

## Following Jesus to the Cross

**Text:** Gospel of John 19:16–30

### Opening Question

When you think about following Jesus, what usually comes to mind first—comfort, purpose, challenge, or something else? Why?

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. The Cross: Obedience, Not Tragedy

From the outside, the cross looks like failure. But Jesus said in Gospel of John 10:18 that He lays down His life on His own.

- How does knowing Jesus chose the cross change the way you see it?
- Why is it important to understand the cross as obedience rather than tragedy?
- Where in your life is following Jesus currently costing you something?

#### 2. Faithfulness to the End

Even on the cross, Jesus remained faithful—caring for others, fulfilling Scripture, and completing His mission.

- What stands out to you about Jesus' behavior while He was suffering?
- Why is faithfulness often hardest in difficult or unseen moments?
- What does “finishing well” look like in your current season of life?

#### 3. “It Is Finished” — Victory

Jesus' final words declare that the work is complete—not defeated, but victorious.

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “It is finished”?
- Why is it hard for us to trust God when things feel “finished” in a negative way?
- How does the cross give you hope in situations that feel final or hopeless?

#### 4. Stay or Walk Away

At the cross, people responded in different ways—some mocked, some left, and some remained.

- What does it practically mean to “remain at the cross”?
- What are some ways people today “walk away” or keep their distance from the cross?
- What might it look like for you personally to remain with Jesus this week?

### Application

Take a moment to reflect:

- Is there an area where you've been trying to follow Jesus at a distance?
- What is one step you can take this week to move closer—to remain?

### Closing Prayer