

LEARNER GUIDE

John 18:1-11

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the _____ of His people.

John 19:1-22

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the _____ for His people.

John 19:28-30

Who is Jesus? Jesus is _____ for His people.

John 20:1-18

Who is Jesus? Jesus is _____ to His people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it was important to God's plan that Jesus die by Roman crucifixion instead of the traditional Jewish execution of stoning?
2. Paul says in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me." Yet, none of us have experienced death by crucifixion as Jesus did on the cross so what did Paul mean by this verse? How have you been crucified with Christ?
3. When Jesus rose from the dead, what are some things that were resurrected along with His body?
4. How did Jesus reveal Himself to you as your personal Savior? What did He use to get your attention?
5. God used Mary as a witness to the original disciples, and He commissioned her to tell them the things He spoke to her. Who has God called you to witness to lately and what was your message?

PERSONAL STUDY

Part One

Read John 18.

In John 18, we read that Jesus was put on trial. Leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus faced six trials. Three of them were religious, and three were civil. All were unfair. Use the Scripture references below to chart the trials.

	Type of Trial	Scripture Reference	Who Did Jesus Stand Before?
1	Religious	John 18:12-13	
2	Religious	Matthew 26:57	
3	Religious	Matthew 27:1	
4	Civil	John 18:28-29	
5	Civil	Luke 23:6-7	
6	Civil	Luke 23:11, 20-24	

In Jesus' first religious trial, He stood before Annas. But Annas wasn't the high priest. So why did the religious leaders bring Jesus to him? According to Jewish law, high priests were supposed to serve for life, but the Romans didn't like the concentration of power in one person. As a result, they required the Jews to change high priests frequently. Annas was succeeded by five of his sons, and his son-in-law, Caiaphas, but in many ways Annas seemed to remain the power behind the position of high priest.

Nevertheless, lacking formal authority after Jesus' first trial before Annas, Jesus was brought on trial before Caiaphas. Caiaphas was eager to find fault in Jesus so as soon as morning arrived, Caiaphas brought Jesus to a third trial in front of the Jewish council, or the Sanhedrin. He may have done it even sooner, but law didn't allow the Sanhedrin to hold hearings at night. Jewish law did, however, give the Sanhedrin power to condemn a man to death.

But Roman law required the Jewish leaders to get the governor's approval for capital punishment, which resulted in Jesus' three civil trials before Pilate, Herod, and then back to Pilate. It may seem like Jesus was being dragged from trial to trial, but we know that God was in control all the way to the cross. Even in the face of false accusations, God used every trial to reveal His Truth.

Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for willingly submitting to God's plan for your salvation.

Part Two

Read John 19:1-30

When the Romans sentenced someone to crucifixion, they wrote the person's crime on a placard and hung the title around the convicted's neck as he carried his cross to his death. Then the title placard was placed at the top of the cross so all would know the reason for the crucifixion.

What does John 19:19 say was written on Jesus' sentencing placard?

In what languages was the phrase inscribed?

Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The Jews who gloried in religious law could read the message, the Greeks who gloried in wisdom and philosophy could read the message, and the Romans who gloried in dominion and power could read it, too. From the beginning, the message of Jesus was intended for the world. If you were asked to prepare a placard describing Jesus, what would you write? What would your sign say and why?

In the final hours of His earthly time, as Jesus hung on the cross, He made seven statements - each teaching us more about Jesus and His character. Complete the chart with Jesus' words from the Gospel accounts of His crucifixion.

Scripture	Jesus' Words
Luke 23:34	
Luke 23:39-43	
John 19:25-27	
Matt. 27:46	
John 19:28	
John 19:30	
Luke 23:46	

Close in prayer, recognizing Jesus as King and thanking Him for enduring the cross.

Part Three

Read John 19:31-20:18.

Customarily, the bodies of crucified criminals were left on their crosses to rot or be eaten by wild animals. But Romans were known to grant the corpses of executed men to friends and family for proper burial when asked. Scripture tells us it was a request granted to Joseph and Nicodemus. Read **Isaiah 53:9**. How did this request fulfill a prophecy about the Messiah?

Joseph and Nicodemus would have washed Jesus' body, covered it in myrrh and aloe, and wrapped it in linen cloth. Think about Jesus from head to toe. What would His body have looked like as these men cared for it?

I can only imagine what deep, life-long impressions this experience left on these men and how for the rest of their lives, they could likely recall every mental detail. When you think of Jesus' crucifixion, what comes to your mind?

Jesus' crucifixion is a crucial part of the Gospel message, but it isn't the whole message. Jesus rose again! He is alive, and He appeared to many people after His resurrection to prove it! Of those to whom He appeared, Mary Magdalene was the first. She was an unlikely witness. Can you recall why? Read **Luke 8:1-3** to confirm your answer.

Not only was Mary Magdalene a woman, but at one time she was demon-possessed. In other words, at one time she was a *crazy* woman! How can the detail that Jesus first appeared to Mary add credibility to the Gospel?

If you were making up this story, would you choose a crazy woman whose testimony meant nothing as the first witness? Probably not! But the Gospel writer's were not making up a story. Instead the Gospel is a true account of a true Savior!

Close in prayer, acknowledging the truth that if God used Mary, He can use you, too!

Heart-to-Heart

Spend some time with Jesus using one of the suggestions below. Remember to reference the RESOURCES pages to help you.

- Revisit a verse or passage that stuck out to you this week. Compare the text in a few different Bible translations or do a word study on a few key words.
- Read a commentary on John 18:1-20:18.
- Journal about what you learned through His Word this week.
- Spend time in prayer, focusing on what the Holy Spirit revealed to you through your study of John 18:1-20:18.
- Record any questions you still have about the text.

Looking Ahead

Read John 20:19-21:25.

Use the space below to record anything that jumps out to you or any questions that come to mind about the text.
