

# LIFEgroups

## OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

If you have ever witnessed a person die, tell about the circumstances and how it made you feel.

If not, then tell about a memorable funeral you have attended.

## DIG

The unjust execution of Jesus Christ is a central theme of the Bible. Read from the following passage about the last events just before he died...

***Matthew 27:45-49 "...about the ninth hour Jesus cried out..."***

What did Jesus cry out in this passage?

What does this cry from Jesus teach you about the circumstances of his death?

How did the two groups who heard Jesus responded so differently to his question?

Why did each group respond the way they did?

Read about the moment Jesus died from...

***Matthew 27:50-53 "And when Jesus had cried out again..."***

What "miraculous" signs occurred at the time that Jesus died?  
Which of these "signs" is hardest for you to imagine and why?

What do these strange events indicate to you about the death of Jesus?

Read about some of the witnesses to this event from...

***Matthew 27:54-56 "When the centurion and those with him..."***

Based on these verses, how would you have felt if you had been one of the guards at this crucifixion?

Why were these guards convinced that Jesus was the Son of God?

## APPLY

What puzzles you most about the death of Jesus?  
If the Bible ended on this page, how would you feel?  
When have you felt "abandoned" by God?

## Leaders

### Sermon Series

This discussion guide comes from the current lesson in a series from the Gospel of Matthew. This series focuses on Matthew's message that Jesus is King over all things.

### Big Idea

This lesson from Matthew 27 describes the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Help participants realize the significance of this event, as illustrated in some of the things that happened at the time Jesus died.

### Group Discussion Reminder

Every human needs accepting relationships that inspire goodness and purpose. Intentionally create in your group a sense of acceptance and openness. Remind people periodically that the group is a safe place and personal information is to be kept confidential. This will be the foundation for relationships that are both supportive and inspiring.