

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for March 27 - Selected Scriptures **Title: An Eyewitness Account**

Facilitator: Pastor Peppy led us through the last seven words Jesus spoke from the cross. Read the full passages below and use the questions to guide discussion.

Read **Luke 23:34**—*And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”*

Question: Did God the Father honor Jesus' prayer and forgive those who crucified him? If we, by extension, are responsible Jesus' death on the cross—and we are—are we also forgiven? How is this possible?

Read **Luke 23:35-43**—*And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”*

Question: The thief on the cross beside Jesus knew he deserved death. How could he be rewarded with Paradise after a life of lawlessness?

Read **John 19: 25-27**—*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

Question: In this statement, we get a glimpse of Jesus' compassion in the midst of extreme suffering and spiritual anxiety. How could this same compassion lead us to care about the human needs of people around us even as we personally are tested with trials and temptations?

Read **Mark 15:33-34**—*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

Question: Why would Jesus say this? What was it about Jesus that would cause God the Father to forsake him? Is there anything about us that would cause God to forsake us?

Read **John 19:28**—*After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”*

Question: John slips in the parenthesis “to fulfill the Scripture” to point out that this detail of the crucifixion had been prophesied long before. Read the prophecy in Psalm 69:21.

Read **John 19:30**—When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, *“It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Question: What exactly was finished at this point? How does the finished work of Christ affect each of us personally and the entire human race from the beginning of creation to its end?

Read **Luke 23:46**—Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”*

Question: This last statement indicates the complete control Jesus had over his own crucifixion. Anyone else would have been at the mercy of the executioners. What implications can you draw from knowing Jesus was in control. Here’s one: Hebrews 12:2

Question: In John 20:1–10 we read: *“Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed....”* What did he see, what did he believe and why did he believe it?