSS?

Take some time to look up the following passages and discuss what each one teaches about what Jesus accomplished through His crucifixion:

**Isaiah 53:4-6** - What did Jesus bear or carry for us?

**2 Corinthians 5:21** - What does it mean that Jesus became sin for us?

**Colossians 2:13-15** - What happened to our debt and the powers against us?  
**1 Peter 1:18-19** - What were we redeemed from, and what was the cost of that redemption?

**1 Peter 2:24** - What is the connection between Jesus' wounds and our healing?

**Romans 5:1-2** - What are the results of being justified?

**John 1:11-13** - What does it mean to be given the “right to become children of God”?

**1 John 1:7** - What does it say about the extent of Jesus' cleansing?

**Colossians 2:13-15** - What does Paul say happened to our debt and to the powers of evil at the cross?

**Hebrews 10:19-22** - What kind of access do we now have to God, and how are we invited to respond?

**Luke 23:34** - What does Jesus' prayer on the cross reveal about the scope of His forgiveness?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

Which aspect of the cross (sacrifice, forgiveness, justice, love, victory, etc.) stands out most to you right now? Why?

How does understanding that Jesus was crucified for you personally affect the way you see God?

What might it look like for you to respond to the cross in your daily life this week?

**CLOSE YOUR TIME TOGETHER BY PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER**