



Bible Studies

Booklet 3

5 October - 23 November

Study 1

Week of 5 October

Read John 13:1-17

Discussion Questions

1. How did Jesus know it was time for Him to die? How does this knowledge prompt Him to wash His disciples' feet? (1-4)
2. What is the significance of Jesus' action in washing His disciples' feet?
3. What did Jesus mean by His statement "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And are you clean"?
4. John writes, "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." In what ways did Jesus love his own who were in the world? In what ways did he love them "to the end"? (1)
5. What were Jesus' actions? Would you have been surprised if you had been there? (4-5)

Continued over page ...

Study 1 (Continued)

John 13:1-17

Discussion Questions

6. How did Peter oppose Jesus' actions? What do you think were Peter's reasons? (6, 8)
7. Peter's response was extremely strong, saying, "You shall never wash my feet." Why was he so passionate about this? What was Peter's problem? (8)
8. What was Jesus' answer to Peter? Why did He give Peter such a strong answer, replying, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." What is Jesus actually saying to his disciples (and us)? (8)
9. Further to question 3, what does "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean" mean? What is the spiritual significance of this statement? (10)

Study 1 (Continued)

John 13:1-17

Discussion Questions

10. How does verse 13 keep Jesus' actions in perspective? (13)

11. What is Jesus' goal in this symbolic action? How does He drive His point home in verses 14-17? (17)

12. How can we Christians today take seriously and obey Jesus' command of verse 15? How can we humbly and sacrificially serve others for the glory of God? (15)

13. What kind of person is "blessed" according to verse 17?

Spend some time praying with each other

Study 2

Week of 12 October

Read John 14:1-14

Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, “He who has seen me has seen the Father”?
2. What did Jesus mean by, “He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father”?
3. How does this passage teach the exclusivity of Christ as a means of salvation?
4. How does Jesus describe His Father’s house? (2)

Study 2 (Continued)

John 14:1-14

Discussion Questions

5. Why is Jesus leaving them, according to verse 2? How does He “prepare a place” for them? See also Hebrews 11:16, 11:40, Ephesians 2:21, and 1 Peter 2:4-5. (2)
6. What is Jesus’ ultimate purpose in verse 3? See also John 17:24. (3)
7. Verse 6 is a very famous verse. What is it primarily used by Christians to teach? Why are there no other ways to the Father except through Christ? (6)
8. How is Jesus the ‘Way’ the ‘Truth’ and the ‘Life’ (6)
9. How do verses 9-10 prove the deity of Christ? (9-10)

Continued over page ...

Study 2 (Continued)

John 14:1-14

10. How is the Father in Jesus and Jesus in the Father? (10)

11. Verses 10-11 give the two forms of evidence for Jesus' deity from Jesus' public ministry as recorded in John's gospel. What are they? (10-11)

12. Does verse 12 surprise you? How will we do "greater works" than Jesus? What does Jesus' going to the Father have to do with these "greater works"? (12)

13. What is verse 13 an incentive for us to do? How does Jesus' answers to our prayers bring the Father glory? (13)

14. What do verses 13 & 14 mean to you and how does it impact the way we pray?

Spend some time praying with each other

Study 3

Week of 19 October

Read the following passages of scripture;

- **Proverbs 3:27**
- **Psalm 82:3-4**
- **1 John 3:17-18**
- **Matthew 25:31-46**

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out for you as you read these passages of Scripture?
2. Why is providing for the poor such an important theme throughout all of Scripture?
3. What are the challenges for you in living this out?
4. Are there ways we as a church could do this better? (Please let us know your responses).

Spend some time in prayer for the poor and the broken, for widow and the orphan, for all those in need

Study 4

Week of 26 October

Read John 14:15-31

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relationship between our love for Christ and our obedience to Him? Is it possible to love Christ and disobey His commands? Explain. (15)
2. The word “Helper” is Parakletos in Greek, meaning one who stands alongside someone to help them in a courtroom (like an advocate). How does the Holy Spirit function that way for believers? See also 1 John 2:1. (16-17)
3. How does the world relate to the Holy Spirit? What about Christians? What does Jesus mean by saying, “He abides with you and will be in you”? (17)
4. What did Jesus mean, “Because I live, you also will live?” (19)
5. What does “in” mean when Jesus says, “I am in my Father, you in me, I in you”? Why will they realize that these things are true “on that day”? (20)

Study 4 (Continued)

John 14:15-31

Discussion Questions

6. What two conditions does Jesus set for loving Him? What does it mean to “have” His commands? What two outcomes result from meeting the two conditions? What does Jesus mean by, “I will ... disclose myself to Him.” (21)
7. Why do you think Jesus did not openly show Himself to the world after His resurrection? (22)
8. For the fourth time, Jesus links love for God and obedience to His word. What does this teach you about people who are “cultural Christians”? (24)
9. Why is the promise in verse 26 the key to the writing of the New Testament, especially the Gospel accounts of Christ’s life? (26)
10. Why does Christ mention peace at this point? What is Christ’s peace? How is it different from the world’s peace? Why does Isaiah 57:20-21 say “There is no peace for the wicked?”

Spend some time praying with each other

Study 5

Week of 2 November

Read John 15:1-17

Discussion Questions

1. In what way is Jesus a “vine” while we are the “branches?” (1, 5)
2. What role does the Father play in this? (1-2)
3. What does this teach you about the necessity of fruit bearing in the Christian life?
4. What does it mean to be “pruned” in the Christian life? See Hebrews 12:4-11. (2)
5. What does it mean to “remain” or “abide” in Christ? How do we do this practically? See Galatians 5:16-26, especially 5:25; also Romans 6, and 8:5-14. (4)

Study 5 (Continued)

John 15:1-17

Discussion Questions

6. What does Jesus mean by, “apart from me you can do nothing”? It seems like non-Christians, who are clearly apart from Christ, do a great many things. How is this blanket statement true? (5)

7. How does our fulfillment of verse 7 glorify God in verse 8? How does our bearing of abundant fruit glorify the Father? How does it relate to our discipleship? (8)

8. What is the relationship between our obedience and our love for Christ? (10)

9. What kind of joy does Christ offer us in verse 11? Do you experience that joy? What does this teach us about Christ as a master, that He actually gives us commands so that we can be exceedingly filled with joy? (11)

Continued over page ...

Study 5 (Continued)

John 15:1-17

10. What is the measure of the love we should have for each other?
What is the measure of Christ's love for us? (12-13)

11. Who are Christ's friends? Is it possible to be Christ's friend and consistently disobey Him? (14)

12. How do you interpret "You did not choose me, but I chose you"?
Don't we make a "decision" to follow Christ? According to this verse, what is the ultimate reason people follow Christ?

13. Verse 17 is a simple statement. Why is it so hard to carry out?

Spend some time praying with each other

Study 6

Week of 9 November

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Spend this week looking at the above passage of Scripture, and share what it means to you.
- Also spend some time sharing what God has been doing in your life. (Where has God been at work?)
- Allow some time to pray for each other and for our church.

Study 7

Week of 16 November

Read John 15:18-27

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus want them to keep in mind when they are persecuted? How is that comforting, to know that you are suffering in the steps of Jesus Christ? (18)
2. How is it that disciples are not “of the world”? What does that mean? (19)
3. Why, according to verse 21, does the world treat Christ’s disciples this way? The NASB translates the phrase “on account of my name” as “for my name’s sake.” Typically, this means that honour and glory are brought to God. How would the suffering of Jesus’ disciples bring honour and glory to Jesus? See also Philippians 1:29. (21)
4. Verse 22 seems difficult. Is it literally true that the world would not be guilty of sin if Christ had not come and spoken? How do you understand this? (22)
5. Can you think of another place in Scripture where people are said to be “without excuse” for sin? (22)

Study 7 (continued)

John 15:18-27

6. Do you think it's too strong to say that Jews who reject Christ hate God? What is Jesus teaching here? (24)

7. Who is the "Helper"? What does it mean that He "proceeds" from the Father? (26)

8. What is the role of the disciples in verse 27?

9. What does it mean to "bear witness" to Christ? Does it excite you to work in harmony with the Spirit in this task? (27)

10. How are we different from the original disciples that heard Christ in verse 27?

Spend some time praying with each other

Worship

“The Lamb is worthy – the Lamb who was slain. He is worthy to receive the power, and the riches, and the wisdom, and the strength, and the honor, and the glory, and the blessing.” In these beautiful words from Revelation 5:12-13 we see a powerful example of worship. These inspired words are filled with wonder as they describe the reality of Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches us how to worship and lift up the name of God so our lives can be changed through it. In John 4:23 we see that God is the one who seeks and draws us into worship. Worship is our human response to God’s divine initiative.

When they think of worship, some people think of singing, attending church services or praying. These are certainly beautiful expressions of worship, but it goes beyond that. *Worship is what our lives ought to be – a dynamic, everlasting celebration of God.* Our spiritual service of worship is ultimately giving ourselves to him gladly and sacrificially with each passing day – it is a lifestyle. This is our privilege, our purpose and our fulfillment.

Romans 12:1-2 I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1. Please share with the group what worship means to you. Discuss with one another what may be new to you about this topic, and what you have learned in the last few months or years.
2. We just read that we ought to offer our bodies “as living sacrifices.” What do you understand that to mean?

Study 8 (continued)

Worship

3. What does verse 2 of the passage add to your understanding of true worship?
4. In your own words, what is the difference between *attending worship* and *living in worship*?
5. How does regular fellowship with other believers help you worship God with new and fresh eagerness?
6. When is it the hardest for you to concentrate on worshipping God?
7. What do you think about the following quote?

Because “God is spirit” (without material being), worship must be bound up with spiritual realities, not physical formalities. Consequently, true worship is not limited by time, place or ceremony. To worship in “truth” means to worship the true God, honestly, genuinely, and from the heart.”—J. Carl Laney

