

JOHN'S GOSPEL

“And the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we have seen his glory...”

Leon Morris compares “John’s Gospel to a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim.” Whether you are new to the Christian faith or been a believer for many years, the book of John has something to offer. “Years of close study of this Gospel do not leave one with a feeling of having mastered it, but rather with the conviction that is still ‘strange, restless, and unfamiliar’”¹

“Like Him whom it portrays, this book readily welcomes the humble and endlessly challenges the wise.”

¹ Leon Morris quoting Sir Edwyn Hoskyns

Objectives and guidelines

- The objective of this study is to give you a foundation of understanding and a thirst to return to this book. Remember that this is an overview and not an exhaustive study.
- To help you grasp the message of the book as a whole.
- To teach you by example how to study a book of the Bible. This is primarily done by learning to ask good questions.
- The questions are to be used as a guideline for studying the selected passage. The purpose of the questions is to stimulate your thinking. Remember that simply answering the questions does not mean that you have finished the study. Rather, your study is complete when you feel that you have a good understanding of what the passage says and what it means for your life. This may involve asking and answering your own questions as well.
- You will notice 3 types of questions. What does it say (observation), what does it mean (interpretation), and how does this truth affect my life (application).
- As you work through the passage remember to pray and ask God to answer your questions. Ask God to show you, "Lord, what do you want me to see here, why is this true, how does this apply to my life?" Try to keep it from becoming just another assignment to complete.
- Each lesson will take between 60 and 90 minutes to complete each week. Try not to do it all at one time. By spreading your study out over a couple of different times during the week, you will allow yourself more time to meditate on the passage and the questions that arise.
- Budget your time. Some studies are longer than others. Get the overview first by considering all the questions, and then if you have time left go back to the section or questions that most interest you.
- Be sure to write down your answers. Writing will help you to clarify your thinking and help you to remember and then share what you have learned.
- The purpose of the group meeting is to share what you have discovered about the passage and how it applies to your life and circumstances. Please come prepared to do this.
- Memorizing a key verse from the passage will help you to remember what you have learned in that lesson.

- It is advised that plan on purchasing some basic reference books to aid you in your studies. You will find questions that will direct you to use different reference tools to enhance your study. If you have questions concerning how to use these books, please ask your small group leader to show you. There are also various software packages and websites available that have much of the same information as the books. If you have easy access to the net, try some of these websites before you buy the books. The goal is to teach you through experience how to use these tools to deepen your personal study of God's Word. We hope that these skills will help you in a lifetime of studying God's Word.

The following is a partial list of reference materials or sources you can use. We hope to bulk purchase some of these books so that you can get them at very reasonable prices.

A Good Study Bible

NIV Study Bible

Life Application Study Bible

Thomson Chain Reference

Bible Dictionaries – Many good ones available

Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

Holman Bible Dictionary

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words Lawrence O. Richards

Software

Wordsearch – Navpress

Quickverse

PC Study Bible

A Concordance in the same translation that you are using. There are many available.

Websites

***www.bible.crosswalk.com Many study tools available – check this out first!!!

www.rockhay.tripod.com/worship/translat.htm - lists links for more online translations of the Bible than you have probably ever knew existed.

www.searchgodsword.org

www.bible.gospelcom.net

Lesson 1
Overview and John 1:1-18

Overview – This study begins with an overview of John. The key to interpretation is context – what is the whole passage or book about? The key to context is purpose – what is the author’s aim for the whole work? You will want to ask yourself, “Why did the author (and God) write the book? What did they want to accomplish? What is the book about?”

1. From what you already know about the book before beginning this study, what would you say are the answers to the above questions?

2. The best way to get an overview is to outline the book section by section. We won’t take the time to do this in this study but what we can do is look for the author’s intent by looking what he clearly says about it. What can you learn about John’s purpose from John 20:30-31?

3. Another good way to approach the study of a book is to write down some questions that you would like to have answered as a result of your study. Can you think of some question or issue that is prominent in your life now or will be in the near future? Add them to the following list. Some possible questions include:
 - a. Who did Jesus claim to be?
 - b. What does Jesus really expect from those who claim to be His followers? What does He expect of me?
 - c. How did Jesus train the disciples? What was the work that Jesus says that He completed in 17:4?
 - d.

4. Use a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia to do some background research on the book. Some questions you could research include:
 - a. Who wrote the book?
 - b. When was it written?
 - c. How is this gospel different than the other 3?
 - d. To whom was this gospel written.
 - e. What are the key issues or questions that this book deals with?

John 1:1-18 The Word

Read the passage several times out loud to yourself in as many translations as you can find. Ask God to speak to you personally through this passage even though it may be very familiar to you.

1. Write down as many observations as you can about the Word. Who or what He is.

- What He does

2. Why do you think John chose to begin his Gospel with the opening words of the creation account in Genesis?

3. Look up the word, WORD, (or logos in Greek) in a Bible dictionary. What can you learn about this word and its meaning to both Jews and Greeks?

- Why do you think Jesus is called the Word?

4. In what ways do you think life is found in Jesus? :4 Look at Jn 10:10, 11:25, 14:6, 17:3

5. Light and darkness are major symbols in John's gospel. Use your concordance and Bible dictionary to look up other verses that use light and darkness. (Start with the book of John and then consider other passages as well.) What do these words symbolize in the Bible?

Light

Darkness

- What does it imply about Jesus to call Him the light? 1:4-5,9; 8:12

6. What do you think it means to believe in His name? 1:12 You may find it helpful to look up the words 'name' and 'believe' in your Bible dictionary.

- In what sense is becoming a child of God a matter of a person's will? 1:12
In what sense is it a matter of God's will? 1:13

7. Put 1:14 into your own words that you can fully understand. To do this you may first need to research and define such words as; dwelling among us, glory, flesh, grace and truth.

8. Eighty times in the gospels Jesus says, "I tell you the truth..." Use your concordance to find other places in the book of John where the word 'truth' is used. What do you think it means that Jesus is full of truth?

9. Turn to the summary page at the end of this lesson. Write down the main things that 1:1-18 tell you about Jesus, who He is, what He came to do, and what He expects of you.

10. What other passages or thoughts stood out to you as you studied this week? What do you think God may be trying to communicate to you?

11. Ask God to show you what possible application you could make to what you have learned in this study.

John study summary page

Who is Jesus?

Why did He come?

What does He ask of me?

- e. Ex 12:1-13 Record as many similarities as you can between Jesus and the Passover lamb.

5. Why is it important to you personally that Jesus is the Lamb of God?

:35-51

6. How did the following people hear about Jesus and what do you think attracted them to Him? What do you think convinced these men to follow Jesus? How many of these men did Jesus later choose to be His apostles?

- Andrew and the other disciple :35-41
- Andrew's brother Simon :40-42
- Philip :43-45
- Nathanael :45-50 Why do you think his attitude changes so quickly between :46 and :49?
- What applications can be made from this passage :35-49 concerning evangelism?

7. What do you think Jesus is saying about Himself in 1:51? Can you find any cross references to this verse that might shed some light on what He is trying to communicate?

8. What motivates you the most to follow Jesus? Why?

9. Review your summary page from Lesson 1. What can you add?

Lesson 3
The Ministry Begins 2:1-25

Do some research on weddings in Jesus' day. What role did wine play in a wedding banquet and what did it symbolize in the Bible? Record your findings.

Six stone water jars 2:6 Used by the Jews for ceremonial washing of one's hands after contact with Gentiles and an unholy world.

Signs 2:11 Used by John to describe Jesus' miracles. A sign is something that points beyond itself. It teaches a spiritual truth. The signs are like parables acted out. It also implies the use of symbolism.

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He answered His mother? :4

2. What time do you think Jesus was talking about? See Jn 7:6, 12:23,27,33, 17:1

3. Why do you think Jesus honors His mother's request anyway?

4. How did Jesus' first sign impact the disciples?

5. Think about the purpose of a sign. What does this particular sign reveal about Jesus' (Note: Fermentation of wine was considered an act of the gods by the Greeks)
 - a. Character

 - b. Identity

 - c. Mission

6. How is it significant that Jesus chose to turn the Jewish water of purification into wine for a wedding banquet? Look at Lk 5:37-39 as a cross reference.

Cleansing the Temple 2:12-25

Temple 2:14 In what part of the Temple do you think this scene took place? Look in a Bible dictionary to find out. How does this add to the significance of the event?

7. What do Jesus' words and deeds in :13-17 tell you about His character and priorities?
 - a. What do they tell you about His mission?
8. How was Jesus going to prove His authority to throw the vendors out of the Temple? :18-22
9. What caused the disciples to later believe? :22
10. What does :24,25 say Jesus knows about us?

11. What insight from this chapter seems most significant to you?

12. Consider what else God may be saying to you. Is there anything you think God wants you to know or to do as a result of your study?

13. Pick a favorite verse from John 1 or 2 and memorize it this week.

14. Turn to your summary page and make any additions from what you learned in this lesson.

5. What does Jesus reveal about what He knew to be the purpose of His life in :13-21?
 - a. What was He speaking about in :14,15? Find some cross references to this passage to support your answer.

6. What can you learn about the Father and Jesus in :16-18?

7. Describe in your own words the choice that each person faces? :18-21

8. If Jesus came because of God's love for us, why then do so many people hate Him?
:19-21

9. What do you think it means to love darkness?

10. Why is God going to judge mankind?

John's Testimony John 3:22-36

11. Why do you think John was not threatened by Jesus' success?

12. How does John describe who Jesus is and why He came? :31-36

13. Extra: Do a word study on the word 'sent' found in 3:28,34. What can you learn from this study about what it means to be sent. How might this apply to you?
Jn 20:21

14. How might you respond to what you learned about Jesus in the passage? What do you think God is saying to you. Memorize a key verse from this chapter.

15. Turn to your summary page and add any new insights from this chapter.

Lesson 5
John 4

1. Did Jesus have to go through Samaria 4:4? Do some research on the Samaritans. Who were they, where did they come from, what did they believe, what was the relationship between Jews and Samaritans like?

2. Picture the scene in John 4. Consider the basic questions of observation: who, when, what, where, why. What are some of the unusual things that are occurring here? 4:9,27

3. What can you learn about Jesus by the way in which He acts toward Samaritans?

4. How does the woman identify Jesus in each of the following verses? 4:9,11,19, 29 Why the change in how she views Him? How does Jesus help the woman to discover who He is at each of these stages?

5. What does Jesus say about "living water"? 4:10,13,14

6. What was Jesus referring to as living water? Consider the following cross-references. Jn 7:37-39, Ez 47:1-12, Is 55:1-3

How does this add to your understanding of what Jesus was trying to communicate to the woman?

Jesus Heals the Official's Son 4:43-54

14. What moved the following people to believe in Jesus?

His disciples 1:35-49, 2:11

the people in Jerusalem 2:23

the woman at the well 4:16-29

the other Samaritans 4:39-42

15. What is wrong with the kind of faith that is based only on seeing signs and wonders?
4:48

16. How did Jesus require a deeper faith from the royal official? 4:49-53

17. What do you think your faith is based on?

18. Remembering the purpose of a sign, how did this second "sign"...

a. point toward God -

b. reveal Jesus' mission and character -

c. What response did it demand?

19. What application can you make from this chapter regarding your relationship to God, your relationship to other people, or in your own character? Review the summary page and make any additions.

Lesson 6
John 5

Equal With God Jn 5:1-30

1. Why did you think Jesus asked the man if he wanted to get well? Why did Jesus choose this man to heal?
2. Did this man's healing depend on his faith? How is this significant or different to what you saw in John 4:48-53?
3. What could be worse than being crippled for 38 years? 5:14 Is it possible to stop sinning?
4. Why do you think the Jewish leaders ignored the fact that a miracle had occurred? Why did the Jews persecute Jesus? 5:16,18,43
5. In what areas does Jesus claim to be equal with God the Father? Look at Jn 5:17, 19, 20, 21, 22-23, 24 and 26
6. How would you describe Jesus' relationship with the Father?
7. Who hears the voice of God, and what is the result? What do you think it means to hear?

Who

Result

Jn 5:24

Jn 5:25

Jn 5:28

8. Have you heard the voice of God? How have you responded? Is there something you need to do? Are there some things in your life that make it hard to hear God?

9. In Jn 5:17 Jesus says that, "My Father is always at work." In what specific ways do you see God at work in your life and in the lives of people around you?

10. How is Jesus' statement in 5:30 an example for you to follow?

Testimonies about Jesus 5:31-47

11. What witnesses to His identity does Jesus name in this passage?

12. What different things do you think were the "work" of Jesus? 5:36
See Jn 4:34, Jn 17:4,6,8, Jn 19:30

13. Jesus implies that there is a difference between studying the Scriptures and hearing His voice 5:37,39. What do you think is the difference?

14. What does Jesus say is the purpose of the Scriptures? Jn 5:39,40

15. For what faults does Jesus rebuke the Pharisees in 5:37-44? See how many you can find? In what ways are you most like the Pharisees? What can you do to change this?

16. What else can you learn about Jesus from this chapter? Add this to your review page.

17. Ask God to help you to hear His voice so that you might hear what it is He wants you to do, change or apply to your life. What have you heard Him say?

Lesson 7
John 6:1-71 The Bread of Life

Read all of John 6 a couple of times using different translations if possible before you try to answer the following questions.

1. How does Jesus' fourth miracle function as a sign?
 - a. What does this sign show us about God?
 - b. What does it reveal about Jesus' mission and character?
 - c. What response does it invite from us?

2. Why do you think Jesus had the disciples participate in this miracle? Does this show us anything about God's desire for our lives?

3. Why do you think Jesus did not want to be made king? 14,15

4. What different things motivated people to follow Jesus?
 - a. 6:2
 - b. 6:14,15
 - c. 6:26,27
 - d. Do any of these same things motivate you or other people today to be religious?
 - e. What do you think Jesus was really trying to teach the people when He fed them the bread?

5. Consider: why do you follow Jesus? (Don't skip this question)

6. How did Jesus react to people who were following Him for the wrong reasons?
26-29

7. What is the work that God requires of us? :29
 - a. In what sense is faith in Jesus a human "work"? In what sense is it different from a work done to earn God's favor? What is the relationship between faith and work?

8. Write down everything Jesus says about the bread from heaven. 6:32-35,48-59
 - a. Using your Bible dictionary or concordance see what you can find out about the symbolism of bread and manna in the Bible.

 - b. What was Jesus implying about Himself by saying He is the "bread of life?"

9. What do you think Jesus means by saying that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood? 6:53,63

10. How does someone get some of this bread? Can anyone get it?
:35,40,44,45,47,54,57

11. Why did many of the disciples no longer follow Jesus after hearing this teaching?
:28,30,41-42,52,60

a. Why didn't Jesus try to stop them?

12. Why didn't the 12 leave Jesus? :67-69

13. In what ways is Jesus the bread of life for you?

14. What is it that you think God wants you to take to heart from this chapter? Is there something you think He wants you to know or to do?

3. In Jn 7:24 Jesus accuses the people of judging by mere appearances rather than making a right judgment. What did He mean by this? Look at the following verses for examples of judging by appearances? What are they?

:23

:27, 41,42, 52

25,26, 47-49

- What preconceived ideas about the Messiah caused some people's confusion?

- In what ways do people today still judge Jesus by mere appearances or from preconceived attitudes about Him? What are some of them.

- Can you think of some examples from your own life when you have or are currently judging people and their actions by "mere appearances"?

4. What impresses you about Jesus' offer in 7:37-39.

- To whom did He make it?
- What kind of thirst was He talking about?
- What was He offering to people?
- What does it mean for you to come to Jesus and drink?
- How can you tell when streams of living water are flowing from within you?

5. Why did the guards fail to arrest Jesus? 45-46

- How did the Pharisees respond to them? :46-49

- i. What is wrong with their attitudes and reasoning?

- How can we apply what we see here to our own evangelism?

6. Ask God to show you what it is He wants you to know or to do as a result of this passage of Scripture.

Lesson 9
John 8 and 9

The Light of the World

1. Read 8:12-59 and summarize the main point in one sentence.

2. Read 9:1-41 and summarize the main point in one sentence.

3. In the following verses record what either Jesus claimed to be or came to do.

<u>Identity/Description</u>	<u>Mission/purpose</u>
8:12,9:5	
8:19	
8:23	
8:26,28	
8:29	
8:50	

- What application to our life could we make from the above statements? See Jn 20:21.

4. Some people believe that Jesus never claimed to be God. Are they right?

a. What did Jesus mean in 8:56-59?

b. Why did the Jews get so mad that they wanted to kill Him right then? How did they understand Jesus' statement?

5. What do you think Jesus means when He calls Himself the light of the world? 8:12 9:4,5 (Look up the word light in your Bible dictionary or a concordance to see what this word means or symbolizes other places in the Bible.)
 - a. What does this “light “enable us to see? Consider Hebrews 1:3

6. How does the sign in 9:1-7 demonstrate this aspect of His mission and identity?

7. What does the former blind man call Jesus and how does he treat Him in the following verses? 9:11, 17, 33, 35-38
 - a. How do his comments illustrate that Jesus really is the light?

8. What are some of the things that can blind us from seeing the truth?
 - a. 9:16 (our traditions?)
 - b. 9:18
 - c. 9:24, 41
 - d. 9:34

9. Who or what is the light of the world now that Jesus is with the Father? 9:5 Consider these verses: Mt 5:14-16, Acts 13:47. Can you find others?
 - a. What does this fact imply for you and your life? Are you a light? To whom?

10. Review this lesson. What is one insight that stands out to you as something that you want to take to heart.

Lesson 10
John 8 and 9

Sin and Judgment

Before you start, consider what you think sin is? How do you define it? Then look the word up in your Bible dictionary and add to your definition.

1. In Jn 8:1-11, what do Jesus' words in this story reveal about sin and judgment?
 - a. Did Jesus approve of her actions?
 - b. Did He condemn her? Why not?

2. Imagine that you are present in 8:1-11 either as the woman or a bystander. What impressions about Jesus are you left with as you walk away?

3. What does Jesus say about sin in these verses?
 - 8:24
 - 8:31-36
 - 8:37-45,47
 - 8:46
 - 9:3
 - 9:41

3. What wrong ideas about sin are seen in this passage?

8:1-6

8:33

9:2

9:13-16, 24

9:34

4. What does Jesus say about judgment?

8:7, 11

8:15

8:24

8:26

9:39,41

5. What are the rewards of obedience? 8:31-32, 8:51, 8:55

6. Write Jn 8:31-32 in your own words.

a. Why can a person know the truth only if he holds to Jesus' teaching?

b. What will you be set free from?

7. For what does Jesus condemn the Pharisees?

8:19

8:21,24

8:23

8:37

8:41-42,44

8:43,47

8:55

9:41

- Are there any warnings in the above statements that I need to be careful of in my own life?

8. Think about the themes of light, sin and judgment in these chapters. Ask God to show you at least one thing He wants you to know and do in your life as a result of what He has taught you.

Lesson 11
John 10

Shepherd - Look up the use of the word shepherd in the Old Testament in your Bible dictionary. How is it used, who does it often refer to, what are the characteristics of a good shepherd.

Voice - Palestinian shepherds often had names for their sheep and could call them by name and expect them to come. The sheep would recognize the voice of the shepherd and their name.

1. Write down the characteristics of the true or good shepherd and explain what each one tells you about Jesus.

Jn 10:2,7

- a. In what ways is Jesus like a gate?

Jn 10:3-4,14

Jn 10:10

Jn 10:11

2. How is the good shepherd different from a hired shepherd? :11-13
3. How is a person saved? :9 What other ways are people today trying to be saved (get into the sheep pen)?
4. Who are the other sheep in vs 16?
5. What does Jesus mean in :17,18 and why is this a crucial truth about Him?

6. What happens to sheep who know and follow the good shepherd?
:3-4,9-10,27-29

7. How has Jesus been a shepherd to you?

- Are you following the good shepherd? How would you support your answer if someone were to ask how you know?

- Do you recognize His voice? How? When? Where?

8. What are the implications for your fellowship or your church that Jesus says, “there is only one flock and one shepherd?” 10:16

9. What claim does Jesus make in 10:30?

- What did the Jews think He meant? :31

- How do you understand His statement? What did He mean by ‘one’?

- What evidence does He give to support His claim? :37-38

10. What is the point Jesus is making in :34-36?

- What can observe about Jesus' view of the Old Testament Scriptures?

11. What are the various responses people are making to Jesus in:

- 10:6
- 19-21
- 24
- 31
- 33
- 39
- 41-42
- What do you think about Jesus? Take some time to tell Him now.

12. How do you think God may want you to respond to the truth found in this chapter?
What do you think God is saying to you!

Memorize Jn 10:10

Lesson 12

John 11

Four days 11:17 “There was a Jewish belief that the soul stays near the grave for three days, hoping to be able to return to the body. But on the fourth day it sees decomposition setting in and leaves it finally.” After that, there was no hope of resuscitation by natural means.

1. Why do you think John stresses Jesus’ love for Lazarus and his sisters in this account? 11:3,5,36
 - a. When we face tragedy or difficulties in our life, what are some of the questions we usually ask of God?

2. Compare 11:4 and 9:3. Is this a frequent truth about affliction or this principle unique to Jesus’ ministry? Consider 2 Cor 12:9,10

3. Despite His love for Lazarus, why doesn’t Jesus go immediately when He learns of the sickness? 11:4-6, 14-15, 25-26, 41-42

4. Jesus’ disciples warn Him that going to Bethany, less than 2 miles from Jerusalem, is highly dangerous 11:8. What is the point Jesus makes in response? 9-10
 - a. What does His answer tell you about Jesus’ character and priorities?

5. How is Jesus glorified by this event? 11:4 In this context, what does it mean to glorify? (Do some word studies on the word 'glory')

6. What is the meaning of Jesus' statement in 25-26. Write it in your own words.
 - a. Do you believe this statement? What difference should your belief make in your life?

 - b. How does this belief make you different from others who do not believe in Jesus?

7. Why do you think Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled (even angered)? :33 (Do some research on the words used here to learn more)
 - a. Why do you think Jesus wept? :35 What does this show you about God?

8. How is Lazarus' resurrection a picture of what Jesus does for all who believe? Consider Eph 2:4,5

9. The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs before His own resurrection. What does it reveal about:

Jesus' character, personality and values. 14-15, 25-26, 33-35, 40-42

Jesus' mission

Jesus' identity 11:25-27, 41-44

10. What implications does this event have for Mary, Martha and you? 25-27, 40-42

11. What did Caiaphas mean in 11:50? What was his reasoning for killing Jesus?

a. Did any of Jesus' opponents try to disprove that a miracle of resurrection had occurred? Why not?

b. What deeper meaning does John discern in his words? 51,52

12. Memorize John 11:25,26

13. What do you think God has been trying to teach or say to you through this study?

Lesson 13
John 12

A pint of pure nard 12:3 A large amount of very expensive scented oil. It was customary to pour such oil on a guest's head on a festive occasion to honor him. To pour it on Jesus' feet was an act of extreme humility, since the feet symbolized lowliness. Only a menial slave would clean someone's feet. In addition, Mary wiped his feet with her hair, which Jews considered to be a woman's glory (1 Cor 11:15). "A Jewish lady never unbound her hair in public. To do so was a mark of loose morals."

1. Why do you think Mary did this? Do you think she knew what was about to take place? Why or why not?
 - a. What do you think she was trying to show Jesus?
 - b. What did this act cost her?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus attached such special significance to this act? See Mt 26:13

palm branches 12:13 These had "political overtones" - they were carried when the Temple was liberated from the Syrians in 164 BC and again in 142BC. They symbolized kingship, victory and nationalism. They shouted Hosanna, a term of praise to God and of greeting to kings. They quoted the acclamation for the Messiah in Ps 118:26, *blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord* and they added another title, the King of Israel.

donkey 12:14,15 What was the significance of Jesus riding on a donkey? Use your Bible dictionary and concordance to research this. You can start with Zech 9:9-13.

2. What was the crowd proclaiming about Jesus' identity as He entered Jerusalem?
 - a. Why did the crowd welcome Jesus like this?
 - b. Why did Jesus now accept this acclaim when He had previously rejected it?
6:15

3. What impresses you most about the scene in 12:12-19? (For instance, what details strike you as most significant or personally relevant? Why is the scene important? What do you think John wants to teach or reinforce to his readers? How does the scene make you feel?)

4. What events do you think Jesus was referring to in vs 23 when He said the hour has come for Him to be glorified?
 - a. How did the above events glorify the Father and the Son? 23, 27-28

 - b. What would you say is Jesus' central purpose in life?

5. Write out verses 24-26 in your own words as best you can.

6. Jesus says that what is true for Him is true for His servant. In what specific ways is verses 24-26 relevant to you?
 - a. What does it mean for you to die?

 - b. What does it look like when someone loves their own life?

 - c. What does it mean to hate one's own life?

 - d. What reward is promised to those who follow Him?

7. In what different ways did people respond to Jesus? :37,42,43

:44 *Jesus cried out* - The words that follow are Jesus' last public statements before His crucifixion.

8. How would you summarize Jesus' final appeal? What does He say about:

His identity

His mission

those who reject Him and His Words

9. What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you have studied in the chapter?

Broken Vases by Ken Gire Take some time to meditate this week on this poem.

The aroma of extravagant love. So pure. So lovely. Flowing from the veined alabaster vase of Mary's broken heart - A heart broken against the hard reality of her Savior's imminent death. Mingled with tears, the perfume became - by some mysterious chemistry of Heaven - not diluted but more concentrated, potent enough behind the ears of each century for the scent to linger to this day. Doubtless, the fragrance, absorbed by His garment, as it flowed from his head, accompanied Christ through the humiliation of His trials, the indignity of his mockings, the pain of His beatings, the inhumanity of His cross. Through the heavy smell of sweat and blood, a hint of that fragrance must have arisen from His garment - until, at shameful last, the garment was stripped and gambled away. And maybe, just maybe, it was the scent amid the stench of humanity rabbled around the cross, that gave the Savior the strength to say: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And as Mary walked away from the cross, the same scent probably still lingered in the now-limp hair she used to dry the Savior's feet - a reminder of the love that spilled from His broken alabaster body. So pure. So lovely. So truly extravagant. It was a vase He never regretted breaking. Nor did she.

Lesson 14
John 13

On Sunday the crowds had welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as their King. It is now Thursday evening, the day before His death, and Jesus still had much more to say to His disciples.

1. As this scene begins, John reminds us of some things that Jesus knows. What are they?
 - a. 13:1
 - b. 13:2
 - c. 13:3 (What do you think the phrase, all things under His power, refers to?)
2. What did Jesus' knowledge compel Him to do? 13:1-5
 - How did Jesus show them His love?

Washed his disciples' feet 13:5 This was a menial task. A guest's feet were usually washed on arrival at the host's home - certainly before the meal - by a servant, but Jesus did it in the midst of the meal to make a point.

3. Why do you think Peter objects to what Jesus is doing?
 - Why does Jesus insist that Peter needs Jesus to wash his feet? What point is Jesus making?
 - How were the disciples already made clean? :10 Look for some cross references to answer this question.
4. The foot washing has several lessons for the disciples. What lessons or meanings does Jesus state in ...

13:8-10

13:12-17

 - Is there someone in your life right now that God wants you to wash their feet in any way? Who is it and what do you need to do?

5. Jesus knew who He was, where He was from, where He was going, and what power and authority He had. 13:3 Do you fully know these about yourself? Explain.
 - Washing others feet could result in either pride (in being such a good servant) or resentment (having to do such dirty work). Why does knowing these things about yourself make it possible for you to wash others' feet without pride or resentment?
6. Where does Jesus say true happiness (blessed) comes from? 13:17
7. Why did Jesus predict the betrayal to His disciples, but in a veiled manner? 13:3,19
8. What do you think was Jesus' attitude toward Judas at this time? Was He bitter, angry, resentful, hurt or what? 13:12, 21,26 What does this teach you about God?
9. Knowing what Judas and Peter are about to do, Jesus gives His "new commandment." What is new about it? Look at Lev 19:18. How did Jesus show His love to Peter and Judas? What application does this have for us?
10. How does foot washing help to explain this commandment?
11. Why is this commandment so crucial for Christians to keep? 13:35 Why do you think love is such a powerful witness?
12. What are some practical ways that you can "wash one another's feet" in our culture and ministry today?

Lesson 15
John 14 – 16

Jesus' time left on earth with His disciples is now very short - just hours remain before His arrest. Jesus now teaches them about some critical issues before His departure.

1. What are the main themes that Jesus talks about in these chapters? What title would you give them?

- John 14

- John 15

- John 16

2. What can you learn about the Holy Spirit from these chapters? How is He described, what will He do? Why does Jesus send Him?

- The Greek word that we translate into Holy Spirit is parakletos. What does this word mean?

- What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you lately?

3. What do you think it means to ask in Jesus' name? 14:14

4. In what ways is Jesus the way?

- the truth
- the life

5. How does Jesus answer Judas' question about why He intends to show Himself to them and not to the whole world? 14:22

6. State in your own words the relationship between love and obedience?

- How is Jesus an example of this for us? 14:15,16,21,23,31
- What are the results of obedience?

7. What does Jesus say we are not to do? 14:1,27; 16:33

- Are you trusting in God for your life and future? In what areas do you struggle with trusting God?
- How is the peace that Jesus offers different from that of the world?

8. What promises does Jesus make to His disciples? 14:2,3; 14:12, 13-14, 16:5-7

- What do you think are the greater things that Jesus says we will do?

9. What does the word 'remain' mean as it is used in John 15. Do a word study and record what you find.

- What does it mean practically for you to remain in Christ?

10. From studying these chapters (15 and 16), what does it mean to bear fruit for God? What does this fruit look like?

- In what ways are Christians like branches of Him?
- What are the consequences of not producing fruit?
- What is the secret of producing fruit?
- What do you think is God's purpose for your life?

11. According to Jn 15:9-27 what can a person who is dependent on Christ expect in return?

12. What one thing do you think God wants you to learn and apply to your life from these chapters today?

Lesson 16
John 17

give, given, granted - used 17 times in this chapter alone!

know - :3,25 What does this word mean?

sanctify - :17-19 What does this word mean.

1. Who does Jesus pray for and what does He pray for each?

17:1-5

17:6-19

17:20-26

2. What things has the Father given to Jesus? :2,4,6,8,11

3. How does Jesus define what eternal life means? :3 How does this differ from the more literal understanding of this phrase?

4. How is Jesus a model for us in doing ministry? What did He do? :6,9,8,12,18-19,26

5. What do you think was the work that Jesus had completed? :4 Why do you say this? Use verses from the book of John.

6. Why was Jesus sent into the world? :18

- What does this tell us about God's purpose for our lives?
- Why doesn't Jesus pray for the world? :9, 18,21,23

7. Why is unity among believers, the Father, and the Son so crucial? 17:21,23

8. What would you say is most on Jesus' heart as He prepares to leave this earth?

9. What do you think God is saying to you from this chapter? What should you do?