

The background features a dark silhouette of a city skyline against a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky. In the foreground, a person is captured in mid-air, jumping or falling from a dark ledge, silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

CULMINATE

LIVE POWERFULLY
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN VOLUME 3

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR, HASN'T IT?

I don't think anyone could have imagined what 2020 was going to be like. We began the year with such hope and anticipation, only to have COVID-19 make a play to rob us of that hope and future. I believe God has had us in the book of John for a reason.

There is no greater text in the entire Bible that captures the hope and future promised to us better than John.

We began the year asking two key questions: **1) Who am I?** and **2) Why am I here?** We began to unpack those questions in the first four chapters of John by seeing clearly WHO Jesus is, "...the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Seeing who Jesus is begins to frame for us who we are and leads us to walk more purposely in life. As we continued through the pandemic, and chapters 5-10 of the book of John, we witnessed Jesus perform miracles and challenge His followers to not just be followers but become DISCIPLES. Jesus didn't hold back. He called people to a deeper walk.

As we roll into Fall, we will look at the final week of Jesus's life on Earth and the final lessons He has for His disciples. Jesus will lay out how we can LIVE POWERFULLY. Right now, we need this reminder more than ever! Regardless of what is happening all around us and what might happen in the future, we can live with confidence, power and purpose that can change the world.

So, no matter where you may be joining us from on this journey, remember God doesn't need big auditoriums and crowds He wants to meet you wherever you are and help you become a disciple of Jesus.

Your Shepherd,

Pastor Jason

Father, I pray this study helps me...

“Father, thank you for revealing Your heart to me through Your Son Jesus. I am praying for _____. I pray that they will join me on this study and will pursue walking purposely by following the footsteps of Jesus. I pray they will be open to my invitation and receptive to future conversations. Father, please use me however you must to guide _____ closer to You.

I want to be used by You to help _____ take the next step in their spiritual journey. Father help them _____

I trust that You will use this study to grow me and use me to help others grow.

In Jesus’s name, **AMEN.**

three ways

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY

INDIVIDUALLY

If you find yourself doing this study alone, worry not. This study will be mostly reflective, as you will ask yourself these questions while seeking out God's given destiny for you. It is our hope and prayer that by the time this study is over, you will have found others that you can do life with.

WITH YOUR GROUP

This study is most optimized for a group setting and requires very little teaching. As you go through this study, know that it's not about getting through every single question. Build on each other to create a better sense of community and belonging that will add value to your life while living God's best version of you.

WITH YOUR FAMILY

If you're doing this study with your family, what a great opportunity for you to guide your family and see clearly who Jesus is. This guide was set up to help facilitate conversation, so don't feel like you must go through every question or teach. Tailor the questions, if needed, for young ones to better understand the conversation. This is a living document and can be shaped to easily fit the family dynamic.

HOW TO USE S.O.A.P.

Open your Bible and ask God to illuminate what He wants you to learn and apply today. God's Word says that the Holy Spirit "will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13) and will help you understand what you read from the scriptures. Read the passage slowly and look for that specific "gem" of truth that jumps off the page and grabs your attention.

SCRIPTURE

Choose one Bible verse that stands out to me and copy it word for word.

OBSERVATION

What does this verse teach me about my relationship with God?

APPLICATION

How will I be different because of what I've read today?

PRAYER

Write out a prayer asking God to help me live out what I've just learned.

P.R.A.Y.

There is no special formula for prayer. There are no “buzz words” or phrases that capture God’s attention more than any other. Prayer is pouring your honest, surrendered heart out to God and seeking His answers to your struggles. When asked by His disciples about prayer, Jesus responded with the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.””

Jesus’s response points out four key attributes of prayer. We’ve made an acrostic to make it easy to remember every time you pray. This isn’t a formula, but if you need a little direction in your prayers, this serves as a great guide.

PRAISE: Praise God for who He is and His attributes. Begin by giving Him your worship and adoration.

REPENT: Confess to God the things you have done in word, thought or deed which led you into sin. Confess and repent.

ASK: After you have spent time in praise and repentance, make your requests known to God by asking Him to provide your needs.

YIELD: God is always at work around you. Take time to notice when He invites you to join Him to become part of His mission.

As we pray through this season, be praying for clarity. Pray... Father help me to see Jesus clearly. As we see Jesus clearly it will help us answer two questions that we all wrestle with... Who am I? and Why am I here? Jesus is the filter that helps us answer those two questions. Make prayer a key part of this study and use the prayer journal in the back of this workbook to track how God is responding to your prayers.

“HE SPOKE,

and galaxies whirled into place, stars burned the heavens, and planets began orbiting their suns-words of awesome, unlimited, unleashed power. He spoke again, and the waters and lands were filled with plants and creatures, running, swimming, growing, and multiplying words of animating, breathing, pulsing life. Again He spoke, and man and woman were

formed, thinking, speaking, and loving-words of personal and creative glory. Eternal, infinite, unlimited-He was, is, and always will be the Maker and Lord of all that exists.

And then He came in the flesh to a speck in the universe called planet earth. The mighty Creator became a part of the creation, limited by time and space and susceptible to aging, sickness, and death. But love propelled Him and so He came to rescue and save those who were lost and to give them the gift of eternity. He is the Word; He is Jesus, the Christ.

It is this truth that the apostle John brings to us in this book. John’s Gospel is not a life of Christ; it is a powerful argument for the incarnation, a conclusive demonstration that Jesus was, and is, the very heaven-sent Son of God and the only source of eternal life.

John discloses Christ’s identity with his very first words, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning” (1: 1, 2); and the rest of the book continues the theme. John, the eyewitness, chose eight of Christ’s miracles (or signs, as he calls them), to reveal Christ’s divine/human nature and His life-giving mission. These signs are (1) turning water to wine (2:1-11), (2) healing the official’s son (4:46-54), (3) healing the invalid at Bethesda (5:1-9), (4) feeding the 5,000 with just a few loaves and fish (6:1-14), (5) walking on the water (6:15-21), (6) restoring sight to the blind man (9:1-41), (7) raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44), and, after the resurrection, (8) giving the disciples an overwhelming catch of fish (21:1-14).

In every chapter Jesus’s deity is revealed and Jesus’s identity is underscored through titles He is given: The Word, The One and Only, The Lamb of God, The Son of God, True Bread, Life, Resurrection, The Vine. And the formula is “I am.” When Jesus uses this phrase, He affirms His preexistence and eternal deity. Jesus says, “I am the bread of life” (6:35); “I am the light of the world” (8:12; 9:5); “I am the gate” (10:7); “I am the good shepherd” (10:11,14); “I am the resurrection and the life” (11:25); I am the way, the truth and the life” (14:6); and “I am the true vine (15:1).”

The greatest sign, of course, is the resurrection, and John provides a stirring eyewitness account of finding the empty tomb. Then he records various post-resurrection appearances by Jesus.

John, the devoted follower of Christ, has given us a personal and powerful look at Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God. As you read His story, commit yourself to believe in and follow Him.”

VITAL STATISTICS

PURPOSE

To prove, conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

AUTHOR

John the apostle, son of Zebedee, brother of James, called a “Son of Thunder”

TO WHOM WRITTEN

New Christians and searching non-Christians

DATE WRITTEN

Probably A.D. 85-90

SETTING

Written after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and before John’s exile to the island of Patmos

KEY PLACES

Judean countryside, Samaria, Galilee, Bethany, Jerusalem

KEY PEOPLE

Jesus, John the Baptist, the disciples, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Jesus’s mother, Pilate, Mary Magdalene

KEY VERSES

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (20:30, 31).

SPECIAL FEATURES

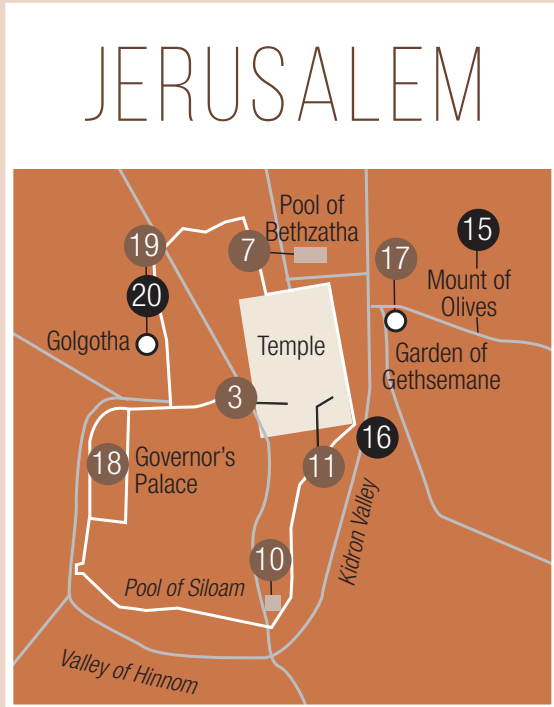
Of the eight miracles recorded, six are unique (among the Gospels) to John, as is the “Upper Room Discourse” (chapters 14-17). Over 90 percent of John is unique to his Gospel - John does not contain a genealogy or any record of Jesus’s birth, childhood, temptation, transfiguration, appointment of the disciples, nor any account of Jesus’s parables, ascension, or Great Commission.

G O S P E L O F J O H N

SOME MAJOR EVENTS

- 1 Near Bethany across the Jordan, John calls Jesus “the Lamb of God” (Joh 1:29)
- 2 In Cana of Galilee, Jesus performs His first miracle (Joh 2:3, 7-9, 11)
- 3 Jesus cleanses the temple for the first time (Joh 2:13-15)
- 4 Jesus goes to the Judean countryside; His disciples baptize; John baptizes in Aenon (Joh 3:22, 23)
- 5 At Jacob’s well at Sychar, Jesus talks to a Samaritan woman (Joh 4:4-7, 14, 19, 20)
- 6 Jesus heals an official’s son from a distance, His second sign in Cana of Galilee (Joh 4:46, 47, 50-54)
- 7 Jesus heals a sick man at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (Joh 5:2-5, 8, 9)
- 8 Northeast side of the Sea of Galilee; after Jesus miraculously fed about 5,000 men, people try to make Him king (Mt 14:19-21; Joh 6:10, 14, 15)
- 9 In a synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus says that He is “the bread of life”; many stumble at His words (Joh 6:48, 54, 59, 66)
- 10 At the pool of Siloam, Jesus heals a man born blind (Joh 9:1-3, 6, 7)
- 11 In Solomon’s Colonnade in the temple, the Jews try to stone Jesus (Joh 10:22, 23, 31)
- 12 When the Jews try to seize Jesus, he goes to where John was baptizing at first; many across the Jordan put faith in Jesus (Joh 10:39-42)
- 13 Jesus resurrects Lazarus in Bethany (Joh 11:38, 39, 43, 44)
- 14 When Jews in Jerusalem conspire to kill Jesus, He departs for Ephraim, a city in the region near the wilderness (Joh 11:53, 54)
- 15 On the road from Bethany, Jesus rides a donkey and enters Jerusalem triumphantly (Mt 21:1, 7-10; Mr 11:1, 7-11; Lu 19:29, 30, 35, 37, 38; Joh 12:12-15)
- 16 Jesus crosses the Kidron Valley and goes to Gethsemane with his disciples (Mt 26:30; Mr 14:26; Lu 22:39; Joh 18:1)
- 17 In the garden of Gethsemane, Judas betrays Jesus and He is arrested (Mt 26:47-50; Mr 14:43-46; Lu 22:47, 48, 54; Joh 18:2, 3, 12)
- 18 Jesus is scourged and mocked in the governor’s palace (Mt 27:26-29; Mr 15:15-20; Joh 19:1-3)
- 19 Jesus is nailed to a cross at Golgotha (Mt 27:33-36; Mr 15:22-25; Lu 23:33; Joh 19:17, 18)
- 20 The resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene in the garden near the tomb (Mt 28:1, 5, 6, 8, 9; Joh 20:11, 12, 15-17)
- 21 On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus appears to His disciples; Peter affirms his affection for Jesus (Joh 21:12-15)

- Location of Event
- Approximate Location of Event in the Area
- ↑ Possible Route
- Galilee Region
- Location Less Certain
- Location Less Certain ? when precise location in area is unknown



JOURNEYS OF JESUS

6BC – 26AD Childhood Journeys

- 6/5BC Jesus is born in Judea (Bethlehem) and is consecrated in the Temple of Jerusalem.
- 5/4BC Mary, Joseph & Jesus flee from Bethlehem to Egypt, before returning to Galilee (Nazareth).
- c. 7AD Jesus visits Jerusalem near His 13th birthday.

26 – 28AD Journeys around Galilee

- 26 AD Baptized by John at Bethany beyond the Jordan.
- 26 AD Tempted by the devil in the Judean Desert.
- 26 AD Performs His first miracle at Cana in Galilee.
- 27AD Visits Jerusalem for the Passover Festival.
- 27AD Jesus's followers baptize in the River Jordan.
- 27AD Travels north to Galilee via Sychar in Samaria.
- 27AD Ministers in Galilee (Cana, Nain, Capernaum & Bethsaida).
- 28AD Ministers in Galilee (from His home in Capernaum).
- 28AD Crosses the Sea of Galilee to Gerasa (Gadara).

29 – 30AD Journeys beyond Galilee

- 29AD Feeds 5,000 in the territory of Decapolis.
- 29AD Visits Phoenicia (Tyre & Sidon), Dalmanutha & Bethsaida.
- 29AD Peter proclaims Jesus as the Messiah at Caesarea Phillippi.
- 29AD Jesus is “transfigured” at Mount Herson.
- 29AD He travels via Samaria to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles & the Festival of Hanukkah.
- 30AD Jesus stays at Bethany beyond the Jordan.
- 30AD He raises Lazarus from the dead at Bethany near Jerusalem, before withdrawing to Ephraim.

30AD Last Journey to Jerusalem.

- 30AD Passes through Jericho, Bethany & Bethphage on His last journey to Jerusalem.
- 30AD Enters Jerusalem on a donkey & stays at Bethany.
- 30AD Drives out the merchants from the Temple in Jerusalem.
- 30AD Shares the Passover supper with His followers in Jerusalem.
- 30AD Tried before Pilate at the Praetorium (Herod's Palace) in Jerusalem.
- 30AD Executed at Golgotha on the hill of Calvary.
- 30AD Resurrected and appears to followers in Jerusalem, Emmaus & Galilee.
- 30AD Enters into God's presence (“heaven”) at the Mount of Olives.
- 35AD Appears to Paul on the road to Damascus.



W E E K O N E

— John 11:1-44 —

The Death of Lazarus

1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. 2 This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair.[a] Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." 5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days. 7 Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

8 But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people[b] in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

9 Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. 10 But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light." 11 Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

12 The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" 13 They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

14 So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 And for your sakes,

I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

16 Thomas, nicknamed the Twin,[c] said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

17 When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. 18 Bethany was only a few miles[d] down the road from Jerusalem, 19 and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. 20 When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life.[e] Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." 28 Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you."

29 So Mary immediately went to him.

WEEK ONE - JOHN 11:1-44

30 Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 31 When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. 32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him,^[f] and he was deeply troubled. 34 "Where have you put him?" he asked them.

They told him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Then Jesus wept. 36 The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" 37 But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

38 Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. 39 "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" 41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people

standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." 43 Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

Look Back:

- How much can you share about John?
- What was the time period? What was happening?

Look Up:

- Read John Chapter 11:1-44 together.
- Is it easier for you to trust God's process or the outcome? (*i.e., Is it difficult for you to trust God's timing over your own?*) How does it challenge your faith when God doesn't do something when you want or the way you want it?
- Think about how Mary and Martha reacted to Jesus. In most cases in your life do you tend to react like Mary or like Martha? (*Be honest with your answer. Do you go to Jesus or do you sit in defeat?*)
- In John 11:25-27, Jesus tells Martha that He is the resurrection. He then asks her a question, "Do you believe?" In a crisis it can be hard to see the other side of a situation, but the question remains, do you believe? Do you find it difficult to believe and why do you think that is?
- The shortest verse in the whole Bible is John 11:35, "Jesus wept". Why do you think he wept? Before you answer the question think about God's original design for man. What would move Jesus so much, the Lord of all things, to weep like He did?
- In John 11:43, Jesus calls Lazarus by name. Why do you think that is? Why is that important? Jesus could have said anything to raise Lazarus, but he chose to do it this way. Why?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

NOTES

S . O . A . P .

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

TODAY I WILL

TODAY I'M GRATEFUL FOR

PRAYER

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W E E K T W O

— John 11:45- 12:20 —

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. 46 But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council[a] together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. 48 If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple[b] and our nation.”

49 Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time,[c] said, “You don’t know what you’re talking about! 50 You don’t realize that it’s better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.”

51 He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. 52 And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.

53 So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus’s death. 54 As a result, Jesus stopped his public ministry among the people and left Jerusalem. He went to a place near the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and stayed there with his disciples.

55 It was now almost time for the Jewish Passover celebration, and many people from all over the country arrived in Jerusalem several

days early so they could go through the purification ceremony before Passover began. 56 They kept looking for Jesus, but as they stood around in the Temple, they said to each other, “What do you think? He won’t come for Passover, will he?” 57 Meanwhile, the leading priests and Pharisees had publicly ordered that anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him.

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

1 Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. 2 A dinner was prepared in Jesus’s honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate[d] with him. 3 Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar[e] of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’s feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

4 But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, 5 “That perfume was worth a year’s wages.[f] It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” 6 Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.

7 Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

WEEK TWO - JOHN 11:45- 12:19

9 When all the people[g] heard of Jesus's arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. 10 Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, 11 for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them[h] and believed in Jesus.

17 Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others[m] about it.

18 That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. 19 Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone[n] has gone after him!”

Jesus's Triumphant Entry

1 The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors 13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, “Praise God![i]

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hail to the King of Israel!”[j]

14 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

15 “Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem.[k]

Look, your King is coming,

riding on a donkey's colt.”[l]

16 His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 11:1-44 made the biggest impact in your week?

Look Up:

- Read John, chapter 11:45-12:19 together.
- Many believed in Jesus when He raised Lazarus from the dead, yet many others did not. Why do you suppose that is?
- Evidence and facts are a dying concept in our day, as it was in the time of Jesus. We tend to lead with feelings, as did the Pharisees, and are often blinded by these emotions. When you are led to make a decision, is it based on feelings or facts? Is it possible to have a good mix of both or not?
- Our life stories are important and can be the basis of why others come into a relationship with Jesus. In chapter 12:9-11 why did they want to kill Lazarus? Why is telling our story (witnessing) so important? What is there to be gained by telling your story?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K T H R E E

— John 12:20-36 —

Jesus Predicts His Death

20 Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration 21 paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” 22 Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man[a] to enter into his glory. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. 25 Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. 26 Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

27 “Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came! 28 Father, bring glory to your name.”

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.” 29 When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

30 Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler

of this world, will be cast out. 32 And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” 33 He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

34 The crowd responded, “We understood from Scripture[b] that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?”

35 Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. 36 Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.”

After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

WEEK THREE - JOHN 12:20-36

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 11:45-12:20 made the biggest impact in your week?

Look Up:

- Read John chapter 12:20-36 together.
- Passover is a yearly event that is celebrated by the Jewish people. This is done in remembrance of when the angel of death passed over them, while living in captivity in Egypt, and spared the Jewish nation. Are you surprised to find there were Greeks among the crowds in verse 20? Why is this important?
- In verse 27, Jesus says that He is “deeply troubled.” Jesus asked to be saved by this “hour” yet submitted to his Father’s will. Is Jesus doubting this moment? Is he unsure? Is he scared? Why does he ask this? Are there other areas in scripture where he expresses the same sentiment? (This is a thought-provoking question so don’t feel like you need to have answers, just discuss.)
- Consider verse 36. It is not only important to have the light, but you must also believe. Many had the light, Jesus, right in front of them but didn’t believe. Why is belief so important? Why is simply knowing Jesus not enough?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K F O U R

— John 12:37-50 —

WEEK FOUR - JOHN 12:37-50

The Unbelief of the People

37 But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. 38 This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

“Lord, who has believed our message?

To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?”[a]

39 But the people couldn’t believe, for as Isaiah also said,

40 “The Lord has blinded their eyes

and hardened their hearts—

so that their eyes cannot see,

and their hearts cannot understand,

and they cannot turn to me

and have me heal them.”[b]

41 Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he said this, because he saw the future and spoke of the Messiah’s glory. 42 Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn’t admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. 43 For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

44 Jesus shouted to the crowds, “If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. 45 For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. 46 I have come as a light to

shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark. 47 I will not judge those who hear me but don’t obey me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. 48 But all who reject me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken. 49 I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”

WEEK FOUR - JOHN 12:37-50

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 12:20-36 made the biggest impact in your week?

Look Up:

- Read John chapter 12:37-50 together.
- As Jesus preaches His final public sermon before He is crucified, what does He offer to those who will believe in Him? Is Jesus's offer of salvation intended for all people, or just a few?
- In verse 38 and 40 John quotes Isaiah 53:1, which spoke of those who did not believe. Why do you think it was so hard for the people to believe in Jesus? What does it say in this scripture? Why does God blind people and hardened hearts?
- How many times did you hear the message of Jesus and reject it?
- Has there been a time that you believed in something, but did not speak up or act, because you feared the response of man?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

NOTES

FINAL THOUGHT

It is truly amazing that Jesus continues to pursue us even at our worst, even in our disbelief. We do not willingly pursue Him as much as we'd like to think we do. This isn't a 50/50 thing. He is 100% the pursuer in this relationship. We are dead in our transgression and the last time I checked, dead people can't walk. We need a savior. We need His pursuit. We need His light. Without it, we remain blind to the path He has set forth. His glory now shines through you so that others might find the way back to their Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

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W E E K F I V E

— John 13:1-17 —

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.[a] 2 It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas,[b] son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. 4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5 and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

6 When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

8 "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

9 Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

10 Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet,[c] to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." 11 For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? 13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. 16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. 17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

WEEK FIVE - JOHN 13:1-17

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 12:37-50 made the biggest impact in your week?
- Has anyone ever gone over and above with an act of service toward you? What effect did it have on you?

Look Up:

- Read John chapter 13:1-17 together
- John's Gospel features Jesus teaching His disciples privately just before His arrest and death. These verses clearly show the deep love Jesus has for the believer. What message do these verses leave with you?
- Jesus wanted to deliver the message so forcibly that the world would never forget the truth. Share your thoughts on this statement, "true royalty is serving others".
- Let's look at verse 4: "So He got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist." Jesus knew who He was. This action was a demonstration of extreme service—master became slave. The Lord took on the ministry of humility. The highest took the place of the lowest. The sovereign became the subject. He loved his own. How does this action by Jesus lead you to have a servant heart?
- Explain Peter's reaction to Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, but more specifically his own feet. Imagine Peter seeing Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and getting closer to him.

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K S I X

— John 13:18-38 —

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

18 “I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, ‘The one who eats my food has turned against me.’[a] 19 I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I am the Messiah.[b] 20 I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.”

21 Now Jesus was deeply troubled,[c] and he exclaimed, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!”

22 The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. 23 The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table.[d] 24 Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, “Who’s he talking about?” 25 So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, “Lord, who is it?”

26 Jesus responded, “It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl.” And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. 27 When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, “Hurry and do what you’re going to do.” 28 None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. 29 Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. 30 So Judas left at once, going out into the night.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

31 As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, “The time has come for the Son of Man[e] to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. 32 And since God receives glory because of the Son,[f] he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. 33 Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can’t come where I am going. 34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

36 Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?”

And Jesus replied, “You can’t go with me now, but you will follow me later.”

37 “But why can’t I come now, Lord?” he asked. “I’m ready to die for you.”

38 Jesus answered, “Die for me? I tell you the truth, Peter—before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 13:1-17 made the biggest impact in your week?

Look Up:

- Read John chapter 13: 18-38 together.
- In verse 26, Jesus said, "It is the one to whom I give the bread dipped in the sauce". What does this gesture by Jesus show you?
- What prompted Judas to betray Jesus?
- The joke is on Satan. He assumed that Jesus's death would end His mission and prevent God's plan from accomplishing its goal. Satan didn't know that Jesus's death was the most important part of God's plan all along.

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K S E V E N

— John 14:1-14 —

WEEK SEVEN - JOHN 14:1-14

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

1 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father’s home.[a] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?[b] 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.”

5 “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. 7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is.[c] From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have

seen me do.

12 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. 13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 13:18-38 made the biggest impact in your week?

Look Up:

- Read John 14:1-14 together.
- “Don’t be troubled. You trust in God, now trust in me”. Jesus’s words show that the way to eternal life is secure—as secure as our trust in Him. The only issue that may still be unsettled is our willingness to believe. How does this statement speak to you? In your own words, what does it mean?
- We can look forward to eternal life because Jesus has promised it to all who believe. We should not fear because Jesus is preparing for us and will spend eternity with us. Does that make you want to hit the floor every morning, excited about your relationship with Jesus?
- Review verses 4-7. The only way to God is by Jesus alone. These verses are one of the most critical scriptures in the Bible because Jesus declares in unmistakable terms how a person gets to God. Trust Jesus to take you to the Father. Is this way to God too narrow?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K E I G H T

—John 14:15-30; 16:5-16—

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 “If you love me, obey[a] my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[b] who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.[c] 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. 19 Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. 20 When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

22 Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?”

23 Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.

24 Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who

sent me. 25 I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

27 “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid. 28 Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. 29 I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

30 “I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me,

* * *

16:5 “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate[a] won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9

WEEK EIGHT - JOHN 14:15-30; 16:5-16

The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more.

11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

Sadness Will Be Turned to Joy

16 "In a little while you won't see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again."

WEEK EIGHT - JOHN 14:15-30; 16:5-16

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 14:1-14 made the biggest impact in your week?

Look Up:

- Read John 14:15-30, 16:5-16 together.
- Review the promise of the Holy Spirit in verse 17 “He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you”. What peace does this give you?
- Jesus was soon going to leave the disciples, but He would remain with them. How is this possible? The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God within us. What does the Holy Spirit do for us? To have the Holy Spirit is to have Jesus himself.
- Obedience is not optional for believers. To love Jesus is a matter of the heart and of the spirit. Love is more than just some pretty words. It is commitment and conduct. Share your thoughts.
- Review verse 26. “But when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative - and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you”. The Holy Spirit can help us in the same way. If you are experiencing lasting peace knowing the Holy Spirit is with you, how do you explain Him to others?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K N I N E

— John 15:1-17 —

The Vine and the Branches

1 “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! 12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love

than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. 16 You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 14:15-30, 16:5-16 made the biggest impact in your week?
- Don't forget the point-blank statement from Jesus in 14:15!

Look Up:

- Read John 15:1-17 together.
- Does anyone in the group have a green thumb? Have that person take a moment and talk about how the metaphor Jesus uses of the vine and branches helps drive His point home.
- What would it look like to “remain” in Jesus?
- “Bearing fruit” is often misunderstood as being a statement about evangelism. While not wrong, it’s also not totally right. Jesus is more likely referring to righteous actions like the ones listed in the “Fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these “fruits” has grown the most in your life when you’ve REMAINED in Jesus?
- Go back and read 15:4-5 again. What have you tried apart from the vine that you’ve come to find amounts to nothing?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K T E N

— John 15:18-16:4 —

The World's Hatred

18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. 20 Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. 21 They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. 22 They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Anyone who hates me also hates my Father. 24 If I hadn't done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. 25 This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures[a]: 'They hated me without cause.'

26 "But I will send you the Advocate[b]—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. 27 And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

16 "I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. 2 For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is com-

ing when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. 3 This is because they have never known the Father or me.

4 Yes, I'm telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn't tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer.

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 15:1-17 made the biggest impact in your week?
- What steps did you take last week to “remain” in Jesus?

Look Up:

- Read John chapter 15:18-16:4 together.
- Keep in mind that last week’s text and this week’s text go hand in hand. In verse 17 Jesus ends a section talking internally to believers (The Church), and commands them to love each other. Then He switches gears to talk about an unbelieving world. Christians will experience love in The Church but hate in the world. How have you seen this play out?
- Why are we so surprised or offended when people hate Christians? If they hated Jesus, what do we expect? Verse 15:18.
- How can followers of Jesus live as beacons of light instead of victims of hate? How should we respond to a world against Jesus followers? (*Hint: we should probably respond like Jesus did.*)

Look Ahead:

- Notice 16:1 summarizes all of chapter 15. How can we apply the concept of “remain” in Jesus with the understanding that the world will be against us?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K E L E V E N

— John 16:17-33 —

WEEK ELEVEN - JOHN 16:17-33

17 Some of the disciples asked each other, “What does he mean when he says, ‘In a little while you won’t see me, but then you will see me,’ and ‘I am going to the Father’? 18 And what does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand.”

19 Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, “Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won’t see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. 20 I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. 21 It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. 22 So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. 23 At that time you won’t need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. 24 You haven’t done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

25 “I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father. 26 Then you will ask in my name. I’m not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, 27 for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God.[a] 28 Yes, I

came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father.”

29 Then his disciples said, “At last you are speaking plainly and not figuratively. 30 Now we understand that you know everything, and there’s no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God.”

31 Jesus asked, “Do you finally believe? 32 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. 33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 15:18-16:4 made the biggest impact in your week?

Look Up:

- Read John chapter 16:17-33 together. Don't forget to take a look back a few verses to understand verse 17!
- In verse 19, Jesus knows their question before they even ask it. Why are we sometimes still afraid to approach Jesus with our questions and concerns? He already knows.
- Verse 22 - Has something in your life ever stolen your joy? What has Jesus done in your life, that you need to remember, in order to never lose that joy again?
- Verse 31 - an accurate translation of Jesus's exclamation here would be, "Do you now believe?" Jesus is almost shocked that after all the miracles they've seen Him do that they just now believe in Him. What did it take for you to believe in Jesus today? Or what would it take for you to believe in Jesus?
- Jesus's death secured our Joy and Peace in this world. How can we live in that security today?

Look Ahead:

- What questions/concerns can you voice to Jesus this week?
- This week, what will you refuse to let steal your joy that Jesus died for?
- Close in prayer.

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W E E K T W E L V E

— John 17:1-26 —

The Prayer of Jesus

17 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. 2 For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. 3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. 4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

6 “I have revealed you[a] to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, 8 for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

9 “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. 10 All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. 11 Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name;[b] now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. 12 During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me.[c] I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

13 “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. 14 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not

belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do. 17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. 19 And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

22 “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

25 “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. 26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.”

Look Back:

- Through your devotional time and S.O.A.P journal this past week, what did God reveal to you?
- What part of John 14:15-30 made the biggest impact in your week?
- Don't forget the point-blank statement from Jesus in 14:15!

Look Up:

- Read John 15:1-17 together.
- Does anyone in the group have a green thumb? Have that person take a moment and talk about how the metaphor Jesus uses of the vine and branches helps drive His point home.
- What would it look like to “remain” in Jesus?
- “Bearing fruit” is often misunderstood as being a statement about evangelism. While not wrong, it's also not totally right. Jesus is more likely referring to righteous actions like the ones listed in the “Fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these “fruits” has grown the most in your life when you've REMAINED in Jesus?
- Go back and read 15:4-5 again. What have you tried apart from the vine that you've come to find amounts to nothing?

Look Ahead:

- How can you apply the teachings of this passage of scripture this week?
- Close in prayer.

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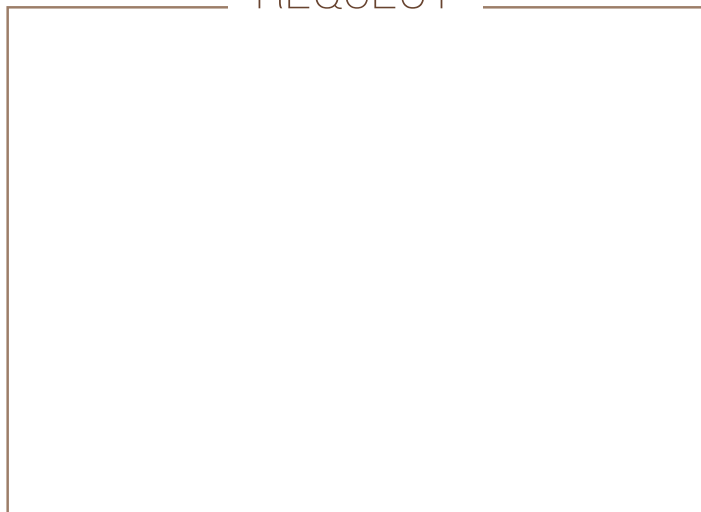
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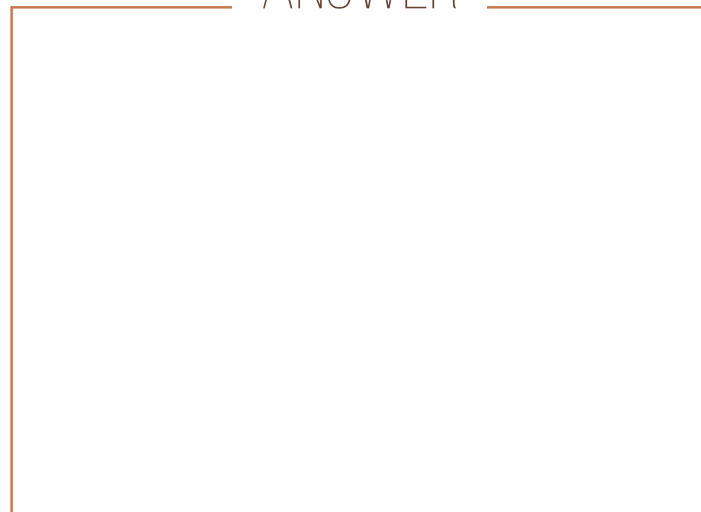
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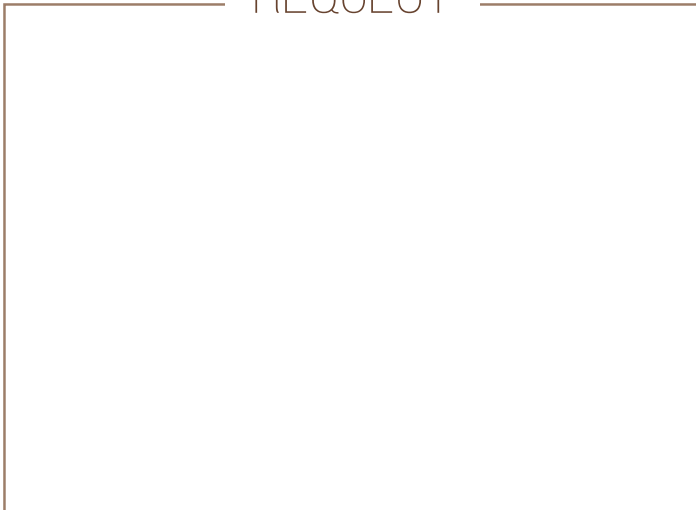
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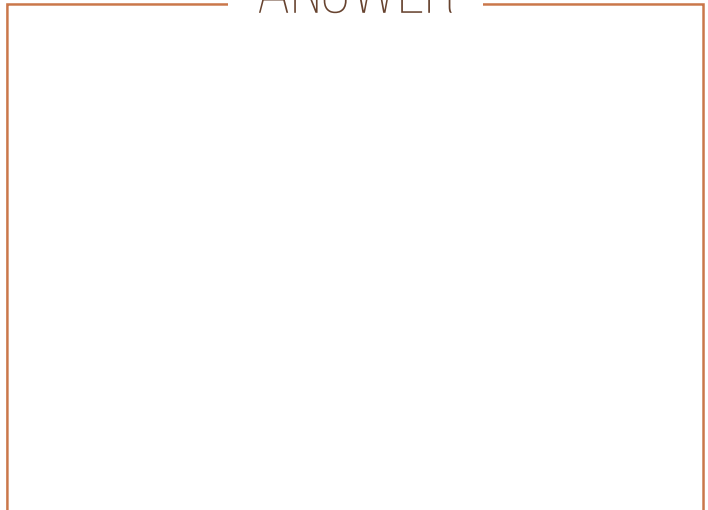
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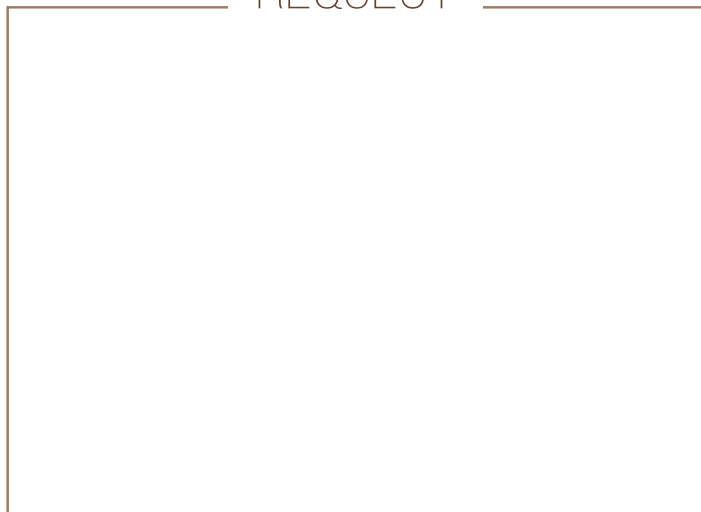


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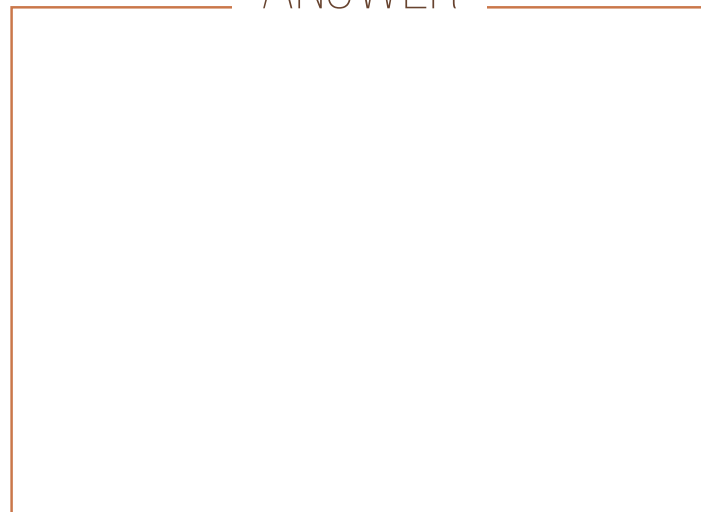


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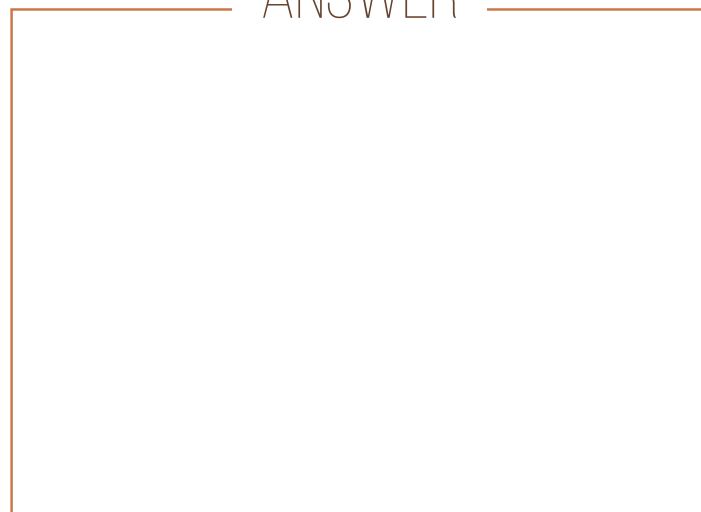
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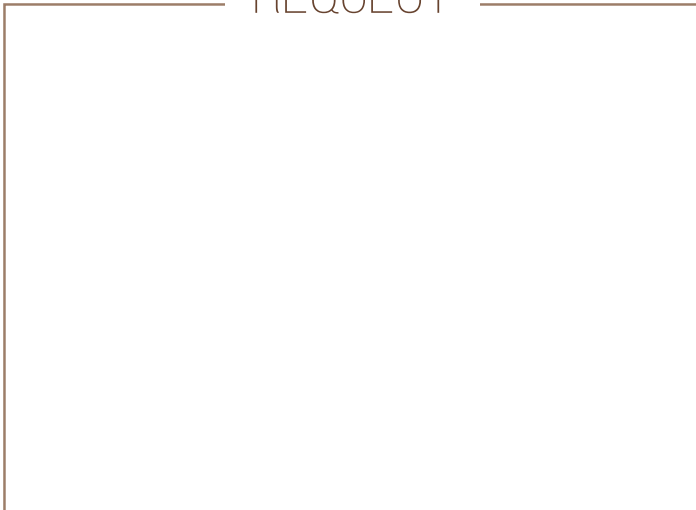
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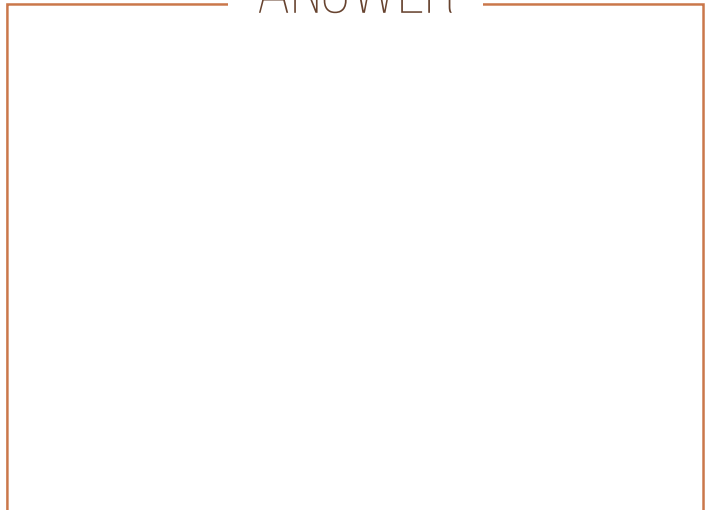
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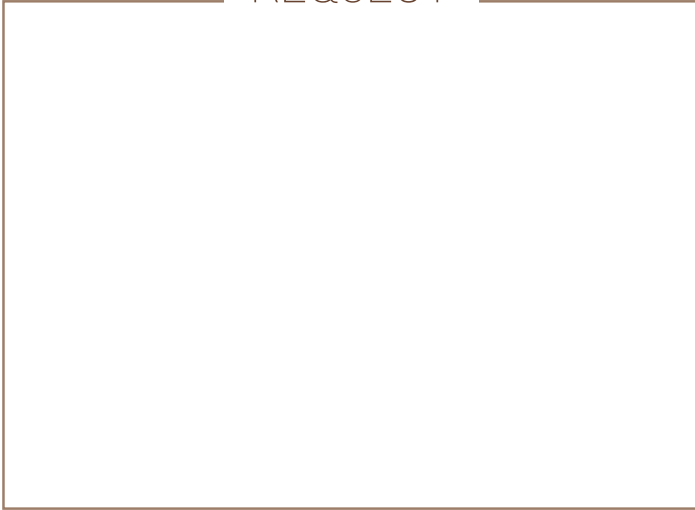


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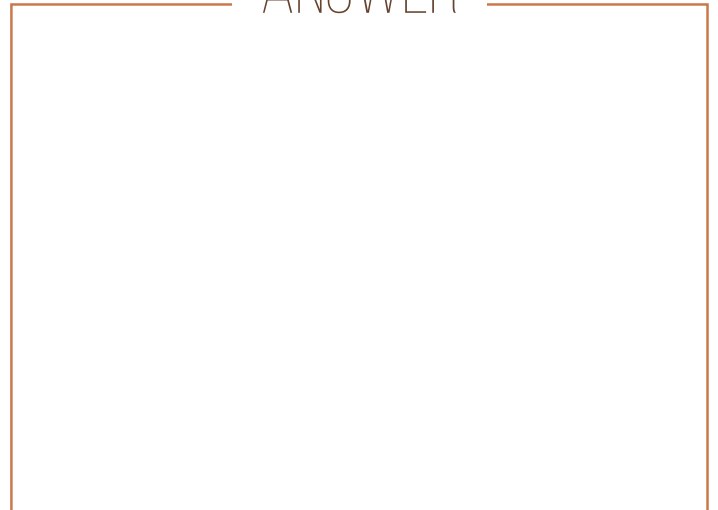
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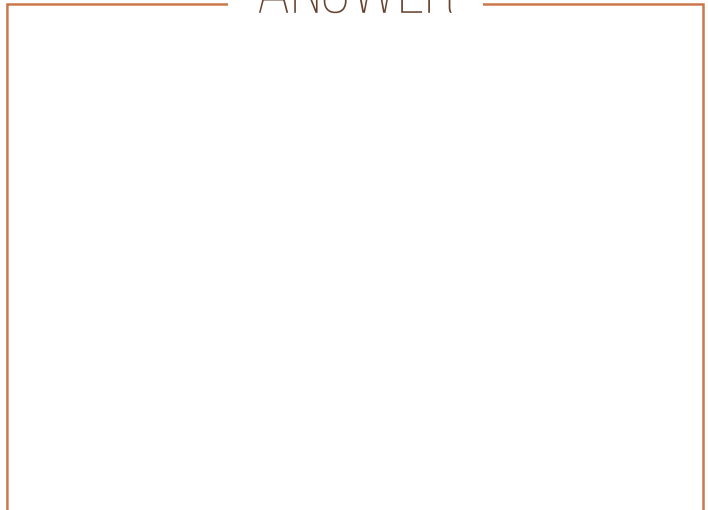
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