**Key Passages**

**Bible Drill Devotions**

***Green Cycle***

**9. THE CRUCIFIXION John 19**

**Key Verse/s**  *John 19:19b-20 “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The words were written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. (Contemporary English Version)*

**Why Is This Key Passage Important?** This Key Passage is a summary of what happened to Jesus on His last day on earth. It also shows how God is in control of all things. Many, many of the things that happened to Jesus in “The Crucifixion of Jesus,” written shortly after Jesus’ death, were predicted in the Old Testament, written about seven hundred and fifty years to one thousand years before The Crucifixion. Isn’t that amazing!

**Lesson** There is an insurance commercial on TV that has the slogan, “We know a few things, because we have seen a few things.” Well, God knows everything because He has seen everything. A thousand years before it happened, God told some people to write down what would happen at Jesus’s birth and at His death.

In “The Crucifixion of Jesus,” John 19, several things happened that were told about seven hundred to a thousand years before.

* John 19:6 says that Pilate found Jesus not guilty of doing anything wrong. Isaiah 53:11 says the Suffering Servant would be innocent but would take on the punishment for the sin of others.
* John 19:10 tells of how Pilate tried to get Jesus to say something in his own defense, but Jesus would not do it. Isaiah 53:7 said Jesus would be painfully abused but would not complain. He would be as silent as a lamb.
* John 19:23-24 tells that the soldiers gambled for Jesus’ clothing. Psalm 22:18 said they divided my garments and cast lots for my clothing.
* John 19:36 says that the soldiers were going to break the bones in Jesus’ legs so that He could not push Himself up to breathe, and thus would die a little quicker. After they did this to the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus they found that Jesus was already dead and so they did not need to break His legs. Psalm 34:20 said that even though the Messiah would suffer greatly, no bones would be broken.
* John 19:34 says that Jesus’ side was pierced. Zechariah 12:10 said this would happen.

A second lesson from this passage is to realize that Jesus was put to death for things He did not do.

Today, if someone commits a murder or does something that results in the death of many people (treason, spying, large-scale drug trafficking), he or she may be put to death by the electric chair or by lethal injection. Years ago they would be hanged or placed before a firing squad for their crime. Prior to that, the punishment may have been beheading or burning.

In Jesus’ day – nailing, did you get that, nailing someone to a large piece of wood, maybe in the shape of a cross, was the capital punishment. Jesus did not kill anyone, He did not encourage anyone to kill. He did not spy or commit treason or do anything that deserved the punishment of death. All He did was make people feel uncomfortable around Him. Was it because He was better than they? Was it because He was better liked? Was it because they were afraid He would change things they were very comfortable with – their relationship with the Romans, their money, their rules? Yes, these are the reasons, and none of them is anything that deserves the death penalty. Jesus did not die for these reasons, He died for the all the sins – large and small – of all people. We sin. He didn’t.