

Hope Today
January – April 2022

Daily Study

for Program Series



discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Week 12: March 21-25

The following series of daily readings, questions, and prayers have been designed by Pastor Tom Cullen to lead up to the program for the coming week. There are five daily studies for each week. Allow about 20 minutes a day to complete each one.

A video that will take you deeper into the text is available at lightnlife.ca

Program Schedule
Discovering Jesus

March 27 - Discovering Jesus in an act of service
(John 13:1-17)

Welcome to week 12 of the Discovering Jesus series!

As we move from chapter 12 to chapter 13 in the gospel of John we notice that there is a change of focus. Jesus is no longer talking with the crowds in the public places but is speaking only to His disciples in the privacy of an upper room. So John begins a new section of his gospel, often referred to as "Jesus' private ministry" or the "upper room discourse".

This section runs from 13:1-17:26. Here, we will witness Jesus instructing His disciples about His death and resurrection. To understand the attitude that the disciples have at this point it **would be helpful to read Matthew 20:20-28 and Luke 22:24-27.** Clearly, they have a different set of priorities from our Lord who takes a towel and washes their dirty feet.

Program Series Study Guide

discovering Jesus
a study of The Gospel of John

Monday

Read

❖ John 13:1-17

Study

1. According to verses 1, 3 and 11 what does Jesus know?
How is Jesus' work different from the work of the devil in verses 1 and 2?

2. What is the connection between what Jesus knows about the future and what He does for the disciples?

3. Why does Peter refuse Jesus' offer to wash his feet? What is Jesus' attitude toward Peter's refusal? Why is Jesus able to cleanse like no other (*verse 8b*)?

4. Jesus says to Peter, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean." (*verse 10 a*)
Write that verse in your own words.

5. What two names does Jesus accept for Himself in verse 13?
What is Jesus trying to teach His disciples? (*verse 14*)

Reflect

- ❖ Place yourself in the room with the disciples and Jesus. How do you react as Jesus takes off your sandals and begins to wash your feet?

Pray

- ❖ Begin your prayer with a prayer of confession. Take time to confess sins that come to mind – is there a sin of pride? Is there a sin of status seeking? Know that Jesus is the One who is able to cleanse you from all sin.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 13:34,35

Read

❖ John 13:18-30

Study

1. In verse 18 Jesus quotes Psalm 41:9. What is Jesus saying about Himself? In verse 19 Jesus says, "I am He." This can be taken as an everyday expression or it can bring to mind the name of God. Look up Isaiah 41:4 and 43:10. Do you see a connection?

2. What does verse 20 say about the calling of the disciples?

3. Describe the disciples' reaction to the news that one of them will betray Jesus. Are they still concerned about status? Verse 24 clearly shows that they recognize the fact that Jesus knows them better than they know themselves?

4. Giving a piece of bread dipped in wine to anyone was a sign of honour and goodwill. What was Jesus doing then for Judas? What does Judas do? How do the disciples react?

Notes

- ❖ verse 27 "Judas received the [piece of bread] but not the love. Instead of breaking him and urging him to contrition, it hardened his resolve. At that point Satan entered into him: the expression probably signifies thorough possession."¹

Reflect

- ❖ Think of the horror of sin and the wonder of Jesus' love. Consider how this passage shows how a demonstration of

¹ D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1991) 475.

Jesus' love can make a hard heart even harder, instead of softer and repentant. What do you think of that?

Pray

- ❖ Ask God for a soft heart and allow yourself to pray this prayer as your own:

“O God, our Father, save us from these thoughts and feelings which only succeed in making life wretched and unhappy for ourselves and for others.

Save us from foolish discontent, and help us at all times to do the best we can with the resources we have.

Save us from the envy which forgets to count its own blessings, because it thinks so much of those of others.

Save us from the jealousy which grudges others every gift and every success.

Save us from vain regrets about things which cannot be altered; and give us grace to accept the situation in which we are, and there to serve Thee with our whole heart.

Save us from the bitterness which poisons life for ourselves and for others.

So grant that, cleansed from self and cleansed from sin, our lives may bring joy to others and contentment to ourselves: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”²

Memory Verse for the Week

John 13:34,35

² William Barclay, *The Plain Man's Book of Prayers* (Great Britain: Fontana Books, 1959) 50.

Read

❖ John 13:31-38

Study

1. With the leaving of Judas the tone of the passage changes. What is now going to happen?

2. Jesus speaks of His glorification in verses 31-32. What is He referring to? (see John 12:23, 24, 31-33) What does He say about it?

3. It appears that Jesus is preparing His disciples for what is about to happen. What does He tell them? What will happen if the disciples do as Jesus commands? (*verse 35*)

4. What concerns Peter in verses 36-37? Do you think he is still vying for position in the kingdom?

Reflect

❖ List all the ways that Jesus has loved you. Is this how you love others?

Pray

❖ Pray for those who have hurt you and mistreated you. Ask God to take away from your heart all suspiciousness, anger, and any other feeling that seek to wound and hurt another. Pray that Christ's love for you will be your love for others.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 13:34,35

Reading

❖ John 14:1-14

Study

1. What does Jesus offer to the disciples in response to their “troubled hearts”? (verses 1-4)?

2. What does Thomas say in response to Jesus’ words? Where is Jesus going? (*verse 6*) How would you explain Jesus’ four claims (*verse 6*) to a friend?

3. Do you think Jesus’ words in verse 7 answers the claim, “Jesus was a good man but He never claimed to be God?”

4. In verses 9 and 10 Jesus asks a series of questions. How would you respond to each? What do the words and works of Jesus reveal about Him?

5. What promises does Jesus make in verses 12 - 14? What do you think it means to “ask in Jesus’ name”?

Reflect

- ❖ What is the most important thing Jesus is saying to you in this text today?

Pray

- ❖ Is there something for which you have prayed but have given up? Perhaps you need to bring that to God again and listen carefully to His voice. What does He say? Are there changes that need to happen in your life for that prayer to be answered? Are you praying according to His name? Talk to God about it.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 13:34,35

Friday

Read

❖ John 14:15-31

Study

1. Jesus focuses a great deal on obedience in this passage (*verses 15, 21, 23, 24*). What does Jesus say is the motivation for obedience? (*verses 15, 21, 23*) What are the results of obeying Jesus?

2. List six things that Jesus says about the Holy Spirit in verses 16 and 17. What will the disciples experience when the Holy Spirit comes? (*verses 19, 20, 26, 27*)

3. List all the names given to the Holy Spirit in this passage.
Is this how you know Him?

4. What does Jesus promise to give the disciples in response to their distress? (*verse 27*) How would you describe this peace? How is it different from the world's peace?

5. What does Jesus tell us about His death in verses 30-31?
Who is the prince of this world that Jesus is referring to?

Notes

- ❖ *Holy Spirit* “Remember there is one God, existing in three Persons. Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. The Holy Spirit is God indwelling the believer. This is the mystery of the Trinity. Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit interchangeably with Himself and with His Father. The unity of the Godhead is not a mathematical unity, but an organic one.

Our problem in understanding the Trinity is that we want to say: $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$. Things which are separable from one another do require addition. However, in mathematical terms, when things indwell one another, as length, breadth and height mutually indwell space, we can only multiply them. The three Persons of the Trinity are revealed in the Bible as mutually indwelling. Thus $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$.³

Reflect

- ❖ What do the promises Jesus makes in verses 18 and 19 mean to you?

³ Gladys Hunt, *John: Eyewitness* (Wheaton, Illinois: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1971) 67.

Pray

- ❖ Do you know the peace that Jesus offers? If so, give thanks for His peace. If not, pray that you would know the fullness of His peace today.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 13:34,35

Additional Notes
