

Life in Jesus the Messiah

Study 1: The Resurrection and the Life	Page 4
Study 2: Dying for the nation	Page 6
Study 3: King of Israel	Page 8
Study 4: The hour has come	Page 10

John 11-12 Studies

Life in Jesus the Messiah

Welcome to part 3 of our study of John's gospel. As with part 1 and 2, it is important to begin with the author's purpose for writing the whole gospel:

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:30-31)

Since this is John's purpose, we will keep asking throughout these studies, what we learn about Jesus' character, purpose, the life that he gives, and what is involved in our belief in him.

Study 1

John 11:1-44 The Resurrection and the Life

For starters

1. What comes to mind when you hear the words 'incredible recovery'?

Explore

Read verses 1-16

2. What do we learn about Lazarus, Mary and Martha?

3. What is striking about Jesus' words in v4?

4. How does Jesus respond to his disciples' concerns (for v9, consider 1:4-5)?

Read verses 17-37

5. When Jesus arrives in Bethany, what was the state of Lazarus, Martha and Mary?

6. How do Martha and Mary view Jesus' ability to save Lazarus?
(NB: 'the resurrection' (v24) refers to the understanding that all people will be raised - some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt. eg. Daniel 12:2)

7. What does Jesus promise according to v23 and v25?

8. What do we learn about Jesus' character
(NB: v33 'deeply moved' implies anger and indignation)?

Read verses 38-44

9. If you were present at the tomb, how would you have responded to Jesus' actions?

10. How do Jesus' actions help people believe, and how do they show forth God's glory?

Think

11. How is the raising of Lazarus similar to and different from Jesus' resurrection?

12. What significance does Jesus being 'the resurrection and the life' have for Christians today?

Apply

13. "It's really hard to believe that Jesus came back to life from the dead"? How would you respond to this statement?

14. How does this passage help us grasp that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God?

15. How significant is it to you that we will be raised like Jesus?

Pray (praise, thanksgiving, confession, requests)

Study 2

John 11:45 - 12:11 Dying for the nation

For starters

1. What is an example of sacrificing for a greater good?

Explore

Read 11:45-57

2. Describe the various responses to Jesus (Priests had the responsibility of representing the Jewish people before God and performed various roles in the temple. The Pharisees strictly adhered to God's law and Jewish traditions. The Sanhedrin is the supreme Jewish court of justice).

3. What is the Jewish leaders' main concern?

4. What is the meaning of Caiaphas' reply to the chief priests and Pharisees?

5. Why do you think Jesus withdrew?

(NB: The Passover is a Jewish festival to remember God's rescue of his people from Egypt by judging his enemies. See Exodus 12:1-16)

Read 12:1-11

6. Describe the way Jesus was honoured.

7. How would you characterise Judas' objection?

8. What was the ultimate intent of the perfume according to Jesus?

9. How are the chief priest's plans for Lazarus consistent with their concerns from earlier?

Think

10. How do these events point to what Jesus will accomplish in the future?

11. Why was it that only Jesus could die for the nation?

Apply

12. In what ways do we honour Jesus today?

13. How do your unbelieving friends respond when you identify as a Christian?

14. How do these events help us believe that Jesus is the Messiah?

Pray (praise, thanksgiving, confession, requests)

Study 3

John 12:12-19 King of Israel

For starters

1. If you were designing the coronation of a king, what would you include in the ceremony?

Explore

Read verses 12-19

2. According to vv12-13, describe the welcome that Jesus received as he approached Jerusalem.

3. Verse 13 draws from Psalm 118:25-26. Read Psalm 118:1-29, and:

a) Describe the author.

b) Describe the LORD.

c) Discuss the significance of using this Psalm to welcome Jesus.

(Palm branches are used to welcome a conqueror or king. 'Hosanna' means 'Save' in Hebrew)

4. John 12:14-15 draws upon Zechariah 9:9. Read Zechariah 9:9-13, and:

a) Describe the king.

b) Describe what the king will achieve for the people of Israel.

c) Discuss the significance of linking this prophecy to Jesus.

5. What was it about these events that the disciples might not have understood (v16)?

Think

6. How does the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus help make sense of these events?

7. From verses 17-19, how effective was Jesus' sign in achieving his aim that they 'may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing [they] may have life in his name' (20:31)?

8. How is Jesus' kingship different to all other kings of the earth?

Apply

9. How do you celebrate the kingship of Jesus today?

10. What aspect of Jesus' kingship would you share with an enquiring seeker?

11. How does this passage inform our view of authorities today?

Pray (praise, thanksgiving, confession, requests)

Study 4

John 12:20-50 The hour has come

For starters

1. Describe an occasion when you had to make a really significant decision.

Explore

Read verses 20-36

2. How are the people seeking after Jesus described? (For Philip and Andrew, see 1:43-44)

3. Why is this point in time significant for Jesus?

4. What do you think Jesus' point is in using the seed analogy?

5. How will the Father glorify his Son?
(For 'Son of Man', see Daniel 7:13-14)

6. What does it mean to walk in the light?

Read verses 37-50

7. What explanation does Jesus give for the unbelief he's facing?
(see also Isaiah 1:2-4; 6:1-13 53:1-6)

8. What does true belief look like?

9. How will people be saved or judged at the last day?

Think

10. What does this passage mean for God's aim for this gospel (20:30-31)?

Apply

11. How might people today love human praise more than praise from God?

12. "I don't believe that God judges people because he is a loving God". How would you respond to this view?

13. In what ways do we keep Jesus' words today?

Pray (praise, thanksgiving, confession, requests)

PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF JESUS

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