

## LIFE GROUP LESSON April 14 to April 20, 2019

### What Really Happened At Calvary

● **WELCOME God's People (15 minutes)**

● **WORSHIP God (10 minutes – song, reading of Psalms or prayers of thanks/praise).** You can use prayers of thanksgiving or adoration as your time of worship

● **Live by God's WORD (45 minutes)**

If asked what took place on Good Friday, many people could list the events of Calvary. Some might explain that Christ was nailed to the cross, Roman soldiers gambled for His garments, and darkness covered the land. Others would mention the crown of thorns, an earthquake, and Jesus' mother watching with what must have been heartbreak and horror.

But no matter how many visible details one could mention far more was going on than the eye could see: At the cross, sin was judged.

In giving His very first command in the Garden of Eden, God warned that disobedience carried the death penalty ([Gen. 2:17](#)). So from the start, His judgment of sin was prophesied, and later it was also pictured in the elaborate sacrificial system He established. Under this system, each transgression required an animal's blood to be sprinkled on the altar. The severity of the penalty—payment of a life—was a graphic way for our holy God to communicate how offensive and grievous sin actually is. It was also a foreshadowing of the Lamb of God, who would come to take away the sin of the world ([John 1:29](#)).

Jesus Christ was, on the cross, what that lamb was on the altar—but with a significant difference: Under the old covenant, every time sin was committed, another animal had to die. Jesus, however, willingly offered Himself once for all to atone for the sin of the entire world ([Heb. 7:27](#)).

Refusing to personally accept Christ's substitutionary atonement leaves a person with the responsibility of paying his or her own sin debt. Won't you thank the Savior for your amazing free gift—or receive it from Him now?

#### Suggested Questions for Discussion and Growth

1. Have you ever admitted your hopeless, sinful condition and trusted in Christ's substitutionary death on your behalf? If not, will you do this today?
2. How do you respond when people accuse you of being narrow-minded on the issue of salvation?

● **Impact God's WORLD (20 min)**

1. Think about ways to grow your group and give birth to a new group.
2. Pray for your lost relatives, co-workers. Ask the Lord to help be a good example.
3. Your group might think about visiting an elderly person or couple.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS – 3 minutes:

1. Share: ●any planned group activity ●important church announcements ●next meeting time
2. Keep a copy of the church bulletin to help remind the group of important events.

CLOSING – Please turn in your attendance each week. It helps us evaluate our progress.