

# Nailed to a CROSS

## AIM

To show that Jesus was not just a very good teacher and healer. To show that Jesus' death and rising from death are central to what Christianity is all about, hence the title of this course — *Cross Examination* (thoroughly checking the meaning of Jesus and his execution on the cross).

## SESSION NOTES

1. The warm up exercise is provided. There are no correct answers nor any need to share answers.
2. Allow time for questions arising from Mark 1 – 4. Limit the time on this so that the main theme of the session is not squeezed out. It would be unwise to give the impression that you know all the answers. Much better to convey a humble attitude which suggests the most likely answers to the questions.
3. Remind the group of the main theme emerging from Session A.
4. The second panel on this page gives group members a reminder of some of the main events leading to Jesus' death. Briefly tell the group that this kind of death was an extremely agonising one. The victim, after being nailed to the cross, was lifted up so that his feet were about a metre above the ground. His body weight was supported by the nails. To inhale he had to push up with his legs. There he was left to die by suffocation.
5. The third panel probes the meaning of the death of Christ. There is a comment on the phenomenon of the darkness in the 'Top Twenty' section of page 47. Jesus' cry in verse 34, seems so desperate. But we must face the stark reality of it. Although Jesus and his Father were one and could not be separated, in some strange way God had turned his back on the sin and evil Jesus was carrying in his death.
6. It is impossible to fully explain the meaning of the death of Christ. No explanation ties it all up completely. One attempt which has helped many people is outlined on page 29.

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## 1. Gut reactions

Describe how you feel about the boxed issues using the symbols :

- A — I'm feeling really good
- B — I'm feeling okay
- C — Things could be better
- D — I wish you hadn't asked



1. About my team .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. About my family ...	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. About school/ college/work .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. About my friends ..	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. About God .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. About the church ...	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2. The facts of the Cross

Read Mark 14:60-65 and 15:9-41

From the following verses, list the things that happened to Jesus:

14:64-65 —

15:15 —

15:17-20 —

15:24 —

15:31 —

