

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out

When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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JOHN PART 3 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- Overview of John
- Portrayals of Jesus

PURPOSE/ THEME OF JOHN

To begin your discussion by asking about John's purpose for writing this Gospel.

John 20:30-31 is a very clear statement.

John says that Jesus performed other signs in the presence of His disciples. John was one of the disciples who saw those signs.

He chose specific signs to accomplish his purpose—he wanted the readers of his Gospel to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name.

So the signs which he wrote about are ones which point to Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

NOTE: As your group discusses the main emphasis of John 1–9, help them understand who Jesus said He is or who others said He is in each chapter. The lesson uses the word “portrayal,” and these portrayals will help people understand how John accomplished his purpose so that believing they may have life in His name.

Don't let your group discuss too much detail or too many events as John 12-21 will be studied more chapter by chapter in subsequent lessons.

JOHN 1

What is the theme of verses 1-18? How is Jesus portrayed?

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this discussion.

The Word became flesh.

John began by establishing that

Jesus is the Word.

He was in the beginning with God, thus eternal.

He is God and Creator.

Life is in Him.

He is the Light of men.

He became flesh.

What is the theme of John 1:19-51? How is Jesus portrayed?

John and disciples witnesses about Jesus

John's witness—Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Andrew witnessed to his brother Simon Peter—Jesus is Rabbi or Teacher and Messiah.

Philip's witnessed to Nathanael—they found the one of whom the Law and Prophets witnessed, Jesus of Nazareth. He fulfilled prophecy.

Nathanael's witness—Jesus was Rabbi, the Son of God, the King of Israel.

At the end of the chapter, Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man.

JOHN 2

What is the theme of this chapter?

Jesus turned water into wine, cleaned out temple

Then Jesus also made a prophecy regarding the temple of His body, pointing to His death and resurrection. When Jesus was raised from the dead, the disciples remembered that incident and believed the Scripture and Jesus' word.

In Jerusalem, Jesus did other signs and many believed in His name. Relate this to John's purpose. Every sign written in this Gospel is so that the reader will believe in Jesus—that He is the Christ and the Son of God.

At any point, give time for your group to discuss application or what this study means to them.

JOHN 3

What is the main event and theme of this chapter? How is Jesus portrayed?

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again.

Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man and likened Himself to the serpent Moses lifted up in the wilderness.

John the Baptist said to his disciples that he was the one sent before the Christ. He referred to Jesus as the bridegroom and himself as the friend of the bridegroom.

JOHN 4

What are the main events? How is Jesus portrayed?

Verses 1-42

Jesus left Jerusalem and went back to Galilee. He stopped at a well in Samaria where He met a Samaritan woman.

He asked her for a drink, and then told her that He had living water. He offered her eternal life.

As He told her everything about herself, she recognized that He was a prophet.

She also knew the Messiah was coming, and Jesus witnessed of Himself very plainly that He was the Messiah.

After she told the men of Samaria, they believed. Then they heard and knew for themselves that Jesus was indeed the Savior of the world.

Verses 43-54

Jesus went to Cana of Galilee again, the same place He turned water into wine. He healed the royal official's son who was at Capernaum.

The result of the sign was that the official believed.

Ask your group what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance charts.

Jesus with the woman at Samaria

JOHN 5

Ask about the main events and portrayals of this chapter.

Jesus healed on Sabbath; Father and Son

Jesus was back in Jerusalem for a feast and healed a man who had been sick for 38 years. The Jews began to persecute Him because the healing was done on a Sabbath.

Then they sought to kill Him.

Jesus said Who He is; He witnessed of Himself that He is equal with the Father.

JOHN 6

Ask what the main points are in this chapter, and then allow for a short discussion of each.

Jesus fed 5,000, and He walked on water; I am the bread of life

He walked on water, and only the disciples saw this.

The other miracle was that when Jesus got into the boat, which was 3 or 4 miles out in the sea, it was immediately at land.

Jesus had multiplied food to feed 5,000 people, and then said He is the bread of life, the living bread that came down out of heaven.

Peter called Jesus the Holy One of God, the one who has the words of eternal life.

JOHN 7

What are the events of this chapter? What is the main theme?

Sought to seize / arrest Him, but His hour had not come; division

Jesus was still in the Galilee area because the Jews were seeking to kill Him.

Jesus went to Jerusalem and taught in the temple, and there was a division among the Jews because of Him.

The persecution against Him heightened to the point that some tried to seize Him, but they couldn't. It wasn't time yet.

His hour had not yet come.

JOHN 8

Ask about the main theme and/ or portrayal in this chapter.

I am; caused persecution and division

In verse 12, Jesus said that He is the light of the world. Again He taught in the temple in Jerusalem, and there were still those who wanted to seize Him but didn't at that time.

In verse 24, Jesus said that unless one believes, "I am," he'll die in His sins. Verses 28 and 58 repeat, "I am."

JOHN 9

What are the main theme and the portrayal?

Jesus healed a man born blind.
He said again that He is the light of the world.

JOHN 10

What is the theme of this chapter, and how is Jesus portrayed?

The good shepherd and His sheep

Jesus referred to Himself as the door of the sheep and the good shepherd.

Jesus laid down His life on His own initiative; no one took it from Him. He came that people may have abundant life.

JOHN 11

Ask what the main event is in this chapter and the purpose of it.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

What is the pivotal point in John 11:53-54?

The chief priests and Pharisees gave orders that if anyone knew where He was, they were to report it so that they might seize / arrest Him; they planned to kill Him.

Jesus no longer went publicly among the Jews, but stayed near the wilderness with His disciples.

JOHN 12

Ask what events took place in this chapter and how Jesus is portrayed.

Jesus entered Jerusalem; His hour had come

The two events are the dinner at Bethany and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

He had supper with Martha, Mary, Lazarus, and His disciples.
Mary anointed His feet and wiped them with her hair.

Many believed in Jesus on account of Lazarus, so the Jews were planning to kill Lazarus as well.

The next day Jesus went into Jerusalem on a donkey amid a great multitude. He was hailed as the King of Israel. He spoke of Himself as the Son of Man and the Light.

Jesus said the hour had come for the Son of Man to be glorified. This is the first time He said this. Previously He said His hour had not come.

This statement also indicates a major segment division in John; as well as the fact that the signs are in John 1–11 (except for His resurrection in John 20 and the catch of fish in John 21).

Many believed, including many of the rulers. Let your class relate this to John 20:30-31.

You might ask your group where Jesus seemed to focus His ministry at this time.

Prior to this, His ministry was mainly to the Jews in general. He performed signs and miracles to show who He is; there were witnesses and life was offered.

But John 12–17 focuses on His disciples.

JOHN 13

What happened? Who was present? How was Jesus portrayed?

This chapter takes place at the supper when Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

They called Him Teacher and Lord, and He agreed with them.

Judas left to betray Jesus to the Jews, and Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him."

What is the main theme of this chapter?

Jesus washed the disciples' feet

JOHN 14

What is this chapter about? How was Jesus portrayed? What is the main theme of this chapter?

Jesus and 11 disciples; Holy Spirit will come after Jesus

John 14–16 is a segment that teaches about the Holy Spirit.

He prepared His eleven disciples for His soon-coming death.
He is the way, the truth, and the life.

They left supper to go somewhere else—the garden, John 18:1.

JOHN 15

You could ask for the theme of this chapter.

I am the true vine; World will hate you, hated Me

Jesus said to abide in Him—I am the true vine.

Abide through the Holy Spirit.

JOHN 16

What is this chapter about? Ask your group what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart?

Helper, I go away—you'll scatter

This continues Jesus' warning the disciples about what was ahead for them because of those who have not known the Father or Jesus.

Jesus told them that He was going to the One Who sent Him and that it was to their advantage that He go away.

The Helper, the Spirit of truth, would be sent by Jesus.

JOHN 17

Ask for the emphasis of this chapter. What is the theme?

Jesus' prayer

This is Jesus' prayer before going to the cross.

Verse 3 gives a definition of eternal life which some in your class might have noticed.

JOHN 18

What are chapters 18–20 about?

This segment is about Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection.

What is the theme of this chapter?

Betrayal, arrest and Peter denied Jesus

Judas betrayed Jesus; He was arrested and put on trial.

When Jesus was asked twice if He was Jesus the Nazarene, He said, "I am *He*."

This statement, "I am *He*," is repeated several times in John.

Peter denied Jesus three times.

Jesus told Pilate He who He is, the King.

JOHN 19

Ask for the main events in this chapter and the ways Jesus was portrayed. What is the theme?

Jesus' crucifixion and burial

Jesus was scourged, a crown of thorns put on His head, robed in purple, slapped on the face, and ridiculed. Then He was crucified and buried.

Jesus said, "It is finished," bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.

JOHN 20

Ask your group what they noted as the theme of this chapter.

Jesus' resurrection

He arose from the dead on the first day of the week, and appeared to Mary Magdalene and His disciples. Eight days later He appeared again to the disciples.

JOHN 21

Ask about the events in this chapter and the theme.

Jesus appeared to disciples, spoke with Peter

Jesus manifested Himself to the disciples again at the Sea of Tiberias (Sea of Galilee).

He had a special discussion with Peter who had denied Him previously.

Verse 24 speaks about the disciple who was testifying and wrote these things, the things Jesus did.

You might end this discussion by asking your group what they learned new about Jesus, or what they observed about Him that made a new impression on them. Studying the Gospels helps believers to grow spiritually as they learn more about their Lord and Savior. Knowing more about Him grows their relationship with Him.

JOHN

- 1 The Word became flesh, The Lamb of God takes away sin
- 2 Water to wine, Temple cleansed
- 3 Born again, believe and have eternal life
- 4 Samaritan woman believed Jesus is the Christ
Jesus healed royal official's son, his whole household believed
- 5 Jesus healed man on Sabbath, Father and Son
- 6 Jesus fed 5000, walked on water; I am bread of life
- 7 His time not yet come; division about Jesus
- 8 Adulterous woman—sin no more; Jesus' testimony—I am
- 9 Jesus healed blind man; I am light of the world
- 10 I am the good shepherd, door of the sheep; one with the Father
- 11 Lazarus raised; I am the resurrection and the life
- 12 Jesus entered Jerusalem; His hour had come
- 13 Jesus washed the disciples' feet
- 14 Jesus and 11 disciples; Holy Spirit will come after Jesus
- 15 I am the true vine; world will hate you, hated Me
- 16 Helper; I go away—you'll scatter
- 17 Jesus' prayer
- 18 Judas betrayed; Jesus arrested; Peter denied
- 19 Crucifixion and burial
- 20 Resurrection and appearances
- 21 Jesus appeared to disciples; spoke with Peter

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- John 12

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you might ask your group what they remember about John 1–11. How are chapters 12–21 different? Tell your group to use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

John 1–11 center around Jesus' signs and teachings.
He's the Christ, the Son of God; and He called people to believe in Him.

Division resulted because of His signs and teachings.
Many believed; others wanted to kill Him.

John 12–21 centers on Jesus' death and resurrection.
He prepared for it and prepared His eleven disciples for it.

JOHN 12

How does this chapter give the setting for the rest of John?

Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the last time.
This chapter contains Jesus' last public testimony to a crowd before His arrest.

As your group discusses this chapter, you might list a few main points.
A suggestion is at the end of this guide.

Verses 1-11

What is the first event in this chapter?

Jesus went to a supper given for Him in Bethany where Lazarus lived.

Martha served, and Mary anointed Jesus' feet with very expensive perfume.

Judas Iscariot complained about the perfume not being sold and money given for the poor. But his concern was for the money—he was a thief and intending to betray Jesus for money.

Jesus said to let Mary alone, that she should keep it for the day of His burial.

Ask how the Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 7, and Luke 10 passages relate to this event?

Matthew 26 and Mark 14 say that the woman poured the perfume over Jesus' head. All the disciples were indignant at what they saw as a waste. He said that she had anointed Him for His burial.

Both of those accounts seem to be the same event. Judas is mentioned as going to the chief priests right afterward and asking for money to betray Jesus.

It also seems to be the same account as in John 12 because of the statement about always having the poor but not Jesus with them. This is the same Mary who sat at the feet of Jesus in Luke 10.

The supper took place at Simon the leper's home.

Luke 7:37-39

This is not the same supper. Luke was written chronologically and this story happened earlier in Jesus' ministry. Dinner with Lazarus was just before His death.

Also, the woman is referred to as a sinner and the dinner is at a Pharisee's home. The woman wept and covered Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

What happened in John 12:9-11?

A large crowd showed up in Bethany for two reasons.

They heard Jesus was there.

They wanted to see Lazarus who had been raised from the dead.

The chief priests planned to kill Lazarus also, because many of the Jews were believing in Jesus as a result of the testimony about Lazarus.

Ask how John 11:53-57 might relate to these verses.

In John 11, they began to plot to kill Jesus. Jesus could no longer walk in public. The chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where Jesus was, he was to report it so they might seize Him.

Verses 12-19

Ask about the timing and what happened in these verses.

The next day the large crowd heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem for the feast, Passover. Bethany is about 2 miles from Jerusalem (John 11:18).

They met Him with palm branches, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey's colt (as had been prophesied) in view of all people, even those who wanted to kill him.

Many times this event is referred to as Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and is celebrated by Christians on the Sunday before Easter, called Palm Sunday.

The disciples did not understand this event either until Jesus was glorified. Then they remembered those things had been written about Him in the Old Testament.

You could ask what difference it makes that Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy.

The signs proved who He was. The purpose of John's Gospel was that we might believe. Everything John wrote was to point to Jesus, that He was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus fulfilled everything that was written about Him. (This will be discussed in the next lesson.)

The people with Jesus and who had seen Him raise Lazarus continued to tell people about that sign. This caused more people to come out to see Jesus.

This caused the Pharisees to say to one another that they were not doing any good. The world had gone after Jesus.

Verses 20-50

What happened when Jesus got to Jerusalem?

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the feast told Philip they wished to see Jesus. Philip and Andrew told Jesus.

NOTE: Evidently these Greeks were proselytes—those who had converted to Judaism or God-fearing Gentiles who were seeking the truth.

Jesus responded by saying that the hour had come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Relate this to John 7:30; 8:20.

He spoke of His coming death, resurrection, and ascension.

He portrayed Himself as a grain of wheat that falls into the ground and dies. When it does, it bears much fruit.

The Greeks wanted to see Jesus, and Jesus' response gave them a true picture of who He is. The crowds were honoring Him as King, but first He must die.

His death and resurrection would be for those Greeks as well as Jews—for whoever believes in Him. (John 3:16; 10:16).

What are verses 25-26 about? Relate these to the cross-references and give time for application discussion.

These verses explain more about true belief in Jesus. Eternal life comes by laying down one's life in this world. When one "takes up his own cross," he dies to self—to live for Christ.

- The Son of Man came to die and be resurrected.
- He who loves people (or things of this life) more than Him is not worthy of Him.
- One must deny self, take up his cross daily, and follow Him.
- Those who are ashamed of the Son of Man, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when He comes in His glory.

What are verses 27-50 about?

Jesus' soul was troubled. He is about to die a horrible death for the sins of the world. He was about to be separated from His Father temporarily.

But He came to earth for that purpose.

So He asked His Father to glorify His (the Father's) name.

Then God the Father spoke from heaven, saying He had glorified it and would again.

This is one of only about four times in the Bible when God literally spoke from heaven.

This is connected with the fact that the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified, and the Father confirmed it.

Those standing around heard; some thought it was thunder, others an angel. They heard a sound but didn't understand the words. Jesus said the voice came for their sakes, not His.

What else happened at that hour?

"Now" judgment is upon this world, and the ruler will be cast out.

Jesus said that if He was lifted up, He would draw all men to Himself. Lifted up is explained in verse 33. John 3:14-15 is the first use of this term in John.

Jesus' death would put an end to Satan's power over death; he would be defeated, and all who believe in Jesus have eternal life.

What was the crowd's reaction to Jesus' explanation of His death?

They were expecting, because of what they knew from the Law, that the Christ was to remain forever, not die. He explained that for a little while longer they had light.

If they walked in the light, believed in the light, then darkness would not overtake them. Christ was right there with them, the source of salvation. If they believed in Him, the light, they would become sons of light.

What other prophecies were fulfilled in verses 37-43?

Though people saw signs He did, they didn't believe.

Isaiah's prophecies about unbelief, spiritual blindness, were fulfilled.
These could not believe because God had blinded them and hardened their hearts.
Salvation is of the Lord.

The contrast is that many rulers believed in Him but would not confess Him for fear of being put out of the synagogue. They loved the approval of man rather than God's approval. Nicodemus might have been one like these, John 3:1-2.

You could ask your group how important the approval of man is to them.

What did Jesus call people to do in verses 44-50?

Believe in Him.

Contrast this with the one who hears and rejects Jesus—judgment.

Jesus did not come the first time to judge but for salvation.

But at His second coming God's Word will be the judge at the last day.
God's Word is eternal life.

You might ask your group if God's Word is their counselor, their wisdom, and their salvation.

In Bethany	To Jerusalem	In Jerusalem
<p>Mary anointed Jesus</p> <p>Judas protested</p> <p>Disciples didn't understand</p> <p>Crowd came to see Lazarus</p>	<p>Crowd cried Hosanna</p> <p>Disciples didn't understand</p> <p>Prophecy fulfilled</p>	<p>Hour came for Son of Man to be glorified</p> <p>Grain of wheat dies Lifted up—His death</p> <p>Believe in the light = life</p> <p>Reject = judgment</p>

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- Messianic prophecies fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you might ask your group what they remember about John 1–11. How are chapters 12–21 different? Tell your group to use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

John 1–11 center around Jesus' signs and teachings.
He's the Christ, the Son of God; and He called people to believe in Him.

Division resulted because of His signs and teachings.
Many believed; others wanted to kill Him.

John 12–21 centers on Jesus' death and resurrection.
He prepared for it and prepared His eleven disciples for it.

How does John's purpose relate to the content of this lesson?

Certain signs were written so that the reader might believe that Jesus is the Christ...

Christ is the New Testament term for Messiah, John 1:41.

You might ask if any of them remember places that John mentioned Jesus fulfilling or talking about Old Testament passages.

John 1:41-45	of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote
John 2:14-17	zeal for His house
John 3:14-15	as Moses lifted up serpent, Son lifted up
John 5:39-40, 45-47	Jesus said the Scriptures testify of Him
John 6:14, 31-35, 45-51	the bread from heaven
John 7:19-24, 37-42	Moses' Law; Scripture—living water
John 8:17-18, 52-58	testimony of two; Abraham and the prophets
John 12:12-16, 37-41	Hosanna! King is coming; Isaiah, unbelief

PROPHECY FULFILLED BY JESUS

Ask your group what they learned about Jesus fulfilling prophecies from the introduction in this lesson.

- There are 333 detailed prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah.
- God pinpointed Jesus as Messiah by these prophecies.
- The Jews as a nation were blind to the prophecies concerning the suffering Messiah and the coming of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

NOTE: Sometimes prophecies in the Old Testament will not only point to Christ's first coming but also to His second coming. There can also be a message in the prophecies that is pertinent to the particular day and time in which the prophecy was written.

Next you might ask what they learned from the passages in the first part of this lesson.

Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1-2

Jesus was in Nazareth at the synagogue. The scroll of Isaiah was handed to Him. He read Isaiah 61:1-2. He said that Scripture was fulfilled that day in their hearing.

God anointed Jesus to preach the gospel to those spiritually helpless—without power to change their own lives—to release those captive to sin and the law and make them able to understand.

Luke 18:31

Jesus, before going to Jerusalem, told the twelve disciples that all things written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. He referred to Himself as the Son of Man.

They didn't understand until after His resurrection because this statement was hidden from their understanding. Similar statements about their lack of understanding appear several times in the Gospels.

Matthew 26:55-56

Jesus said that all, even His betrayal and arrest, had to take place—it was all to fulfill what the prophets said in Scripture about Him.

Luke 24:25-27, 44-45

Jesus said that what was written of Him in the Old Testament begins with Moses—who wrote the first five books of the Bible, the Law. The Prophets and the Psalms also contain prophecies about Him. His first coming fulfilled much; His second coming will complete the fulfillment.

Jesus Himself opened their minds to understand what the Bible said—as He still does now through His Spirit.

What is the main message from these passages?

All that the Old Testament says about Jesus has been fulfilled or will be fulfilled.
It's certain.

The question is: do you believe it?

You could also ask if people today think it is possible to believe in Jesus and not believe the Word of God is absolutely true, infallible.

Let your group share how they can respond to someone who might think that way.

SPECIFIC PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS' / MESSIAH'S FIRST COMING

Use the chart in the last part of this lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

These prophecies about Jesus were written many years before His birth.

Jesus was born approximately 2000 years after God said to Abraham that in his seed / offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

What is the first prophecy in the lesson? And how was it fulfilled?
Then continue discussing each one.

Micah 5:2 and Luke 2:4-7

Micah, 700 years prior to Jesus' birth, prophesied that from Bethlehem Ephrathah one would go forth

for God
to be ruler of Israel.

His going forth was from the days of eternity.

Jesus was born when Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown, to register for the census.

Jesus is eternal. He said in John 8:58 that before Abraham was born (ESV does not use the word "born."), "I am." His going forth was from eternity. God was in control of the timing of the census and everything else.

Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:13-15

Approximately 750 years prior to Jesus, Hosea prophesied that God called His Son out of Egypt.

After the Magi came, worshiped the Child Jesus, and left, an angel of the Lord told Joseph in a dream to go with the Child and Mary to Egypt. They remained there until God said to return. At that point, Jesus was no longer a baby.

Herod ordered the killing of children from two years old and under in Bethlehem and its vicinity. He tried to kill Jesus, King of the Jews.

They remained in Egypt until Herod died. This was to fulfill the prophecy in Hosea 11:1.

Zechariah 9:9 and John 12:14-15

God, through Zechariah, said to Jerusalem that their King is coming—just, endowed with salvation, and on the foal of a donkey.

Jesus entered Jerusalem exactly as God said—on a young donkey. He arrived to shouts of “Hosanna” and “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” They called Him the King of Israel.

Jesus didn’t deny that He’s King, and He didn’t stop them from shouting the thing written about Him.

Zechariah 11:12-13 and Matthew 26:15; 27:3-10

Zechariah was carrying out a “drama” showing the people what God said would happen to those headed for captivity. The ones watching him realized it was the word of the Lord.

He received 30 shekels of silver as his wages. The Lord told him to throw “that magnificent price” to the potter who was in the Lord’s house.

On the night of Jesus’ arrest, the chief priest paid Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

When Judas felt remorse and tried to return the money, the chief priest didn’t take it back. Judas threw it into the temple, but they used it to buy the Potter’s Field. Jeremiah’s prophecy was fulfilled.

Zechariah 13:7 and Matthew 26:31

Note: Zechariah 13 is an interesting prophecy about the day of the Lord. Verses 7-9 refer to Christ’s first and second comings. Focus on the prophecy about Jesus and its fulfillment from verse 7.

God spoke about His sword against His Associate, Jesus the Shepherd of the sheep. When the Shepherd was struck, the sheep scattered.

On the night of Jesus’ arrest, this prophecy was fulfilled as the disciples fled. Jesus told them that it was written that all of them would fall away. It was only temporary.

Isaiah 53:7 and Matthew 26:59-63

Isaiah 53 is a description of Jesus, the suffering Servant. Like a lamb He was led to slaughter. He was oppressed and afflicted, and yet didn’t open His mouth.

After Jesus was arrested, false witnesses were brought against Him. Jesus did not answer; He kept silent. He was questioned as to whether He was the Christ, the Son of God.

Isaiah 53:12 and Luke 22:37

God's Servant would pour Himself out to death, be numbered with the transgressors, bear the sin of many, and intercede for the transgressors.

Just before Judas brought the officers to arrest Him, Jesus said that this prophecy about His being numbered with transgressors had its fulfillment in Him.

He was crucified between two criminals.

Psalm 22 is a prophetic psalm about Jesus' crucifixion. Several verses from this Psalm are in the passages your group studied. Ask what they learned from these verses and their fulfillments.

Psalm 22:1 and Matthew 27:46

The first words of this Psalm are the words Jesus said on the cross.

Psalm 22:6-8 and Matthew 27:41, 43

The writer of this Psalm said he is a worm, not a man, a reproach of men, despised, sneered at, heads wagged at.

The chief priests, scribes, and elders mocked Jesus. They said, "Let God rescue Him now if He delights in Him," the fulfillment of Psalm 22.

Psalm 22:14-15 and John 19:28

He is poured out like water, his bones are out of joint, heart melted, no strength, buried. The tongue cleaves to the jaws . . . thirst.

While suffering all these things on the cross, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

Psalm 22:18 and John 19:23-24

Even what the soldiers did at the cross fulfilled this Messianic Psalm. They divided His outer garments into four parts and cast lots for His tunic. John says this happened to fulfill Scripture.

Psalm 34:20 and John 19:31-36 (Exodus 12:43-46)

No bone was to be broken in the Passover lamb of Exodus 12.

John 19:36 helps us understand that Psalm 34:20 is about Jesus' crucifixion.

Not one bone was broken when Jesus was crucified. He was already dead when the soldiers came to break the men's legs so they could be removed for the Sabbath. Jesus' side was pierced and blood and water came out.

Zechariah 12:10 and John 19:37

God said in Zechariah that, "They will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn . . . weep bitterly."

Jesus, the Messiah, was pierced.

Ask your group what was prophesied about His resurrection.

Psalm 16:9-10 and John 20

The resurrection fulfilled Psalm 16. The tomb was empty. His body did not undergo decay.

He was gone when Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb. She ran and told the others. It seems from John 20:9 that they were not expecting His resurrection.

Peter came and found the linen wrappings lying there. Mary Magdalene (John 20: 1, 14-18) saw Jesus before His ascension to the Father and told the others what He said to her.

Jesus appeared, stood in the midst of the disciples, and showed Himself to them (20:19). Eight days later, He did the same with Thomas (20:26).

Isaiah 8:14; Psalm 118:22 and 1 Peter 2:6-8

The stone which the builders rejected was exalted to the position of the chief stone.

NOTE: A cornerstone for the foundation of a building provides the location and direction.

Jesus was rejected, but God raised Him up and exalted Him to His right hand. Jesus is the stone/ rock over whom men stumble.

Peter, quoting the Old Testament, said that God laid in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone. Jesus is that precious corner stone.

If anyone believes in the Chief Corner stone, they will not be disappointed. But for unbelievers, He is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.

How does 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 relate?

Christ died according to the Scriptures. He was buried, which is proof He died. Christ was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. He appeared to many, proving His resurrection.

Everything that happened to Jesus was according to the Scriptures. Jesus fulfilled them all. God's Word is absolute truth.

You might end this discussion by asking for any application discussion.

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- John 13
- Judas

JUDAS

To begin this discussion you might ask your group what they remember about John 1–12. Tell your group to use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

John 1–11 center around Jesus' signs and teachings.
He's the Christ, the Son of God; and He called people to believe in Him.

Division resulted because of His signs and teachings.
Many believed; others wanted to kill Him.

John 12
Mary anointed Jesus, He entered Jerusalem—Hosanna, Blessed is the King who comes

Then you can ask what John 1–12 says about Judas.

John 6:64-71

Jesus said that He knew from the beginning who didn't believe and who would betray Him, although He chose Judas as one of the twelve. He always knew that Judas didn't believe and would betray Him.

In the other three Gospels, when the twelve apostles are listed by name, Judas is named as the one who betrayed Jesus.

Peter spoke for all of them—he thought—when he said that they all believed Jesus was the Holy One of God.

Then Jesus clearly said that one of the twelve was a devil.

John 12:4-6

As one of the twelve, Judas had charge of the money box. He stole money from it because he was a thief.

What do the other Gospels say about Judas up to this point chronologically?

Judas went to the chief priests after dinner with Lazarus, Martha, and Mary in John 12 (Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:2-6).

At that time, the chief priests promised to give him money, 30 pieces of silver, and Judas looked for an opportune time to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16).

They planned to do this away from a crowd because they feared the people who followed Jesus (Luke 22:6).

There is a sample visual aid at the end of this guide which you might use to list the main points of this lesson.

JOHN 13

When did the events of this chapter take place? Relate this to John 12.

John 12 6 days before Passover
 Jesus said that the hour had come for Him to be glorified.

John 13 before the Feast of the Passover
 Jesus knew His hour had come.
 He would leave this world and go to the Father.

during supper

What's the first thing this text says after the time specifics?

Jesus loved His own, who were in the world, to the end.

What happened to Judas prior to this supper?

The devil had already put it into his heart to betray Jesus.
Luke 22:3 says Satan entered into him.

Verses 2-30

What was the first event of this chapter?

Jesus washed the disciples' feet before the supper. It was the act of a servant.

How did Peter respond to this?

Peter protested until Jesus explained that he needed to be washed to be part of Jesus.

Peter then asked for his hands, head, and feet to be washed, but Jesus said the men were all clean except one.

People walked in open sandals on dusty trails and roads. Even when clean everywhere else, their feet got dirty going from one place to another. This might picture, in a Christian's life, the total cleansing of salvation and the "foot washing" needed for daily walk—cleansing from sin, personal sanctification.

Verse 11 explains verse 10. Jesus said they were all clean except one, because He knew the one who was betraying Him. Judas had no part in Jesus. This makes it clear that Jesus was talking about spiritual cleansing.

Ask about Jesus' example in verses 12-20 and related application.

He gave them an example to follow.
The Teacher and Lord performed a servant's service for them all.

Jesus said they would be blessed by obedience in following this example.

Who and what are verses 21-30 about?

He knew the ones He had chosen, and Judas was not one of them.

Jesus chose Judas to be one of the twelve, John 6:70.
But he was not chosen as one of Jesus' own; 13:1, 11-18; 17:12 and 18:8-9.
Judas was not chosen like John 15:16.

Jesus told the eleven what was going to happen ahead of time. He began preparing them for the events of that very night and the next day.

They were at a loss as to which one of them He meant.

Peter wanted to know who it was.

John, the Gospel writer, is believed to be the one who was leaning on Jesus' bosom. There is no indication that he told Peter or the others Jesus' answer because some assumed Judas left to go buy food for the feast or give to the poor.

Jesus said the one that he would give the morsel to was the betrayer—Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.

Jesus gave him the morsel and he took it.

Satan entered Judas. After receiving the morsel he went out immediately to betray Jesus, to let them know it was time to come get Him.

It was night in every sense—darkness outside and darkness in Judas.

Judas is a good illustration of one who walked physically close to the Lord Jesus Christ, one who heard the word, one who looked like the others on the outside. The disciples didn't notice anything in Judas that indicated that he would betray Jesus.

Judas by his own choice walked away.

Judas was exposed to everything that the other disciples were exposed to, and yet he rejected Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Verses 31-35

What is the teaching, command, that Jesus told the eleven?

Now—the events were beginning for His glorification, the cross being the first event. Just as Jesus told the Jews previously (John 7:32-34) that He was going to the Father who sent Him and they could not follow Him, He now very affectionately said the same to the eleven disciples.

Then He gave them a new commandment—to love one another as He had loved them.

He expected them to do the same, and by this love all men would know they were His disciples.

Discuss application of this “if” statement about Jesus’ disciples. Who is truly a disciple? Compare this with John 8:31.

Verses 36-38

What are these verses about?

It seems that Peter spoke more often than the other disciples. And he got right to the point.

His love and devotion to Jesus is evident in these verses. He wanted to go with Jesus right then. He even said he would lay down his life for Jesus.

Jesus knew what was ahead for Peter and told him about the 3 denials before the rooster crowed the next morning. But Peter was a true believer, not like Judas.

What happened to Judas?

He betrayed Jesus with a kiss (Luke 22:48; Mark 14:44-45)
Then he felt remorse and tried to return the money (Matthew 27:3-5).
He took his own life (Matthew 27:5).

John 17:12 says he was the son of perdition. He perished because he didn't believe in Jesus to eternal life. Judas turned aside to go to His own place, Acts 1:25.

Encourage your group that they'll study more about both Peter and Judas in this course. So, all their questions might not be answered at this point.

JESUS	JUDAS	PETER
<p>Knew His hour had come</p> <p>Loved His own</p> <p>Washed disciples' feet</p> <p>Gave example</p> <p>Told of betrayer before it happened</p> <p>Gave new command— Love one another as I have loved you</p>	<p>Didn't believe</p> <p>A thief</p> <p>Devil in his heart</p> <p>Not clean</p>	<p>Wash all of me</p> <p>Clean</p> <p>Asked who betrayer was</p> <p>Wanted to follow where Jesus was going</p> <p>Said he'd die for Jesus</p> <p>Was told he'd deny Him 3 times that night</p>

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- John 14

REVIEW

You can begin your discussion by asking your group about John's purpose for writing this Gospel. Direct them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

John recorded certain signs so that the reader of his Gospel might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

That belief in His name results in life.

Now relate his purpose to the first segment of John, chapters 1:1–11:53.
What part of the purpose statement relates to John 1:1–11:53?

In John 1:1–11:53 John recorded the signs.

It's also the part of the book in which Jesus called the world to believe in Him as the Christ, the Son of God.

Belief and unbelief developed to the point of division.

John 11:53 is the major turning point in the Gospel.

Jesus raised Lazarus, and many believed because of that sign.

It disturbed the religious leaders to the point that they planned together to kill Jesus.

As a result, He no longer walked publicly in Judea.

What is John 12 about? How does this chapter bridge the main segments in John?

Six days before the Passover (when Jesus was killed), Jesus had supper with friends in Bethany and then went to Jerusalem for the last time.

Jesus said that the hour had come for Him to be glorified.
The Father's voice from heaven confirmed His glorification.

He called publicly for people to believe in Him one last time.

What is John 13 about? How does it fit into this segment?

Before the Feast of Passover

Jesus knew that His hour had come for Him to depart this world to the Father
He loved His own who were left in this world.

He taught them about being a servant—He washed their feet at supper.
Judas went out from supper to betray Him.

He instructed them to serve and love one another as He had done.

This chapter is just hours before His death.

Jesus also told Peter that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed.

JOHN 14

What is the first statement / command of this chapter? Might Jesus have said that because of what He just told Peter at the end of chapter 13?

Don't let your heart be troubled.

Considering this command, how does the rest of this chapter relate to it?

Jesus told how one's heart can keep from being troubled.

The primary thing is to believe in Jesus.

As you discuss this lesson, you might list the main points that relate to this command. There is a suggested list at the end of this guide.

Verses 1-7

What are these verses about?

The eleven were with Jesus where they had supper.

He told them that He was going away to prepare a place for them and would return to get them. They would be with Him.

And He said they knew the way.

Thomas asked where Jesus was going and how they knew the way.
The eleven disciples didn't understand what was about to happen.

Jesus made another “I am” statement related to the situation, like He did in John 6, 8–9, 10, and 11. Jesus is the source of eternal life.

He’s the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father but through Him.

The last time John recorded that Jesus spoke of His Father’s house was in John 2:13-22. It was Passover, and the disciples didn’t understand it until after His resurrection. The same is most likely the case here, too.

The Holy Spirit, the one who teaches all things and brings to remembrance, didn’t come until after Jesus was glorified. When He came to indwell the disciples, they remembered and understood what Jesus said and meant.

John 1:18 says that Jesus came to explain (ESV—make known) the Father; He showed the Father, but they didn’t yet recognize it.

Verses 8-14

Who else had a question? How did Jesus answer?

Philip asked to see the Father. Jesus said they had seen the Father in Him. He called them to believe that He and the Father were the same.

John, the writer, named several of the disciples in this segment. They had questions and comments regarding Jesus’ statements.

Peter—Foot washing, who is the betrayer, die for You
The unnamed disciple, probably John, asked Jesus Peter’s question.
Judas Iscariot took the morsel and went out
Thomas—Where are You going? The way?
Philip—Show us the Father.

Within the context of verses 12-14, what does the last statement of verse 12 mean?

Jesus is in the Father, and the Father is in Him.
He does the Father’s works because of the relationship.

He is in believers (through the Holy Spirit), and believers are in Him.
Believers do His works because of the relationship.

One possible interpretation of “greater works” is that after Jesus left and sent the Holy Spirit, there are more physical bodies to do His work; not just Him. Greater meaning scope or quantity, not quality—like raising the dead.

The believer only need ask for whatever he / she needs to do Christ’s work.

Verses 15-24

What words are repeated in these verses?

Love and commandments/ words in verses 15-24
The Helper, the Spirit of truth, in verses 15-17

How do these themes fit together? What are verses 15-24 about? How does this relate to one's heart not being troubled?

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
This is another of the statements Jesus made about showing true belief in Him.
Relate this to John 8:31 and 13:34-35.

Obedience to His commands shows that one loves Him.
It also prevents one from having a troubled heart.

The way to obey, keep His commands, and love Him is by the Helper, the Spirit of truth.
He was to be in them (John 7:38-39) forever—and in all believers forever.

In verse 6, Jesus said that He is the truth.
Here the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth.
The word “another” in verse 16 means another of the same kind.¹

When the Spirit comes, after Jesus is glorified, they will know that the Father is in Jesus and He in the Father, and they in Him and He in them. They would understand the relationship. Verse 23—the Father and Son abiding in believers through the Spirit.

That relationship leads to doing what Jesus would do—keep His words, commands, to show love for Him.

Jesus explained that the one who really does not love Him—as Judas—does not keep His word, the Father's word. They were about to be totally surprised when Judas showed up leading others to betray Jesus to death. Judas loved money instead of Jesus.

Ask what other disciple is mentioned.

There were two Judases that followed Jesus and were part of the twelve.

Judas, not Iscariot, asked Jesus a question. He wanted to understand how Jesus would disclose Himself to them and not to the world.

By the Spirit Whom the world does not know or receive.

¹Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G243.

Verses 25-31

What are these verses about? How do they relate to the rest of this chapter?

He told them ahead of time what was going to happen.

But when He left and the Helper came, He would teach all things to them and help them remember all Jesus said to them.

What else did Jesus say keeps hearts from being troubled?

His peace prevents troubled and fearful hearts.
Another contrast of the world and believers.

He told them again that He was going back to the Father.
Warning, understanding ahead of time, can prevent fear. Love produces joy.
But they didn't understand at that point.

Compare verse 29 with 13:19.

How does this chapter end?

The ruler of the world, Satan, was coming. The devil had entered Judas, and he was leading men to arrest Jesus shortly after this.

Then they left where they'd had supper.

You could end your discussion by asking your group if their untroubled hearts and obedience show Jesus to others.

How can they prevent a troubled heart?

How do they and others know they love Jesus?

Let not your heart be troubled

Believe in Me

I will come again for you
I am the way, truth, life

Ask in my name

Helper, Spirit of Truth will be in you forever
Helper will teach and bring to remembrance

Love Me, keep My commandments

My peace I give to you

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- John 15
- Understanding the allegory in John 15:1-8

REVIEW

What are the main segments in John and how do they fit into his purpose for writing this Gospel? Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts.

John 1-11:53 Jesus called the world to believe He's the Christ, God's Son

John 12 He said that His hour had come

John 13-14 He told the eleven, after Judas left, that He was going away
Jesus taught them about life in His name.

What did Jesus say in John 14 about abiding / dwelling in Him?

10 the Father abides / dwells in Him and does His works through Jesus

17 the Spirit is with disciples and will be in disciples

25 He spoke these things to them while abiding with them
(ESV says, "I am still with you")

JOHN 15

What is this chapter about?

Abiding and bearing fruit, keeping His commands and love

This chapter continues Jesus' teaching the eleven, preparing them for what was about to happen—His betrayal and arrest, His crucifixion and resurrection.

Verses 1-8

How did Jesus illustrate His teaching that He began in John 13?

To help the eleven disciples understand better, Jesus illustrated "abiding" with the vine and branches allegory. Maybe they passed a vineyard after they left supper. They went from supper to the garden, John 18:1.

What is an allegory? Give time for discussion, but not a long time.

NOTE: Some commentators say the allegory is in verses 1-6 and others verses 1-11. This lesson focuses on verses 1-8 so that needs to be the focus of your discussion.

What are the interpreted points of this allegory?

You might list these as a visual aid for this discussion. See the last page of this guide for an example.

Jesus is the true vine—the source of life
This is another of His “I am” statements in John.

The Father is the vinedresser.

You, the eleven disciples, are the branches.

What was the main point Jesus had been teaching them?

He was going away, but their relationship with Him would continue as His relationship with the Father did.

This allegory is about “abiding” (remaining²) and what it produces—“fruit.”

Discuss the allegory verse by verse.

Verse 2

Every branch that does not bear fruit is taken away by the vinedresser, the Father.

He prunes (same Greek word as “clean” in verse 3 and 13:10-11) those that bear fruit so that they bear more fruit.

Compare with verse 16—those disciples were going to bear fruit, remaining fruit. None of them were taken away by the Father; John 17:9-12.

Perhaps Jesus offered an explanation of Judas in the first part of verse 2. Judas appeared to all of them to be a true disciple, but he was not.

These eleven had seen others who followed Him for a time turn away also, John 6:66-71. All of them would very soon be tempted to turn away, too.

Verse 3

Jesus repeated what He said earlier—the eleven were clean, pruned (John 13:10-11).

²Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G3306.

The first time He said that at supper He added that not all of them were clean, but that was before Judas left them.

Verse 4

This is the main point—abide in Me and I in you (by the Spirit), the relationship illustrated by the vine and branches. He's the source of life in His name.

Branches can't produce fruit unless they're connected to the vine. Those who follow Jesus have to be truly connected to Him. This connection is by the Spirit.

Verse 5

Jesus repeated that He was the vine. Here is where He said that they were pictured by the branches in this allegory. He also adds here "much" fruit.

Verse 6

The pronoun changes from "you" to "anyone."

Perhaps another explanation of the one they all thought to be a true disciple who was shortly to show up leading an arrest party.

Jesus didn't give an interpretation to whoever "they" are who gather the branches. So it's best to leave this without interpretation. (ESV does not use the pronoun "they" in this verse.)

Verse 7

In this discourse with the eleven Jesus used "if" statements to teach them several things; 13:14; 14:14-15, 23, 28; 15:6-7, 10, 18-19, 22, 24.

The eleven were going to abide, verse 16.

Compare His words abiding in them with John 8:31.

"Abide" means to continue or remain.

Verse 8

Bearing fruit proves that one is truly Jesus' disciple—a believer.

It also glorifies the Father.

Give your group time to discuss application.

Verses 9-17

What are verses 9-11 about? How do these verses relate to John 14:28 and following?

Jesus spoke of love and joy in John 14. Love is shown in keeping His commands. He continues talking about the same. Abiding in Him produces love and joy.

Verse 10—if you keep My commands, you will abide in My love

He said this so that they might have joy after the coming events.

What does verse 12 repeat?

Love one another, just as He loved them.
It's the new commandment of John 13.

What's described in verses 13-15?

How Jesus loved—He laid down His life for those He loved, His friends.
His friends are those who keep His commands—those who truly love Him.
He told His friends what was going to happen.

Ask your group to discuss what it means to be a friend of God.

What are the clear statements of verse 16?

He chose and appointed—go and bear fruit, fruit remain
So that whatever you ask the Father, He gives.

Review what Jesus said about asking in John 14 and 15.

John 14:13-14

The context is doing the works Jesus did.

Ask for anything needed to do His works and He'll do it, so that the Father is glorified.

15:7 and 16

If one abides in Him, the relationship He taught in chapter 14, and His words abide in that person, then that one should ask whatever and it will be done.

This also is in the context of hearing what He wants done.

As believers go and bear fruit by abiding in Him, ask whatever you need for that and it will be done—so that the Father is glorified.

You might ask what fruit Jesus talked about in chapters 13–15 so far.

Love
Joy
Peace

Verses 18-25

What are these verses about? How did Jesus prepare the eleven further?

The world hated and persecuted Jesus, and will do the same to those who follow Him.

The world does not know the Father or the Son; they're unbelievers.

Jesus' references to the world included those religious leaders who claimed to know the Law of God, but didn't keep His commandments.

Verses 26-27

Who are these verses about?

Jesus continued teaching about the Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Spirit of truth.

The Spirit, in the disciples, will testify about the Son.

They will be His witnesses because of the Spirit within them.

Is that how they will abide, bear fruit?

Is that how believers now abide, bear fruit?

To end your discussion you might ask how the Father is glorified in individual lifestyle, character.

Ask your group what they learned about abiding, growing and maturing, fruit.

Allegory spoken to the eleven

Jesus	True Vine
Father	Vinedresser
You	Branches

Not abide = no fruit = taken away = not a disciple of Christ

Abide = bear fruit = pruned = more, much fruit = proof of discipleship

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis:

- Intimacy / friendship with God
- Discipleship

REVIEW

What are the main segments in John and how do they fit into his purpose for writing this Gospel? Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts.

John 1-11:53 Jesus called the world to believe He's the Christ, God's Son

John 12 He said that His hour had come

John 13-14 He told the eleven, after Judas left, that He was going away
Jesus taught them about life in His name.

INTIMACY WITH THE LORD

To begin your discussion, you might ask what your group learned about intimacy with the Lord from John 13 and 14. Who was with Jesus? What happened? What did He talk about?

John 13

Jesus and the twelve disciples had supper; then Judas left to betray Him.
After Judas left, Jesus told the remaining eleven about a new commandment—love one another as I have loved you.

He told them about an intimate relationship.

He loved them “to the end” and called them to love one another as He did.

He told them that they would follow Him later.

John 14

Jesus went to prepare a place for them, so that they would be with Him.

He gave the example of the Father abiding in Him; then He told them, “I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, will be with you forever—in you.

Jesus said that the one who keeps His commandments is the one who loves Him.
Verse 23 states the whole relationship of intimacy.

What is the description of intimacy with God in John 15?

The allegory can be summarized with “Abide in Jesus.”

If one abides in Him and His word abides within that one, then the believer can ask whatever he wishes and it will be done for Him. That’s intimacy with God.

Verses 9-12 speak more of this intimacy.
It’s based on knowing the truth and obedience to it, not feelings.

If we keep His commands, then we abide in His love.

Verse 16 tells how this intimate relationship begins and continues.

Verses 26-27 again mention the Helper, the Spirit of truth.
He is from the Father, sent by the Son, as the One who indwells believers.

Ask your group how they apply what they learned about this intimate relationship with God.

How does Jesus’ teaching relate to their individual daily lives?
What does all of this mean in their daily walk with the Lord?

There’s a chart at the end of this lesson’s guide which you can use as a visual aid if you’d like.

What did Jesus say about His friends in verses 13-15?

A friend lays down his life for his friends

Jesus’ friends do what He commands.

He made known to His friends all that the Father told Him to.

How does this relate to Chronicles, Isaiah and Genesis 18? Who was God’s friend?

The Lord said He would not hide from Abraham what He was going to do.
Abraham was His friend.

This is similar to what Jesus said in John 13–15.

He made known to His friends what was going on.
He told them things before the things took place.

Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah.

God listened to His friend’s request and responded.
Jesus said to ask and it will be done.

Discuss how the Lord makes known what is going to happen to His friends.

He speaks through His written Word and by His indwelling Spirit.

According to John 15:18-25, what does the world think about God's friends, those who choose intimacy with Him?

The world hates believers, Jesus' friends, because it hates Him.

The people of the world, unbelievers, persecuted Jesus and will persecute His friends.

The world only loves its own.

To discuss application of this you might ask your class if any of them have ever been surprised by someone's hate for them.

How do the cross-references in the lesson add to this?

Matthew 5:10-12

The blessed—true believers—are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.
They're persecuted simply because they are righteous.

Jesus said to rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven is great.
Even the Old Testament prophets were persecuted for telling the truth.
Matthew, one of the twelve disciples, heard Jesus teach and wrote His words.

1 Peter 4:12-19

Peter, who was also one of the twelve and heard Jesus' words in John 13–15, wrote this command for other believers. Don't be surprised by your fiery ordeal.

Persecution for righteousness is not a strange thing.
When going through it, entrust yourself to the faithful Creator and do what is right. Be sure the persecution is for righteousness and not sin.

2 Timothy 3:8-13

All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
All believers are persecuted because of their intimate friendship with Christ Jesus.
Persecution is part of the Christian life because the world hates Jesus.

Acts 5:40-41

The apostles (the eleven of John 13–15 plus one more) were flogged and ordered not to speak in Jesus' name again. They rejoiced that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Luke 6:26

This is a warning.
Woe when all men speak well of you.

If you are Jesus' friend, unbelieving people are not going to like you.
They will persecute you.

DISCIPLES

What is a disciple?

A disciple is a student, a follower.

John uses the word a lot to describe certain people who followed Jesus.

True disciples are the ones who continued to follow Jesus.

John 6 records that many who followed Him for a while turned away because of the hard teaching, difficult statement. They weren't believers.

Are there true and false disciples?

Jesus said in John 8:31 that those who continue in His Word are truly His disciples.

He said that all men will know His disciples by the love they have for one another, John 13:35.

John 15:8 is similar. He said that bearing much fruit proves who His disciples are.

These things are proof of a true disciple.

How did the eleven disciples grow in their belief / faith? Was there a progression of following Jesus?

John 1 says that two disciples of John the Baptist heard him say that Jesus is the Lamb of God, and then they followed Jesus. They also told others about Him.

John 2 says His disciples believed after seeing the first sign Jesus did.

John 6 tells the difficult statement when many walked away from Jesus. But Peter stated that the twelve, he thought, believed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Only eleven of them really did.

John 11 tells that they were willing to go into Judea and die with Jesus.

But from John 2 until after Jesus' resurrection, they didn't have a clear understanding of all that was happening or of Jesus' teachings. It wasn't until after that they remembered His words and understood.

Even though the eleven all scattered at Jesus' arrest, they still stayed together until His resurrection. They were fearful, but remained together.

How does salvation relate to being Jesus' disciple?

It's the same thing. Following and learning from Jesus is part of salvation.
It's an intimate relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
It leads to an intimate relationship with other believers.

What are some of the examples Jesus showed His disciples? Discuss application of each.

Loved His own to the end (uttermost)

Washed their feet (clean because of His Word)
Servant to one another

Keep the Father's commandments and love
Love and obedience are not suggestions but commands.
They're marks of being a friend/ disciple of Jesus Christ.

Abide in Him
Ask and receive

Understand why the world hates His disciples

Friends	Disciples
<p>Lays down his life for his friends (as Jesus did)</p> <p>If do what Jesus commands</p> <p>He doesn't hide what He's going to do from His friends</p> <p>He makes known all things He heard from His Father</p> <p>Spirit abides within</p> <p>Hated, persecuted by the world</p>	<p>Student, Jesus' followers Believers, Jesus' friends</p> <p>Proof</p> <p>Continue in His Word Love one another Bear much fruit</p> <p>Ask, receive</p>

**JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis:

- John 16
- The Holy Spirit

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask about John's purpose statement and the main segments of the book. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

John recorded certain signs so that the readers believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The result of believing is eternal life in His name.

John 1–11 contains most of the signs.
Jesus taught and ministered to all in Israel and surrounding areas.

In John 12, He made His entry into Jerusalem as the King.

In chapters 13–16, He was alone with His disciples; the eleven after Judas left.
The time was the evening of His betrayal and arrest.

He taught the eleven about love, obedience, the Holy Spirit, and coming persecution from the world.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is a list of the main points about the Spirit at the end of this lesson's guide.
You can use it as a visual aid if you choose.

What does John 1–11 say about the Holy Spirit?

John 1:32-33

John the Baptist saw the Spirit descend and remain on Jesus when he baptized Him. The Father told him that He's the one who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.

Baptize means to be immersed or submerged and can indicate united or identified with something or someone.

John 3:5-8, 34

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. One must be born of the Spirit, baptized with the Spirit, to be saved.

Jesus gives the Spirit without measure to believers.
Remember that the Holy Spirit is a person, not an “it.”

John 6:63
Jesus said the Spirit gives life.

John 7:38-39
Jesus described the Spirit as rivers of living water flowing from a believer’s innermost being / heart. He said that all who believe in Him receive the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit had not been given at that time because Jesus had not been glorified.

What do John 12–15 teach about the Holy Spirit?

John 12 and 13 give the setting for this teaching.

John 14:15-17, 23, 25-26
If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
The Helper, the Spirit of truth, helps believers to love and obey.

The Helper will be with the disciples forever—He’ll be in them.
The Holy Spirit indwells, lives in, all believers.

The contrast is that the world doesn’t see, know, or receive Him.

The Spirit was with the eleven in the form of Jesus, but after He was glorified the Spirit indwelt them. Jesus asked, and the Father sent the Spirit.

In John 14:23, Jesus said that both He and the Father will come to the one who loves Jesus and make their abode / home with him. The Trinity dwells in believers in the form of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 26 tells that the Spirit will teach all things and bring to remembrance what Jesus said. Review John 2:22 and 12:16.

John 15:26-27
Jesus will send the Helper, who will proceed from the Father.
He’ll testify about Jesus.
And since He’ll be within the disciples, they will also testify / bear witness of Jesus.

JOHN 16

How does this chapter continue the flow of thought from John 13–15?

Jesus was telling His eleven disciples what was about to happen.
He warned them about the world hating them and told of the Spirit to help.

He said those things to keep them from stumbling.
They were forewarned, but didn't really understand until afterwards.
Jesus also told them they would be outcasts (ESV—put out) from the synagogue and even killed.

He was physically with them, and the Spirit was with them up to this point.
But Jesus was about to leave them, and the world still hated them.

Since Jesus said several times in John 16 that He said or spoke “these things” to you, you can ask if it's anywhere else in this segment.

John 14:25

Jesus spoke things to the disciples while abiding with them. The Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, would teach them and remind them of all He had said, not necessarily just what He said to them on this particular night.

John 15:11

Jesus spoke these things to them that His joy would be in them and their joy would be made full. These things being: abiding, keeping His commandments and the results—answered prayer.

How does knowing these things about the Holy Spirit help believers now?

What do verses 5-15 teach about the Holy Spirit?

The disciples felt sorrow because of what Jesus said.

The coming of the Spirit will help with the sorrow.
He spoke of His peace and joy being in them in 14:27 and 15:11.

Jesus had to go to the Father before the Helper could come.
Jesus was going to send the Helper to be with them.

What will the Spirit do when He comes to indwell disciples?

The Holy Spirit in believers will convict the world

- concerning sin because they do not believe in Jesus.
Unbelief is very serious and all are without excuse. As John's Gospel makes very clear, where there is no belief, there is no salvation, no hope.
- concerning righteousness because Jesus was going to the Father.
Compare John 15:22-24.

While Jesus was on earth He showed what true righteousness looks like. After He went back to the Father the Holy Spirit in believers would convict the world concerning righteousness by how they live and what they say.

- concerning judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged.
The devil was judged at the cross and the resurrection. But coming judgment awaits the world.

The Spirit guides into all the truth and discloses what is to come.

Some of the disciples became authors of some of the New Testament, The Truth. John wrote Revelation, and Matthew (Levi) also wrote of things to come.

The Spirit glorifies Jesus. The Son glorifies the Father.
Beware of any person or teaching that glorifies the Spirit above the Son.

Verses 16-28

What are these verses about? What did Jesus teach the eleven disciples?

In a little while Jesus would go back to the Father, and the disciples would not see Him.

Jesus knew they had questions, and He told them about their grief being turned to joy.
Grief when He was gone, but joy forevermore

Then He again mentioned asking in His name for their requests.

How many times did Jesus tell them to “ask” in chapters 14–16? What does this mean?

John 14:13-14

Ask anything in His name and He’ll do it.
The result is that the Father is glorified in the Son.

John 15:7, 16

Abide in Him and His words abide within—ask and it will be done.
The Father is glorified in bearing much fruit.

Disciples are chosen by Him to go and bear fruit. The fruit remains and they ask the Father for whatever they need in His name.

Since Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, believers are able to ask the Father directly for anything in Jesus’ name and He will give it to them that their joy be made full. This joy is related to answered prayer. Asking and receiving in the manner Jesus describes would glorify the Father and would be according to His will.

If one asks according to what Jesus would ask or according to His character, God will certainly answer that prayer. It’s part of the intimate relationship with Him.

Jesus uses the words “joy” and “rejoice” several times in these verses. You might ask what most people think joy means.

Joy that cannot be taken away means that you truly delight or are glad in the Lord. It is not a happy feeling.

According to verse 25, how did Jesus speak?

figurative language, then plainly

The things He said to them were full of meaning, and they would understand clearly after Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit. They would not ask Jesus, and Him ask the Father, but they would ask the Father directly. The Father would answer because of His love and their love and belief in Jesus.

What's the change in verses 29-33?

He spoke plainly, and they understood.

They no longer had the need to question Him.
They believed He came from God.

He told the disciples they would scatter and leave Jesus alone. Things were about to get very difficult for them and Jesus. However, Jesus was not alone because the Father was with Him.

The disciples would have peace in the midst of the world's tribulation.
It's possible because He overcame the world.

How is this possible for believers? Compare this with 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

God's wisdom is revealed through His Spirit who knows God's thoughts.

He reveals them to believers, so that we might know the things freely given us by God—things like love, joy, and peace.

The natural man, the world, can't know the things of God.

Give time for your group to discuss how the Holy Spirit is evident in their lives.

The HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit
Must be born of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God
The Spirit gives life

The Helper given by the Father
The Spirit of Truth
Will abide in you and be with you forever

Teach and bring to remembrance
Testify about Jesus and glorify Him
Convict world concerning sin, righteousness, judgment

Reveal God's thoughts to believers

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9

Lesson emphasis:

- John 17
- Jesus' prayer

REVIEW

Who / what is the segment of John 13–17 about? Why is it important to believers now?

John 13

Jesus knew His hour had come. He gave His disciples the example of a servant by washing their feet. He expected them to do as He had done. He gave a new commandment to love one another even as He had loved them.

John 14

Jesus told them He was going away, but assured them He would return and receive them to Himself. Jesus, the way, truth and life, would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with them (all believers) forever. The Helper, the Spirit of truth, would teach and bring to remembrance all that He said.

John 15

True life in Christ is a life of abiding in Him. One who abides in Him will bear fruit, be obedient, and love one another as Jesus did. Jesus told them that the world would hate them because the world hated Him. Jesus would send the Spirit of truth.

John 16

Jesus had to go away so that the Spirit of Truth could come. The Spirit guides into all truth, discloses what is to come, and glorifies Jesus.

He also told them that in the world they would have tribulation but they could take courage because He overcame the world.

This was the last few hours Jesus spent with His disciples in the upper room before dying on the cross and being glorified, a very intimate time of teaching how to live life in His name.

In chapters 14–17, Jesus told the disciples to ask and the Father would hear and answer. They would not need to go through Him but directly to the Father themselves. Ask in His name.

These truths apply to all believers since that time. The indwelling Holy Spirit gives life to believers and an intimate relationship with the Father and Son.

JOHN 17

What is this chapter about? How is it divided?

Jesus prayed.

Verses 1-5 regarding Himself—glorify Your Son.

Verses 6-8 are about Jesus and the eleven disciples.

Verses 9-19, He asked on behalf of the eleven disciples.

Verses 20-24, He asked on behalf of all who believe.

At the end of this lesson's guide, there is a chart with the above divisions. You might use it as a visual aid to list the main points of each section.

Verses 1-5

What do these verses say about Jesus and His prayer in these verses?

Jesus asked the Father to glorify Him, God's Son.

He asked for a reason. His desired result was that He glorify the Father.

Compare this with John 14:13 and 15:7-8.

The Father gave Jesus authority over all flesh—over all men, even those who turned away, betrayed and would shortly arrest and crucify Him.

He gives eternal life to all the Father gives Him.

Compare with John 6:37-40.

He accomplished the work the Father gave Him to do on earth—He glorified the Father in that. Compare this with John 4:34; 5:36; 14:31.

He asked for the glorification He had with the Father before the world was.

Compare this with John 1:1-3, 10.

What is the definition of eternal life?

It's knowing God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son.

Eternal life is a relationship with the Father and Son.

What do verses 6-8 teach about Jesus? Those given to Him by the Father?

Jesus showed the Father to the eleven. Compare this with John 1:18 and 14:6-11.

The eleven, given to the Son by the Father, kept His word.

They received, understood, and believed that Jesus is from the Father.

Verses 1-8 speak of intimate relationship between the Father, the Son and those given to Him by the Father.

Verses 9-19

Who did Jesus pray for? What did He ask?

He asked the Father on behalf of those whom the Father had given Him—the eleven disciples.

He asked that the Father keep them and sanctify them.

What do these verses teach about Jesus?

He didn't ask on behalf of the world, unbelievers.

He had been glorified in the eleven.

They were still in the world that He was leaving.

He kept them and guarded them while He was with them. Not one of them perished (ESV—not one of them has been lost), but Judas who was the son of perdition / destruction. Scripture was fulfilled.

But Jesus kept the eleven given to Him by the Father. He guarded them.

As He was leaving them, He asked the Father to keep them. Keep them from the evil one—the ruler of this world. The world will hate them.

Jesus also asked that the Father sanctify them in the truth of His Word. He sanctified Himself that they be sanctified.

Jesus was going to the Father. He said He was no longer in the world. He spoke as though He was no longer on this earth, that His work of the cross was accomplished.

He asked the Holy Father to keep them in His name that they may be one even as Jesus and the Father are one.

Jesus was leaving them, and life was about to be very hard for those men who had been with Him. But He didn't pray that they be taken out of the world.

The world hated and would hate them because they were not of the world as Jesus was not of the world.

From this context how does it seem that one is kept from the evil one?

By being sanctified in the truth, the Word of God
It makes believers able to think right, live right, do right, love one another, be united.

What was the mission for those given to the Son, the eleven?

They would not be taken out of the world, but sent into the world.

God sent Jesus.

Jesus sent them.

Verses 20-24

What's the result of Jesus sending the eleven into the world with His word?

Others heard and believed. Compare this with John 15:26-27.

Jesus told them what was going to happen—their mission.
Then He asked the Father to keep and sanctify them as they were sent out.

Were the requests of verses 9-19 only for the eleven? Do they seem to apply to all believers?

Verse 20 says not on behalf of these alone, but those who believe.
It is about believers.

Jesus' request this time was that they all be one.

Give time for your group to discuss application of this.

The church needs to hear this, pray this for one another.

Love one another as Jesus did—be one in Him.
He makes very clear what He means by oneness in verses 21-23.

It's the same oneness that the Father and Jesus had.

Oneness shows the world what God is like; it manifests His name, His character and brings Him glory.

What is the result of believers being one?

So that the world:

believe the Father sent Jesus

know the Father sent Jesus

know the Father loved believers as the Father loved Jesus

So how is one way to testify to the world about Jesus?

Be united with all true believers—regardless of denomination.

What did Jesus ask the Father in verse 24?

That they also whom God gave Him be with Him where He is.

How do verses 25-26 conclude Jesus' prayer?

Jesus addressed the Father in this prayer as "Holy Father" (ESV does not use the word "Holy.") and "righteous Father."

There is no prayer recorded in Scripture which addresses Jesus, only the Father. Jesus said to ask the Father in His name.

He ended His prayer with love, just as the segment began in 13:1.

End this discussion by asking your group what they've learned about Jesus and prayer.

The Son	Those the Father gave Him	Those who believe their words
Glorify	Keep them Sanctify them	That they may all be one Be with Me

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 10

Lesson emphasis:

- John 18:1–19:16
- Jesus’ arrest and trials

REVIEW

Ask for a brief review of the purpose and main segments in John.
Tell your group to look at their At A Glance charts as a visual aid.

John recorded certain signs Jesus performed so that his readers believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. That belief results in eternal life, life in His name.

John 1–11

These chapters record the signs, and Jesus called people to believe in Him.
This was a period of a few years.

John 12

He entered Jerusalem as the King, and He said that His hour had come.

John 13–17

Jesus taught the eleven disciples because Judas left to betray Him. He described life in His name—a life of abiding relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He prayed for the eleven and all who believe in Him. This was a period of only a few hours.

What does Matthew 26:30 say?

Jesus and the eleven sang a hymn before going to the Mount of Olives, the place of Gethsemane. This hymn was probably right after supper, fitting into John 14:31.

JOHN 18:1-11, JESUS’ BETRAYAL AND ARREST

Use the map in the lesson as a visual aid for your discussion.

Begin this part of the discussion by asking what happened after Jesus prayed.
Try to discuss the chronological order of events from all the Gospels.

John 18:1

Jesus and the eleven went over the Kidron ravine (ESV—Kidron Valley) to the garden of Gethsemane. It was a place He and His disciples often met.

What happened in the garden?

Jesus took Peter, James, and John to pray with Him, though all eleven were in the garden. He was deeply grieved and distressed because He knew all things which were to happen. He wanted them to be alert in prayer.

Jesus went a little beyond them, fell on His face and asked the Father that if possible to take this cup from Him. He was willing to do His Father's will, but it meant agony for Him.

He was not afraid of man or His terrible death on the cross. But He knew God's wrath against sin would be the cup He would drink. God's wrath, His fury for all sins, would be poured out on His only begotten Son. Compare with John 3:16.

Jesus told the three to keep watching and praying that they not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Three times Jesus said the same kinds of things to Peter, James, and John. Three times they fell asleep.

He had also told Peter about denying Him three times before the rooster crowed. Peter should have heeded the warning and prayed.

You might ask if your group understands this warning, and give time for them to share application.

What happened in John 18:2-11?

Judas knew about this place because he had been there before with Jesus and the others.

He brought the Roman cohort, officers from the chief priests, and the Pharisees. They came with lights and weapons.

Jesus asked who they were seeking. When He answered, "I am *He*," they all drew back and fell to the ground.

Relate to the other "I am" statements in John.

John 8:24, 28, 58

Jesus told the Jews that unless they believe that, "I am *He*, you will die in your sins." And "before Abraham... I am."

In John 18:5, 6, 8, He said the same thing.

What did Jesus say in John 18:8? What happened?

Jesus told the ones who came to arrest Him to let the eleven disciples go their way in order to fulfill the word which He spoke in John 17:12—none lost but the son of perdition that Scripture be fulfilled.

At that point, Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's slave, and Jesus restored it.

NOTE: A cohort, according to the marginal note in the NAS, is a battalion.¹ It's "1/10th of a Roman legion, 600 men under normal conditions."² But several commentators mentioned that it may not have been a full battalion that went. John MacArthur said, "in practice a cohort normally number 600 men, but could sometimes refer to as little as 200."³

Jesus told Peter to put the sword away, the cup which the Father had given Him He would drink—this cup being the suffering He was about to experience.

Jesus didn't need Peter's sword; He could have called more than 12 legions of angels to His rescue. But He didn't because these events must happen.

Jesus was arrested, and the disciples fled and left Him alone. But Peter followed at a distance, and so did John—the eyewitness of these events. His Gospel is an eyewitness account of what happened to Jesus.

JOHN 18:12-24—JESUS BEFORE ANNAS

What happened next, verses 12-14? Who was Annas?

The Roman cohort, the commander and the officers of the Jews arrested and bound Jesus. They took Him to Annas first.

Annas had been high priest prior to this time and evidently still held power.

NOTE: Annas had been deposed from the high priesthood by the Roman procurator Valerius Gratus in A.D. 15. Valerius Gratus was the governor / procurator right before Pilate. Annas still had a powerful influence over the Jewish Council at the time of Jesus' trials.

Caiaphas, Annas's son-in-law, was the high priest at this point. He presided over the Council—the Sanhedrin. Caiaphas was the high priest of John 11:50.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (John 18:12) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). DBLG 5061.

³ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, footnote (John 18:3). (Nashville, Tennessee: Word Publishing, 1997), p. 1620.

What / who are verses 15-23 about?

Peter and another disciple, probably John, followed Jesus to the high priest, Annas. They were in the court when Jesus went to Annas.

As Jesus told Annas that He spoke nothing in secret, Peter denied Jesus the first time standing at a fire. Peter, the one who had been so brave with the sword.

What happened in verse 24?

Annas sent Jesus, still bound, to Caiaphas's house.

JOHN 18:24-27, BEFORE CAIAPHAS AND THE SANHEDRIN

What happened when Jesus got to Caiaphas according to John and Matthew 26:57-75?
Continue using the map as a visual aid and point out each place Jesus went.

Peter denied Jesus the last two times, and a rooster crowed, John 18:24-27.
He then went out and wept bitterly.

The chief priests and the whole Council (a term used for the Sanhedrin) gathered there.
They tried to obtain testimony against Jesus from false witnesses.

Caiaphas asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus answered that he'd said it himself. He also said they'd see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Caiaphas then tore his robes and said Jesus blasphemed and deserved death.

They humiliated Jesus by spitting in His face, beating, slapping, and taunting Him. They were the Jewish leaders—the ones who should have been directing others to worship their Messiah.

Matthew 27:1; Mark 15:1; and Luke 22:66 say, “when morning came,” “early in the morning,” (ESV—“as soon as it was morning”) and “when it was day” (ESV—“when day came”). They led Him to their Council.

Then they conferred together to put Jesus to death and sent Him bound to Pilate.

What does Matthew say about Judas?

When Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned to death he felt remorse and tried to return the thirty pieces of silver. The Council would not take back “blood money” so Judas threw it into the temple sanctuary, went out, and hanged himself.

The money was used to buy the Potter's Field as was prophesied by Jeremiah.

JOHN 18:28-38, ROMAN TRIAL

Where was Jesus taken next? Before whom?

He was brought before Pilate at the Praetorium.
Pilate was a Gentile, and the Praetorium was Gentile territory.

NOTE: The Praetorium was the headquarters of the Roman military leader. Pilate was probably in Jerusalem because of the coming Feast of Passover.

The Jews had no power to put Jesus to death, so they had to appeal to the Roman authority.

The Jews didn't go inside the Praetorium, because it would have defiled them. Since it was Passover time, they would not have been permitted to eat Passover.

They were so careful with the outward laws of cleanliness and feasts, but were inwardly evil—they wanted Jesus dead.

So Pilate came out to them.

What's significant about verse 32? Compare with John 3:14; 8:28; 12:32-36.

Roman execution was by crucifixion, not stoning. Jesus was lifted up on the cross.

According to Luke 23:1-2, the Jews accused Jesus of misleading "our" nation, forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and claiming to be the Christ and a King.

Those charges meant more to a Roman governor than the charge of blasphemy against a God he didn't believe in.

Discuss verses 33-38.

Pilate summoned Jesus into the Praetorium to question Him. He asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews, and Jesus answered in a similar way to how He answered Caiaphas. He said he spoke correctly.

Jesus told Pilate about His kingdom and that everyone who is of the truth hears His voice.

To which Pilate asked, "What is truth?"

Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life was standing in front of Pilate.

According to Matthew 27:2, 11-14 and Mark 15:1-5, when Pilate asked Jesus if He heard the things the Jews testified against Him, Jesus didn't answer with regard to a single charge.

Pilate was amazed that Jesus didn't answer.

Who did Pilate address in verses 38-40?

He went out of the Praetorium to the Jews again. This was the first of three times in John 18–19 Pilate told the Jews that he found no guilt in Jesus.

Before Herod

What happened next, according to Luke 23:6-12?

When Pilate learned that Jesus was a Galilean, he sent Him to Herod. Galilee was under Herod Antipas's jurisdiction. He was the Herod who beheaded John the Baptist.

Herod was glad to see Jesus because he had heard about Him and wanted to see Jesus perform a sign / miracle.

When Herod questioned Jesus, He didn't answer. The Jews were accusing Jesus vehemently. Herod and his soldiers treated Him with contempt, mocking and making fun of Him. Herod dressed Him in a robe and sent Him back to Pilate.

Herod and Pilate, previously enemies, became friends that day.

Before Pilate, John 18:39–19:16

What happened when Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate?

Pilate found no guilt in Jesus and offered to release Him for Passover. The Jews wanted the robber, Barabbas, and cried for Jesus to be crucified.

Pilate and his men scourged Jesus, placed a crown of thorns on His head and a purple robe. They slapped and mocked Him. Then he brought Him out before the Jews.

NOTE: Scourging was a horrible beating. Holman's Bible Dictionary says it was a severe form of corporal punishment involving whipping and beating, usually was done with the victim tied to a post or bench.⁴

The Jews said Jesus should die because He claimed to be the Son of God. This statement made Pilate even more afraid. So he took Jesus back into the Praetorium for more questions.

Jesus' answer to Pilate's assumption of authority to release or crucify Him was that authority was given to him from above.

⁴ Trent C. Butler, general ed., *Holman Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), p. 1237.

The one who delivered Jesus over to Pilate, probably a reference to Judas and/or the Jews, had the greater sin.

The crowd tried to intimidate Pilate by saying he was not a friend of Caesar if he released Jesus. Pilate presented Jesus to the Jews this time as their King. The people shouted that they had no king but Caesar. Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

It was the sixth hour (maybe 6 a.m.) on the preparation day for Passover, which began at twilight, about 6 pm.

Give your group time to think about this scene.

Behold the Man; behold your King.
He did not look like a king, but a beaten man.
Help your group understand that this was for them.

What do Matthew 27:15-31; Mark 15:6-20; and Luke 23:13-25 add to this?

Pilate knew that it was because of envy that the chief priest and elders handed Jesus over. Luke 23:14-15 says that neither Pilate nor Herod found any guilt, nothing deserving death, in Him.

Pilate's wife warned him to have nothing to do with Jesus, "that righteous Man." He didn't listen to her, but the crowds.

He was concerned that a riot would start. Wanting to please the crowd, he declared he was innocent of this Man's blood and washed his hands of the whole matter.

The Jews said that His blood was on them and their children.

The Roman cohort stripped Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him, a crown of thorns on His head and a reed in His hand. They proceeded to mock and spit and beat him on the head.

They then took the robe off Him and put His garments back on and led Him away to be crucified.

To end this discussion you might have a time of prayer together in thanksgiving for what Jesus Christ, the King, the Man did for each one who has heard the truth and believed.

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 11

Lesson emphasis:

- John 19:17-42
- Jesus' crucifixion

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you might ask what your group remembers about the events of John 18–19:16, Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and trials.

Jesus was betrayed and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

He was then taken to Annas and Caiaphas, high priests.
The Council, Sanhedrin, concluded that He deserved to die.

He was then sent to Pilate, Herod Antipas, and back to Pilate for the Roman trials.

Pilate had Him scourged. The soldiers clothed Him in a purple robe and put on Him a crown of thorns. He was mocked, spit on, slapped.

Pilate said three times he found no guilt in Jesus, and Herod agreed.
But the cry from the Jews was, "Crucify Him."

How much of that was foretold in the Old Testament?

Isaiah 53:5 tells of His scourging. It says that by His scourging we are healed, healed of sin-sickness. Verse 7 says that He was silent.

All this happened to Jesus that Scripture, prophecy, be fulfilled.
John 13:18; 19:24, 28, 36.

You might ask why Jesus went through such a horrible death.

Jesus did this for each one of us. Isaiah 53:6 says that all of us like sheep have gone astray, each to his own way, but God laid the iniquity of us all on Him.

Help your group to remember this as you discuss Jesus' crucifixion and burial.

One order for this discussion is to get the facts from John and the other Gospels, then discuss Psalm 22 and Isaiah 52–53 at the end.

Another order is to work in the prophecies when discussing the events. Either order will give you a logical discussion.

John 19:17-37, Jesus' Crucifixion

What happened? Compare this with Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; and Luke 23:26-49.

Jesus began carrying His own cross, but the soldiers pressed Simon the Cyrene into carrying it to Golgotha. It was the horizontal bar of the cross.¹

Luke 23:27-31 says that Jesus spoke to some of the women who followed. He told them to weep for themselves and their children, not for Him. Relate this to Matthew 27:25 from the previous lesson about His trials.

Golgotha was the Place of a Skull. It's located outside Jerusalem's city walls.

There He was crucified between two robbers, which fulfilled Isaiah 53:12.

Pilate had a sign written in three languages and put on the cross. It said, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews."

The inscription made the Jews angry, and they wanted it removed. Pilate said what he had written he had written.

NOTE: It was customary to attach the reason for the execution. The inscription truly identified who hung on that cross and the reason.

The crowd passing by, the robbers, the chief priests, the scribes and elders were all hurling abuse at Jesus. Psalm 22:6-8 refers to this.

Luke 23:34 records that Jesus asked His Father to forgive them because they didn't realize what they were doing.

The soldiers also mocked Him and divided His outer garments into four parts and cast lots for His tunic. John 19:24 quotes Psalm 22:18.

God explained how this major event would happen hundreds of years before it took place, even with some minor details.

His word can be trusted—it's the truth, and He doesn't lie or make mistakes.

Only days before, the people of Jerusalem had hailed Jesus as the one who came in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel, John 12.

¹ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, footnote (John 19:17). (Nashville, Tennessee: Word Publishing, 1997), p. 1624.

According to the other Gospels, what happened when Jesus was crucified?

There was darkness for three hours. Imagine the atmosphere at that point. It was during daylight hours, yet there was darkness.

At about the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” This was also prophesied by David in Psalm 22:1.

The temple veil was torn in two from top to bottom. The Father made the “Way” to Him accessible by the cross.

Matthew 27:51-54 tells that there was also an earthquake. With the eclipse and the earthquake some realized that Jesus was the Son of God.

The earthquake opened some tombs, and saints rose from them.
After Jesus’ resurrection, they entered Jerusalem and appeared to people.

What happened with the two thieves?

They both mocked Jesus with all the others.

Then one asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom.
Jesus told him that he would be in paradise with Him that day.

Who else did Jesus talk to while on the cross, according to John 19:25-30?

Before He died, Jesus also spoke to His mother and the disciple He loved, probably the writer of this Gospel, John.

He gave Mary into John’s care. Joseph was most likely dead at that point, and Jesus was the oldest son and cared for her.

What were His last words from the cross?

To fulfill Scripture, Jesus said, “I am thirsty!”

After crying out loudly to His Father that He committed His spirit into His hands and, “It is finished,” Jesus yielded up His spirit and breathed His last.

It seems that He made the last two statements at the same time,
Luke 23:46 and John 19:30.

What did He mean when He said it is finished?

Jesus finished His redemption work. The debt was paid in full and written on Jesus. John 19:28 says that He knew all things were accomplished.

What happened after He died?

Passover was approaching and the Jewish leaders didn't want bodies on crosses in sight. They asked Pilate to break their legs and take them away.

Psalm 22:14-17 describes some of what happens to a person's body when crucified. One has to push himself up against the cross to take a breath. If his legs are broken, then death comes quicker.

The thieves' legs were broken, but the soldiers found Jesus was dead already.

They pierced His side with a sword. Blood and water came out, which showed that Jesus was dead. Isaiah 53:5 says He was pierced for our transgressions.

John 19:36-37 says this fulfilled prophecies about His death—not a bone broken.

Verse 35 states that John was an eyewitness of these things.

JOHN 19:38-42, JESUS' BURIAL

Compare this with Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56.

Who buried Jesus?

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

Ask your group what they remember about Nicodemus from John 3 and 7:50-52.

He went to Jesus at night; he knew Jesus was from God because of the signs. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.

He was also the one who spoke to the Jewish rulers and Pharisees about judging Jesus before hearing Him and knowing what He was doing. He referred to the rightness of the Law. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and probably a member of the Sanhedrin.

What does John 19 say about him?

He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to bury Jesus.
Nicodemus was with Joseph, another one of Jesus' secret disciples.
They buried Him.

Who was Joseph?

Mark 15:43 says that he was a prominent member of the Council who was waiting for the kingdom of God. It took courage to ask Pilate for Jesus' body.

Luke 23:50-51 says that he was a good and righteous man who didn't consent to the Council's plan and action. He was from Arimathea.

He and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus in linen with spices and buried Him in Joseph's own new tomb because it was nearby, and it was the day of preparation for Passover.

Isaiah 53:9, He was with a rich man in His death.

What did the women do?

There were several women mentioned in the other Gospels who were at Jesus' crucifixion and burial. John's own mother was one of them. They went to prepare spices and perfumes for Jesus' body.

The Jews didn't embalm, so they dealt with a dead body's decay and stench with spices and perfumes.

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

To end your discussion you might discuss this passage using the chart at the end of their lesson. Ask your group what they learned as they completed the chart, especially the last column.

Jesus was smitten by God and afflicted for our transgressions.

The Son didn't protest as He took all our sins on Himself.

He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, oppressed. The Lord God caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

Who did Jesus suffer all of this for?

Jesus suffered for the Jews who wanted Him crucified, the Romans doing the crucifixion, and us. He died for the sins of the whole world.

Give your group time to share how God ministered to them through this lesson, and what they may have learned for their own lives.

JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 12

Lesson emphasis:

- John 20
- Resurrection

REVIEW

To begin your discussion you can ask for a brief review of the purpose and main segments in John. Tell your group to look at their At A Glance charts as a visual aid.

John recorded certain signs Jesus performed so that his readers believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. That belief results in eternal life, life in His name.

John 1–11

These chapters record the signs, and Jesus called people to believe in Him. This was a period of a few years.

John 12

He entered Jerusalem as the King, and He said that His hour had come.

John 13–17

Jesus taught the eleven disciples because Judas left to betray Him. He described life in His name—a life of abiding relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He prayed for the eleven and all who believe in Him. This was a period of only a few hours.

Ask what they remember about the resurrection in John 1–19.

The first time resurrection is mentioned in John is in 2:17-23 when Jesus said that He would raise up the temple of His body in 3 days.

The disciples remembered and believed this after His resurrection.

In John 5:24-29, Jesus taught about resurrection, eternal life, and judgment.

He said that all the Father gives to Him will come to Him, and He'll raise them up on the last day, John 6:37-44.

John 10:17-18, Jesus has authority to lay down His life and take it up again.

He raised Lazarus from the dead in chapter 11. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life . . ." Believers will live, even if they die.

In John 12, He said that a grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die to produce fruit—life.

NOTE: One possible order for this discussion is to follow the chronological order of John 20 and work in the details from the other Gospels when appropriate. Use the chart at the end of the lesson as a visual aid.

Then discuss the other Bible references from Day Four of the lesson.

JOHN 20

Verses 1-10

What are these verses about? Discuss the cross-references at appropriate points.

It was the first day of the week, Sunday, while still dark.
The other Gospels tell that it was dawn.

Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb to anoint Jesus' body and found that the stone was moved away from the opening, and an angel sat on it.
According to Luke 24, there were two angels.

The other Gospels tell that Mary was not alone, other women were with her.
The angel told them Jesus had risen and they were to tell His disciples.
The women were terrified, amazed, astonished, and filled with joy.

According to Matthew 28, the stone was moved away.

The angel of the Lord came down, caused an earthquake and rolled the stone away.

The guards at the tomb were paralyzed with fear.

NOTE: It's difficult to arrange the events in all of the Gospels in a detailed chronological order. Don't let your group get off track doing that. Help them focus on the main events.

What happened in verses 2-10?

Mary then ran to tell Peter and John, who ran to the tomb and looked inside.
They saw the linen wrappings / cloths and the face cloth rolled up in a place by itself.

Jesus left them behind—not like Lazarus who came forth from the tomb bound head and foot in the grave clothes.

John saw and believed. The disciples hadn't understood until then that Jesus would rise from the dead.

Peter and John then returned to their home.

Compare this with Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-8; and Mark 16:1-10.

It seems that the women told all of the eleven apostles, but Peter and John were the only ones who went to the tomb to see for themselves.

Verses 11-18

Who are these verses about? What happened? Compare this with the other Gospels.

Mary Magdalene went back to the tomb, and Jesus appeared to her.

Mark 16:9 says that He first appeared to Mary Magdalene.

Matthew 28:9-10 says that Jesus appeared to the women, including Mary Magdalene. That description of what happened is very similar to the John account about Mary.

Mary didn't recognize Him and thought He was the gardener, but when she heard Him say her name, she recognized Him.

He told her not to cling to Him and go tell His brethren that He was to ascend to His Father and their Father, His God and their God.

If this is the same incident as in Matthew 28:9-10, it says that the women took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

She then went and told the disciples that she'd seen the Lord.

What happened before John 20:19-23?

Matthew 28:11-15

The guards, who were assigned by Pilate to make sure the disciples didn't steal Jesus' body, told the chief priests what had happened.

The chief priests together with the elders decided to bribe the guards with a large sum of money. They were to say that His disciples stole Jesus' body away while the guards were sleeping.

The story spread among the Jews and was still believed when John wrote this.

Luke 24:13-35

Jesus appeared to two disciples, one named Cleopas, on the road to Emmaus, but they didn't recognize Him. It was the same with Mary until He spoke to her. His resurrection body was different (Luke 24:37-39, 42-43).

Jesus said they were foolish and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had said. The Christ had to suffer these things, and then enter His glory.

Then He explained the Scriptures from Moses and all the prophets concerning Himself. When they approached Emmaus, they asked Him to stay with them.

When He broke and blessed the bread and gave it to them, their eyes were opened and recognized Jesus. Then He vanished.

Ask your group if they have experienced verse 32 as they've studied the Scriptures.

Our hearts were burning within in us while He explained the Scriptures.

What happened in verses 33-35?

They went back to Jerusalem, found the eleven and other disciples, and related their story.

Verse 34 says that Jesus appeared to Simon, and 1 Corinthians 15:5 says that He appeared to Cephas—Peter.

Verses 19-24

What are these verses about? What happened next? When?

The evening of Jesus' resurrection day, the first day of the week, the disciples were behind closed doors because they feared the Jews. Jesus appeared to them and showed them His hands and side. (Thomas wasn't with them.)

Twice He said, "Peace be with you."
And He spoke of sending them as He'd been sent by the Father.

Then He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
He told them about forgiving sins.

Is this the same thing Jesus spoke of in John 7:38-39 and 16:7?

It's not the same because Jesus had not gone away at that time—His glorification was not complete. He was still on earth and had not gone to the Father, verse 17.

What are verses 21-23 about?

Even though they were hiding in fear, Jesus told them to have peace.
In John 14–16 He connected His peace with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

He spoke of what they would do as they were sent like He'd been sent.
They knew what resulted in forgiveness—belief in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, the resurrection and the life. Unbelief retained sins.

NOTE: These verses are much debated among believers. You don't have time for getting off track in this discussion.

Verses 24-29

Ask what they learned about Thomas.

He was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them the first time. He said unless he saw and felt the nail prints in Jesus' hands and put his hand in His side he would not believe.

Eight days later, when the doors were shut again and the disciples inside, Jesus stood in their midst and allowed Thomas to see and believe.

Jesus spoke the same words to them about peace.

How does what Jesus said in verse 29 about the "blessed" relate to believers now?

We've not seen Jesus' resurrected body, but we believe.
Compare with John 17:20—we believe because of the eleven being sent.
John wrote the truth so that we might believe.

What was the sign of chapter 20?

Jesus' resurrection as stated in John 2:18-22.

What other appearances of Jesus are in this lesson?

John 21 and Matthew 28:16-20
These appearances took place in Galilee. The Matthew appearance was at the mountain.

John 21:14 says that He appeared for the third time to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias—the Sea of Galilee.

NOTE: Acts 1:1-3 says that Jesus appeared to the apostles over a period of 40 days between His resurrection and ascension.

RESURRECTION

Discuss what the New Testament teaches about resurrection.

What are the main points of the gospel, 1 Corinthians 15:1-32?

Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

His burial and being in the tomb for 3 days proves His death.

He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

His appearances prove His resurrection.

Verses 9-32 help us understand that the resurrection is good news—gospel.

If there is no resurrection, then our faith is in vain and we are still in our sins.

Our faith would be worthless and our preaching worthless as well.

There is no life if Christ was not raised from the dead.

Why is the resurrection an important doctrine in the Christian faith?

Peter wrote, in 1 Peter 1:3, that God caused us to be born again through Jesus' resurrection.

Romans 4:22-25; 6:4-5

Jesus' resurrection brought our justification. God declared believers righteous because of the resurrection. He was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.

Believers are buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

In other words, one who is baptized into Christ should no longer be the same. The resurrection of Christ affects our lives now in how we live.

What will believers be like in the resurrection on the last day?

1 John 3:2

John wrote that believers will be like Jesus when He appears. Then we'll all see Him as He is.

Philippians 3:21

Our bodies, by His power, will be transformed into conformity with the body of His glory.

Matthew 22:23-32

The Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, were questioning Jesus. He spoke of Moses because they claimed to believe and read Moses.

When saying that Moses wrote, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob," Jesus was reminding them that these three fathers of the faith were living in His presence. God is not the God of the dead but the living.

The Sadducees didn't understand the Scriptures or the power of God. Angels don't procreate so there is no need for marriage. In the resurrection believers will be like that as well.

You might ask how these things give your group reason to rejoice.

There are many things about the resurrection that should cause the believer to rejoice.

As time permits allow them to give their answers that would refute the theories men have used to explain away the resurrection.

The resurrection is a historical fact—Jesus was seen; the resurrection was witnessed by many. His death was seen and witnessed by many. The soldiers saw the blood and water.

He was not stolen. The tomb was sealed with Pilate's seal and guarded by his guards. The grave clothes were there. The earthquake was experienced by all in the area.

End your time together in prayer and praise for all that Jesus Christ has done and that He has opened your eyes to believe.

**JOHN PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 13**

Lesson emphasis:

- John 21
- Peter and Jesus' relationship

REVIEW

To begin this last discussion you can ask how John 20 ended.

John told why he wrote about the signs in this Gospel.

He recorded certain signs Jesus performed so that his readers believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. That belief results in eternal life, life in His name.

Tell your group to look at their At A Glance charts as a visual aid.

What are the segment divisions in John? What are the segments about?

John 1–11

These chapters record the signs, and Jesus called people to believe in Him.

This was a period of a few years.

John 12

He said that His hour had come, and He entered Jerusalem as the King.

John 13–17

Jesus taught the eleven disciples; Judas had left to betray Him.

He described life in His name—a life of an abiding relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He prayed for the eleven and all who believe in Him.

This was a period of only a few hours.

John 18–20

These chapters tell about Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trials, crucifixion, and resurrection.

His resurrection is the last sign of this Gospel.

John 21

How does this chapter fit with the rest of John?

This is continuation of events from the last segment of John.

It's Jesus' last post-resurrection appearance in this Gospel.

The Christ, the Son of God told more of life in His name to those who believed.

Verses 1-14

What are these verses about?

After His resurrection, Jesus manifested Himself a third time to seven of His disciples.

Simon Peter
Thomas
Nathanael
James and John, Zebedee's sons
Two others

This time they were at the Sea of Tiberias (Sea of Galilee).

Those disciples were out on the water fishing, but caught no fish.

From the shore Jesus told them what to do, and they caught 153 fish. So many that they almost could not haul them in.

The text doesn't say that this was a sign, but it seems like one.

John recognized Jesus first and told Peter, who jumped into the water and swam to shore where Jesus was.

Jesus already had a fire going with bread and fish on it. No one asked who He was because they all knew then.

Verses 15-17

Who are these verses about?

Direct your students to the chart in the lesson about these verses as a visual aid.

Peter. It was for Peter's benefit.

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter three times if he loved Him.

The first two times Jesus used the word *agapao* for love.

This love is a higher kind of love—a devoted, totally committed, sacrificial, unconditional kind of love.

The third time He used *phileo*—a friendship, a fond affection kind of love.

The first question in verse 15 had at the end “more than these?”

You might ask your group what they think that means based on their study and the context.

If it were the fish, then Jesus asked Peter about forsaking all that was familiar to him—fishing as a way of life.

If the disciples, He could have meant—do you love Me more than these other men love Me.

When Jesus had told them that He was going away and they would follow later, Peter said he would lay down his life for Jesus.

In Matthew 26:33 he said even if everyone fell away, he would not.

In John 18, Peter went so far in his zeal as to cut off Malchus’s ear while Jesus was still with him.

But then he went on to deny Jesus three times after Jesus was arrested.

How many times did Jesus give Peter opportunity to confess his love for Him?

Three times

Ask what this conversation says about Jesus.

Three times Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to confess his devotion to Christ.

Peter was grieved the third time, and said, “Lord, You know all things / everything”
In other words, You know my heart.

Peter was humble.

The Good Shepherd commanded Peter who had denied Him:

Tend My lambs

Shepherd My sheep

Tend My sheep

Peter was to feed, act as a shepherd, protect and care for His own.

Give time for your group to discuss application of this restoration and instruction.

Verses 18-23

What are these verses about?

Jesus told Peter how he was going to die.

Tradition says that Peter was crucified upside down, not being worthy to be crucified like his Lord.

When Peter asked about the disciple whom Jesus loved (John) following them, Jesus told him to follow Him regardless of what anyone else did.

Verses 24-25

Who is this about?

John, the Gospel writer, didn't refer to himself by name.

He simply called Himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

A term which is applicable to all of His disciples.

He was an eyewitness of these things and wrote them for others to read.

Compare these statements with John 19:35.

Direct the discussion back to John 21.

Verse 25 again shows that John was selective in what He wrote in this Gospel to fulfill His purpose of belief for his readers.

The world couldn't contain the books which might be written about Jesus and the significance of all that He did.

Why did John choose to write about these things in his Gospel?

So that we might believe and have eternal life and to strengthen our faith.

Spend the rest of your discussion time by asking your group to share what this study has meant to them. You might want to congratulate your group for finishing such a powerful study.

An assignment you can give your students is to lead someone else through a study of John. PMI has two easy studies you can suggest: *God, Are You There? Do You Care? Do You Know about Me?* and *The God Who Cares and Knows You*.