



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study: Chapter 12

How to effectively use this guide:

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures and provide discussion points for your meeting.

Each week, we suggest you hand out the next week's reading plan and questions (or show them where to find it online). This will help people be prepared to discuss the week's reading as a group.

Please remember to go over the agreement below as a small group each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.
- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray.
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking. Or ask your small group which questions they would like to discuss.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Touch of Heaven - Hillsong

<https://youtu.be/nxxr47zEUxE?si=fJDLQEPQUZGdun6w>

Read Scripture / Answer Questions / Closing prayer

Week #12 Reading Plan (January 7 - January 13)

Day 1: John 12:1-8

Day 2: John 12:9-19

Day 3: John 12:20-26

Day 4: John 12:27-43

Day 5: John 12:44-50

Day 1: John 12:1-8

Normally feet would be washed either by a servant / slave or rarely in deep love or devotion by a host. Washing of feet was for hygiene and comfort, and domestic settings devoted to hospitality, such as before a meal. Mary's act of washing Jesus's feet with perfume and her hair was extravagant. In addition to showing love and servitude to Jesus, gratitude may have played a part in her decision. Lazarus may have been his sisters' only provider. His death would then have meant poverty for them. Jesus resurrecting Lazarus would mean Mary and Martha would be provided for and protected.

How have you experienced God's love, protection or provision?

How do you show love, servitude and gratitude to Jesus?

Exodus 29 describes the anointing of priests to concentrate them to God. In Leviticus 8 Moses anointed the tabernacle and everything in it to consecrate them to God. To consecrate is to set apart or make holy.

Messiah comes from the Hebrew word mashiach which means anointed one and chosen one. Christ comes from the Greek word christos which means anointed one.

How did Mary's act parallel the consecrations in the Old Testament? What things did it foreshadow in Jesus's life?

Mary's faithful heart contrasts Judas Iscariot's twisted heart. One is an example of how to respond and the other of how not to respond.

Consider a time you thought you were defending something good (like giving to the poor) only to realize you had an underlying self-serving agenda. How did the Holy Spirit convict you? What did you do next?

Day 2: John 12:9-19

Jesus foreshadowed the gospel message with raising Lazarus. Some responded by believing, some with curiosity and some with enmity, wanting to kill both Jesus and Lazarus.

How do you share the gospel message? How does it affect you when people choose to respond with negativity or hate?

Around 500 years before Jesus entered Jerusalem for the Passover celebration, Zechariah 9:9 predicted the Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey and through the Eastern gate (as described in Matthew 21). The people welcomed Him with Psalm 118: 25-26. Psalm 118 was also written about 500 years earlier. Scholars believe it was written for the first celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles after the temple was completed. "To tabernacle" is to dwell with. The Holy Spirit dwelt in the temple. To quote this Psalm was to celebrate Jesus as God and Messiah, being with the people.

For the Passover, also known as the Feast of Freedom, many Jews were coming from surrounding areas. Pilate would have also entered the city when Jesus did. He would have come through the Western gate on a war horse to show Rome was in charge and to maintain peace.

In contrast, to Pilate, Jesus showed his humility by riding a donkey. Yet the people called Jesus "Lord" a title only used for the Emperor at that time. Hosanna is often translated as "Please save us." The crowd welcoming Jesus had a political message against Rome's oppression.

How do two 500 year old prophecies being precisely fulfilled affect your faith?

The crowd welcomed Jesus as God, coming to save them from political oppression. They had part of their understanding correct; He was God and He was coming to save them. Have you ever thought you understood God only to find out later you only had it part right? What did you do when you understood all that He was telling you?

Day 3: John 12:20-26

The Greeks who were in Jerusalem were most likely from eastern Mediterranean cities. As they were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, though they were Greek, they were presumably believers in God. While most of the 12 disciples had Jewish names, Phillip's was Greek. They found something in common with him.

When has God used something you had in common with someone else as an opportunity for you to introduce them to Jesus?

Jesus used an agricultural parable that even those living in cities would understand to predict His death and resurrection. Jesus' parable would also make sense to the listening Greeks who would know the pagan story of Dionysus, son of Zeus, who was a nature god and whose story included life rising out of death.

Have you considered using stories or events people are already familiar with to share the gospel with them? If you have already done this, how did it help the other person understand?

Day 4: John 12:27-43

Jesus turned His conversation from those around Him to His Father. Jesus was fully man, experiencing emotions and expressing them to His Father. God answered Jesus and people heard His voice. God's voice was for their benefit.

What does Jesus's prayer teach you about how you can pray to God?

What does Jesus's conversation with God the Father tell you about Jesus identifying with and caring for your feelings and thinking?

Jesus responded to the Father within His prayer. What does His response teach you?

When God responds to you, have you considered it may be for both your benefit and perhaps could also benefit someone else if you share it?

Jesus hid himself (verse 36). Though many believed, they hid their faith (verse 42-43).

There were two hidings. Jesus's and that of some believers. What is the purpose of each? When have you been tempted to hide your faith?

Day 5: John 12:44-50

Jesus said whoever believes in Him believes also in the One who sent Him (God the Father) and that whoever sees Him, sees the Father.

People were believing Jesus was God. Sometimes people today will admit Jesus lived and was a good man, but they miss that He was also God. How might this verse help you when talking with someone about Jesus as both fully God and fully man?

Jesus came to conquer Satan (verse 31) through His death and resurrection and to show us His great love for us (verse 47). Jesus often used light and darkness to illustrate what life with Him is like.

How does life with Jesus provide you light?

Next time Jesus comes, He will judge believers for their actions (1 Corinthians 3: 12-15 and 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Ephesians 1:13-14). And He will judge unbelievers for their actions (Revelation 20: 11-15). This is not a judgment of acceptance or rejection of His free gift of salvation (Romans 6:23).

Some people see God in a negative way because of the eternal separation from Him in hell for those who do not believe. The choice of belief is ours alone; the only judgment will be for our actions, not our belief. How might this help you in your conversations with people about God?