Title: Finishing the Work
Big Idea: God promised it, the prophets predicted it, people saw it, and Jesus finished it all.

19:**23** When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. **24** So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it.” This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: **They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing.** This is what the soldiers did.

From Psalm 22:18

25 Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” **27** Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

1. The cross is about love.

Luke 2:**34** Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary, “Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed— **35** and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

28 After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, “I’m thirsty.” **29** A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth.

Psalm 69:20 Insults have broken my heart, and I am in despair. I waited for sympathy, but there was none; for comforters, but found no one. 21 Instead, they gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Exodus 12:22 Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and brush the lintel and the two doorposts with some of the blood in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning.

12:23 When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, he will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike you.

2. The cross is the door.

30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

31 Since it was the preparation day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men’s legs broken and that their bodies be taken away.

32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with him. **33** When they came to Jesus, they did not break his legs since they saw that he was already dead. **34** But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. **35** He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth. **36** For these things happened so that the Scripture would

be fulfilled: **Not one of his bones will be broken. 37** Also, another Scripture says: **They will look at the one they pierced.**

From Psalm 34:20 & Zechariah 12:10

38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus's body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away. **39** Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. **40** They took Jesus's body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews. **41** There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it. **42** They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby.

3. The cross calls us all.

Discussion Questions:

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas. You may not get to every question during group time, but speak up if you want to talk about one in particular. Start with #1.

1.What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?

2. How does the cross change the perspective that all religions are the same?

3. What can we learn from Jesus' love for others from the cross?

4. Why do you think God predicted so many details about Christ's death? What detail stood out to you?

5. Why do you think Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea chose this moment to serve Jesus in this way? Can you relate to them in any way?

6. Which character in this passage besides Jesus would you want to interview? What would you want to know?