

# SESSION 5

**GREATER LOVE**

*the amazing story of hope and redemption*

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## SESSION 5

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### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



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### OPEN

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As you open up today, consider this; Can you recall a trip that you were really looking forward to that didn't turn out the way you expected it would before you left?

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What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

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### WATCH

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What jumped out at you from the video?

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### INTRODUCTION

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What had already happened prior to this passage today?

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as we come into the reading this week we see that Jesus has already endured a horrible whipping. With chains and leather straps.

### READ

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**READ Matthew 27:32-43**

**Why was a man named Simon forced to carry the cross of Christ?**

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We know that normally the Romans would make the convicted criminals carry their own cross to further the punishment but Jesus was so weakened by the scourging that he endured that he couldn't even carry the cross beam so they forced a man named Simon to carry the cross with Him.


**Where was Jesus led to be crucified?**

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They led Jesus outside of the city gates to a place called Golgotha which means literally, the place of the skull. Scholars don't know exactly where Golgotha is located today, there are several spots in modern day Jerusalem thought to be Golgotha, which is ok because the location of



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the place is not nearly important as what happens there.

**What is wine mixed with Gall and why did the Roman soldiers offer it to Jesus?**

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Scholars argue over the exact meaning of gall, it could've been a sedative meant to ease his pain and shorten his time on the cross or it could've been a poison meant to kill him even faster but either way Jesus refuse the drink because He had made the choice to suffer for the sins of all mankind!

**What were the Roman soldiers doing as Jesus was crucified?**

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The Romans soldiers either ignorant of who they were killing or desensitized to the violence were playing games at the foot of the cross to see who would take home Jesus' belongings including his robes.

**Why is this significant?**

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Whether they knew it or not the soldiers were accomplishing the prophecy of Psalm 22:18, which says; "They divided my garments among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing."

**Why were the guards placed on the hill of Golgotha?**

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the soldiers were stationed there to guard His body from being tampered with or taken by His followers.

**In addition to playing games at the foot of the cross what did the Roman soldiers do to Jesus?**

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While there, they indicated what His charge was: they put up a sign that said, "This Is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

**What added 'insult to injury' for Jesus that day.**

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Even as Jesus, innocent of all charges, hung between two criminals people came by to hurl insults at him. Even in his dying moments, Jesus continued to suffer unjust treatment.

**What is the irony of the insults that the people made about Jesus?**

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As the people mocked him, about raising up the temple in three days, little did they know that he was actually prophesying about raising up His own body, which IS the temple.

**What do we have to know about the crucifixion of Jesus?**

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The crucifixion of Jesus was absolutely necessary! Jesus had to be humiliated and insulted in order that we might experience salvation. If we were going to be saved then Jesus would have to suffer. Now, the reality is that Jesus

CHOSE this path, No one forced Jesus to be crucified.

**How can we use this passage to equip us as followers of Jesus?**

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Answers may vary.

**LET'S PRAY**

**Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.**

- Will you share the story of salvation with others who need to hear it?
- Will you share his willful suffering so that others might be made right with God?
- Have YOU been made right with God?
- Are you living as one who has been changed by the great love and sacrifice of Jesus?
- What steps might you take to live differently this week after hearing the Word of God?



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BIG IDEA

Jesus was insulted and mocked as one who couldn't save Himself, much less others. However, we know that this was all part of God's plan. Jesus would later save Himself. He would rise from the dead and He would be elevated to great glory, the likes of which no human being will ever experience, because He is, in fact, God the Son, worthy of all glory, honor, and power. Before the glory, however, would come the suffering. It is in this moment that Jesus is humiliated, crucified, and insulted.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

READ Matthew 27:32-43

Lined area for Bible study notes.

GET PERSONAL

In a passage where many people are anonymous, why do you think Simon of Cyrene is mentioned by name?

Blank lines for answer to the first question.

Have you ever had an experience that was very unpleasant or difficult that you later looked back on and realized that some good came out of it? What happened?

Blank lines for answer to the second question.

How might the experience of Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross of Jesus impact how you carry a cross you are compelled to bear?

Blank lines for answer to the third question.

