

**BY HIS** | **WOUNDS** | we are healed

*Study guides*

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# By His Wounds, We are Healed: For Our Freedom

## Mark 14:61-64

<sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

<sup>62</sup> “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. <sup>64</sup> “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death.

## Introduction

It’s a sad scene in a courtroom when an accused individual hears the verdict: “Guilty!” Because of our sins, each of us deserves to hear our God proclaim the same about us—Guilty! But because of God’s grace, he chose to condemn his Son, Jesus, in our place. Jesus was condemned in a human court and by his heavenly Father. This wrong condemnation means that God’s children will not be condemned but instead by faith will hear, “Not guilty!” when they meet their God.

## God’s Word

1. Read Mark 14:55,56. The Bible tells us that the chief priests were looking for evidence to condemn Jesus, but they couldn’t find any because he was perfect. If someone interviewed your family and friends and searched for evidence of whether you had done anything wrong, how would your life compare to Jesus’ life?

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2. Read Mark 14:62. Jesus said that he would be the holy Son of Man who would return and sit at God’s right hand. This made the chief priests mad enough to condemn Jesus to death. What comfort is yours because Jesus will be the one returning to judge the world at the Last Day?

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## Your life

1. Have you ever been accused of doing something that you didn’t do? How did that make you feel?

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2. Jesus' enemies wanted him more than dead. They wanted him shamed and disgraced. Have you had someone try to shame and disgrace you?

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3. Just a few hours before this court scene, Jesus and his disciples ate their Passover meal of lamb. That ritual meal memorialized how in Egypt the blood of a lamb was used to spare a family from death. How does Jesus' willingness to be condemned compare with that lamb?

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### Reflection

1. How much love does it take to be willing to be condemned in the place of someone else?

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2. Jesus was willing to take your sins on himself. What does that motivate you to do for someone else?

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3. Jesus was condemned by God the Father so that the entire world would be declared innocent. Most people do not know about this declaration. Who in your life doesn't know this? How can you tell them?

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### What else does God say?

Isaiah 53:6-8 "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away."

### Journal applications

Are you feeling guilty about some sin? Is there a brokenness in your life that leads you to feel unworthy? Write about it and confess it to God. Consider telling a Christian friend.

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God has condemned Jesus and declared you innocent. What practical steps can you take to live like an innocent child of God and rid yourself of the sins you fall into?

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### **Prayer**

Dear Lord, I am guilty. I have sinned; I am sinful. I deserve to be condemned eternally in hell. I thank you that Jesus was willing to be condemned in my place. I praise you that now I am innocent in your eyes and your child. Help me live as your innocent child and share this loving work of Jesus with the world. Amen.

### **God's encouragement for you**

Romans 3:20,22 "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

# By His Wounds, We are Healed: For Our Glory

## Mark 15:16-20

<sup>16</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup> They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

## Introduction

One of the happiest moments on television is when the winner of a pageant receives her crown. She is filled with emotion and joy to the point of trembling as an official puts a dazzling decoration on her head, letting all know that she has won. She receives recognition and admiration as she wears that crown for the first time and every time she puts it on after that. The crown Jesus received is the exact opposite. It was a crown of mockery and marked him as one so hated he would be killed.

## God's Word

1. Read Mark 15:17,18. How is what happened to Jesus here ironic?

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2. Read Mark 15:19. How would you describe the way the soldiers treated Jesus? Why do you think they didn't take Jesus to be crucified right away?

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## Your life

1. When have you been mocked or treated cruelly? When have you mocked others?

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2. The soldiers had total power over Jesus with very little accountability. How can situations like that bring out "the beast" in you or others?

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3. When have you not bowed down to Jesus? Have you bowed down to sin, addiction, cruelty, or laziness?

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4. How have you with a true heart worshiped Jesus as your King?

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### Reflection

1. Jesus willingly endured this crowning and mockery for you. How does this motivate you to endure the hardships of life?

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2. The inscription “INRI” was written above Jesus’ cross. They are an acronym; these are the first letters of the Latin words for “Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews.” What comfort do you receive when you refer to Jesus by that title?

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3. God told King David that one of his descendants would be a king who would reign forever. Jesus was the fulfillment of that promise. God kept his promise to David. How does that comfort you?

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4. Jesus never looked like a king except at his transfiguration (see Matthew 17:1-8)—but he always was a king. By faith God’s children are princesses and princes, but the world cannot see it. How does that fact help you decide how to live your life?

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### What else does God say?

Revelation 2:10 “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.”

Revelation 3:11 “I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

## Journal applications

The soldiers mocked Jesus in front of one another. Think about times that you have not spoken of Jesus in the right way and the effect that had on those around you. Write about that and how you can praise Jesus as your King in the future.

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There are few things worse than having a king who is cruel. But there is nothing as good as having an eternal and all powerful King who loves you. Write a letter to King Jesus and thank him for all the ways he rules this universe for your blessing.

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## Prayer

Dear King Jesus, you are the almighty King of heaven and earth and you deserve all glory. Yet for me you allowed sinners to mock and beat and place a humiliating crown of thorns on your head. Your kingly power is only matched by your amazing love for me. Help me wear an invisible crown for you and proclaim your kingdom. Give me strength to endure any ridicule I receive because of you. Give me faith until I see you in your full glory on your magnificent throne. Amen.

## God's encouragement for you

James 1:12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

# By His Wounds, We are Healed: For Our Peace

## Mark 15:9-15

<sup>9</sup> “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup> knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

<sup>12</sup> “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

<sup>13</sup> “Crucify him!” they shouted.

<sup>14</sup> “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

<sup>15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

## Introduction

There seems to be a universal wish for world peace. Politicians, citizens, and celebrities all tout for peace on earth. But a newspaper’s headlines and the actions of many betray that most are not working for that peace. Peace in this world is only temporary, isolated, or imagined.

When angels announced Jesus’ birth, they sang of peace for this world, but several decades later Jesus received the most violent of ends. But it was this violence against Jesus that would end violence eternally. It was this lack of peace for our Savior that would bring abundant peace to his followers.

## God’s Word

1. Read Mark 15:9. Pilate faced a dilemma. The chief priests wanted Jesus condemned, but he was not guilty of anything. What strategy was Pilate using to get out of this awkward situation?

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2. Read Mark 15:15. Why did Pilate ultimately allow Jesus to be crucified?

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## Your life

1. What dilemmas have you faced? Are you facing one right now? How have you dealt with them?

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2. What are some wrong ways that you have dealt with dilemmas?

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3. When have you dealt with a difficult situation poorly? When have you given into the crowd around you and gone along with something wrong?

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4. What/who has helped you in difficult situations?

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### **Reflection**

1. The chief priests used emotions to get the crowd to call for Jesus' crucifixion. When have you let emotions lead you the wrong way?

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2. Pilate could find Jesus guilty of no crime. How many times have you committed wrong acts or crimes that no one knows about or caught you doing?

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3. Jesus had the power to stop the trial and walk away at any time. Yet he chose to deal with injustice to save the world. What injustice are you dealing with? Or what injustice do you need to work against to help others?

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4. Barabbas was guilty but was released from his crucifixion because Jesus was crucified. How are you like Barabbas?

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## What else does God say?

Isaiah 53:10 “It was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.”

Isaiah 53:5 “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

## Journal applications

Pull out your calendar from this past week. Go through each day and think about your sins. Focus on greed, laziness, anger, and all the good actions you chose not to take. Write them down for each day. Then pray to God and confess those sins and that you know you deserve violence and not peace from God. Then ask for forgiveness based on the violence that Jesus took in your place. Over each listing of your sin, write the word *Peace*.

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Pilate was an intelligent politician. In order to keep his job and the city looking peaceful on the outside, he was willing to condemn an innocent man. Think about times that you have not done what is right to keep outward peace at your job or in your family. Write two actions that you will take to avoid repeating your mistakes.

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## Prayer

Dear King Jesus, you are the all powerful and holy God. Yet you were willing to allow yourself to be subjected to unjust violence. Thank you for taking that violence for me so that I may have eternal peace. Guide me in your way and help me lead others to your peace. Amen.

## God’s encouragement for you

John 14:27 “[Jesus said,] ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.’”

# By His Wounds, We are Healed: For Our Life

## John 19:17-19

<sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

## Introduction

Every successful company seems to have a brand or logo. Nike has its swoosh and McDonald's has its golden arches. Even small businesses will pay an artist or designer to come up with a memorable way to summarize their company in a picture.

Christianity has its own logo, the cross. Often churches are built in the shape of a cross, and they most always are decorated with crosses. Christians wear T-shirts with crosses and have jewelry with crosses. The cross, the tool used to give someone a torturous death, summarizes what Christianity and Jesus are all about. The cross shows how Jesus gave his children their life.

## God's Word

1. Read John 19:17. Jesus had been sentenced to death. What additional humiliation and pain was given to him?

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2. Read John 19:18. Why was it humiliating for Jesus to be placed in the middle of two others?

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3. Read John 19:19. Pilate meant the sign he prepared to be a dig against the Jews. How was this sign also true?

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## Your life

1. What's the most difficult decision you've ever had to make?

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2. When have you experienced guilt by association like Jesus?

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3. When you see a cross, what do you think of? How is this different from when you see a gun or a noose or a guillotine?

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4. How many crosses do you have displayed? On your jewelry or clothes? Among your home decorations? At your church?

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### **Reflection**

1. Jesus willingly carried his own cross with his human strength. He could have chosen to give up, but he did not because of his love for the world. When have you chosen to give up for others?

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2. Jesus was crucified next to two violent offenders. Have you ever been in jail? What is it like to be considered a felon or offender?

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3. Jesus made the cross into a symbol of forgiveness and life. What can you think of every time you see a picture of a cross?

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4. The sign above Jesus' head had initials that stood for "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." How is he your King?

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## What else does God say?

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 “Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

John 3:14,15 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

## Journal applications

Think about the crosses that you see in your life. Write down what the cross means to you and the life it gives you. Write a short poem or story and share it with a friend.

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There are many ways that crosses are portrayed. Sometimes Jesus is still on the cross in the state of crucifixion. Some crosses are empty. Some crosses are gilded or highly decorated. Find pictures of actual crosses or look at ones in your home or your church. Write about the different message each style or type of cross conveys.

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## Prayer

Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, I thank you for being put to death on a cross for me. Thank you for the life you have given me. Every time I see a cross, send your Holy Spirit to remind me of what happened on your cross. Lead people to see the crosses I wear or have and give me the words to speak to share the meaning of the cross. Help me lift high the cross as a symbol of your love, a symbol of what my sins deserve, and as a message to believe and proclaim. Amen.

## God's encouragement for you

John 3:16,17 “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”