



## **ANSWER GUIDE**

# **The Gospels: Episode 16**

The Crucifixion of Jesus

### **Discussion Questions and Answers**

1. What was a flagrum and how was it used?

*A flagrum was a cruel, multiple stranded whip with spiked or barbed ends. It was designed to cause the maximum amount of pain without killing the person.*

2. Discuss the evidence for the actual location of Golgotha—the place of crucifixion.

*Golgotha, meaning the “place of the skull,” was taken to mean a rounded hill, like the crown of a skull. While a few sites have been proposed over the years, the most likely candidate for Golgotha is within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The site is located outside of the old city walls, near a road, and high enough to be seen from a distance.*

3. Discuss the various prophecies fulfilled by Jesus on the cross.

*When Jesus cried, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” he was pointing to the prophecy of Psalm 22:14-16. Jesus went on to say things like, “I thirst” and “It is finished, which also fulfilled portions of Psalm 22 from 1,000 years earlier. Jesus’ bones were not broken because the soldiers saw that he was already dead, fulfilling another prophecy. Instead, they pierced his side with a spear, fulfilling another prophecy. There are many. Check them out for yourself.*

4. Discuss the evidence for the actual location of the tomb of Jesus, financed by Joseph of Arimathea.

*The Gospels record that Joseph of Arimathea offered his unused family tomb for the burial of Jesus. The tomb was located in a garden near the crucifixion site. Based on evidence over the centuries, a majority of biblical scholars agree that the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is the likely candidate for historical site of the tomb.*

5. How did the authorities secure the tomb of Jesus?

*The tomb of Jesus was secured in a few ways. There was a large stone rolled in front of the entrance. The stone was sealed with a warning. In addition, a contingent of guards was placed at the tomb, since there were rumors that the disciples might try to steal the body.*