

# JOHN 13-14

March 31, 2021

1. John 13 marks a significant shift in this gospel account. Read John 13:1. What does Jesus know?

What important holiday is about to take place?

2. Read John 13:1-5 along with Matthew 26:17-20. Who is with Jesus at this intimate dinner?

List the actions Jesus takes in washing the feet of the Twelve in John 13:4-5.

3. Read John 13:6-17. According to verses 13-17, why did Jesus wash their feet? Keeping verse 1 in mind, read Philippians 2:4-8. How do these verses in Philippians connect to John's account?

Why is it important to you to follow Jesus' example?

What is the outcome of following Jesus' example?

4. Read John 13:18-30. Why is Jesus troubled in verse 21?

From Jesus' words and actions, which disciple will betray Him?

Thinking back on all we have learned of light and darkness in John, what do you think is the significance of John noting the time of day in John 13:30?

5. Jesus continues to speak to the 11 disciples who remain at dinner. Read John 13:31-35. Loving God and one another is not a new concept. Looking at verse 34, what is new?

Why is this action important according to verse 35?

How have you seen someone show love recently that highlighted the love of Jesus?  
Please share.

6. Read John 13:36-38. In verse 33, Jesus says He's going to a place the disciples cannot come. What prediction does Jesus make following Peter's bold statement?

Though much of the dialogue at dinner is saddening, why does Jesus share what is soon to happen? Read John 13:19 and 14:29, along with 2:22 and 12:16.

Even though the disciples do not fully understand all that Jesus says this night, His kindness is demonstrated in preparing them for a stronger faith for the future. After the ascension of Jesus, Peter wrote 1 Peter 1:18-21. What amazing insights does Peter say about God in these verses?

7. Read John 14:1-3. In the midst of troubling predictions, Jesus offers a comforting one. What brings hope in verses 1-3?
8. Read John 14:4-7. What does Thomas ask Jesus to clarify, and how does Jesus explain?

How does John 3:16 support what Jesus says in John 14:4-7?

9. What does Philip ask next of Jesus in John 14:8? In your own words, summarize Jesus' relationship with His Father in verses 9-12. Notice the repeated words in verses 10-12.

10. Read John 4:13-14. What wonderful promise about prayer do we find in these verses?

How is the Father glorified?

11. Notice how many times Jesus speaks of His Father in John 14:16-31. Who else is described in verses 16-17 and 26?

What titles does Jesus use to describe Him?

What role will He play?

12. What fuels our obedience according to verses 15, 21 and 23?

Why does the Son obey the Father, according to 14:30-31?

13. Jesus' speech to His beloved friends is full of comfort. If you had been one of the 11 still left in the room, what in John 14:25-29 would you have found comforting and why?

According to verse 27, why should you not be troubled? Also see John 14:1-4.

14. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

# JOHN 15-16

April 7, 2021

1. Read John 15:1-11. How are Jesus and God the Father identified in verse 1?

Describe the responsibilities of the gardener or vinedresser from verse 2.

Pruning by the Master Gardener means removing things that hinder or drain our spiritual life. Think back to a season of “pruning” in your life. What are some lessons you learned?

2. The word *abide* or *remain* is used 11 times in John 15. List the benefits of abiding or remaining in the True Vine from verses 3-11.

Write down words that describe a branch that is no longer connected to the vine.

The Scriptures describe fruit as godly attitudes and behaviors. List some fruits that grow in our lives as we deepen our connection to the True Vine. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Philippians 1:9-11.

3. Read John 15:12-17. In verse 12, Jesus issues a command to His followers. What is His standard for love?

According to Jesus, what is the greatest sacrifice love can make?

How does obeying Jesus’ command and example affect our relationships with others?

How does it affect our relationship with Him?

4. Describe the way we become friends with Jesus from verses 14-16.

For what purpose did He choose us?

5. In John 15:18-25, Jesus gives insight into the worldview of those who reject Him. Describe the world's feelings for Jesus and how it affects everyone who follows Him.

Who else is hated along with Jesus and His followers according to verse 23?

6. Jesus knows He will be leaving the world and His disciples. What is His plan to continue to spread the truth of the gospel after His death and why are the disciples able to take part?  
Read John 15:26-27.

7. Read John 16:1-4. What reason does Jesus give for sharing with His disciples the stark reality of the world's rejection?

What does the future hold for those who believe in Jesus? Why?

Do the words of Jesus help you prepare for hard times as a believer? How?

8. As you read John 16:4b-15, picture the disciples as Jesus tells them about His departure. What words describe their feelings?

What encouragement does Jesus give them?

The Helper or Counselor is the Holy Spirit. Look back at verses 8, 13-14, and write down the work of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promises to His disciples.

9. Read John 16:16-24. How does verse 16 depict Jesus' future? See John 19:18, 30 and John 20:19.

Compare the world's reaction to His death with the reaction of Jesus' disciples.

What will change the disciples' reaction from sorrow to joy?

10. Read John 16:25-33. Following Jesus' resurrection, the disciples' relationship with God the Father will change. What has brought them into a personal relationship with God the Father?

11. The disciples express their belief in verses 29-30. Of what are they now convinced?

Although His beloved disciples express belief, Jesus knows their faith will not be complete until after His resurrection. Read Zechariah 13:7. How is John 16:32 a fulfillment of Zechariah's words?

12. Jesus' words to His disciples are meant to sustain and prepare them. What encouragement do you glean from John 16:33?

How does abiding in the True Vine sustain and prepare you to remain in the world until Jesus returns?

13. Write out a personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

# JOHN 17:1-18:27

April 14, 2021

1. Prayer is a fundamental part of our faith and yet many of us are not completely satisfied with our prayers. What are some ways you would like to mature in your practice of prayer?
2. Read all of John 17. This is Jesus' longest recorded prayer. For whom does Jesus pray first?
3. Read John 17:1-5 again. What does Jesus request from His Father as He prays?

According to His own words, how did Jesus glorify His Father during His life on earth?

Look or think back over Jesus' story in John so far. What are some of the great works Jesus has already accomplished before He goes to the cross?

4. Look again at John 17:3. How does Jesus describe eternal life for His followers?

What is one way your relationship with Jesus can shape and transform your thoughts, words or actions today?

5. Read John 17:6-19. After Jesus prays for Himself, He then prays for His disciples. Write down all of the ways Jesus describes His disciples in verses 6-10.

Based on what you wrote above, summarize how the disciples bring glory to Jesus.

6. Look back once again at John 17:9-19. What does Jesus request from the Father on behalf of His disciples?

John 17:11

John 17:13

John 17:15

John 17:17, 19

In verse 14, Jesus acknowledges the disciples will be hated by those who do not understand their faith. Thinking about everything Jesus prays in this chapter, how do you think the disciples can experience joy despite the difficulty this hatred will cause?

How might Jesus' prayer influence how you will seek joy today?

7. Take a moment to ponder the things Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17:9-19. In your own words, summarize what seems to matter most to Jesus on His last day on earth.

What is one practical way your life can more closely reflect Jesus' desires for His followers?

8. Read John 17:20-26. Whom is Jesus now praying for?

9. Read John 17:20-23 again. What is Jesus' primary concern in these verses?

10. Read John 18:1-11. How does Jesus identify Himself in verses 5-6?

Why do you think the soldiers fall to the ground when Jesus identifies Himself? Also see Exodus 3:14.

11. Read John 18:9-10. Contrast the responses of Peter and Jesus to Jesus' arrest.

"The cup" Jesus speaks of in verse 11 refers to His coming crucifixion. Consider what we have learned in John about the relationship between the Father and Son. How do you think Jesus was able to accept God's very difficult plan? Also read Luke 22:41-44.

12. Read John 18:12-14, 19-24. What two things was Jesus questioned about in verse 19?

Describe how you imagine Jesus' tone and demeanor as He responds to Annas' questioning.

13. Read John 18:15-18, 25-27 along with Matthew 26:69-75. What are some things Peter might have begun to truly understand about himself in the moments that followed the rooster crowing?

Like Peter, we are all tempted to deny our faith sometimes. What is one thing you've learned in our study of John that will give you courage to stand firm the next time you face this temptation?

14. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

# JOHN 18:28-19:42

April 21, 2021

1. Jesus has been seized at the Mount of Olives and tried by the Jewish leadership. Read Matthew 26:62-66 and record the specific charge the Jews make against Jesus.

What penalty are the Jewish leaders seeking?

2. Read John 18:28-32. Pilate is a Roman governor appointed to maintain peace in this part of the empire. Why have the Jewish leaders involved the Roman government in their conflict?

Jesus has specific foreknowledge about the kind of death He will experience. Read the following verses and describe His death.

John 8:28

John 12:31-33

3. Read John 18:33-38 and note the primary question Pilate is asking Jesus.

How does Jesus describe His kingdom? See also Luke 17:20-21.

4. From John 18:38, what is Pilate's final question in this interrogation? Does he wait for an answer?

Read John 14:6. If Pilate had genuinely sought truth, what might he have found?

5. Willfully moving forward with plans while ignoring God's truth can be costly. What have you learned from your own experiences that helps you turn to God's truth first?

6. Read John 18:39–19:7. List Pilate’s multiple efforts to appease the demanding Jewish crowd and describe the crowd’s response.
  
7. Pilate’s second interrogation with Jesus is recorded in John 19:8-11, and his agitation rises in verse 10. Use your own words to state the question and threat Pilate utters.

What does Jesus’ response teach about true power and authority? Also read Romans 13:1.

8. Read John 19:12-16. Pilate is a political appointee, politically and professionally accountable to Caesar, the Emperor of Rome. What threat convinces Pilate to sentence Jesus to death?

In this instance, whom is the Jewish nation claiming as their ultimate ruler? Read John 3:19 and explain the actions of the Jewish leadership.

9. Read John 19:17-22. As Jesus is crucified, what is the one complaint expressed by the Jewish leaders?

Why is this description of Jesus fitting?

10. John 19:23-27 describes two different groups of onlookers at Jesus’ crucifixion. Read these verses and contrast the two groups.

Despite the agony Jesus is experiencing, what expression of love does He demonstrate?

11. Read John 19:28-30 and record Jesus' words in verse 30.

Jesus has completed the work of redemption which God sent Him to do. Look up the word *redemption* and record the definition.

Read the following verses and describe the work that Jesus has accomplished on the cross.

Isaiah 53:5-6

John 10:14-16

Romans 5:8-11

Galatians 3:13

12. According to John 19:30, Who is in control of Jesus' actual death?

A crucifixion was a scene of Rome's oppressive power, strength and authority. Reflect on John 10:17-18 and 19:30, and describe the greatest power and authority in this scene.

Jesus endures obediently because He is committed to the will of God. How does His example help you endure hardships?

13. Continue reading John 19:31-37. List the last events that occur while Jesus' body hangs on the cross.

Why are these events significant?

14. Jesus' burial is described in John 19:38-42. Joseph and Nicodemus were both members of the Jewish Sanhedrin, the leadership group that worked to crucify Jesus. What is remarkable and admirable about their actions?

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

# JOHN 20-21

April 28, 2021

1. In Hebrews 11:6 there is a promise for those who seek God. What is this promise?

How has this been true in your life?

2. After Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene was one of the women who went to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning after Passover. Read John 20:1-2. What upset Mary when she arrived at the tomb?

Look closely at the circumstances surrounding Mary Magdalene and her actions. What insights do you glean about Mary's relationship with Jesus from these two verses?

3. Read John 20:3-10 to see John's (the disciple whom Jesus loved) and Peter's reactions to the removed stone. Compare their actions and attitudes.

Read verses 8-9 again. Even though the disciples did not understand from Scripture the Messiah would rise from the dead, what did John believe after seeing the linen cloths?

Later, Peter used Scripture to explain Jesus' resurrection after Jesus had returned to heaven. Read his sermon in Acts 2:22-32 and record all you learn about Christ's resurrection.

As followers of Jesus, how important is our belief in His resurrection? Why? Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

4. Read John 20:11-18. The first person to see the resurrected Christ and announce the resurrection was a woman. What comes to mind when you consider this fact?

After Jesus asks Mary why she is weeping, He asks her another question. Record this question.

Jesus honors those who seek Him. What do we learn from His words in Matthew 6:31-33?

Carefully read Jesus' words to Mary in John 20:17. What new word does Jesus use to describe His disciples in John 20:17?

What might this mean when considering the rest of His words in verse 17?

5. In John 20:19, we find the disciples hiding and helpless behind locked doors. What wonderful greeting does Jesus bring them to calm their hearts?

Read verses 20-23. What important work does Jesus have planned for His disciples according to verse 21?

Who will be their source of strength as they tell others about the redemption available through Jesus Christ?

6. Read verses 24-29. How does Jesus demonstrate grace for Thomas in this story?

What does Thomas come to realize when he stands in the presence of the resurrected Lord?

What words does Jesus speak to Thomas that are an encouragement to us today? Also read Hebrews 11:1.

7. In John 21, we travel to the Sea of Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee. Here Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples again. Read John 21:1-14 along with an earlier fishing excursion in Luke 5:3-11. How did John know it was the Lord who directed their successful catch of fish in John's story?

Contrast Peter's responses to the presence of the Lord from both of these accounts.

After Jesus' ascension, Peter shared the gospel with Gentiles and mentioned the significance of eating with the resurrected Christ. Read Acts 10:39-43. What had changed in Peter's fishing career?

8. Just after Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times for fear of the religious leaders. He may have felt unqualified to be used by Jesus for future ministry. Read John 21:15-19 and explain how Jesus restored Peter for future apostolic kingdom work.
9. Read verses 20-23. What great lesson did Peter learn as he focused on the future of a friend?

Consider a time when you focused on God's will in someone else's life to the detriment of your own relationship with God. What did you learn about the danger of this behavior?

10. To end this incredible gospel of John, read verses 24-25. What reasons does John give us to believe what he has written?

Read the purpose of this book in verses 30-31. What has been accomplished in your life as we have studied this wonderful book?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.