

# Growth Group Bible Study

The Week that Was for Jesus - Sermon Series

*The Darkest Day*

April 14, 2019

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**Reading** Luke 23:33 – 46

## Opening Questions

1. What was “the darkest day” you have ever been through? How did you cope with that? Can you say you know why that “darkest day” happened?
2. Have you ever seen a group of people “get out of control” or have “a mob mentality”?
3. When you consider the crucifixion of Jesus, what stands out or strikes you the most about what happened that day?
4. Have you ever known of someone having “a last minute conversion to Christ”? What hope does that give for those we desire to see come to Jesus?

## Study

1. Jesus was crucified with two criminals (23:33). What is the significance of that? cf. Isaiah 53:1-12
2. Read Psalm 22:11-18. How does this Scripture connect with Jesus’ crucifixion?
3. What does the crowd at the cross, there to see the “spectacle” (23:48), and who mock and ridicule Jesus, tell us about human nature?
4. Why did God send literal darkness in the land as Jesus dies (23:44)?

5. Jesus' last words were, "It is finished" (John 19:30) and "Father into your hands I commit My Spirit" (23:46). What significance is attached to what Jesus said?
  
6. Why did this "darkest day" have to happen for Jesus and what does His death on the cross mean for us? cf. 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Tim. 1:15; Col. 2:13-14
  
7. How critical is it for salvation for us to see the depth of our sin and its consequences? cf. Romans 3:23; 6:23; 7:24; Eph. 2:1-3
  
8. How does what Jesus did for the one criminal (23:42-43) relate to our salvation? cf. Isaiah 1:18; Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 8:1
  
9. Complete the sentence: "Jesus' death on the cross for me means \_\_\_\_\_"

### **Application**

1. This week, as we come to "Good Friday", take some time to stop and reflect on the cross and think and pray about the fact that "Jesus died for me"!