

## Study Guide: The King on the Cross

John 19:17–27

**Big Idea:** The King who deserved a crown of glory chose instead to carry a cross of suffering so sinners could be crowned with life.

### I. The Sacrifice is Horrific (vv.17–18)

#### Greek Word Study: βαστάζω (bastazō)

Meaning: *to carry, bear, or lift a heavy burden.*

John writes that Jesus went out **bearing His own cross**. This word describes carrying something extremely heavy. While Jesus physically carried the beam of the cross, Scripture reminds us He was carrying something far heavier — the burden of sin.

#### Hebrew Connection

אָוֹן (‘āwōn)

Meaning: *iniquity, guilt, moral corruption.*

Isaiah 53:6 says: “The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Jesus did not simply carry wood. He carried the guilt of humanity.

#### Reflection Questions

1. What burdens of sin are people often still trying to carry instead of giving to Christ?

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2. Why is it important that Jesus willingly carried the cross rather than being forced to it?

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3. How does understanding the weight of sin deepen our appreciation for the cross?

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## II. The Scene is Hideous (vv.19–24)

### Greek Word Study: βασιλεύς (basileus)

Meaning: *king, ruler, sovereign.*

Pilate's inscription declared: "Jesus of Nazareth, **King of the Jews.**" Rome intended mockery. But God the was declaring truth. The King of creation was hanging on a Roman cross.

### Hebrew Connection

מֶלֶךְ (melek)

Meaning: *king, ruler.*

Throughout the Old Testament God promised a coming King from the line of David who would reign forever. At Golgotha that King appeared to be defeated. But the cross was actually His throne of redemption.

### Reflection Questions

1. Why do people sometimes reject Jesus as King even when the truth is clearly before them?

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2. What distractions in our lives might cause us to overlook what God is doing?

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3. What does it mean for Jesus to be King not just in belief but in daily life?

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### III. The Shame is Humiliating (vv.25–27)

#### Greek Word Study γύναι (gynai)

Meaning: *woman*.

Jesus addresses His mother with this respectful title from the cross. Even while suffering unimaginable agony, Jesus is still caring for others.

#### Hebrew Connection

##### שָׁלוֹם (shalom)

Meaning: *peace, restoration, wholeness*.

Through the suffering of Christ, God restores what sin had broken. Even in the middle of the cross, Jesus forms a new family among His followers.

#### Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think the women remained near the cross when others fled?

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2. What does Jesus' care for His mother reveal about His heart?

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3. How does the cross form a new spiritual family among believers?

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## The Cross and Childbirth

The suffering of the cross shares striking similarities with labor pains.

Childbirth	Crucifixion
Contractions come in waves	Breath comes in waves of agony
Blood and water accompany birth	Blood and water flowed from Christ's side
The body strains to bring life	Jesus strained with every breath
Pain produces life	Christ's suffering produces salvation
Joy follows birth	Resurrection follows the cross

Jesus Himself used childbirth imagery to describe suffering followed by joy:

John 16:21: The cross looked like death. But through that suffering **life was being born for the world.**

### Final Reflection

Following Jesus means taking up our own cross. Where might Christ be asking you to deny yourself and trust Him more fully today?

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