

GLORY

JOHN 11-15



JOHN 11-15

Term 1	Passage	Preaching date
Week 1	John 11:1-44 The Lord of Life	5 February
Week 2	John 11:45-12:11 The Plot against the Saviour	12 February
Week 3	John 12:12-36 The Hour has Come	19 February
Week 4	John 12:37-50 The Message Rejected	26 February
Week 5	John 13:1-17 The Great Washing	5 March
Week 6	John 13:18-38 The Saviour Disowned	12 March
Week 7	John 14:1-14 The Way to the Father	19 March
Week 8	John 14:15-31 The Coming Spirit	26 March
Week 9	John 15:1-16 The Vine and the Branches	2 April

The Bible in a Year

Week	Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
1	John 11:1-44	Judges 4 & 5	Psalms 57
2	John 11:45-12:11	Judges 6:1-7:8	Psalms 58
3	John 12:12-36	Judges 7:8-8	Psalms 59
4	John 12:37-50	Judges 9	Psalms 60
5	John 13:1-17	Judges 10-11	Psalms 61
6	John 13:18-38	Judges 12-13	Psalms 62
7	John 13:36-14:14	Judges 14-15	Psalms 63
8	John 14:15-31	Judges 16-17	Psalms 64
9	John 15:1-36	Judges 18-19	Psalms 65

TERM 1 2023

What is the goal of these notes?

The goal is to grow your ability to read the bible. Bible reading is essential to Christian growth and survival but it's a skill that only develops with practice. Indeed because of the spiritual apathy that's part of our fallen nature the desire to read only grows with practice! The bible is an extraordinary book. It has changed people, nations and the flow of history. That's unsurprising since it's God's book and contains God's wisdom for life. Yet, bible reading in some ways is no different to reading any other book. These notes will assist you in developing skills which will increasingly enable you to feed yourself from the bible and help others do the same.

Three ways to use these notes

1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. Growth Groups

- Use the section at the end of each week to prepare for your Growth Group
- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

JOHN 11-15

John's Gospel

John is the last of the four gospels to be written. It is unique among the four gospels in its structure, content and style. Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the Synoptic Gospels because they share a similar structure and content to each other but much of the content of John is unique.

John records very little of Jesus' ministry in the north, in Galilee, but focuses on the south, particularly around Jerusalem. John's style is also very different, making much more of the spiritual significance or symbolism surrounding events, such as the symbolism of light and dark as seen in events involving Nicodemus and Judas (3:19, 20; 13:30).

While the other gospels record the miracles of Jesus and only occasionally make their significance explicit, John takes us far deeper, viewing many of these events in the light of the Old Testament to draw out a far more profound theology of Jesus and who He is.

Some have said of his gospel that it is like a pool, shallow enough for a child to play but deep enough for an elephant to swim. Prayerfully reflecting on John's gospel will deepen your faith and enable you to appreciate more fully the implications of the truth about Jesus so you experience in fuller measure the life of the kingdom and the certainty of the age to come.

3-1-1 Prayer

We all care for friends and family who don't know Jesus and this should be reflected in our prayers. List below the names of 3 such people you can be praying for once a week for one minute.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

THE LORD OF LIFE

Week 1: Day 1

READ JOHN 11:1-16

As John 10 ended, Jesus had retreated from Jerusalem to the place where John had baptised a few years before ie Bethany (John 1:28) Now, called by His friends, he returns to their village, also called Bethany! But this isn't the same place as in 1:28. It is a village just 3km's east of Jerusalem.

1. List the various truths you learn or infer about Jesus in these verses.

Some rabbinic sources believed that the spirit of a deceased person hovered around the body for 3 days after death and might possibly re-enter them. Jesus' delay takes this possibility out of the equation. Lazarus was truly dead!

2. Jesus is taking a risk in heading back toward Jerusalem. His disciples clearly don't want to. What reasons does the passage appear to give for Jesus' decision to do so?

3. Courage in pursuing His mission is a hallmark of Jesus' character. In what ways would greater courage impact your part in the gospel mission?

PRAY: In turbulent times for the gospel, we need God's help to be courageous. Ask your Father for this now.

WEEK 1: JOHN 11:1-44

Day 2

READ JOHN 11:17-27

A number of factors suggest that Lazarus' family were prominent and probably wealthy. In v 19 many "Jews" had come to console them- most likely from Jerusalem. And in John 12:3, the expense of the perfume Mary pours on Jesus' feet, conveys the same impression.

1. Human faith can be inconsistent. Compare Martha's words in v 24 with those in v 39. What do these two statements reveal about her faith?

2. "I am the resurrection and the life." (v 25) What would a first century Jew understand about this from the following old testament passages. The first has been done for you:

- Ezekiel 37:1-14, 24:

The Messiah will bring a time of "resurrection" and renewal for the people of Israel; they will return to their land; it will be a work of the Holy Spirit

- Isaiah 25:6-9

- Daniel 12:1-3

When Messiah came he'd bring the resurrection age- the age of restoration. When Jesus speaks of the "life" he means "resurrection life" (5:24)

3. Here's a tough one. Jesus' words in v's 25 & 26 are stunning. Try to put them in your own words.

PRAY: Jesus' promise in v's 25 & 26 are full of hope. Pray for yourself and others to experience His resurrection life.

THE LORD OF LIFE

Day 3

READ JOHN 11:25-37

One of the greatest blessings of the gospel records is the opportunity to see in Jesus, how God the Son Himself, might respond to the various circumstances of life. How for example would He respond to death? Does our response correspond with His? Custom dictated that even a poor Jewish family would hire at least one professional wailing woman and two flute players.

1. What prompts each of Jesus' reactions in verses 33 and 38?

2. The original language of v 33 is captured best by the Amplified Version. Google the Amplified rendering of John 11:33. Using this, try to explain Jesus' emotion?

After Jesus had deliberately delayed before coming to Lazarus' aid, it may seem strange and even hypocritical for Him to weep.

3. Explain how a Christian view of death might differ from a worldly view? Why might we weep at a funeral?

PRAY: Pray that in all things you might be increasingly shaped by the worldview of Jesus especially in regard to life and death.

WEEK 1: JOHN 11:1-44

Day 4

READ JOHN 11:38-44

1. Consider the occasions in this passage on which Jesus speaks. What impression is conveyed about Him in each?

- V 39
- V 40
- V 41,42
- V 43
- V 44

2. What do you learn about Jesus and His prayers in v's 41 & 42 (see also v 11 & John 5:19-21)

3. How might witnessing Jesus' prayer affect your own prayer life?

PRAY: Prayer is the great gift of a kind heavenly Father. Jesus' example is a rebuke to our own independent attitude. Ask God to make your prayer life more like that of His Son.

THE LORD OF LIFE

Day 5

READ JOHN 11:1-44

1. "Glory" is the major theme of this passage. List all the verses where it is found.
2. With the central theme of "the glory of God", jot down the various ideas associated with it in this chapter.
3. The glory of God is seen when people are drawn to put greater and greater hope in Jesus. How can you more intentionally pursue God's glory today?
This year?

PRAY: You were created for God's glory which is seen pre-eminently in God's Son and in the work of God's Son. Ask God to help you live in such a way as to magnify that glory.

WEEK 1: JOHN 11:1-44

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. List the various truths you learn or infer about Jesus in v's 1-16? (Day 1 Q1)

2. "Deeply moved in Spirit and troubled."(v 33, 38) How would you describe Jesus true emotion here? (Day 3 Q2)

3. The glory of God is seen when people are drawn to put greater and greater hope in Jesus. How can you more intentionally pursue God's glory today? This year? (Day 5 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 2: JOHN 11:45-12:11

Week 2: Day 1

The division of the people over Jesus has been a constant theme in this gospel. This is no surprise since in every era, Jesus is a figure who creates division but not because His character is intrinsically divisive. So why? Today is a good example.

READ JOHN 11:45-57 & JOHN 10:22-33

1. What are the various reactions to Jesus in:

- John 11:45-57?

- John 10:22-33?

2. It has been said that, "Nobody can be neutral about Jesus." Why might this be so?

PRAY: Consider your 3-1-1 friends and pray that God will show them Jesus as He really is.

THE PLOT AGAINST THE SAVIOUR

Day 2

READ JOHN 7:1-13 & 11:1-14 & 54

As a result of the opposition created by the raising of Lazarus, (11:54) “Jesus no longer moved about publicly” but withdrew to Ephraim. (probably about 20 kms from Jerusalem) Jesus knew that he was to die on the cross at Passover time so He made His decisions with care. It’s helpful to consider the factors that determined when he retreated or actively pursued His Judean ministry.

1. In John 7, what were the causes of division?

Having retreated at the end of John 10, (see v’s 39,40) Jesus, to the surprise of His disciples, decided to return in 11:7 in order to raise Lazarus. It is a strange reversal- but why?

2. Compare Jesus’ prayer in John 11:41,42 with His statements about Lazarus in verses 4-14. Has He learned from the Father?

3. Jesus was wise, courageous and prayerful in the choices He made about His mission. In what ways do we need wisdom in the mission? In what ways do we need more courage?

PRAY: We have one short life to honour God in the mission He’s given us. Pray for both wisdom and courage.

WEEK 2: JOHN 11:45-12:11

Day 3

READ JOHN 11:49-53

Although our atheistic friends may beg to differ, a godless world will almost certainly develop ethics which are based on pragmatism not principle. Ironically, this is what we see today from Caiaphas.

1. What has Caiaphas understood rightly about Jesus' substitutionary death? What has he understood wrongly? (see 1:29)

Although he was the high priest and hence one of God's representatives before the people, Caiaphas, at least in this example, was motivated by pure pragmatism.

2. Prophecy is a topic that intrigues and perhaps troubles us. What do you learn about it from these few verses?

3. Who do you think John means when he speaks here of the "scattered children of God"? (see 10:16)

In the old testament, the "scattered children of God" was a reference to Jews scattered by the Assyrian war or the Babylonian exile. (Ezekiel 34:12)

PRAY: Prophecy can come from the most surprising places! Ask God to enable your conversation to be always full of grace & seasoned with salt (Col 4:6) and on occasions that it might be prophetic. A useful, God-given word in season.

THE PLOT AGAINST THE SAVIOUR

Day 4

READ JOHN 11:55-12:11

In chapter 12 Jesus returns to Bethany, drawing near again and for the last time to the place in which He knows He will be persecuted and killed.

1. Various responses to Jesus can be found in these verses. List and try to classify them.

2. It's possible to be intrigued by and even attracted to Jesus but not be willing to commit to Him. What might this look like in our day and age?

3. How would you help such a person come to a clearer faith?

PRAY: Pray for yourself that God will grant you a discerning faith and the ability to help others grow in this.

WEEK 2: JOHN 11:45-12:11

Day 5

READ JOHN 12:1-8

Martha was almost certainly the older sister and Mary the younger. This would account for Martha's leadership, initiative and sense of responsibility. Yet in John's account, something other than responsibility is indicated by the author as being worthy of our attention.

1. What attributes of Mary contrast her with all others who appear in this account? (These sisters appear together in Luke's gospel. Use google or your cross references to add to your portrait of Mary)

2. Judas' objection is not surprising. The perfume was worth about a year's wages! But in what respect(s) is his objection a warning to us?

3. Nobody could begrudge concern for the poor. Yet what principle is captured by Jesus' surprising rebuke? How might it apply to you?

PRAY: An overdeveloped sense of responsibility can surprisingly be the enemy of true devotion. Pray that God will give you both, along with the discernment to know how to apply them.

THE PLOT AGAINST THE SAVIOUR

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What are the various reactions to Jesus in John 11:45-57? (Day 1 Q1)

2. What attributes of Mary contrast her with all others who appear in this account? (Day 5 Q1)

3. Nobody could begrudge concern for the poor. Yet what principle is captured by Jesus' surprising rebuke? (Day 5 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

THE HOUR HAS COME

Week 3: Day 1

READ JOHN 12:12-22

Old Testament quotations are an excellent guide to a New Testament author's point. Yet it is not simply the quote but the original context of a quote which provides the insight we need.

1. What indications are there of Jesus' popularity in these verses?

2. Psalm 118 is quoted in v 13. It was often sung at Israel's feasts such as Passover. Find which verses have been quoted and what the crowd's interpretation caused them to add.

Palm branches are not mentioned in Psalm 118 but by this point in Israel's history they had become a nationalistic symbol.

3. Jesus deliberately "found a young donkey and sat on it."(v 14) Determine where the following quote is from and when you find it, read to the end of that chapter. What personal claims was Jesus making by fulfilling this passage?

PRAY: In the week which followed Jesus' triumphal entry, the genuineness of the people's faith was shown by their response. Ask God to produce in you all the signs of genuine faith especially courage and perseverance.

WEEK 3: JOHN 12:12-36

Day 2

READ JOHN 12:17-26

The appearance in v 20 of “some Greeks who went up to worship” is a signal for Jesus that His hour had come. (v 23) Isaiah’s servant songs may well have been in His mind.

1. In what respect were the Greeks a contrast to the Pharisees?

2. Death and fruitfulness are bound together in this passage. Consider Isaiah 52:13-15. What ideas does it share with what John records? (see also John 12:32ff)

3. If we’re to live fruitful lives, Jesus is the pattern. In these verses, what is required of us and what might that mean for you?

PRAY: What a statement! “My Father will honour the one who serves me.” (v 26) What a privilege to long for! Pray that God will give you the willingness, the awareness and the energy to live such a life.

THE HOUR HAS COME

Day 3

READ JOHN 12:27-33

1. The appearance of the Greeks in v 20 was a signal for Jesus. What events on God's timetable were set in train by this?
2. Given that the heavenly voice in v 28 was largely (but probably not entirely) for the crowd's benefit, what can you infer about Jesus' state of mind at this point?
3. In what sense was Satan "driven out" by the events of the cross? (Colossians 2:14,15; Hebrews 2:14,15)

PRAY: Jesus' death involved an immense act of determined consecration and while we might say it was done out of love for us, the overarching motive was a longing to see the Father's name glorified. Pray that God might grow that same desire in us!

WEEK 3: JOHN 12:12-36

Day 4

READ JOHN 12:34-36

How lonely Jesus' experience must have been, that nobody but the Father could understand His mission or His identity? Not the disciples, certainly not the religious authorities and not the crowds of His own people Israel. The Son of Man was that little known, divine identity seen only in Daniel 7:13.

1. From your vantage point on this side of the cross, how would you answer the crowd's question in v 34?
2. Jesus is the light. (8:12) Knowing this, try to paraphrase His words in v's 35 & 36.
3. In these verses there is something inevitable and overpowering about the darkness which requires urgency in the way we walk and live. Is this a word for the unbeliever, the believer or both? Explain.

PRAY: The light Jesus gives is essential for living His life to the full. (John 10:10) Pray for a desire to increasingly know Jesus so that you can make the most of this life to the glory of God.

THE HOUR HAS COME

Day 5

READ JOHN 12:12-36

1. The major idea of this passage is arguably the centrality of the cross. With this as your starting point in the middle of the page, sketch a diagram to show how the other ideas in the passage relate to it.

PRAY: The cross was the purpose of Jesus' earthly life; (v 27) it dictated Paul's entire ministry; (1 Corinthians 2:2) it will be the reason for our celebration in eternity! (Revelation 5:9,10) Praise God for the gift of His Son in the cross. Pray for a deepening appreciation of it.

WEEK 3: JOHN 12:12-36

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What indications are there of Jesus' popularity in these verses? (Day 1 Q1)

2. If we're to live fruitful lives, Jesus is the pattern. In these verses, what is required of us? (Day 2 Q3)

3. What might that mean for you? (Day 2 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 4: JOHN 12:37-50

Jesus was the greatest and wisest evangelist we know. Nobody else who's ever lived had the capacity to think on their feet like Him. Nobody else knew the scriptures like Him. Never stuck for a word, never baffled by a question, never intimidated by a tough crowd, never lacking in compassion or prayer. Yet this week reveals the stunning immediate result of His ministry.

Week 4: Day 1

READ JOHN 12:37-43

1. Wholesale disbelief was the overwhelming result of Jesus' immediate ministry. (See also John 3:32) What reasons are given for this in these verses? What does this suggest?
2. The wording of v 39 is stunning and troubling if misunderstood. "they could not believe...because He has blinded their eyes." How does Romans 1:18-24,26,28 help to resolve this?
3. What conclusions should we draw from this about evangelism?

PRAY: Hopelessly enslaved by our own willful sin, we need a God who will mercifully open our eyes and hearts. Pray now for your 3-1-1 contacts that God will do this for them and give thanks that He did it for you.

THE MESSAGE REJECTED

Day 2

READ JOHN 12:37-43 & ISAIAH 6:1-13

How easily sin deludes us into thinking that God is at our mercy and we may choose to believe in Him if our intellect and will decide that He is worthy of it. The reality of the truth of God's judicial hardening and merciful enlivening puts a stop to all of that. He is the king who offers life. Be quick to hear and respond.

1. Isaiah 6 describes Isaiah's own commission to preach to sinful and stubborn people. Describe the God-ordained result of his preaching.

2. If that was the case why did God bother to send Isaiah to preach?

3. According to John 12:42,43 what other reason is given for the unbelief of the people? What light does this shed on the causes of unbelief?

PRAY: The scriptures are filled with difficult truths to which we may respond too quickly and rashly by blaming God. Pray for patience and trust in your bible reading so that you'll grow in wisdom and confidence in the goodness of God.

WEEK 4: JOHN 12:37-50

Day 3

READ JOHN 12:37-46

1. Verse 41 raises a striking truth: That Isaiah saw the glory of the pre-incarnate Jesus. Where did he see this? (See Isaiah 6:1-7 & Isaiah 53)

2. If Isaiah 6 is the passage in John's mind, what does this suggest about Jesus' personhood?

3. How is this truth drawn out in v's 44 & 45?

PRAY: The scriptures don't make sense apart from the deity of Jesus but what an awesome truth it is that the Father gave His own divine Son for us! Praise Him for this and therefore be stirred to declare the gospel.

THE MESSAGE REJECTED

Day 4

READ JOHN 12:44-50

1. "The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me." Jesus' identification with the Father is total. How is this drawn out by v's 47-50?

2. Jesus came into the world as a light. In the following verses, what does He illuminate?

- John 1:18
- John 3:19,20
- John 5:22
- John 10:32

3. What might be the attributes of a life filled with the light that comes from God?

PRAY: Jesus came into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Him should stay in darkness. Pray that in Jesus, your life will experience greater and greater light.

WEEK 4: JOHN 12:37-50

Day 5

READ JOHN 12:37-50

To see Jesus is to see God; to hear His words is to hear God; to experience His works is to experience God since Jesus is the Son. This is the conclusion to be drawn from v 41 among many other places in this gospel.

1. Beginning with the statement below, draw a flow chart to show the various consequences of this truth, taught by Jesus in this week's passage.

Jesus perfectly reveals the Father

PRAY: Jesus' words are the priceless words of God. Pray that the knowledge of this truth will cause you to treasure them.

THE MESSAGE REJECTED

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Wholesale disbelief was the overwhelming result of Jesus' immediate ministry. What reasons are given for this in v's 37-43? (Day 1 Q1)

2. Jesus came into the world as a light. In the following verses, what does He illuminate? (Day 4 Q2)

3. What might be the attributes of a life filled with the light that comes from God? (Day 4 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

THE GREAT WASHING

Jesus' death and resurrection are the central events of Christianity and the centre of all it means to be a Christian. But what do they mean? John's gospel is full of "signs", that is, actions that point to something significant. Usually in this gospel, the sign comes first and the explanation follows but in chapters 13-17 the order is reversed-explanation first, then sign later. Chap 13 begins with a kind of sign that will only be explained in His death, resurrection, ascension and Spirit-giving.

Week 5: Day 1

READ JOHN 13:1-9

1. These verses involve a big build-up to what seems like a simple event. What do you learn about Jesus' foot washing from v's 1-9?
2. What shows Jesus' love for His disciples- the foot washing or the event (the cross) to which this sign points?
3. Peter is reluctant to have Jesus wash his feet. Why?

PRAY: How astonishing that our God should stoop to a task so menial. Ask God to help you appreciate the significance of such humility to the way you live and think.

WEEK 5: JOHN 13:1-17

Day 2

READ JOHN 13:1-9

“Later you will understand.” (v 7) This is not the first time we’ve heard this. So much of what the disciples experienced (2:22; 7:39; 12:16) would only be understood with time and the Spirit’s help. In the culture of the day, the washing of another’s feet was considered to be too menial. Gentile slaves might do it but not Jews, yet Jesus doesn’t consider Himself to be above it..

1. “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” (v 10) What did Jesus mean by this?

2. There are perhaps three things to be learned from what Jesus does here. Try to outline one or more of them below:

-
-
-

PRAY: The Christian has a different measure of greatness. It comes from the servanthood and humility of the cross. Ask God to help you to have this attitude toward your own brothers and sisters and in your own service.

THE GREAT WASHING

Day 3

READ JOHN 13:1-11

The words concerning “feet” in John 13:10 are omitted from some manuscripts although the majority retain it. The point is significant since it means that Jesus said: “You disciples have already been completely washed so you don’t need that redone. Just a washing of the feet.”

1. Given that Jesus’ sacrificial death lies ahead of them, how can Jesus’ disciples (except for Judas) be said to be already “clean”? (see John 15:3)

The foot washing in the first instance is a symbol of the cross but Peter’s enthusiastic request for a total washing opens the door to a subordinate point.

2. In what sense do we who’ve been fully cleansed by the death of Jesus, still need our “feet washed” every day?

3. What difference does it make to know that you’ve been fully cleansed by Jesus? Why is it important then to confess our sins to God? (1 John 1:9)

PRAY: The completeness of Jesus’ sacrifice is good news for our consciences (Hebrews 10:1-3) and important for our pursuit of holiness. Pray that God will never allow you to forget it.

WEEK 5: JOHN 13:1-17

Day 4

READ JOHN 13:12-17

1. Try to summarise Jesus' point in verses 12-17
2. List 3 applications of v 14 to the way we treat one another?
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 -
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3. In v 17 what does Jesus mean, "you will be blessed if you do them"? See also James 1:25

PRAY: Humility never comes easily to fallen people but in one sense it is easier to humble ourselves before a great one than before one who is just like us. Ask God to grant you a true humility which treats brothers and sisters with honour.

THE GREAT WASHING

Day 5

READ JOHN 13:1-17

1. As you re-read the passage this week, jot down the key words or ideas which come to mind.

2. Is there a logical order in which they fit, i.e. does one truth lead to another? Number your answers above accordingly.

3. What's one way in which pride is a trap for you?

PRAY: Pride as the heart of all sin comes easily to us. Genuine humility is beautiful and can't be faked. It can only be grown out of deep conviction. Ask God to grow it more fully in you.

WEEK 5: JOHN 13:1-17

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What do you learn about Jesus' foot washing from v's 1-9? (Day 1 Q1)

2. "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." (v 10) What did Jesus mean by this? (Day 2 Q1)

3. What's one way in which pride is a trap for you? (Day 5 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 6: JOHN 13:18-38

Jesus chose His disciples and He made no mistake in that choice. He consistently warned that someone would betray Him (6:71; 12:4; 13:2) and does so again in 13:18. His choice was in fulfilment of Old Testament scripture. The simple point to note is that in the choice of “all Israel”, not “all election” is to salvation.

Week 6: Day 1

READ JOHN 13:18-38

It's not an easy skill for Christians to learn to read an account structurally but it is a valuable one. Structure, like flow of thought is a key to the author's intention and therefore a good one to grow in.

1. Use the space below to mark out the structure (blocks of ideas) in this week's passage.

2. List any questions or oddities that arise from the passage.

3. List any Old Testament quotations.

PRAY: Ask God to help you grow in your ability to read the scriptures

THE SAVIOUR DISOWNED

Day 2

READ JOHN 13:18-30

1. What can you find out about Jesus' betrayal in this passage?
2. In v 19, why might news of a betrayer have caused the disciples to doubt Jesus' credentials?
3. How does v 20 flow out of what Jesus has told them in the preceding two verses?

PRAY: Our saviour is always a wise leader, who can be trusted to know His people and their needs. Does that inspire your confidence? Give thanks to God for Him.

WEEK 6: JOHN 13:18-38

Day 3

READ PSALM 41

1. As you did on day 1, try to break the psalm up according to its structure. As a clue, I think it has 3 parts.

2. Notice that this is a psalm of David, the king who foreshadows Jesus. In what ways did his life in this psalm prefigure that of Jesus?

David's close advisor is most likely the "friend...who turned against him."(v 9)
Your cross references will help you identify who this may be.

3. What would Jesus have learned from David in this psalm?

PRAY: People, even brothers will let us down on occasions yet in our weakness (see v 1) God is always in control. Give thanks to Him and pray that you will trust Him when such times come.

THE SAVIOUR DISOWNED

Day 4

READ JOHN 13:21-26

Verse 30 closes with Judas leaving the circle of believers and going out into the "night". John's choice of word is not incidental. It is as if Judas is leaving to commit his cause to the darkness, leaving the small band of genuine believers alone with their master.

1. As Judas leaves it is as if Jesus resets His resolve for the hour that has long awaited. What things does he remind Himself of in these verses?

Where is Jesus going?(v 33) Either to the cross or to His Father. In any case the disciples cannot follow Him...yet. (v 36)

2. What do you learn about the life of the average disciple in v's 34-38?

3. Love is the distinctive sign of the true disciple. In what important ways can this love be shown?

PRAY: What a task is set before the disciple of Jesus. We are always weak yet called to a life far beyond our ability to live out in our own strength. We need the promised Holy Spirit. Ask for His empowering to help you love as Jesus loved.

WEEK 6: JOHN 13:18-38

Day 5

READ JOHN 13:18-38

At the end of the week it is a valuable exercise to reconsider the ground you have covered and see if you can summarise it. Two ways to do that are listed below

1. Jesus is the great shepherd of the flock and leader of His people. Use a mind map or a simple summary to capture the ways in which Jesus led His tiny flock in these crucial last hours.

PRAY: In what ways are you grateful for the leadership of Jesus? His wisdom? His personal knowledge? His goodness and compassion? Give thanks to God for His Son and pray that you might enjoy Him to the full.

THE SAVIOUR DISOWNED

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What can you find out about Jesus' betrayal in this passage? (Day 2 Q1)
2. What do you learn about the life of the average disciple in v's 34-38? (Day 4 Q2)
3. Love is the distinctive sign of the true disciple. In what important ways can this love be shown? (Day 4 Q2)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

THE WAY TO THE FATHER

Remember last week? Different modes of bible reading are needed to keep us fresh. John's theology is profound and rich- deep enough to keep us thinking for the rest of our lives. So this week we'll try a few different approaches but first of all a big picture sweep.

Week 7: Day 1

READ JOHN 14:1-14

1. What are some of the big claims Jesus makes in these verses?
2. Had you been one of Jesus' disciples, which of these would you have found puzzling or even shocking?
3. You're called to trust Jesus, just as you would trust the Father. In what situations do you most commonly *not* trust Jesus?

PRAY: Trust is the essence of Christian life. Trust in a trustworthy saviour. Ask God to grow your faith so that you will honour Jesus with all that you are.

WEEK 7: JOHN 14:1-14

Day 2

READ JOHN 13:21-14:4

1. What reasons would there have been for the hearts of Jesus' disciples to be troubled?

It was Jesus who was headed to the cross to be separated from His Father for the first time in all eternity. It was Jesus whose dearest friends, despite their protestations would soon abandon Him. And Jesus who'd already expressed that He was troubled in soul (12:27).

2. In the light of the above, what can we learn about Jesus from the way He opens chapter 14?

3. Considering the incredible failure of the disciples which was soon to follow, why are Jesus' words in John 14:1-4 encouraging to you?

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourself." Phil 2:3

PRAY: What a saviour who models the life of concern for others which He calls us to! Give thanks to God for Jesus and pray that you might grow in the same attitude.

THE WAY TO THE FATHER

Day 3

READ JOHN 14:1-9

1. Jesus had told His disciples in v 4 that they knew the ‘way’ to the place where He was going. What do you learn about the “way” in these verses?

2. Verse 6 is a stunning claim. What qualifies Jesus as the way to the Father? The following verses might help:

- John 1:14,18
- John 5:19ff
- John 8:29
- John 11:25,26

3. A friend asks you, “With so many other religious leaders in the world, why should I pay any attention to Jesus?” What would you say?

PRAY: Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15) Pray that this will be true of you.

WEEK 7: JOHN 14:1-14

Day 4

READ JOHN 14:8-11

1. What do you learn about the relationship between the Father and the Son in these verses?

2. The unity between the Father and the Son is such that they are said to have a mutual indwelling. How is this expressed in the following verses?

- John 10:30
- John 10:38
- John 17:21,23

3. The Son is in the closest possible relationship with the Father. Indeed they are of one essence. While this will never be true of us with God, what are the implications of John 17:21 & 23 above?

PRAY: Because of Jesus, the Christian alone is able to uniquely know God and as much of His mind as He has disclosed. This is an extraordinary blessing! Consider what action it prompts in you and pray to that end.

THE WAY TO THE FATHER

Day 5

READ JOHN 14:11-14

What do you do when you encounter verses in the bible which don't seem to be true in your own experience? Step one? Don't leap to conclusions but firstly check whether the context provides any clues. Jesus makes two promises in this passage which may not seem to fit our experience.

1. Why will we disciples do even greater works than Jesus? What might these works be? (See 5:20-23)

2. The open nature of the promise in v's 13 & 14 seems to be at odds with our experience of prayer. Are there conditions for such prayers that you know of? (Hint: look ahead to 14:15,16, 23)

3. Make a list: why was it that the disciples' hearts (and ours) should not be troubled?

PRAY: The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus bring about a new age- the age of the Spirit. His coming means hope and optimism for believers. Praise God now for His goodness and ask big for the progress of His kingdom.

WEEK 7: JOHN 14:1-14

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What are some of the big claims Jesus makes in these verses? (Day 1 Q1)

2. What qualifies Jesus as the way to the Father? (Day 3 Q2)

3. A friend asks you, "With so many other religious leaders in the world, why should I pay any attention to Jesus?" What would you say? (Day 3 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 8: JOHN 14:15-31

The timing of this last supper conversation is a notoriously controversial question. Jesus is the “lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). Both Luke 22:15 and Mark 14:12 indicate that Jesus and His disciples ate a Passover meal on Thursday night when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. However, John indicates that these chapters most likely took place on Wednesday night before the Passover began (18:28; 19:14, 36) making the meal they shared here a “pre-Passover meal”. With monumental changes soon to occur, (Jesus death, resurrection and the age of the Spirit) we shouldn’t be surprised if Jesus’ disciples were confused by what they heard.

Week 8: Day 1

READ JOHN 14:15-31

1. The Holy Spirit is a key focus of this passage. List the main things you learn about Him?

2. In the space below, jot down any other themes and any relationships between them.

PRAY: The Holy Spirit is a priceless and unimaginable gift. “We will come...and make our home with them.” (John 14:23) Who will? The entire Godhead through the gift of the Spirit! What a huge impact this must have on our lives! Thank God for His gracious gift.

THE COMING SPIRIT

Day 2

READ JOHN 14:15-31

Apart from the gift of the Spirit, the love of Jesus- our love of Him; His love of us and His love of the Father fill this passage. This theme deserves our close attention.

1. List below the many things that result from the love of the disciples for Jesus.

2. Theologically, it is the work of the Spirit that creates a new love for the Father and His Son. (Romans 5:5) In what ways do you think that the work of the indwelling Spirit will also create obedience? (some clues: John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Galatians 5:17,22)

3. If a friend has little interest in Jesus' words and little desire to obey Him, what might you conclude? What could you do to help?

PRAY: When you first came to Christ you received His Holy Spirit but you may experience many fillings to help you. (Ephesians 5:18) Ask God to fill you and to give you a growing delight in living for Christ.

WEEK 8: JOHN 14:15-31

Day 3

READ JOHN 14:15-23

The Holy Spirit is referred to in v 16 as the “advocate” or in some versions the “counsellor”. The Greek word behind these terms speaks of one who is “called alongside” to “encourage”, to “exhort”, to “urge” or “convince”. Consider Him more closely today.

1. In these verses, what observations suggest the inter-relatedness of the three members of the Trinity?
2. In a profound sense, the Spirit takes over where the Son left off. Why then is the church today better off with the Spirit than with the Son?
3. Consider the terms used to describe the Spirit in today's reading. In what ways might we expect to experience His ministry?

At times some have tended to set the word of God and the Spirit of God over against one another. People sometimes speak of a “word” church or a “Spirit” church. This of course is naive since the Spirit is the author of scripture.

PRAY: What help do you need from the Holy Spirit? Ask for it now, remembering that in His answer, He may well point you to His word.

THE COMING SPIRIT

Day 4

READ JOHN 14:24-27

Notice in v 26 that the Spirit is sent "by" the Father "in Jesus' name." In v 16 He was sent "at Jesus' request"; he is sent "by" Jesus "from" the Father (15:26) and goes out "from" the Father (15:26).. All this we'll explore next year but for now consider the immediate ministry He would exercise with the disciples.

1. In the context of this passage and especially of v 26, what are the "all things" which the Spirit would teach the disciples?

In our bible reading we're often tempted to apply to ourselves, truths which in the first instance, actually concern characters with a particular role. Not everything said to the prophet Ezekiel about being a watchman (Ezekiel 3:20,21) is true of us. Not everything said to the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 9:16) is true of us. And not everything said to the twelve is true of us.

2. What truths did the Spirit later bring to the minds of the disciples? (see John 2:19-22; John 12:16; John 20:9) For what purpose did He bring these truths to mind?

3. But this reminding and illuminating ministry of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12-15; 2 Timothy 2:7; Ephesians 1:17ff) is experienced by us today in a secondary sense. In what ways do you experience this?

PRAY: As you finish reading today, ask God to cause the Spirit to illuminate the truths of this week for you and to make them increasingly real in your experience.

WEEK 8: JOHN 14:15-31

Day 5

READ JOHN 14:28-31

The implication of today's reading is that the disciples, overcome by grief and confusion over their impending loss, were not glad that He was going to the Father.

1. In the following verses, what reasons are given as to why they should be glad?

2. From what you have read this week, what other reasons should make us glad that Jesus went back to the Father?

3. In what ways is it to our benefit (and the world's) to learn that Jesus did exactly what His Father commanded Him? (v 31)

PRAY: Consider your 3-1-1 friends. Pray for them that they might learn the wonderful truth, that for our good Jesus did exactly what His Father commanded Him.

THE COMING SPIRIT

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. The Holy Spirit is a key focus of this passage. List the main things you learn about Him? (Day 1 Q1)

2. In a profound sense, the Spirit takes over where the Son left off. Why then is the church today better off with the Spirit than with the Son? (Day 3 Q2)

3. Consider the terms used to describe the Spirit in today's reading. In what ways might we expect to experience His ministry? (Day 3 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

From the outset we've heard that Jesus brings something new- a new people, a new temple, a new Spirit, a new light and new start. And here Israel in the old testament was described as a fruitless vine, Jesus comes with the new promise of fruitfulness.

Week 9: Day 1

READ JOHN 15:1-16

This week's passage falls into two halves in which verses 1-8 describe relationship with Jesus by a metaphor of the vine and v's 8-16 gives the more straightforward commentary on the meaning of the metaphor.

Fill in the table below to show the themes shared between v's 1-8 and v's 9-16

	Verses 1-8	Verses 9-16
Themes		

2. In these verses, what challenge does Jesus set before those who would follow Him?

PRAY: All true disciples long to be fruitful. Pray that God will ensure that this is true of you.

WEEK 9: JOHN 15:1-17

Day 2

READ JOHN 15:1-4

In this gospel Jesus has already been described as the true light (1:9); the true temple (2:19); the true bread (6:32,33).and now the true vine (15:1)

1. Jesus is the “true vine”. Use your cross references to find an Old Testament cross reference to this idea in the prophet Isaiah.

2. What could it mean that Jesus is the “true” vine?

3. Reading verses 1-7 of the Isaiah passage, what similarities and differences exist between the vine in Isaiah’s day and the true vine in Jesus?

	Vine in Isaiah	Vine in John 15
Similarities		
Differences		

PRAY: Jesus is the true vine and those in Him always bear fruit. Is there an area you most need to grow in? Ask God, the gardener to help you now.

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Day 3

READ JOHN 15:1-8

1. One responsibility in these verses is given to those who would bear fruit and that is to “remain” in Jesus. What does that mean for us? How do verses 9-16 help with this?

2. All genuine believers bear fruit yet God “prunes” those who do so that they might bear more. What might a person experience in this?

3. To be ‘clean’ in v 3 seems to be equivalent to having the life of Jesus at work within us. How then is Jesus’ “word” related to our fruitfulness in this passage? How does this truth challenge or encourage you?

PRAY: All true disciples will have an appetite for Jesus’ word. The word for its part warns us how to avoid being cut off, instructs us in how to bear fruit and encourages us to persevere while the gardener does His work. But an appetite itself may need cultivating. Pray that God will do this work in you also..

WEEK 9: JOHN 15:1-17

Day 4

READ JOHN 10:11-18

We have seen last week that relationship with Jesus involves something extraordinary. The believer is welcomed into the circle of the Trinity to share fellowship with the Father and the Son (John 14:23) through the Spirit.

1. In what ways is our relationship with Jesus likened to that of the Son with the Father?

That we remain in Jesus' love by keeping His commands (v 10, 14) does not imply that our relationship is conditional upon our works any more than the relationship of the Son to the Father is conditional upon His works.

2. In what sense then is obedience related to remaining in the love of the Son? (see v's 5-8)

3. The command uppermost in Jesus' mind, seems to be love for our brothers and sisters (v 12). Given the logic of this passage, why should we expect this? How might you apply this principle today?

PRAY: Love for our Christian brothers and sisters has a high priority in the affections of Jesus. Ask God to search you on this. Are there any relationships which need your initiative to repair? Are there any which need your care?

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Day 5

READ JOHN 15:9-17

The relationship circle into which the believer is welcomed comes with unfathomably great privileges.

1. List the privileges of our relationship with God that Jesus mentions in these verses.

2. The blessing of v 15 is most likely described by Paul in Ephesians 1:8-10. What impact should this blessing have on the way we live?

3. In v 16, what clues about evangelistic fruit bearing should encourage us in the task?

We've been chosen to "go" and bear fruit- "fruit that will last." (v 16) Most likely Jesus is speaking of the fruit of new believers.

PRAY: We've been chosen by God. That thought alone is astounding. Chosen with a purpose to bear fruit that will last. No wonder the result is that our "joy may be complete." (v 11) Pray that God will indeed cause you to bear this fruit in the year to come.

WEEK 9: JOHN 15:1-17

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. All genuine believers bear fruit yet God “prunes” them so that they might bear more. What might a person experience in this? (Day 3 Q2)

2. What could it mean that Jesus is the “true” vine? (Day 2 Q2)

3. In v 16, what clues about evangelistic fruit bearing should encourage us in the task? (Day 5 Q3)

PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

SELF HEALTH GUIDE

God's grace is powerful. It brings security and optimism when we think we're doing well and even when we think we're not. And his grace will spur us on to grow. Growth can be hard. We're not sure of the way ahead.

The following is a self-health guide. It's for you to use privately. It's between you and God. If you thought it measured how your Father looks at you, it could lead to a sense of legalism. But it doesn't do that. Rate yourself 1 to 5 for each point, with 5 being high. Pick one or two to ask God's help in.

Mission

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I am praying regularly for non-Christians friends to be saved | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I take opportunities to speak to my non-Christian friends about the gospel | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel confident that I could explain the gospel to someone who doesn't know it | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I prayerfully and financially support mission partners | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I make use of Grace Church events to help my friends by inviting them. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Maturity

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I engage regularly with the Bible during the week outside church activities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I intentionally make time for prayer throughout my week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am a regular participant with others in a group for Christian fellowship | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My Christian life and beliefs are evident to my friends | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I regularly confess my sins to God and seek to overcome them | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |



Membership

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I value & prioritise church attendance | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I take the initiative before & after church to welcome new people | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am alert to opportunities at church and during the week to care for needy members of church | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I initiate fruitful conversations with brothers and sisters to build them up | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I seek to show hospitality in a way that is consistent with my situation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Magnification

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I have a mindset that my daily life is about God's glory | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In my relationship with God I regularly experience-gratitude, joy, repentance, forgiveness, satisfaction etc | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel equipped with practices & habits that help me relate with God during the day | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I know my example on a Sunday affects others so I seeking to encourage them in the way I listen, sing, talk etc | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I seek to worship God through the way I interact with others | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

SELF HEALTH GUIDE

Ministry

	1	2	3	4	5
I see all of my life as service and take opportunities outside church to serve others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I serve regularly in a church ministry team and prioritise this in my planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel like I'm using my skills, gifts and time wisely for God's kingdom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The gospel drives me to serve as much as I can to further the kingdom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I generally serve with humility and gladness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How are you feeling? Good because you think you nailed it? Depressed because you think you're failing? Consider this: *"...by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect..."*

1 Corinthians 15:10

Pick one or two things you want to grow in and ask God to help you:

NOTES



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