

Hope Today
January – April 2022

Daily Study

for Program Series



discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Week 11: March 14 - 18

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 20 - Discovering Jesus in a parade (John 12:12-19)

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

April 3 - Discovering Jesus at Prayer (John 17:1-8)

April 10 - Discovering Jesus on Trial (John 18:28-40)

April 17 - Discovering Jesus in the resurrection
(John 20:1-18)

April 24 - Discovering Jesus in second chances (John 21)

Hope Today Winter/Spring 2022

Program Series Study Guide

discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Monday

Read

❖ John 12:1-8

Study

1. Describe the scene at the dinner party. Who is there? What would be the mood??

2. Why did Mary do what she does?

3. Contrast her attitude with Judas' attitude.

4. How does Jesus interpret Mary's actions?

Reflect

- ❖ Consider your love for our Lord. How far does your love for the Lord lead you to giving yourself to Him with reckless abandon?

Pray

- ❖ *"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name."* (Psalm 103:1) Begin your prayer with heartfelt praise.

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Memory Verse for the Week

John 12:25

Tuesday

Read

❖ John 12:9-19

Study

1. What moves the crowd to greet Jesus as they did?

2. How did the crowd welcome Jesus? What did they call him?

3. Why is this demonstration significant? (*verse 16*)

4. Why do you think Jesus participates in this “parade” and even seems to foster it?

5. Jesus rides on a donkey into the city. Look up Zechariah 9:9 to discover the significance of this act.

6. What fears and plans do the Pharisees have? (See John 11:47,48, 53, 57; John 12:10, 11, 19) Why is Lazarus also in danger?

Notes

- ❖ John 12:13 Hosanna is not so much an expression of praise as it is a plea meaning, “save now”. They marry this plea with a shout of praise (Psalm 118) that is traditionally sung at the Passover. Clearly the people are asking Jesus to act and save them from their oppressors as they link Jesus with the promised Messiah. It’s interesting to reflect on how the crowds were more right than they knew.
- ❖ John 12:13 *they took palm branches* “Ever since the days of the Maccabees, palm branches had been used by the Jews as symbols of victory. When the Jews celebrated the rededication of their temple in 164 B.C. the rejoicing people in the procession waved palm branches. When the Jews gained full independence under Simon in 141 B.C., they waved palm leaves.... Thus here, the pilgrims waved palm leaves as they cheered. The messiah was coming.”¹
- ❖ John 12:14 Kings in the Old Testament often would ride donkeys into town when they were on a mission of peace. Horses were only used for battle and to declare victory.

Reflect

- ❖ Think of how Jesus is the King of Kings. Have you welcomed Him into your life and asked Him to take His rightful place on the throne of your heart?

Pray

“Show us, good Lord,
the peace we should seek,
the peace we must give,
the peace we can keep,
the peace we must forgo,
and the peace you have given in Jesus our Lord.” ²

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring the Gospels, John* (Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux Brothers, 1989) 231.

² George Appleton, *The Oxford Book of Prayer* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988) 80.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 12:25

Wednesday

Read

❖ John 12:20-26

Study

1. The word “hour” appears again and again in the gospel of John (see John 2:4; 4:21, 23; 7:30; 8:30). What is this hour that Jesus is referring to? Notice how the hour in the passages listed was always a future prospect. Now it is an immediate event.

2. The coming of the Greeks triggers something for Jesus. They appear to be a sign that “the hour has come.” Why do you think that is? How does Jesus illustrate what is about to happen at the hour?

3. Jesus speaks of a grain of wheat falling to the ground and dying. What does this say to you about following Jesus?
(See also verse 26)

Reflect

- ❖ What do you think it means to “love your life”; to “hate your life”? Make two lists: one demonstrating how we can practically love our lives and the other how we can practically hate our lives. How are you doing in the “hate your life” department?

Pray

- ❖ Ask God to show you ways in which you can continue to die to self and live for Him.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 12:25

Reading

❖ John 12:27-36

Study

1. Describe the difference between the two prayers that Jesus offers (verse 28). Which one does He prefer?

2. How does the crowd respond to the voice? (verse 29)

3. How does Jesus describe His death? (verses 31,32) What promise does He make that includes the Greeks? (see verse 20)

4. What is the crowd's reaction to Jesus' words? (*verse 34*)

5. What is Jesus' final warning to them in verses 35 and 36?

Notes

- ❖ This is Jesus' last recorded interview with the people in the Gospel of John. Notice that shortly after they eagerly proclaimed Him as King, the last tragic question they ask Jesus is, "Who is this Son of man? Or "Who are you?" They want to talk about raising the dead and political deliverance, and Jesus talks about crucifixion.
- ❖ Verse 34 The crowd clearly misunderstands Jesus. If Jesus is the Messiah how can He die? They are indirectly quoting Psalm 110:4 as their proof that this cannot be. A crucified king is not what they want; they want someone who offers political deliverance and raises the dead.

Reflect

- ❖ Write out verse 35 and 36a in your own words without using the metaphor of light and darkness.

Pray

- ❖ Let the words of Scripture guide your prayer: *“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant ... His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His right arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.”*
(Luke 1:46-52)

Memory Verse for the Week

John 12:25

Read

❖ John 12:37-50

Study

1. How is the prophecy from Isaiah being fulfilled in Jesus' day?

2. Do you think it's possible for God to be the cause of people's "blind eyes" and "dead hearts"? How?

3. Why did some Pharisees refuse to confess faith in Christ? Do you think this kind of situation happens today?

4. Verses 44-50 are Jesus' last words to the crowd. What does Jesus say about Himself? Why is acceptance of Christ so important? What will judge us? (*verses 47-48*)

Reflect

- ❖ Think about the danger of seeing, yet not believing (verse 37), and the danger of believing and yet not confessing or committing (verse 42). Where are you at?

Pray

- ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to come and search your heart today. Specifically ask Him to search out any area in which you are seeing but not believing, believing but not committing.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 12:25

