

QUESTION 6

Invite group members to give their explanation to the rest of the group.

- a) It is important that we understand that Jesus death dealt with the death sentence that came on mankind when Adam and Eve sinned.
- b) It was the only way that God's wrath on sin could be satisfied.
- c) Jesus' death broke the curse of sin.
- d) He took the punishment for us so that we could live.
- e) If He did not really suffer or die, then He did not rise from the dead. And our sin is not dealt with or death defeated (see **1 Corinthians 15:17**).

GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 5

QUESTION 1

- a) Written around 90AD, this is the last of the four 'gospels' to be written. John wrote a considerable amount of time after the Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- b) John's whole purpose in writing his account is stated later in **20:30-31**.
- c) There he acknowledges that he can't record everything that Jesus did and said.
- d) What he has included in his record is intended not only to prove who Jesus was (*"the Christ, the Son of God"*); but that his readers might know personal salvation in Jesus.
- e) The word 'believe' (or derivatives of it) appears in this one book some 98 times.

QUESTION 2

- a) This wasn't a declaration that He was finished and was about to expire.
- b) These three words in the English are a single word in the original Greek language in which the New Testament was written: 'tetelestai'.
- c) It means "paid in full".
- d) It was also used as a technical term in relation to tax. Bills and receipts from that period have been found stamped with the word 'tetelestai'.
- e) It is finished. It is completed. Everything that had to be done to rescue sinners had been accomplished by Jesus' death.

- f) God's wrath against sin had been appeased; Satan defeated; God's righteous requirements in the law, met; every prophecy had been fulfilled.
- g) Nothing needs to be added to it. Nothing must be added to it. Nothing can be added to it.

QUESTION 3

- a) It was important that these bodies were taken down before the Sabbath. **Deuteronomy 21:22-23** states that if a man was condemned to death and hung upon a tree, his corpse should not hang on the tree overnight so as not to defile the land.
- b) However, death by crucifixion could take several days. Not only that, but it was normal practice for the Roman authorities to leave the body hanging to rot after death as a gruesome warning to others.
- c) Verse 32 shows that the other two who were crucified with Jesus had not died. The breaking of the legs would have speeded the process.
- d) The fact that Jesus was already dead had two implications. Firstly, that He had suffered so much before the cross that He was already very weak.
- e) Secondly, it was a fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy that no bones in His body would be broken. John refers to this in **verse 36** (see **Psalm 34:20**). John is the only gospel writer to refer to this.
- f) This followed the Passover rule in Exodus 12:46 that the sacrificial lamb must not have any bones broken (see **1 Corinthians 5:7** for reference to Jesus being the 'Passover Lamb').

QUESTION 4

- a) There were those who denied that Jesus died on the cross.
- b) Known as the swoon theory; it was suggested that Jesus never really died on the cross, but that He was crucified and came very close to death. He was taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb. After three days the coolness of the tomb revived Him, and He managed to roll away the stone and come out of the tomb. He then appeared to the disciples making them think He'd risen from the dead.
- c) There were also a group known as the Docetists who denied that Jesus was a real man who had taken on human flesh. Therefore, He couldn't really suffer and die.
- d) In our passage John is clear that Jesus died.
- e) Verse 33 shows that the soldiers knew He was dead. They knew what 'dead' was. There was no way that Jesus could have tricked them. It was more than their job was worth to get it wrong.
- f) The separation of blood and water when Jesus was pierced by the spear was a medical recognition that death had happened.

QUESTION 5

- a) We have already referred to the importance of the fulfilment of prophecy. John mentions two of these Old Testament statements: **verses 36-37**.
- b) John wants his readers to note that everything that took place; including Jesus' horrendous death, was part of God's plan.
- c) The second reference in verse 37 looks to the day at the end of history when people will look at Jesus and mourn what they have done in rejecting Him as their Rescuer.
- d) When in Zechariah 12:10 God says "*when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced*"; this affirms that Jesus was God incarnate.