

JOHN

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

STUDY GUIDE

PART 2 - CHAPTERS 12-21



SUMMIT VIEW CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

RECAP FROM PREVIOUS SERIES

The Gospel of John is a masterful telling of Jesus' life and mission. Its goal is simple, "so that you would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you would have life in his name." Believing what is written in these pages has life altering implications: they are the words of life itself. As we read the words of John the disciple whom Jesus loved, we watch him carefully explain the life and mission of Jesus in a way that depicts Jesus as bigger and bigger as he makes his way to the cross. Each miracle, every sign and statement are designed to stir up awe in our hearts as we interact with God in the flesh.

For More Sermons/Study Resources Visit: <https://summitview.net/john/>

INTRODUCTION

When someone first comes to explore Christianity or right after they become a Christian, one is often encouraged to pick up and read the Gospel of John. For it is within these pages the life and ministry of Jesus are put on display. In twenty-one chapters, one can get a good grasp of who Jesus is and what exactly he came to do. For the next thirteen weeks, we at Summit View will be concluding our study on the Gospel of John. In our study, we will be picking up where we left off last year. We will start at chapter twelve through the rest of the book. This section of the gospel is often referred to as Jesus' private ministry. We will see direct words to his disciples and further examine his passion week, where He laid down his life for his friends. It is our hope and prayer that through our time in this book together, those who know Christ will have their relationship strengthened, and those who are seeking would come to a point of belief that He is who He says He is.

AUTHOR

The most likely author of this gospel account is the apostle John, the son of Zebedee. John would have been an eyewitness to many of the events that took place within this book, thus giving him the authority to write. John was a close friend with Jesus (John 13:32; 19:26; 20:2; 21:20). External evidence from church history also supports this claim.

BACKGROUND

While each of the Gospels share the view that Jesus is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, each one takes a differing approach in revealing how Jesus has come to bring about salvation. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often referred to as the Synoptic Gospels, as they regularly mirror each other in their account of Jesus' life and ministry, all telling the story of Jesus from the earth up. Yet the Gospel of John offers a completely different perspective, telling the story from heaven down. From the get-go, John emphasizes that Jesus has been sent from God. While Matthew focuses showing Jesus as the Jewish Messiah, Mark focusing on Jesus ushering in the Kingdom of God, and Luke emphasizing Jesus welcoming the outsider, John stresses Jesus as the eternal son of God.

DATE

Of the four gospels written, the Gospel of John was most likely the one that was written last. The Gospel of John could have been written anytime between 55-95 A.D., and as most likely written between 70-85 A.D., especially in light of the other letters in the New Testament written by John.

PURPOSE OF JOHN

Fortunately for us, John leaves no doubt about the intention of his writing. He simply states that the purpose for his writing is **that you may believe** (John 20:30-31). The Gospel of John captures the life, teaching, and ministry of Jesus to bring the reader to a point of salvific belief in Jesus.



INTRODUCTION

MAJOR THEMES WITHIN JOHN

BELIEVE

The word **believe** appears 98 times within the book. It never simply prescribes one to a mere intellectual assent to a fact, but calls one to experience a personal response, commitment, and trust. Throughout the Gospel, notions such as **receiving** (John 1:12) **obeying** (John 3:36) and **abiding** (John 15:1-10) are all connected to this belief.

MIRACLES/SIGNS

While the Synoptic Gospels refer to the miracles of Jesus as such, John describes them as signs. John is driving home the point that when we see Jesus perform a “sign” or “miracle” it is pointing us to something much greater. These accounts are included to encourage us to look past what is on the surface and see what it says about the person of Jesus.

ETERNAL LIFE

Littered throughout the entire Gospel, Jesus is pictured as the one who brings about eternal life for all those who believe in Him. See 1:4; 3:15–16, 36; 4:14, 36; 5:24, 26, 39–40; 6:27, 33, 35, 40, 47–48, 51, 53–54, 68; 8:12; 10:10, 25, 28; 11:25; 12:25, 50; 14:6; 17:2–3; 20:31.

“I AM” STATEMENTS

See 4:26; 6:20; 8:24, 28; 13:19; 18:5, 6, 8.

- In the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) you often see Jesus referring to and teaching on the Kingdom of God, yet within the Gospel of John, the teachings of Jesus most emphasized are the ones when he is speaking about himself. In the Gospel of John, he discloses his true identity through wonderful imagery to incite a response from the hearer (and reader!) This finds its pinnacle in John 8, when Jesus simply states that “I am,” communicating his divine nature, as God has previously disclosed himself as such in Exodus 3:13-14.

INTRODUCTION

OUTLINE OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- I. Prologue (1:1-18).
- II. Jesus discloses Himself as the Messiah in word and deed (1:19-12:50).
 - a. The initial call of the disciples and John the Baptist's ministry (1:19-2:11).
 - b. Jesus begins His ministry in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to Gentiles (2:12-4:45).
 - c. Opposition towards Jesus, His ministry, and miracles (5:1-7:52).
 - d. Opposition grows and confrontation climaxes (8:12-10:42).
 - e. Passover and new life (11-12:19).
 - f. The rejection of Jesus by the Jews (12:20-50).
- III. Jesus' passion and final words. Jesus discloses Himself as the Messiah in the cross and exaltation (13-20).
 - a. Jesus' final hours and instructions (13-16).
 - b. Jesus' high priestly prayer (17).
 - c. The betrayal, arrest, trial, death, and burial of Jesus (18-19).
 - d. The resurrection of Jesus and commissioning of the disciples (20:1-29).
 - e. The reason and purpose of the Gospel of John (20:30-31).
- IV. Epilogue (21).
 - a. The call on Peter and John's lives (21).

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide has been specifically prepared with you in mind. It will help life groups grow deeper together in relationship with God and one another.

Each week there are conversations starters to help get things rolling, followed by questions for discussion based on the text. Each week wraps up with personal applications and things to pray for to help you grow spiritually.

We realize you may not be able to get to every question. Pick the ones that would best work for your group. Obviously, you are more than welcome to pull in other resources or highlights from the sermons each week. Our hope is that by participating in this study, you will have a firmer grasp on the Scriptures and a stronger connection with Christ.



VIDEO

The Bible Project – John - <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/john/>



BOOKS



Gentle & Lowly: The heart of Christ for sinners & sufferers

By Dane Ortlund



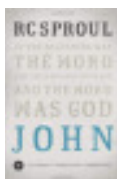
The Final Days of Jesus

By Andreas J. Köstenberger



The Gospel According to John (The Pillar New Testament Commentary)

By D.A. Carson



John (St. Andrews Expository Commentary)

By R.C. Sproul

MUSIC

Spotify Playlist - Musical stylings curated by our Summit View musicians to help you get through your long commute or time in the cubicle! Search for *Gospel of John at Summit View Church*.

INTRODUCTION

Our devotion reveals our heart. Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks, and our actions follow. This week's passage presents us with a multitude of interactions with Jesus and each one of them reveals the object of devotion of the individuals involved. We see that devotion toward Christ can be expressed beautifully in different ways and are acceptable forms of worship. This is what the church should look like; each responding in worship to the new life we have found in Christ. However, not everyone who encounters Christ is transformed by His saving grace. As we find responses of worship worthy to be imitated, we also find less than desirable ones. The key distinction between them is what everyone expected to receive from Jesus. Some wanted something from Him, while others simply wanted Him.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Q Have you ever received a gift of great value? What was it? What did the gift tell you about the relationship you had with the gift giver?
- Q What is the greatest gift you've ever given to someone? Did the value or cost of it matter to you at all?
- Q What does Mary do for Jesus while He is joining her family for dinner?

MAIN IDEA

Our devotion drives our heart and directs the focus our soul, mind, and strength.

Follow Up: Would this have been customary for someone to do for every house guest they have?

Follow Up: What prompted and motivated Mary to act in such a manner? (Hint, what just happened in chapter 11?)

THE ANNOINTING OF JESUS

JOHN 12:1-11



READ & DISCUSS JOHN 12:1-11

Q Mary clearly was not considering how people perceived her or what they thought of her act of worship. There are three key elements that make this act of offering so extravagant.

1. At this time in history, cleaning feet was seen as a task for a slave to do.
2. The cost of the perfume was extremely expensive (about a years' worth of wages).
3. A woman would not allow herself to be seen in this type of situation. With her hair down and then using her hair in lieu of a towel.

Q This act of worship clearly had left an impact on the disciples as this event is recorded in all four of the gospels. With that in mind, in your own words, explain the total cost it was to Mary to worship and honor Jesus in this way.

Follow Up: Jesus says elsewhere: "The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:11-12)

Follow Up: What are some potential modern day equivalent acts of worship that we can participate in?

Q Judas shares his disappointment when Mary pours out her ointment over Jesus' feet. How does Jesus respond to him?

Follow Up: What is surprising about this response?

Follow Up: What did Judas fail to understand?

Q How does Jesus respond to the act of worship and sacrifice of Mary? Consider looking at Matthew 26:10-13 and Mark 14:6-9 for more.

Q Why did the religious leaders of the day decide they wanted to put Lazarus to death (See verse 11 and look back to John 11:48)?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

As we saw in the passage this week, there are right and wrong reactions to the works of Jesus put on display. Some are moved to worship for who Jesus is and others are infuriated at Him. As Jesus promised in Matthew 26:13 and Mark 14:9, this act of worship has been proclaimed and shared in her memory. What are ways in which our love and devotion to Jesus can be seen in a way that is a testimony of God's goodness to others this week? What is one thing we can do to put our love for and devotion to Him on display this week?

*One thing I can do to
put my love and devotion to
Jesus on display:*



THE ANNOINTING OF JESUS FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

JOHN 12:1-11

SUMMARY

Jesus went to a friend's house for a meal. Mary (the sister of Lazarus) had a jar, and inside was some very expensive oil, like a perfume. Mary broke open the jar and poured the oil on Jesus' feet. Those at the dinner were upset! They told Mary that she had done the wrong thing. The oil was worth a lot of money. One of them (Judas) said, "She could have sold the oil and used the money to help people who are poor!" They were offended by it, but Jesus defended it. What they called a "waste," Jesus called a "beautiful thing." Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has done a very good thing for Me."

MAIN IDEA

Because we have been forgiven completely, we should hold nothing back. Like Mary, we should give it all, surrender all... in response to Jesus' love and forgiveness.



THE ANNOINTING OF JESUS

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP



FAMILY DISCUSSION

- Mary's actions came out of love for Jesus:

A **generous** love –willing to lay out or give the best for Him.

A **humbling** love – not only poured her perfume on Jesus, but poured it with her own hands when she could have had her servants do it. And she did not anoint His head, but His feet.

A **believing** love – there was faith working by this love, faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

MEMORY VERSE

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35

- Considering what Jesus has done and suffered for us, no service should be too hard or too lowly to do.
- Judas covered his dislike with deceit (verse 5).

He doesn't care for the poor; he cares for himself.

His opposition to Mary's actions was gilded over with a seemingly reasonable claim, like covering rotten fruit with gold.

Judas' disapproval did not come from a heart of wanting to help others:

It came from greed. The truth of the matter was Judas would rather have had the perfume sold for money to be put in with the other funds of which he was entrusted because then he could take out his percentage and put it in his pocket.

GOING DEEPER

Mary showed that her love for Jesus supersedes her love for anything else. Do you love Jesus more than your most precious possession? Do you love Jesus first, second, third?

We can always be of service to the poor, for they are always with us, but our service should not be a substitute for sitting at Jesus' feet.

INTRODUCTION

This week's passage brings us to the first day of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. The triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem is a highly charged moment for the Israelites. This is the moment they had been waiting for since God's promise of a Savior in Genesis (Genesis 3:15; Psalm 118; Zechariah 9). After years of waiting, exile upon exile, and now living under Roman occupation, Israel was ready to be free and live as a nation under oppression no more. Their cries of "Hosannah!", literally mean "give salvation now". Little did they know, salvation was not to come as they expected. Their view was too small; their understanding of salvation was limited to a time, a people, and a place. Thankfully for us, God's plan for salvation extends to all tribes, and all nations, and to us today.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Q We sometimes throw "going away" or "welcome home" parties. What is the importance of these types of celebrations and events?

MAIN IDEA

God's plan for deliverance is bigger than we can imagine... it extends beyond the physical limits of time and space.

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 12:12-26

Q Why was Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem so significant?

Follow Up: Read Psalm 118:25-26; why was the crowd shouting this at Jesus?

Follow Up: See Zechariah 9:9; in this verse, Israel's future king was told to come riding in on the foal of a donkey. What did the people begin to expect of Him?

Q Jesus chooses to ride a donkey into Jerusalem. Other than fulfilling a prophecy, what does this tell us about the kind of King He is?

Q Many rejected Jesus despite Him fulfilling promises from Scripture right in front of them. Why were the Pharisees so angry with Jesus according to verse 19?

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

JOHN 12:12-50

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Q In verse 21, Jesus' disciple Philip is approached by a Greek (Greek here refers to Gentile, meaning non-Jewish, not necessarily someone who is from Greece) and asks to see Jesus. Why do you think that is?

Follow Up: Jesus gives his response in verses 23-26, what was it?

Follow Up: What does it mean to "lose your life"?

JOHN 12:27-50

Q Jesus knew what was to come and exactly how He would die. According to John 12:28-29 what did He request? What was the response He received?

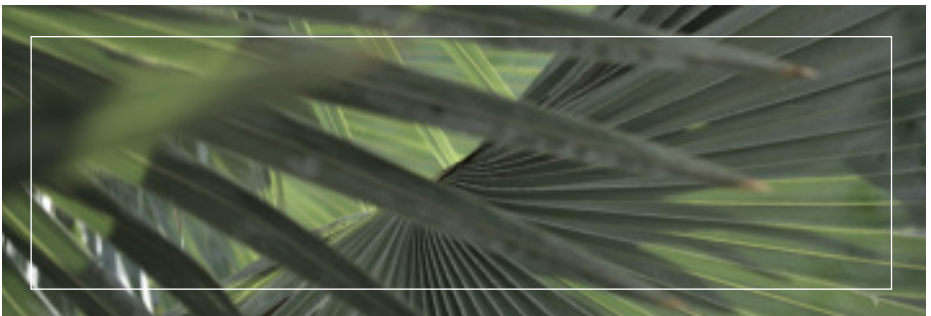
Follow Up: What else has been spoken over Jesus from heaven (Hint: Matthew 3:17 and 17:5)?

Q In verses 31-36, Jesus speaks to some of the things that are accomplished by His death on the cross. What are they? What is their significance?

Q Often times in conversations with people exploring the faith, they ask for a sign or some type of physical manifestation of God at work. How would you respond to someone in light of what verse 37 says?

Q According to verse 47, why did Jesus come?

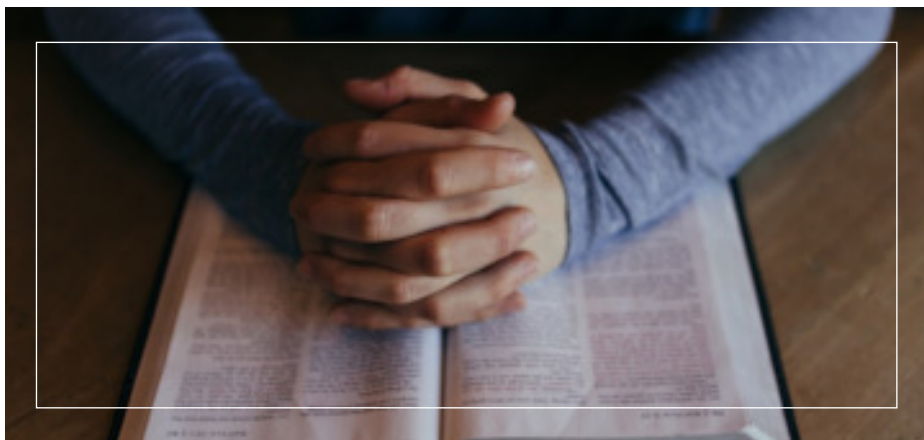
Follow Up: What is the result of those who don't believe in Jesus according to verse 48?



REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Yet again in our passage this week we are confronted with people seeing Jesus for who He is. We come to a greater understanding of His mission and what exactly He set out to do. Sadly, yet again people reject Him. Either due to the pride in their heart for Jesus getting the attention, or for fear of what others may say or think. This week provides us with an opportunity to examine our own hearts for where we stand with Jesus. Consider taking time in praying this prayer of confession:

Father, I confess I often fail to love you more than I love my life and the things that make it up. I often seek comfort and pleasure. I exhaust all my energies and capabilities to achieve, acquire, or protect my life. But you Lord have taught us and shown us it is better to love you more than all else. Help me to this week follow you with my entire being, acknowledging that in You I will find life, hope, and salvation.



JOHN 12:1-11

SUMMARY

Jerusalem is crowded with people for the feast. Many people went out to meet Jesus when they heard He was coming. With palm branches and cries of, “Hosanna,” they welcomed Jesus as King as He rode in humbly on a donkey (which was spoken about in Zechariah 9:9). Jesus explained why He must die. Jesus departed and many did not believe. The chapter finishes with Jesus explaining that He came to save the world.

MAIN IDEA

God’s plan for deliverance is bigger than we can imagine... it extends beyond the physical limits of time and space.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

- Jesus had come into the world for the purpose of going to the cross.
 - Jesus’ life was an offering for our sin .
 - Although He was holy and without sin, our sins were put upon Jesus .
 - Although He was God, He was separated from God when He took on our sins and died.
- The resurrection of Jesus marks the victory of Jesus and the defeat of Satan.
- God was working out His plan to bring His people back to Himself .
 - Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we can be rescued from sin.
 - This rescue from sin is for all people.
 - Those who believe will be saved; those who reject Him will be lost.
- Although they were standing in the presence of the Light of the World, the people stayed in darkness .
- Jesus presented Himself to the people as the Messiah and as their King. They rejected Him.

GOING DEEPER

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29; Revelation 5:6-14

Animal Sacrifice

Jesus' Sacrifice
(as the Lamb)

Read Isaiah 53:10 as a family.



What can we say to such love? How will we respond to Him?

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MEMORY VERSE

By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35

INTRODUCTION

What does love look like? Is it pushing and shoving for your place, fighting, striving to be noticed? Jesus shows us another way, the kingdom way to use authority and love. This chapter, the beginning of Jesus' last words to his disciples before his crucifixion, is bookended by love. "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" or utmost, His death on the cross. When Jesus rises to wash the disciples' feet, He gives a shocking example of what love looks like. It gives up position for others. At the end of the chapter, Jesus gives the disciples a new command, love one another just as I have loved you. It is by our humble, sacrificial love for one another that people will know we are His. We are to emulate Jesus, not by washing each other's feet, but by denying our own wants and desires for the good of others and glory of God.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The meal Jesus and His disciples were partaking in was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover. Passover was established when God rescued His people from Egypt. God had sent nine plagues to the land of Egypt as prompt for the Pharaoh to release His people, yet Pharaoh refused. The tenth and final plague was the death of all the firstborn sons. In the original Passover, the blood of the lambs had been applied to the homes of the Israelites in Egypt to protect them from the outpouring of God's judgment upon the Egyptians. For believers, it is Jesus' blood that is applied to us to protect us from the outpouring of God's judgement on our sin. Throughout this meal, there were four cups of wine that were an integral part of the celebration. Each stand for the promises God made to His people in Exodus 6:6-7:

- 1) I will bring you out.
- 2) I will deliver you.
- 3) I will redeem you.
- 4) I will take you for my people. Jesus truly fulfills all these promises for those who love and trust Him.

For More Consider Reading: Exodus 12 and this article:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-jesus-fulfills-passover/>

MAIN IDEA

Love is not self-seeking.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Q Is it easy or difficult for you to serve others? Does the ease or difficulty of the action depend upon the "others" that are being served?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 13:1-20

Q Considering that Jesus knew His hour was at hand and what was about to take place (verse 3), does that have any impact on what Jesus chose to do for his disciples for you?

Follow Up: How about the fact that he knew someone was about to betray Him, yet he still served him?

Follow Up: How does seeing Jesus love and serve his disciples this way help you understand the ways you are called to serve and love people in your own life?

Q Why do you think Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet?

Follow Up: How do you think this lesson impacted Peter in his life and ministry considering he would later write "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another." (1 Pet. 5:5)

Q When looking at verse 12, where Jesus asks the disciples if they understood the significance of what He just did; do you think they did?

Follow Up: Do you think you get the significance of it?

Q How does the lesson Jesus gave in verses 1-16 inform what Paul instructs in Philippians 2:1-8?

Follow Up: In this act of service, we see the Savior washing the feet of His disciples – a job reserved for slaves- including the one who would betray him. What does this teach us about Jesus?

Q How does the Bible's prophetic statement found in John 13:19 affect your confidence in God?

JOHN 13:21-38

Q Why do you think the other disciples were oblivious to what Judas was truly up to? Do you think it's possible today for those who appear to be close to Christ to actually be ones waiting to betray Christ and His friends?

Q In verse 34, what are the instructions Jesus gives for how He wants His disciples to live?

Follow up: Based upon His disciples doing just what he instructed them, what is the result?

Q Jesus' disciples would have known that Leviticus 19:18 instructs them to love their neighbor as themselves; how is Jesus' new commandment to love one another any different?

Q Peter's lesson in humility continues in this passage in verse 37-38; what does Jesus say he will do? How do you think this made him feel?

Follow up: Have you ever had an experience like Peter's? Making bold claims of what we will do for Jesus, only to either buckle or cower when the time comes?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Early Church Father Augustine of Hippo believed the pursuit of love in a Christian's life was of utmost importance. In light of John 13:34-35 he said "anyone who thinks that he has understood the divine Scriptures or any part of them, but cannot by his understanding build up this double love of God and neighbor, has not yet succeeded in understanding them." What Augustine, and ultimately Jesus, is calling us towards is not simply a sentimentality, but a love that has a conviction of humility, service, and sacrifice. Take time reflecting on just how Christ has done this for you and ask the Spirit to reveal to you areas in which He may be inviting you to love in a similar fashion.

A LIFE OF HUMILITY & LOVE
JOHN 13

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NOTES

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JOHN 13

SUMMARY

Jesus is at supper before the Feast of the Passover. In the course of this evening, Jesus washes the disciples' feet, identifies His betrayer, and gives a new commandment "... love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another" Jesus tells them He will only be with them a little while longer. Peter asks where He is going and, in His answer, Jesus predicts Peter's betrayal.

MAIN IDEA

Love is not self-seeking.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 13:1-17

JESUS WASHED THE DISCIPLES FEET:

To show His love to His disciples

He knew His hour had come.

He knew Judas would betray Him.

--If the wolf has seized one of the flock, it is time for the shepherd to look well to the rest.

To show His own voluntary humility

The action itself was the duty of the lowest rank of servants.

His love propelled Him into service.

To signify to them spiritual washing

That without washing (confession/repentance) there can be no fellowship with Him.

Peter's refusal demonstrates our resistance to God's grace.

To set an example

You also ought to wash one another's feet.

-To stoop to the lowliest jobs out of love for the good and benefit of one another.

-To reprove or admonish one another when one falls into sin.

GOING DEEPER

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Jesus- Fully God

Left heaven

Laid aside His robes of light

Girded Himself with our nature
and took on the form of man

Came not to be ministered to

Humiliation of cross and blood
would wash our hearts

Jesus - Fully Man

Left the table during dinner

Laid aside His robes

Girded Himself and took on the
duties of a servant

Came to minister

Humbly washed feet with water
and towel

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MEMORY VERSE

By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35

INTRODUCTION

The disciples are starting to come to grips with what is about to happen and it appears they begin to have a crisis of faith. Even in the midst of knowing what He is about to experience, Jesus continues to intentionally comfort the 11 who are left with him. In their moment of despair, Jesus communicates to them one foundational truth and two wonderful promises. The truth He communicates reaffirms His identity and mission. The promises are that He will return for His disciples and in the meantime, He will give them guidance through the Helper, the Holy Spirit, until He does. Even under the threat of death, Christ takes time to reassure his disciples that He is in control. He urges them to stay the course, do as they have been taught and commanded, just as Christ is doing what the Father has asked of Him.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q There is great power and importance in promises. Can you think of and share a time someone made a great promise to you and came through?

MAIN IDEA

Jesus' reassurance brings peace that cannot be shaken.

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 14:1-14

Q In Jesus' promise of heaven, He mentioned He is preparing a place for you. How does this bring hope or comfort to you?

Q In chapter 14, Jesus references his Father 22 times. Why do you think that is? What does that do in speaking to the disciples fears & troubles?

Follow up: Even in the face of His pending death, Jesus comforts His disciples. What is the connection between the cross and the comfort we experience in Jesus?

Q What does Jesus mean when he refers to Himself as "the way, the truth, the life?"

Follow up: Does this challenge some of our way of thinking about the afterlife?

READ & DISCUSS

Q Jesus tells his disciples that they will experience a greater ministry than He (verse 12). What do you think Jesus means by this statement?

Follow up: Do you think Jesus has the same expectation for us today? Or was this simply for these 11 men?

Q Does Jesus promise that everything we pray for in His name we will receive? How do we best understand what Jesus is saying here (see verse 13-14)?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 14:15-31

Q In this section of John 14, the giving of the Holy Spirit is introduced. By quickly reviewing this text, who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do? (*Note: we will explore more of this in chapter 16*)

Follow up: Of each of the things Jesus introduces here about the Spirit, which to you is most encouraging?

Q According to verse 15, what do Jesus' disciples do if they love Him? Compare this to what Jesus says about those who do not love Him in verse 24.

Follow up: In your own words, what does this mean?

Follow up: How does this challenge some of our culture's definition of love?

Q How does the Holy Spirit help the disciples of Jesus bring the gospel message forward (See verse 26)?

Q How is the peace that Jesus gives (verse 27) different from the peace we try to find in the world?

Follow up: Where do people, including you and I, often try to get peace?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Jesus is aware of the trouble ahead for the disciples. At the same time, He knows of the thrilling adventure they have coming in advancing the gospel, making disciples, and starting churches.

Just as Jesus had left the Holy Spirit to help them, we can be just as sure that the Spirit has been left to help us. Just as Jesus promised the disciples to see greater gospel works, we too share in that promise. Conclude your time studying this passage by asking God to show you ways in which He is doing great gospel works in, through, and around you. Give thanks and ask for perseverance in your participation in that work.

*one way in which He is doing a
great gospel work in, through,
or around you:*

NOTES

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JOHN 14

SUMMARY

Our setting continues: Jesus was at supper before the Feast of the Passover. Jesus has finished washing the disciples' feet, declared that Peter would deny Him three times, and now continues teaching and comforting His disciples. In His last moments before His arrest, Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure. Jesus tells them that He is the way, the truth, and the life; He teaches on the Father and the indwelling of Father and Son; and He promises a helper.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus' reassurance brings peace that cannot be shaken.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 14:1-11

- “Believe in God, believe also in Me” (verse 1). This faith is an active faith. It is trust.

If you believe that your car will take you home, how do you get home? By just believing it? You believe in it so much that you commit yourself to the car—you get into it and trust that it will get you home. In just such way, you are rescued from sin. You believe into Jesus; you trust yourself to Him.
- Jesus' goodwill to us is a great encouragement to our hope in Him.

We think we're valuable, but God could speak the earth and us out of existence and very little would be missing. But God loves us. That is the amazing thing. God loves us! He loves you and me, not because we are worth loving, but He loves us despite the fact that we are absolutely, totally rotten, sinners. God had a plan from the beginning of time to rescue sinners. Although they were standing in the presence of the Light of the World, the people stayed in darkness.

MEMORY VERSE

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

- The design of Jesus' going away was to prepare a place in heaven for His disciples. (verses 2-4)

The essence of heaven's happiness is being with Jesus; not only are we spectators of His glory, but we are sharers in it.

He will not build and furnish lodgings and then let them stand empty. If He has prepared a place for us, He will prepare us for it and in due time put us in possession of it.

- Having set the happiness of Heaven before them as the end, Jesus shows them Himself as the way to it.

Jesus said, "I am the way." Jesus is our path to the Father. Jesus was His own way for by His own blood He entered into the holy place and He is our way, for we enter by Him. Only Jesus can bring you to God.

"He is the truth." As the truth, He is the reality of all God's promises. As the truth, He is the guide of our way.

"He is the life." He is the source, the origin of life. He joins his divine life to ours, both now and eternally.

- This is the gospel in a nutshell (verse 6). Jesus says the only way to God is through Him.

Other ways seem right, but the end of them is the way of death.

Some people may argue that this way is too narrow. In reality, it is wide enough for the whole world, if the world chooses to accept it.

GOING DEEPER

- (Verse 5) The disciples didn't know where Jesus went because they dreamed of an earthly kingdom with power to conquer their enemies, even though He had spoken to the contrary many times. When Jesus spoke of going away and their following Him, they imagined His going to some remarkable earthly city, to be the anointed King and to restore the Kingdom of Israel.
- If they had known Jesus, they would have known that His kingdom is spiritual and not of this world, that He came down from heaven, and therefore must return to heaven. They would have known His Father also and would have known where He was going when he said, "I go to the Father."

INTRODUCTION

While many familiar with the Bible are aware of Jesus' words in this passage, we often miss the shocking truth that lies just beneath the surface. Jesus has already made claims to His divinity. He already declared to be the only way to God. Jesus states that no longer is a relationship with God achieved by being connected to the nation of Israel, but by being connected to Jesus. Within this passage Jesus reinforces just that. Jesus tells his disciples to abide in the true vine. Abiding here means to prioritize their relationship with Him above all else; they must depend on Him for life. The word is covenantal language pointing to God's promise to dwell with his people and Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole earth with fruit (Is 27:6, Hos. 14:5-6). As we abide in Christ, He tells us we will bear fruit. Our lives must be fully devoted, totally dependent on Christ, just like branches need the vine to survive. As we live lives surrendered to Christ, abiding in Him, the world will take notice. Jesus warns His followers they will be hated because of what they stand for. Christ challenges us all to die to ourselves and find new life, true life in Him.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q Do you tend to be a rule follower, or a rule breaker? Is there a time you got in trouble for breaking a rule? Or a time when you paid dearly for following the rules?

MAIN IDEA

Obedience is essential to abiding.

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 15:1-17

Q Although we cannot be certain, based upon Jewish tradition it is likely that Jesus and His disciples sang Psalm 118 after the Passover meal before departing for the garden. Read Psalm 118 and reflect on its significance for Jesus at this crucial point in his life. Give particular attention to verses 22–23. What connections can you make between the psalm and chapter 15?

Q Read verses 1-17 - Repetition in Scripture is always meant to grab our attention. As you read these verses, pay special attention to repeated words and phrases. Why does Jesus focus on these, hours before his trial and execution? What does He want His disciples to know?

READ & DISCUSS

Q It's safe to assume the fruit Jesus is talking about isn't grapes. What fruit is He talking about?

Follow up: Take a moment to take stock of your life; what fruit are you bearing?

Q Does Jesus promise that everything we pray for in His name we will receive? How do we best understand what Jesus is saying here (see verse 13-14)?

Q Why is abiding in Christ necessary? Take a few minutes to ponder the absurdity of a cut off branch (verse 6) growing and producing fruit. It just can't happen! This is what our lives look like when we are not living fully dependent on Christ. Are you striving to live from your own strength, or are you choosing to surrender and rest in the vine? What needs to change for you to do that? If you are doing that, what can you do to make sure you continue to abide?

Q Abiding in Christ means we lay our will down and are submissive to His. Where do you need to surrender so you can abide?

Follow up: Abiding=life. Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20. Moses is instructing the Israelites prior to entering the Promised Land to choose life, by following God's commands. What similarities do you see between what is said here and Jesus's instructions to His disciples to abide?



Q In verse 10, Jesus tells his disciples how to abide. What does He say? Do you find this easy, or challenging? Why?

Q Knowledge precedes action. In verses 12-14 Jesus gives His disciples a command. What is it?

Follow up: Knowing what we know on this side of the timeline, how does this command Jesus gives impact you?

self-assessment:

How well are you loving others as Jesus has loved you?
What gets in your way? Is there a person or group of people you find particularly difficult to love like Christ has loved you? Take some time to confess your hard heart and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a heart to love like Christ.

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 15:22-27

Q The world and the Kingdom of God are opposed to each other. Jesus, the Son of God, the true and perfect human is hated by humanity; which He says is equal to hating the Father. Evil is so evil it hates any speck of goodness. Where do you see this in the world? Where might you need to repent of hating what is good?

Q We are not left without hope! Jesus promises to send the Helper who will bear witness about the Christ. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit submit to fulfilling God's redemptive plan. Where do you need to submit your will to be used for God's purposes?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

As you pray, take time to confess where you struggle to be obedient to God. When we struggle against what He has commanded, we willingly sin. Use the word sin as you confess, embracing that you are fully forgiven in Christ and can come to Him knowing that because of Christ's death and resurrection you can come boldly before God and be accepted. Thank Him for His beautiful plan of redemption.

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JOHN 15

SUMMARY

We continue in the same evening where Jesus washed the disciples' feet in the Upper Room. This passage takes place somewhere between the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus had been teaching and comforting His disciples. In this section, Jesus teaches on the true vine, love, the world's hatred, and the coming rejection.

MAIN IDEA

We must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 15:1-17

- Jesus taught on the importance of staying connected to Him.

Imagine a lamp. Lamps usually shine light, but this lamp isn't shining. It's not shining because it isn't plugged in. It's impossible for a light to shine when it isn't connected to the power source..

Jesus used an example that his disciples would understand, the example of a vine. A vine is a plant with a lot of branches growing out from it. The branches have fruit on them. If it is a grapevine, the branches would have grapes on them.

- Jesus called Himself the vine and His Father (God), the gardener.

The gardener's job is to cut off the branches that are not producing fruit. This helps the other branches that are producing fruit to produce even more.

MEMORY VERSE

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

- Jesus teaches that He is the vine, we are the branches, and His Father (God) is the gardener.

The gardener's job is to cut off the branches that are not producing fruit. He also prunes the branches that are producing fruit, which help them produce even more fruit.

He moves into our lives and takes out those things that offend, and sometimes it hurts. He removes things that are hindering us.

The branches can't be healthy if they are not connected to the vine. We need Jesus in order to grow. If we don't have Jesus, we don't grow. If we stay connected to Jesus, we'll produce fruit.

This doesn't mean grapes are going to come out of our ears. We're talking about the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- Jesus ends this parable by talking about love. He told the people they should obey him and stay in His love; just like He stays in the Father's love. He also tells them they should love one another like He loves them.

Remember, we cannot do it on our own. Just as the lamp must be plugged in before its light can shine, and just as the branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit, you and I must stay connected to Jesus.

GOING DEEPER

When we are connected to the vine, or in this case, connected to Jesus, we are abiding in Him. To abide in Him means:

- **Believing that Jesus is God's Son (1 John 4:15)**
- **Receiving him as Savior and Lord (John 1:12)**
- **Doing what God says (1 John 3:24)**
- **Continuing to believe the good news (1 John 2:24)**
- **Relating in love to the community of believers (John 15:12)**

INTRODUCTION

As Jesus continues His last conversation with the remaining eleven disciples, He dives deeper into His instructions to them. He wants them to remember His words, so they will remain in Him. God often instructed Israel to remember His commands and His acts of deliverance so they would not stray.

Jesus is mirroring God's heart here as He impresses the importance of remembering what He's telling them. To prepare the disciples for His departure, Jesus comforts them by telling them He will send the Helper, or the Holy Spirit, who won't come if Jesus

doesn't leave. This is supposed to comfort the group, who are more distracted by their disappointment of Christ's departure than they are happy for Him to return to the Father; they are still focused on themselves. However, Jesus' absence brings us the Holy Spirit whose job is to convict the world, reveal the truth to His disciples, and give glory to Jesus. Even though Jesus sees the goodness of what is to come, He understands His disciples' sorrow and still gives them comfort. He tells them their sorrow won't be forever, but it will lead to something new.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus' departure ushers in a new beginning.

CONVERSATION STARTERS



Do you have a best practice that helps you remember important things? What is it?



Is there a time in your life you received a warning that you ignored because you didn't understand it? What happened?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 16:1-15



Jesus has a great purpose for His words. What is He warning the disciples will happen? Why is He taking the time to do this?

Follow up: Can you think of other places in Scripture where God gives a warning and instructs His people to remember so they don't fall away?

THE NECESSITY OF THE SPIRIT

JOHN 16

6

READ & DISCUSS

Q The Bible tells us the disciples are filled with sorrow. We must remember, they know Jesus is the Messiah, but they do not understand that He is going to conquer through death and resurrection, not through rule over nations. Jesus, in an amazing act of kindness, takes time to explain to them, once again, what He is doing. Where has a misunderstanding of Scripture led to sorrow in your own life?

Follow up: How does a fuller understanding of the Word bring us true, lasting joy?

Q Wouldn't it be great if Jesus was still here so we could ask Him questions? The Bible tells us there is a better way. Why does Jesus say in verse 7 it is to their advantage that He leave? Is this easy or difficult for you to grasp?

Follow up: How is the Holy Spirit our advantage?

Q Verses 8-15 tell us what the Holy Spirit will do. His job is to convict the world of sin (8-10), reveal the truth to His disciples (12-13), and give glory to Jesus (14-15). Take some time and read each section to study these roles of the Holy Spirit. Take note of the different ways He interacts with the world and the followers of Christ. What do you notice?



JOHN 16:16-24

Q It's reassuring to read that the disciples, who had spent three years with Jesus still got confused by the things He said. Where do you go for help when you stumble on something that is confusing in the Bible? Why is it important to get help when we're stuck?

Follow up: Jesus is kind in His response to the disciples' confusion and takes time to explain what He meant. This should encourage us greatly that we can ask for help when we are confused by the word. What is your attitude toward giving or receiving help?

Follow up: When you read something that stumps you, what is your first response? Close your Bible and walk away? Read the notes at the bottom of the page? Ask? Do you pray? Jesus tells His disciples the Helper, or Holy Spirit will guide them into all truth (verse 13). Our first inclination should be to pray for clarity and understanding. Is this easy or hard? Why do you think?

Q Whether you've personally witnessed a birth or just heard about it, we all know it is terribly painful, but leads to great joy as the birth of a new life is celebrated. Why did Jesus use this example of what was coming for His disciples?

Follow up: Jesus' death and resurrection changed our relationship with God. Read verses 23-24. What do you see that changes? Why does this matter?

JOHN 16:25-33

Q Why does the Father love Jesus' followers? (see verse 27)

Q What is it that finally made the disciples believe that Jesus came from God? (see verse 30)

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time to reflect on and remember the work that Jesus' death and resurrection accomplished and the gift that we receive as a result. We have new life, a new beginning through Him. Thank God that it is by grace that we have been saved, a gift, not by works. Ask for the Holy Spirit to remind you of this truth so you can rest in it throughout the week. Consider placing some reminders around your home to point your mind to this truth this week.

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JOHN 16

SUMMARY

We continue in the same evening where Jesus washed the disciples' feet in the Upper Room. This passage takes place somewhere between the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane. In this section, Jesus teaches on the Holy Spirit; sorrow and joy; and how He overcomes the world.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus will send the Holy Spirit in His absence.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 16:5-15

- Jesus made it very clear in His teaching that living as Jesus followers would not be easy.
- Jesus is letting His disciples (and us) know what is coming and He is training them for what is to come.
- “It is to your advantage that I go away” (verse 7).
 - His purpose in coming to this world was to die. And with His death, comes our rescue from sin.
 - God is everywhere, but when Jesus limited Himself by becoming a man, He could not be in two places at once. So, He sends the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will be in all places. He can be with you and me at the same time. And He dwells in us.
- When the Holy Spirit comes:
 - He shall speak whatever He hears .
 - He shall glorify Jesus.
 - He convicts us of sin, shows us God's righteousness, and announces God's judgment on evil.
 - He guides us into truth and gives insight into future events.
- The Holy Spirit has been active among people from the beginning of time, but after Pentecost (Acts 2), He came to live in all believers.
- The Spirit is the one who searches the deep things of God and He alone can show these things to us.

MEMORY VERSE

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

GOING DEEPER

Jesus also talks about the Holy Spirit in John 14:15-18:

- He will be with us forever (14:16)
- The world at large cannot accept him (14:17)
- He lives with us and in us (14:17)
- He teaches us (14:26)
- He reminds us of Jesus' words (14:26; 15:26)



INTRODUCTION

Chapter 17 records the longest prayer in the Bible, yet it only takes three minutes to read! In Jesus' prayer, we are given a sneak peek at His communication with the Father; each word is weighty and deserves our full attention and should cause us to pause and ask ourselves, if Jesus prayed, how much more seriously should we take our prayer lives?

Jesus begins his High Priestly prayer acknowledging "the hour has come," Christ had accomplished the work that He had been sent to do, and now it was time for Him to intercede on behalf of the people. Much like Moses' prayers in Exodus 32 and 33, when he pleads for God to forgive them, to stay with them, and not send them without his presence, Jesus is asking God to keep his people in His name; in other words, he is asking God to be faithful to who He is. Just like Moses modeled intercession on behalf of Israel by asking God to glorify himself, Jesus asks the Father to do the same thing. His prayer honors God because it asks for God's protection according to who He is, for His glory. However, when Moses intercedes for Israel, God relents (Ex 32:9-14, 30-33; 33:12-23). Moses desires to make atonement for the people, but he is not the promised one, the Messiah. This time, when Jesus prays, there is no relenting. Jesus will atone for sin, once and for all, and by this God is glorified.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus intercedes in prayer and in action.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q Have you ever been caught eavesdropping on someone else's conversation? What happened?





READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 17:1-16

As part of our study today, we will be taking time to pray, using Jesus' prayer as our model.

Q Jesus modeled a lifestyle of prayer. How is your prayer life? What would you like it to look like? What can you do to grow in this area?

Q Jesus prays for God's glory to be made known (verse 1) and for His own glory to be seen (verse 5). Do you pray for God's glory to be seen, or for God to be glorified in your life? How might that look? What does it mean for God to be glorified in the life of Jesus then, and now in your own life?

Q When we keep God's word, He is glorified. The purpose of our salvation is to glorify Jesus, and Jesus' purpose was to glorify God by doing what he was sent to do (verse 4). Have you ever thought about your salvation as having a purpose beyond eternal life? Why might this perspective help?

Follow up: Take some time to reflect on God's glory, (Hebrews 1:3, Philippians 2:9-11, Isaiah 58:8, Psalm 19:1-14) and pray that the world will see it.

Q Read verses 6-16. Jesus prays for those who believe in Him; He specifically asks God to keep them in His name (verse 11). God's name is who He is. Read Exodus 34:6-7 paying attention to who God says He is. How does understanding who God is help you trust Him?

Q Unity in the body is one way God's glory is revealed. Why do you suppose this is? Jesus takes time in verse 11 to pray that God keeps those who are His in His name unified as God the Father and Jesus are one. Why do you think Jesus is praying for unity right now?

Follow up: Take some time to read Jesus' words in verse 11 and pray for unity in your family, your church family, and the universal Church. We ask for unity not for the sake of ease but for the name of God to be glorified.

Q In the last few verses of this section (verses 14-16), Jesus acknowledges trouble, but doesn't ask God to remove them from it, only that they would be protected from the evil one. Why do you think He prayed this way? Remember, He is praying for those who believed in Him at that point in time. How does it make you feel that Jesus didn't ask God to bring them out of the trial, but through it?

Follow up: In light of looking at God's glory, the security of being kept in God's name, and the importance of unity amongst the believers, how might knowing these things help believers persevere through times of difficulty?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time to pray, thanking God for revealing Himself to us through His word. Pray that these lessons would stick with you and change the way you see God moving, and the way you intercede on behalf of others. Ask that God would keep you from the evil one as you walk through times of difficulty where your faith might be challenged.



THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER PT.1
JOHN 17:1-16



NOTES

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JOHN 17

SUMMARY

We continue in the same evening where Jesus washed the disciples' feet in the Upper Room. This passage takes place somewhere between the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane. In this section, Jesus stops speaking to the disciples and speaks to the Father. We see Jesus as the great Intercessor—He prays for Himself, for His disciples, and for His church.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus will send the Holy Spirit in His absence.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 17

- Jesus prays for Himself:

The hour has come; the hour when He will pay for our sins. It is the hour when all the creation of God will see the love of God displayed and poured out as Jesus takes our sins upon Himself and dies a death (for us) as our substitute, rescuing us from sin.

Jesus has power over us—He could make every one of us bow to Him. He could make us subject to Him like robots. But He does in their hearts. They have come to Jesus of their own free will.

Jesus is handing in His final report to the Father. Though it hasn't happened yet, Jesus is going to the cross to die and then will rise again. On the cross, He will say, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

That means our redemption (being rescued from sin) is finished. He has done everything that was necessary. We can put a period there. We cannot add a thing to His finished work.

The gospel is not what God is asking you to do, but what God is telling you that He has already done for you. It is your response to that that rescues you from sin.

When Jesus came to earth as a baby, He laid aside His glory. Now He is ready to return to heaven, back to glory.



- Jesus prays for His disciples:

The disciples knew who He was. They did not understand His purpose and certainly not His death and resurrection, but they knew He had come from God, and they believed that God had sent Him.

Jesus does not pray for the world today. He died for the world; He sent the Holy Spirit into the world to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement (see Family Discussion on John 16). But, Jesus does pray for His own who are in the world.

Jesus prays for two things:

He prays for us to be kept. You will be kept because you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and because Your rescuer is praying for you.

He prays that we should be one. His other request is for the unity of believers.

MEMORY VERSE

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:31

GOING DEEPER

- John 17:3, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Our knowledge of the facts and our response to that knowledge is important.

The facts: Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

Our response: trusting the facts and believing He is the one who can rescue us from sin. --*Our response to that knowledge is faith.*

Knowing does not merely refer to head knowledge. Rather, it means living in fellowship with God.

To know Him means to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

God's people are set apart or sanctified by the truth; we are called to live to a higher standard. Jesus, the true image of God, set Himself apart so that we can be too. In last section of Jesus' High Priestly prayer, Jesus prays for those who will believe, and that includes you and me! Take a moment to pause and think about Jesus having you on his mind as He prayed these very words. This is truly incredible and should stop us to worship in awe and wonder.

In His prayer for us, Jesus prays for unity (verse 21). Unity amongst believers is so impactful because it is the opposite of how the world operates. Unity reflects the perfect love of the Trinity; it leads others to believe because it points to the character and nature of God. Jesus also prays for our witness to the world (verse 23). Our unity is used as a witness to the world and God is glorified in it. We fulfil our purpose when God is glorified and enjoyed by us. Think of the damage that is done to God's good name when the church is divisive and separated by earthly things. Jesus also prays that we would experience his glory that existed before the world was created (verse 24). He wants us to know and experience what we were created for, glorifying God and enjoying his presence forever.

MAIN IDEA

Our sanctification is for the glory of God and the good of others.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q Do you enjoy the act of giving gifts, or receiving them more? What is the best gift you have ever received?



READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 17:17-26

As part of our study today, we will be taking time to pray, using Jesus' prayer as our model.

Q Sanctification is a process that takes place in the believer over a lifetime; as we are sanctified, we move away from the influence of and participation in sin toward growth in holiness and purity of our heart and mind. What role does God's word, the truth, play in the process of sanctification?

Q Aside from making an individual more like Christ, what purpose does our sanctification serve?

Follow up: Why is it important that God's word sanctifies us, and not something else?

Q In verse 20, Jesus begins praying for future believers, which includes us! If Jesus prays for those who will someday believe, how much more should we? Where does praying for people to come to know Christ fall on your list of prayer priorities?

Follow up: Do you believe God effectively uses prayer to move peoples' hearts toward Him? Why or why not? What does Jesus' prayer show you?

Q Jesus prays for unity for those who will believe in Him. Why do you think Jesus believes unity is so important?

Q Unity amongst believers is our witness to the world because it points to the character of God. Think of how a witness disunity in the church is to non-believers. How have you seen disunity in the church damage how people view God? How have you experienced unity in the church draw outsiders to Him?

Follow up: How have your personal actions in the last year either brought unity or divisiveness to the church? Spend some time in confession for the ways you have created division in the body and ask God to use you to bring unity so that the world will believe.

Q We know that the purpose of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. How does this help you interpret what Jesus says in verse 24?

Follow up: Where do you find ultimate enjoyment and satisfaction? What do you need to shift or let go of completely to give worship of God its rightful place in your life?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

As you close in prayer, read Jesus' closing words in verses 25-26.

Spend your time in prayer asking God to continue to make His name known in and through you. Thank God that He has revealed Himself both in His word, and through Jesus Christ. Ask that His love would be in us, as it was in Christ and that He would use that love in you to further advance His kingdom.



THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER PT.2
JOHN 17:17-26



NOTES

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JOHN 17

SUMMARY

Jesus and the disciples are somewhere between the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane in the evening where Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Jesus has stopped speaking to the disciples and speaks to the Father. We see Jesus as the great Intercessor. We continue as He prays for Himself, for His disciples and for His church

MAIN IDEA

Jesus prayed that His believers would be set apart and made holy, uniting them through His truth.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 17

- Jesus prays for His disciples (continued):

Jesus does not pray that His disciples be taken out of the world. Jesus does pray that we be kept from the evil one.

God gets glory by our being in the world.

The knowledge of this enables us to endure trials and suffering.

Though we are in this world, believers are to be set apart; they are not of this world.

The measure in which we realize that we are not of this world, the more completely we fulfill His will and accomplish His purpose.

We are set apart by the Word of God --The Word reveals the mind of God; as you read, you are led to set yourself apart. --We can serve him only as we know His Word and are obedient to it.

We are set apart to bear a witness --Jesus set Himself apart to be identified with us, and we ought to be identified with Him in this world.

- Jesus prays for His church.

There is only one true Church, and every believer in Jesus is a member of that church—the body of Christ.

As believers show this unity to the world, those in the world may come to believe.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - CONT.

The unity that exists between the Father and the Son (Jesus) is the unity that is to exist between the body of believers (the church) and Jesus.

Jesus prays that His love might be in our hearts and in our lives.

MEMORY VERSE

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

GOING DEEPER

- The High Priest

In the Old Testament, the high priest had strength and power.

He wore a sleeveless garment that was joined on each shoulder by two onyx stones with the names of the tribes of Israel engraved on them. In this way, he “carried” the names of the children of Israel with him when he went into the presence of God.

He wore a breastplate with twelve precious stones, arranged three in a row in four rows. On each was the name of a tribe of Israel. When the high priest went into God’s presence wearing the breastplate, he symbolized the Lord Jesus who at the right hand of God interceding for us.

Jesus is our High Priest

Jesus is able to rescue us from sin, for He has strength and power (Hebrews 7:25).

The Lord not only carries us on His shoulders, the place of strength and power, but He also carries us on His breast, on His heart, which speaks of His love. He has all power, and He loves us!

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? What was the outcome? How did you handle yourself to prove your innocence? At the time, where did you place your hope? Your ability to argue, the facts, manipulation? This section is a case study in hope. We will see different people place their hope in everything but where it belongs; Judas and the officers in their connections, Peter in his ability to fight and defend himself, the Jews in their religious systems, or Pilate and his hope in position and power. In contrast we see Jesus continually choose to trust in God and His plan. Jesus' unwavering trust gave Him the ability to give Himself over to a broken, crooked system, to keep quiet while being falsely accused. Jesus knew that in order for the sin of the world to be atoned for, He had to die. Everything rested on this moment. So, He resists the temptation to take the easy way out; He does not deny, defend, or blame. He trusts in God.

MAIN IDEA

God alone is our hope and worthy of our complete trust.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q Allegiances and those we associate with tend to play a big role in our day to day lives. What are some of these relationships in your life and how have they impacted decisions you've made?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 18:1-27

Q Considering we have seen that Jesus was fully aware of all that would happen to Him, here at the beginning of chapter 18 is where the mission begins to become fully visible to the rest of us. Jesus did not run or hide; He even engaged the soldiers first. What does this tell us about Jesus' authority even when it seems things are out of His control?

Q Jesus rebukes Peter in drawing his sword (verse 11) for a specific reason. What was it? What cup has the Father given Jesus? And why is Peter's response not in agreement with it?

THE BETRAYAL, ARREST AND TRIAL

JOHN 18:1-19:42



READ & DISCUSS

Q It is easy to pass judgement on Judas, the religious leaders, government officials, even Peter in their betrayal of Jesus. However, we know biblically, our sins are just as responsible for nailing Him to the cross. How does our own betrayal affect how we view Judas, the leaders & officials, and Peter?

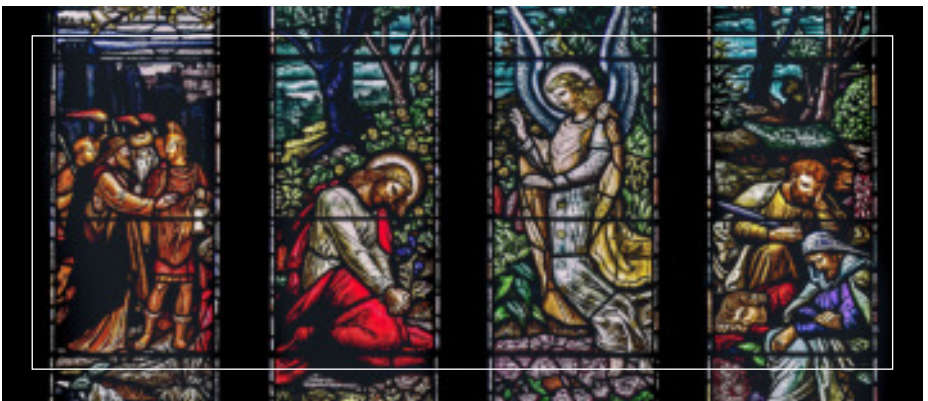
JOHN 18:28-40

Q Why do the Jews want Jesus sentenced by the Romans? What were they after? (See verse 31-32)? Jesus prays for unity for those who will believe in Him. Why do you think Jesus believes unity is so important?

Q When Pilate asks Jesus if He is "the King of the Jews" (verse 33-37), Jesus doesn't give as a direct answer as Pilate would have expected. What does Jesus teach Pilate (and by extension us) about the Kingdom He reigns over?

Q Pilate also asks Jesus, "What is truth?" Do you see this as a serious question or one that leads him to simply dismiss Jesus?

Q Based upon Pilate's interaction with Jesus, what is the conclusion that he comes to? Do you think he was surprised by the Jews reaction to his decision?



REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Peter Paul Rubens painted a picture titled "Christ Wearing the Crown of Thorns". It is also referred to as Ecce Homo which is Latin for "Behold the Man". The term behold incites in us something to be gazed upon with intent, something that is remarkable and something that ought to leave a mark upon us. Within the painting Rubens does not shy away from the violence that was inflicted upon our Savior, as others have done in history when depicting this event. Within the painting there is Pilate and a soldier mockingly holding up Jesus. This week as a church we prepare to head into Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We too need to take time, sit and reflect. Ecce Homo. Behold the Man. Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Behold what your Savior has done for you, and to what lengths He went to on your behalf. Behold. Feel free to pray out loud in thanks or quietly write out what thoughts and emotions come to your mind as you behold.



JOHN 18:1-19:42

SUMMARY

Jesus and His disciples go to the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas betrays Jesus and Jesus is arrested. Jesus is taken to the high priest, where He is falsely accused and then to Pilate who acquiesces to the crowd and sends Jesus to be crucified. During this time, Peter denies Jesus three times. Jesus is mocked, given a crown of thorns, and hung on a cross. When the time had come, when the Scriptures were fulfilled, Jesus died on the cross. His disciples buried Jesus in a tomb.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is who He says He is. He is the Son of God sent to rescue all people from their sins by dying on the cross for our sins.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 18:1-19:42

- The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They plotted several times how they might kill Him.
 - Jesus didn't play by their rules (Matt. 12:1-14).
 - He claimed to be God (John 8:58-59; 10:22-33).
 - He extended salvation beyond the Jewish people (Luke 4:27).
- The events leading up to His death did not surprise Jesus. Each step was part of God's established plan. (Isa. 53:10; Acts 2:23).
 - Knowing God's plan didn't lessen Jesus' suffering.
 - Jesus felt the pain of betrayal and of death.
- Jesus wanted to do God's plan.
 - Jesus came to earth to rescue people from sin.
 - He was committed to doing the Father's will (Matt. 26:39,42).
 - Jesus willingly gave Himself up for us because He loves us (Eph. 5:2).
- Jesus was betrayed and arrested even though He did nothing wrong.
 - The religious tried to find a true reason to kill Jesus, but they couldn't find one (Matt. 26:59-60).

FAMILY DISCUSSION - CONT.

Jesus did what we failed to do; He perfectly obeyed the law. His arrest and trial were not fair. But this had to happen. Only a sinless, perfect sacrifice could take away sin. (Heb. 9:11-14)

- Jesus is who He says He is.
- (Spoiler Alert!) Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, and those who trust in Him have forgiveness and eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

GOING DEEPER

- Jesus had to die because God is loving.
He sent His only Son to rescue the world because He loves us. (See John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10.)
God had a plan to rescue us from the beginning of time.
- Jesus had to die because God is just; He requires due payment for sin. To simply forgive sin without requiring a payment would be unjust.
Jesus was our substitute, taking our place on the cross and taking God's wrath for us so we can be forgiven and made right with God (Rom. 3:25-26; Col. 2:13-15).
Jesus died to rescue sinners from sin, and when we trust in Him, we are free indeed.ⁱ

ⁱ The Gospel Project for Kids

GOOD FRIDAY - THE CRUCIFIXION

JOHN 19:16b-42

INTRODUCTION

The author gives much care in this section to point out the fulfilment of Scripture. As we read, we must not let familiarity with the story dull our senses to the actuality of what is happening and what the cross means. Up until now, the world had been waiting for the promise God made in Genesis 3:15, the promise of a Savior, to be actualized. Now, it is happening. The cross is our propitiation, a payment for the penalty of our sins. The cross is our victory promised in the first pages of the Bible in Genesis 3:15. It is in the fulfilment of these promises we find our hope, we find peace with God.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is the fulfilment of every promise in Scripture.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q On Good Friday, we get an opportunity to look at the symbol that has communicated our faith for thousands of years. When you see a cross, or think of a cross, what comes to mind?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 19:16b-42

Q Yet again, we find irony in John's writings about what took place. What was written above Jesus as He hung on the cross?

Follow up: In how many languages was this done? Why do you think that is (Hint: consider where exactly the crucifixion took place, see verse 20)?

Q From the cross, on the cusp of death, Jesus still takes time to care for His mother. What do we learn from Jesus in verse 25-27, and why do you think Jesus does this? Why doesn't Jesus entrust the care of His mother to His brothers (see John 7:5)?

GOOD FRIDAY - THE CRUCIFIXION

JOHN 19:16b-42

READ & DISCUSS

Q Some of the most beautiful yet heart breaking words are found in verse 30, "It is finished." What is Jesus communicating when He says these words?

Follow up: Read Isaiah 53:10-12. According to these verses, what was Jesus accomplishing in His death on the cross?

Q In this section there is a reference to Jesus' death and the way it took place as a fulfillment of multiple prophecies (see verse 24; 28; 36-37). Why is this so important?

Follow up: How does this fact help your faith in Jesus?

Q For Jesus' burial, we find two people involved with putting their reputation at great risk. Where have we seen one of these individuals before and what risk were they taking by being identified with Jesus?



GOOD FRIDAY - THE CRUCIFIXION

JOHN 19:16b-42

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

As you reflect upon our Savior's death, take time to read through Psalm 22. Examine and see just how His last few breaths are a fulfillment of this suffering servant's psalm.

Lastly, consider reading the lyrics to the passion hymn titled O Sacred Head, Now Wounded. Or listen to Page CXVI's rendition (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXyKzFRHqzM>)



GOOD FRIDAY - THE CRUCIFIXION

JOHN 19:16b-42

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown.
How pale art thou with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
O how your face bears sorrow
Which once was bright as morn!

Men mock and taunt and jeer Thee,
Thou noble countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear Thee
And flee before Thy glance.
Grim Death, with cruel rigor,
Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou has lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.

You bled by our hands
You bled by our hands
You bled by our hands
You bled

My burdens You have carried, my sins you have borne,
For it was my transgression which brought this worldly scorn.
I cast me down before Thee, wrath my rightful lot;
But You have sweet mercy, Redeemer by the cross.

You bled by our hands
You bled by our hands
You bled by our hands
You bled

You bled by our hands
You bled by our hands
You bled by our hands
You bled for me, for you, for us

INTRODUCTION

As we come to a very familiar passage, let's slow down and read carefully, not moving too quickly to what, on this side of history, we already know. Use your imagination as you read to think what it must have been like, to have seen your Lord, whom you had followed for over three years, brutally beaten and crucified. Everything you had given your life for; the dream of deliverance is lost. They have yet to know there is hope. Imagine their heart-breaking disappointment, their irreconcilable confusion. This is not what they expected. Because Jesus was laid in the tomb late the day before Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus didn't finish preparing Jesus' body. They had carefully wrapped Him in linen cloths and covered Him in spiced ointment. The women return early in the morning to finish, fully expecting to find Jesus' dead body lying there. Except, something completely different took place.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is our hope.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q Have you ever been caught off guard and later realized you should have seen what was going to happen?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 20:1-10

Q We often jump from Good Friday to Easter, without thinking about the day in-between. What do you think were some of the thoughts and emotions the disciples felt after Jesus was crucified?

Q It's very possible we often overlook the importance of the first part of verse one. What does John tell us about what day it was?

Follow up: How has this impacted the church since then (Hint: See Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2)?

Follow up: Does the fact that the church gathers on the day in which Jesus resurrected impact the way you view your participation on a Sunday gathering?

READ & DISCUSS

Q Mary is the first person to visit Jesus' tomb. What is it that she finds?
Follow up: What is it that she communicates to Peter and John?

Q The very first person commissioned to take the news of the resurrection to someone was a woman. In the first century, women were unable to be legal witnesses, often times considered lesser citizens. In Jewish circles, they were unable to read the Torah out loud and even their worship was segregated. In fact, many rejected the gospel early on due to the fact that it was reported by a woman! Celsus, a 2nd century Greek philosopher said "One of the reasons, we know that it can't be true is that it is based on the testimony of women!... We all know women are hysterical," calling the resurrection "gossip of women about the empty tomb." Seeing that God has carefully crafted all of salvation and history, why do you think God chose Mary to be the first communicator of the resurrection?

Q Peter and John run to the tomb based upon what Mary reports back to them. However instead of finding their friend, they found something else. What was it? What does this seem to mean?

Follow up: Verse 9 tells us that Peter and John still did not seem to understand what was to happen or take place. Hadn't Jesus been fairly clear in His teachings about his resurrection? How should that impact the way we view ourselves and our own understanding of the faith?

Follow up: Verse 10 tells us that they returned home; who do you think John may have shared the news with (consider reading John 19:27)?

Q Turn to 1 Corinthians 15:12-19; according to Paul's teaching here, why is the resurrection of Jesus so important? List some of the reasons he gives.

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Below is a brief excerpt from Henri Nouwen's *Show me the Way* – *Readings for each day of Lent* along with a prayer for reflection. Consider taking time to read through and pray this prayer as well.

Easter season is a time of hope. There still is fear, there still is a painful awareness of sinfulness, but there also is light breaking through. Something new is happening, something that goes beyond the changing moods of our life. We can be joyful or sad, optimistic or pessimistic, tranquil or angry, but the solid stream of God's presence moves deeper than the small waves of our minds and hearts. Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when his presence is not directly noticed.

Easter brings the good news that, although things seem to get worse in the world, the Evil One has already been overcome. Easter allows us to affirm that although God seems very distant and although we remain preoccupied with many little things, our Lord walks with us on the road and keeps explaining the Scriptures to us. Thus there are many rays of hope casting their light on our way through life.

Henri Nouwen: *Show me the Way* – *Readings for each day of Lent*

Almighty, everlasting God, on this day
you conquered death through your Son
and opened for us the path of eternal
life. And so, we celebrate in joy
the feast of His resurrection.

Make us new through your Spirit,
so that we too may rise and walk in
the light of life we ask this through
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

JOHN 20:1-10

SUMMARY

After Jesus was unjustly arrested, falsely accused, severely beaten, and crucified, His body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed, a huge stone was rolled in front of it, and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead, and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen.

It is now Sunday morning. Mary went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. She ran and came upon John and Peter and told them what she had seen. They ran and saw the empty tomb. When they went inside, they saw the cloths that wrapped Jesus' body lying there, and the linen that covered His head was folded, not lying with the cloths, but in a place by itself. They saw and believed. Then they went back to their homes.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is our hope. God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 18:1-19:42

- Jesus' death and His coming to life on the third day make up the center of the Bible's one big story.

In this section, we have the first proof of Jesus' resurrection: the tomb was found empty and the graveclothes were left there.

The stone was not rolled away from the entrance to the tomb so Jesus could get out. He could have left easily without moving the stone. It was rolled away so others could get in and see that Jesus was gone.

- Mary Magdalene

Mary was not expecting the resurrection. Her thought was that someone had taken away Jesus' body.

Either that the Romans or religious leaders had moved Jesus' body to put Him in a worse place, or Joseph and Nicodemus had second thoughts about burying Him there.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - CONT.

- John

Peter and John were not expecting the resurrection. They probably thought that Mary didn't really see well in the dark. She saw the stone rolled away, became frightened, and ran. Or, maybe she went to the wrong tomb. So, they rush to the cemetery.

The disciple "whom Jesus loved."

He was younger than Peter, outran Peter, and got there first. He didn't go in, but looked in.

What John saw convinced him that Jesus had risen from the dead.

John saw the linen cloths lying there like an empty cocoon. The strips of linen were left as if Jesus' body had simply passed through them.

He knew and he believed before he ever saw the risen Jesus. (Spoiler alert!)

- Peter

He got there after John, but he doesn't just look in, he goes right into the tomb.

He too, sees the linen clothes, but also the cloth that covered Jesus' head.

It was still rolled up in the shape of a head.

- The graveclothes

The linen left behind is evidence that the body had not simply been moved by the Romans or religious leaders. As well, it was not grave robbers for they would not have left behind expensive linen wrappings or spices.

Jesus came out of that tomb just like a seed comes out of the soil.

Jesus said that a grain of corn falls to the ground and remains alone unless it dies. Then, new corn will grow out of it. But the old shell of the seed is still in the ground (John 12:24).

That is what was left in the tomb, just the old shell that Jesus had been in. He was no long in that shell; Jesus was alive.

MEMORY VERSE

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

GOING DEEPER

Study 1 Corinthians 15:17 to see how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel.

COMPARE LAZARUS AND JESUS COMING OUT OF THE TOMB

LAZARUS

Lazarus came out of the tomb wrapped in the old graveclothes for he would have to use them again; someday, he would die.

JESUS

Jesus came out free from His graveclothes because Jesus arose to die no more (Romans 6:9).

Jesus was going to be clothed with the robes of glory, so He lays aside these linen cloths.

INTRODUCTION

The resurrection of Jesus often elicits a strong response. People generally like the person of Jesus, but when the belief is stated that He has risen from the dead one will often encounter push back. This is no different than what we see as Jesus' disciples interact with the resurrection for the first time. As Mary meets him in the garden, she is too overcome with the circumstances to believe at first; she is distracted. When Christ appears in the locked room, the disciples are afraid, they think Jesus is a ghost; they do not understand. Lastly, we see Thomas doubting that such a wonder could be done. After all, he had seen Jesus be crucified. He is trusting in what he thinks he knows is possible. However, upon having an encounter with the risen Savior, we see each interaction lead to faith. Once they believe, Jesus calls them to participate in His mission. We too are called, despite our circumstances, our fear, our disbelief, to place our faith in the risen Christ and participate in His mission of advancing His Kingdom throughout the world.

MAIN IDEA

Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, that you may have life.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q “Seeing is believing” is a common idiom in the English language that is used when something unlikely is witnessed, meaning its existence can no longer be doubted. Have you ever been involved in such an occurrence?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 20:11-31

Q Even in the midst of heartbreak and uncertainty, how does Mary reference Jesus when speaking to the angels (see verse 13)? What does this tell you about her commitment to Jesus?

Q Jesus' interaction with Mary is a beautiful picture of what Jesus taught in John 10:1-5. What does Jesus say to Mary that helps her recognize that it is him?

Follow up: What does Jesus want Mary to do that is more important than clinging to him? Why do you think that is?

JESUS APPEARS

JOHN 20:11-31



READ & DISCUSS

Q Besides being a common greeting among 1st century Jews, Jesus speaks peace to his disciples. Why is this so powerful considering all that just took place the past few days?

Follow up: Where in your life do you need Jesus to speak peace?

Q Jesus commissions His disciples to serve as messengers of the Gospel. In this commissioning, how do you see the Trinity involved?

Follow up: How does being “sent” by Jesus inform your understanding of what it means to be a Christian?

Follow up: Why is it important Jesus empowered them with the Spirit instead of just giving them a spirited-pep talk?

Q How does Thomas’ refusal to believe unless he witnesses the resurrection himself impact your view of him, and others, who struggle with belief?

Follow up: In this moment of doubt, Jesus does not rebuke Thomas, but provides the proof necessary for his belief. Does this bring you comfort and encouragement seeing Jesus’ patience? How has Jesus provided evidence for you to believe?

Q How does Jesus describe those who believe, yet have not seen Him? Why do you think that is?

Follow up: Are there other places in the Bible that echo this blessing (Hint: See 1 Pet. 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:7)?

Follow up: Do you see yourself as a recipient of this special blessing?

Q Rarely do we find a statement of purpose written in many authors’ work. However, we find in verses 30-31, John communicates clearly that he had a specific intent in his writing; what was it?

Follow up: How does that impact the way you view the book as we’ve studied it over the past year?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

In these verses, we are presented with three different interactions between Jesus and his disciples. Each time it prompted moments of belief. Each time someone was presented with the truth of the gospel, that Jesus has risen again to bring about forgiveness of sins and a newness of life. As we begin to wind down our study in the Gospel of John, take some time reflecting upon who Jesus sent into your life to communicate this truth. Who was it that first told you the gospel message? Pray for them. As Jesus sent the disciples and sent that person to you, who is it that God may be sending you to? Pray for them.



JOHN 20:11-31

SUMMARY

After Peter and John saw the empty tomb, and believed Jesus had risen from the dead, Jesus appeared to Mary. She told the disciples that she had seen Jesus. That same day in the evening, the disciples (except for Thomas) gathered behind locked doors, for they were afraid of the religious leaders. Jesus appeared to them and eight days later, appeared to them again while Thomas was with them. John finishes this chapter by revealing his purpose for writing this book.

MAIN IDEA

The great gospel truth in which we believe is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 20:19-31

- Jesus' death and His coming to life on the third day make up the center of the Bible's one big story.

In this section, we have the rest of the proofs and evidences of Jesus' resurrection.

1. The tomb found empty and the graveclothes in good order (vs. 1-10)
2. Two angels appearing to Mary at the tomb (vs. 11-13)
3. Jesus' appearances

 Appearing to Mary (vs. 14-18).

 Appearing to the disciples when Thomas was absent (vs. 19-25).

 Appearing to the disciples eight days later when Thomas was with them (vs. 26-31).

- Jesus appeared to the disciples.

To show His love for them and to confirm their faith in Him.

He gave them all the assurances they needed of the truth of His resurrection. They didn't merely hear about it through others, but were eye-witnesses themselves of His being alive, so that they could testify to the world and build the church on this truth.



FAMILY DISCUSSION - CONT.

- Peace

(vs. 19) This is the peace that comes with being made right with God, which gives us peace with God. (Matthew 11:28).

That the Father sent Him into this world for a purpose and it is complete.

(vs. 21) This is the peace of those who are in relationship with God and are doing His will (Matthew 11:29).

Now Jesus sends them out as the Father had sent Him into the world.

- Jesus appeared to Thomas

After Jesus appeared the first time, the other ten disciples were excitedly talking about Jesus being raised from the dead. From this, Thomas had enough evidence to believe that Jesus is alive, but he did not.

Thomas said, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hands into His side, I will not believe.” (vs. 25)

God knows our every thought (Psalms 94:11). Jesus gives Thomas a second chance.

Jesus appeared again to the disciples and said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at my hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” (vs. 27)

Thomas is fully satisfied that the same Jesus that was crucified was now alive and standing there with him.



FAMILY DISCUSSION - CONT.

- There is a special blessing on us today who believe the evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- John's purpose for writing this book:
 - John tells us that many other things occurred, many signs, which were all worthy to be recorded, but are not written in this book.
 - John wrote not for a historical account, but for a divine history.
 - The great gospel truth in which we believe is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 - We are invited to believe.

GOING DEEPER

- Jesus' glorified body

Jesus' resurrection was literal and physical.

Jesus' body was no longer subject to the same physical laws as before his death. In other words, before Jesus' death, His body was like ours.

After Jesus' death, He could appear in a locked room; yet he was not a ghost because he could be touched and could eat.

Even though He has a glorified body, there are prints from the nails in His hands and from His pierced side.

He was scarred for us so that we might be presented without spot or blemish before God.

He took our sin, and this will be evidence of it throughout eternity.

MEMORY VERSE

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

INTRODUCTION

In this last chapter, we see Jesus interact with Peter in a way that is reminiscent of the Father, seeking out those who have fled from Him. Peter had denied Jesus, not once, but three times, after stating he would die for him. Think of the shame, the embarrassment of Peter, knowing he had given in to the temptation of fear, to trust himself more than his Lord. Jesus, in his kindness, restores Peter and affirms his call. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, not only does death no longer hold us, but when we repent, we are free of the shame and guilt of sin, freed by God's good gift, and empowered by His Spirit to enter into service in His Kingdom.

MAIN IDEA

It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Q Often times, after moments of our greatest failures, comes an opportunity to be redeemed. Can you think of a time in your life where you have experienced that?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 21:1-14

Q Examine the first verse and last verse of this section; what word is repeated? What does this tell us about the purpose of this interaction?

Q Why do you think Peter responded in the way he did when he realizes it was Jesus on the shore?

Q Do these verses bring to mind any other interactions that Jesus had with His disciples? His calling of them? Any of the miracles? Why do you think Jesus met them in this matter?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 21:15-19

Q What is the significance of Jesus asking Peter the same question three times over? What was Jesus doing?

Follow up: What has changed for Peter in between his denial of Jesus and this interaction with Jesus?

Q Thinking back over what we have learned in the gospel of John, what does it mean to *love Jesus*?

Follow up: If we are going to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ, we must make a choice of loving Jesus Christ more than any other thing or any other person. How, or in what ways, might this kind of commitment cost us personally?

Follow up: A commitment to following and loving Jesus means a life of sacrificially serving others, which Peter begins to come to grips with here. What might be some practical implications for you?

Q What does Jesus' willingness to restore and commission Peter to do great things for the Kingdom communicate to you about the grace of God?

Q By the time the Gospel of John had been written, Peter had probably already succumbed to the death as promised to him by Jesus. How do you think this prediction by Jesus impact the way in which Peter did ministry? Think of how Peter communicates in the book of Acts (Acts 2:14-26; 3:11-26; 10:34-43) or his letters (1 & 2 Peter). Did this prediction help embolden his gospel proclamation or hinder it?

READ & DISCUSS

JOHN 21:20-25

Q Even in the last few verses we are presented with a bit of humor. Peter, having been addressed and commissioned by Jesus, quickly takes his eyes off the ball and is concerned about John's future. How does this brief episode continue to reveal something about our own hearts?

Follow up: What lesson does this teach us about each one of our unique callings God has given us?

Q John concludes his book with awesome commentary on the life and ministry of Jesus (verse 25). He engages our imagination, what is John attempting to communicate to us in this verse?

REFLECTION & PERSONAL APPLICATION

Between part 1 and part 2 of this series, we have spent 28 weeks examining the Gospel of John. Consider re-reading through the entire of the Gospel of John this week. As you go through it, write down what you've received from this book.

How have your affections for Christ been stirred? What in your faith has been challenged? What in your faith has been strengthened? Praise God for the work He has done through your study of His word. Take time to write out what you've learned and share this with someone. Share it with us, we'd love to hear about it: info@summitview.net

JOHN 18:1-19:42

SUMMARY

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is now past. The disciples have left Jerusalem and have returned to Galilee. Peter and some of the disciples went fishing. They fished all night and caught nothing. The morning dawned and a man along the shore called to them. When they told him they had not caught any fish, He said to cast the net on the right side of the ship, which they did. Their net was so full of fish they could not pull it in. John realized that this man was Jesus. When they came to shore Jesus had a fire going and asked for some of the fish they just caught. After they ate breakfast together, Jesus talks to Peter.

MAIN IDEA

It is the kindness of Jesus that leads us to repentance.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - JOHN 21:15-17

- Peter

His name originally was Simon, son of John.

On meeting Simon, Jesus told him he will be called Cephas (Peter), meaning “rock.” (John 1:42)

In this passage, notice Jesus goes back to his old name.

Peter’s life changed with Jesus: his job changed from fisherman to fisher of men, his identity changed from reckless to “rock,” and his relationship with Jesus changed--Peter was forgiven and he finally understood the significance of Jesus’ words about His death and resurrection.

- Jesus talks to Peter.

Jesus asks Peter three questions and Peter answers three times.

Peter denied Jesus three times at His crucifixion, so Jesus allowed Peter to affirm his love three times.

This reflects the custom of the times of repeating something three times before witnesses in order to express a serious responsibility. Jesus is commissioning Peter to a special shepherding task.

While there are similarities in the three questions asked by Jesus, no two are identical.

FAMILY DISCUSSION - CONT.

1. “Do you love Me with all your heart; more than these men love Me?” Jesus used the Greek word that is the highest word for “love” (vs. 15).

Peter answers with the lowest form of the Greek word “love.” “Yes, you know I have affection for You.”

Peter did not use the same word as Jesus because he is through with boasting. Never again will he brag of what he will do. And though he is going to do something big, he is not going to say anything about it.

Jesus responds, “Feed my lambs.” In this case, “feed my little baby sheep.”

2. Jesus asks, “Do you love Me with all your heart?” (vs. 16). This time Jesus leaves off the “more than these” to help Peter, as if saying, “You cannot boast anymore and say that you love Me more than do the other disciples, but can you not now say that you do love Me?”

Peter answers in the low position again, “Yes, you know I have affection for You.”

Jesus responds, “Tend my sheep.” In this case, “shepherd or discipline the older sheep.”

3. Jesus uses the same word for “love” as Peter has been using. “Do you really have an affection for me?”

Peter answers, “You know all things. You know I have affection for You.”

Peter is grieved not because Jesus asked him the question three times, but because Jesus had to come down to his level in using Peter’s word for “love.”

Jesus responds, “Feed my sheep.”

The span of the directives Jesus gives to Peter (“feed” to “tend” and “lambs” to “sheep”) help us understand the fullness of the task given to Peter.

GOING DEEPER

- The entire chapter reveals to us that the resurrected Jesus is still God.
 1. Fishing experience on the Sea of Galilee (vs. 1-6). It shows Jesus as the Lord of our wills and how He directs our service.
 2. The breakfast on the shore (vs. 7-17). This shows Jesus as the Lord of our hearts and presents our love for Him as the motive for service.
 3. Jesus announcing the death of Peter (vs. 18-19). It shows Jesus as the Lord of our minds and teaches that lack of knowledge is no excuse from service.



MEMORY VERSE

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31



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