

Come and See

Encounters with Jesus

PART 3



2025

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Woman at the Well

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Jesus heals a Leper

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A HBC sermon series

Thank you for joining us as we explore Jesus through the encounters he has with different people.

John's Gospel gives us both a compelling image of who Jesus is, but also explores how the people He encounters react to Him.

Ultimately John's goal is for you, the reader, to consider your response to Jesus and who He truly is.

Our prayer, is that you and those in your Home Groups would "believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."
(John 20:31)

A guide for leaders

This study is designed to be led by anyone in the group.

Each week there are five general questions to explore the encounters Jesus has with various people.

Just these questions alone could take up your whole study time, however there are also additional questions to help your group explore deeper into the passage.

The best learning is done through open, curious discussion of the whole group, not one person telling everyone the answers. Leaders, your role is to open up the discussion, learn to be comfortable with reflecting in silence, and encourage everyone to share their thoughts on the passage.

Here is a suggested study outline

- Spend some time sharing a meal, worshipping, fellowship
- Invite someone to share a testimony or story of an encounter with Jesus
- Ask about last week's study. How have you begun applying what we learned from the last encounter?
- Read the passage
- Discuss the general questions about the encounter
- Discuss one or two of the additional questions
- Pray for each other in response to the study

It would be best if the assigned leader reads through the passage and the questions beforehand, prays and plans what questions to focus on.

Or comes up with questions of their own!

STUDY FIFTEEN

JOHN 8:1-30

Jesus meets people in their shame and points them to truth and life.

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

STUDY FIFTEEN

JOHN 8:1-30

continued...

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. ¹⁸I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

STUDY FIFTEEN

JOHN 8:1-30

continued...

Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."

This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?"

But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

"Who are you?" they asked.

"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied.

"I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

STUDY FIFTEEN

JOHN 8:1-30

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY FIFTEEN

JOHN 8:1-30

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

In the story of the woman caught in adultery, how do you see both grace and truth in Jesus' response?

Where in your life do you need to hear Jesus' "neither do I condemn you" — and His call to "go and sin no more"?

What are some ways we can wrongly judge others? How might this passage shape your approach to people caught in sin?

Jesus calls Himself "the light of the world." How might stepping into His light bring freedom for you this week?

Where might fear or pride keep you from truly following Jesus?

Prayer Point

Ask God to shine His light into areas of hidden shame or sin, and to give courage to walk in His grace and truth.



STUDY SIXTEEN

JOHN 8:31-59

Jesus offers true freedom through knowing the truth about Him.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.”

“Abraham is our father,” they answered.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the works of your own father.”

STUDY SIXTEEN

JOHN 8:31-59

continued...

“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”

Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

“I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.”

STUDY SIXTEEN

JOHN 8:31-59

continued...

At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

“You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

STUDY SIXTEEN

JOHN 8:31-59

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY SIXTEEN

JOHN 8:31-59

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

Jesus says “the truth will set you free.” What do you think He means — and what do you need freedom from right now?

How can we tell if we’re living as children of God or acting from other influences?

In what ways do you see people resisting Jesus’ claims today?
How might you avoid the same trap?

Jesus says, “Before Abraham was born, I am!” How does this change the way you think about Him?

What would it look like for you to live in deeper dependence on Jesus as Lord?

Prayer Point

Pray for a heart that clings to Jesus as the truth, and for His freedom to transform areas of bondage in your life.

STUDY SEVENTEEN

JOHN 9

Jesus heals both physical and spiritual blindness.

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

STUDY SEVENTEEN

JOHN 9

continued...

“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

“Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

STUDY SEVENTEEN

JOHN 9

continued...

“We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will.

STUDY SEVENTEEN

JOHN 9

continued...

Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

STUDY SEVENTEEN

JOHN 9

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY SEVENTEEN

JOHN 9

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

Where do you see “blind spots” in your spiritual life? How could you invite Jesus to open your eyes?

How can your own story of meeting Jesus help others see Him more clearly?

What might it look like to stand for Jesus even when it costs socially or relationally?

How does this chapter challenge your assumptions about who is “in” and who is “out” in God’s kingdom?

How might you show compassion to those who have been dismissed or overlooked?



Prayer Point

Ask God to reveal areas of spiritual blindness and to help you see
Him — and others — through His eyes.

STUDY EIGHTEEN

JOHN 10:1-21

Jesus is the good shepherd who gives life to His sheep.

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

STUDY EIGHTEEN

JOHN 10:1-21

continued...

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

The Jews who heard these words were again divided. Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?” But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

STUDY EIGHTEEN

JOHN 10:1-21

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY EIGHTEEN

JOHN 10:1-21

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

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What voices are competing for your attention right now? How can you better recognise and follow Jesus' voice?

.....

How has Jesus shown His care for you in recent times?

.....

In what ways might you need to trust His leadership more fully?

.....

How can you reflect the shepherd's heart of Jesus to others in your care?

.....

How could resting in His protection change the way you face challenges this week?

.....

Prayer Point

Thank Jesus for being the good shepherd and ask for grace to follow His voice above all others.

STUDY NINETEEN

JOHN
10:22-42

Jesus is the Messiah who holds His people securely.

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

STUDY NINETEEN

JOHN 10:22-42

continued...

“We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are “gods”’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, and many people came to him. They said, “Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true.”

And in that place many believed in Jesus.

STUDY NINETEEN

JOHN 10:22-42

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY NINETEEN

JOHN 10:22-42

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

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What does Jesus' promise that "no one can snatch them out of my hand" mean for you personally?

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How does knowing Jesus is one with the Father shape your trust in Him?

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Where might you be tempted to doubt His care or power?

.....

How can you stand firm in faith when others misunderstand or oppose you?

.....

How can you point others to the security that comes from knowing Jesus?

.....

Prayer Point

Pray for deep assurance in Jesus' keeping power
and courage to stand for Him.

STUDY TWENTY

JOHN 11:1-44

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

STUDY TWENTY

JOHN 11:1-44

continued...

So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”

STUDY TWENTY

JOHN 11:1-44

continued...

When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

"Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

STUDY TWENTY

JOHN 11:1-44

continued...

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

STUDY TWENTY

JOHN 11:1-44

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY TWENTY

JOHN 11:1-44

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

Where do you hear God calling, and what would it take for you to say “Let us go, that we might die with him”?

How can you bring your grief and disappointment honestly to Him?

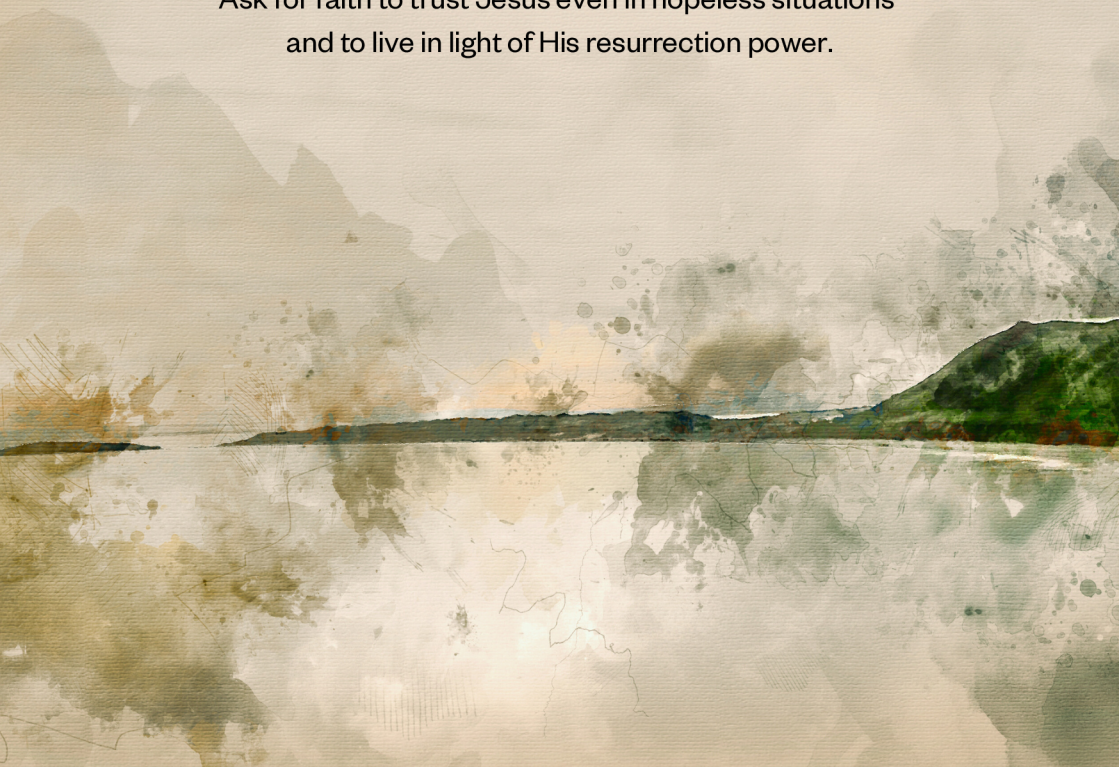
Do you believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and how does that change the way you live today?

How does the hope of resurrection shape your perspective on current struggles?

Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus as the giver of life?

Prayer Point

Ask for faith to trust Jesus even in hopeless situations
and to live in light of His resurrection power.



STUDY TWENTY ONE

JOHN
11:45–57

Jesus' death is God's plan to bring life to the world.

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

STUDY TWENTY ONE

JOHN 11:45–57

continued...

Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the festival at all?” But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.

STUDY TWENTY ONE

JOHN 11:45-57

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY TWENTY ONE

JOHN 11:45–57

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

How do you see God's purposes at work even through opposition to Jesus?

What does this passage teach you about the cost of God's love?

Where in your own life might God be using difficult circumstances for His greater purposes?

How does knowing Jesus willingly faced death affect your love for Him?

How might this truth embolden you to speak of Him to others?

Prayer Point

Thank Jesus for laying down His life and ask for courage
to trust God's purposes in all circumstances.

STUDY TWENTY TWO

JOHN 12:1–11

Responding to Jesus with wholehearted devotion.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

STUDY TWENTY TWO

JOHN 12:1-11

continued...

Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

STUDY TWENTY TWO

JOHN 12:1-11

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY TWENTY TWO

JOHN 12:1-11

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

What does Mary's act of anointing Jesus show us
about worship?

How might you express extravagant love for Jesus
this week?

What holds you back from fully giving yourself to Him?

How do you respond when others don't understand
your devotion to Jesus?

Who might be watching your life and
seeing what Jesus is worth to you?

Prayer Point

Pray for a heart that treasures Jesus above
all else and courage to show it.

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN 12:12–36

Seeing Jesus as the king who came to die.

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, your king is coming,

seated on a donkey’s colt.”

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN 12:12–36

continued...

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN
12:12–36

continued...

The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you.

Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.

Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN 12:12–36

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN 12:12–36

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

How does this passage challenge your ideas of what
victory looks like?

What does it mean for you to “lose your life” in
order to keep it?

How can you walk in the light of Jesus this week?

What opportunities do you have to honour Jesus in
front of others?

How could you help others see the kind
of king Jesus is?

Prayer Point

Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example of
humility and self-giving love.

STUDY TWENTY FOUR

JOHN 12:37–50

Choosing to believe and obey the One sent from the Father.

Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

“He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them.” Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN
12:12–36

continued...

Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

“If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.

There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN 12:12–36

General Questions

Who does Jesus encounter, and what do we know about them?

Retell the story
What does Jesus do/say in this encounter?

What have you learned about Jesus through this encounter?

How do people respond to Jesus?

How would you respond to Jesus if this were you?

STUDY TWENTY THREE

JOHN 12:12–36

Additional Questions

(Discuss one or two)

What makes people resist believing in Jesus, even
when they see signs?

How can you keep your heart soft
toward God's word?

Where do you need to take Jesus' words more seriously
in your daily life?

How can you live more openly as someone who
belongs to Him?

How might you encourage someone
else toward faith this week?

Prayer Point

Pray for a responsive heart that hears and obeys Jesus' words.



Sermon podcasts

