



John 13-21 Bible Studies

The Book of Glory

Study 1

John 13:1-17

Thinking back to John 1-12

As we get into the second half of John's gospel, what stories or lessons do you remember from chapters 1-12 of John?

What struck you or encouraged you?

Do you remember the reason for John's gospel? (20:31)

Jumping into John 13-12

What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

Read John 13:1-17

In verse 1 we are given a time marker. Why do you think this is helpful to know as we read this event?

What 'context' of the event is given in verses 1-4?

Do you think this makes Jesus' actions more or less surprising? What does it show us about His character?

Simon Peter does not initially submit to Jesus washing his feet. Why do you think Jesus says he would "understand later"? (v7)

Why do you think Jesus says it is important for Him to wash Peter's feet? (v8b)

What does it mean that Jesus is Teacher and Lord? What does it mean for Jesus to be OUR Teacher and Lord?

What command does Jesus give in verses 15-17?

What does it look like for us to practically serve one another?

What is one practical thing you can do this week in following Jesus' example?

Pray

Praise Jesus for His loving humility. Praise Him for cleaning not only the disciples' feet, but for cleansing us from our sins! Pray we would continue to submit to Him as Teacher and Lord, and to follow His example of humility and service in our own lives.

Reflect

As you go about the rest of your week, you might like to continue reflecting on Jesus' humility. Read Philippians 2:5-11 below. You might like to reflect on a different verse each day of the week and consider Christ's humility and what it looks like for you to have the same mindset in your relationships with others.

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Study 2

John 13:18-38

How did you go following Jesus' example last week in loving one another?

Have you ever had an awkward meal with friends or family?

Read 13:18-30

This would have been an awkward part of the meal, Jesus calls out the man who will betray Him! Why does Jesus say this will happen?

Read the context of this verse in Psalm 41. What is David's prayer in verses 10-11 of this Psalm? Is this also relevant in John's gospel?

Why does Jesus tell His disciples what is going to happen? (v19-20)

What do we read of Jesus' emotional state in verse 21? Why do you think this is included?

How do we see Jesus as Lord in this event?

Read 13:31-38

In these verses we read a familiar prediction of Peter's denials. But first, Jesus is talking about glory. Draw a flowchart of who is being glorified.

What does this help to show us?

What do you think it means for Jesus/God to be glorified?

What is Jesus' warning and command in verses 33-35?

Why does he say it is "new"?

Jesus, in verse 35, highlights the evangelistic impact of this love. How does loving one another reach the world around us?

Do you think non-Christian family or friends in your life would know you are a disciple by your love towards others? If not, what needs to change?

Pray

Thank Jesus for His sovereignty and Lordship. Thank Him for the love and glory shown on the cross. Pray we would be bold in obeying His command to love one another, and in so doing, witness to the world around us.

Study 3

John 14:1-14

What is the best route you have taken to get somewhere?
The prettiest scenery, the coolest tunnel, the most unusual mode of transport?

Read 14:1-4

This passage starts with Jesus comforting His disciples after He has told them that He will not be with them much longer (13:33). What is comforting about what Jesus says in verses 2-4?

Read 14:5-14

What does it mean for Jesus to be the:

- Way

- Truth

- Life

How can each of these statements draw us to praise Jesus?

What does Jesus claim about His relationship with the Father? (v7 and 9-10)

What does Jesus point to as evidence for this?

Jesus says plainly “whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these” (v12). What is the relationship between belief in Jesus and works?

Why does Jesus say our works will be greater?

What do, or could, these greater works look like in your life?

What does Jesus promise in verses 13-14?

How can you grow in your prayer in Jesus' name?

- Do you think your prayers reflect the same motivation or goal as Jesus?

- What do you think it looks like to prayerfully depend on Jesus as we ask for *anything* and everything in His name?

Pray

Thank Jesus for the comfort that He brings. Praise Him that He is the way, the truth and the life. Pray that we would firmly believe in Him. Pray we would be bold in doing the greater things He has prepared for us. Pray we would be growing in prayerful dependence and to have the same heart as Jesus in our lives and prayers.

Reflect

As we look at Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, you might like to reflect on these words from Thomas à Kempis:

Follow thou me,
I am the way and the truth and the life.
Without the way there is no going;
 without the truth there is no knowing;
 without the life there is no living.
I am the way which thou must follow;
 the truth which thou must believe;
 the life for which thou must hope.
I am the inviolable way; the infallible truth,
 the never-ending life.
I am the straightest way; the sovereign truth;
 life true, life blessed, life uncreated.

Study 4 **John 14:15-31**

What has been a time or place where you have felt peaceful?

Read 14:15-31

Jesus starts with and repeats an imperative. What does He say we will do if we love Him? (v15, 21, 23, see also v12)

Who does Jesus say will come next? How?

What is the relationship between us and the spirit?

What work does the Spirit do?

Jesus repeats His encouragement from chapter 14:1 now in 14:27 – “Do not let your hearts be troubled”. How is what He has been saying a comfort?

Why does Jesus tell His disciples these things? (v29)

What warning does Jesus give in verses 30-31?

How do you think the Spirit helps us while the prince of the world is here?

Do you feel peace? How can you grow in this?

In this passage, how do we see the Son unified with the Father? And the Spirit unified with them?

What difference does this make as we live with the Spirit?

Pray

Praise God, three in one! Thank Jesus for sending the Spirit to live in us. Thank God that the Spirit points us to Jesus and the work He has done. Pray we would grow in the peace that the Spirit brings. Pray for growing awe as we continue to understand the unity of the Trinity and work of the Spirit in us.

Understanding the work of the Spirit

Want to dive deeper into the work and role of the Holy Spirit? On Thursday 21st of March come along to Trinity Church Adelaide's Deep Dive night! It'll be an opportunity to hear teaching on this topic and a chance to ask your questions!

Study 5

John 15:1-25

If you had to describe yourself as a fruit, what fruit would you be and why?

Read 15:1-8

As a group, draw the different elements that Jesus describes

What do you find helpful in Jesus' analogy? Is there anything you find hard to understand or have questions about?

Why do you think Jesus is the true vine?

What is our command from Jesus in these verses?

What is the purpose of our fruit? (v8)

What kind of fruit do we bear?

Do you think you are being fruitful?

How do we practically remain in Jesus?

Read 15:9-16

What are Jesus' commands and examples given in v9-12?

Command	Example

What is the result promised in verse 11? Why is this so special?

What does Jesus call us in verses 14-16?

What do you think it looks like to belong to Jesus instead of the world?

Jesus goes on to talk about persecution in v18-25. Why is what we have read important to hear before this?

Pray

Thank Jesus that He is the true vine, that by remaining in Him we are loved and can be fruitful. Pray we would be faithful in remaining in Him. Pray we would be faithful in keeping His commands and loving one another, following His example.

Pray for the persecuted church

You may have time to do this together, and/or you might like to do this on your own throughout the week. Open Doors is a helpful resource you might like to use to guide your prayers.
<https://www.opendoors.org.au/get-involved/prayer/>

Thank God that He is the Father of all nations and all people. Thank Him that His love remains with believers who are being persecuted, and for the peace that can be found in the Spirit. Pray Jesus would sustain them in their persecution and they would find comfort in Him. Pray they would show love to one another, even their persecutors. Pray that fruit would bear even in their hardship.

Study 6

John 15:26-16:33

Two weeks ago we looked at Jesus promising the Holy Spirit, what do you remember discussing in study 4?

Read 15:26-16:15

Jesus again promises the coming of the Holy Spirit. Is there anything different He says about who will send the Spirit this time? (see 14:16 and 14:26).

What is Jesus preparing His disciples for?

What comforts has Jesus provided for them in the face of opposition?

Are we prepared to face opposition? What do you think this looks like?

Do you feel grieved about the time we are in?

Jesus again returns to the topic of prayer. What is the change in praying in His name? (v23-26)

What is Jesus' final encouragement in verse 33?

What does it practically look like for us to have peace in Jesus and to take heart that He has overcome the world?

Pray

Thank the Father and the Son for sending the Holy Spirit, to testify about the son, to bring truth into the world and to teach us. Pray that, with the Spirit, we would testify about Jesus in our lives. Thank Jesus that He will one day return and for the joy it will bring. Pray we would have peace in Him and take heart in His victory in our daily lives.

Understanding the work of the Spirit

Want to dive deeper into the work and role of the Holy Spirit? On Thursday 21st of March come along to Trinity Church Adelaide's Deep Dive night! It'll be an opportunity to hear teaching on this topic and a chance to ask your questions!

Reflect

As we dwell in the peace that Jesus brings and take heart in His victory, you might like to listen to and read the lyrics of "I Will Rise – Chris Tomlin", printed below

I Will Rise

Authors: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves,
Louie Giglio & Matt Maher

There's a peace I've come
to know
Though my heart and flesh
may fail
There's an anchor for my soul
I can say "It is well"

Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead

And I will rise when He calls
my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise, I will rise

There's a day that's
drawing near
When this darkness breaks
to light
And the shadows disappear
And my faith shall be my eyes

Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead

And I will rise when He calls
my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise, I will rise

And I hear the voice of
many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the cry of
every longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb"

And I will rise when He calls
my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise, I will rise

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Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs

Study 7

John 17:1-26

What do you think are the most common things you pray for?

Read 17:1-5

What does Jesus ask for in this prayer? How will this be achieved?

What does this prayer show of Jesus' character?

Read 17:6-19

Who does Jesus pray for and how does He describe them in verse 6 and 14?

What does Jesus ask for them in His prayer?

What do you find challenging and encouraging about this prayer?

Read 17:20-26

Underline or highlight any words of oneness or unity.

²⁰“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Who is this unity referring to?

What does Jesus pray our unity with Him and other believers will bring?

How do you think this unity will be achieved?

What do you find challenging in Jesus' prayer for us?

Why do you think Jesus prayed at this point?

How can we encourage each other in the things Jesus has prayed for?

How can we use Jesus' example in our own prayers?

Pray

Let's use Jesus' words as we pray. Split into pairs or smaller groups and follow John 17 to pray for one another. You might like to use the example below (inserting names into the blanks)...

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your Son Jesus. Thank you for sending Him to earth, so that by knowing and believing in Him we might have eternal life. Thank you for revealing yourself to us in Him. Thank you for choosing us. Father, help ___ to truly believe in this message.

Father, please help ___ to live in the world but not of the world. Help him/her to stand out as you have called them to. Would you sanctify them by your word, make them more like your Son. And in all of this, Father please protect them both from the things of this world and from the evil one.

Father, help ___ to be unified with you. Help ___ to live in unity with the Christians around them. And in this would you help ___ to share the message of your love with those around them who don't yet know you, both in the way they live and in their conversations.

We pray all of this for your glory. May you be glorified in our lives in every way. May you be glorified for eternity.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

Study 8

John 18:1-27

Read 18:1-14 and 18:19-23

Why do you think the officials were surprised at Jesus' conduct? (v6)

Why does John quote Jesus from an earlier part of John's gospel?

Why do you think Jesus told Simon Peter to stop? What do we see of Jesus' character here?

In verse 4, we read that Jesus knew all that was going to happen. How did His knowledge shape His actions?

Why are the officials questioning Jesus? What do you think their motivations are? (also see John 11:47-53)

When you're treated unjustly, how can you be more like Jesus?

Pray

Thank Jesus for His character! Thank Him that He is loving and kind, and even in times of persecution, He was true to His character. Pray we would be more like Him in this.

Read 18:15-18 and 18:25-27

What is the context of these denials? (John 13:31-38)

What emotions do you feel as you read this account of Peter?

Why do you think this event is included in John's gospel?

What does it look like for you to be bold and unashamed of Jesus in your life?

How can we encourage one another in this?

Thinking proactively, are there particular people in your life you are hoping to be bold with in the lead up to Easter?

Pray

Thank God for the warning of Peter's denials in John's gospel. Pray that we would be bold and unashamed in our faith and that we would encourage one another in this. Pray for many accepted invitations to hear of God's love this Easter.

Jesus' death, burial and resurrection - Devotionals

These studies do not cover John 18:28-20:31 where we read the events of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Instead, devotional material has been provided to use over the Easter weekend. These devotionals will provide an opportunity to reflect, using John's gospel. You can collect a copy from your growth group leader, the church office, or access a soft copy on the Trinity Church Adelaide Website.

Particularly as you study John's gospel together in your growth groups, you might like to share what has encouraged you each day from these devotions.

Study 9

John 21:1-14 and Reflection

What were you encouraged by over the Easter weekend?

Did you have any invited guests come along or meet any visitors?

Read 21:1-14

What stands out to you as you read this passage?

Why do you think this event occurs after Jesus' death and resurrection?

What is Jesus' role in the disciples' fishing and our mission?

Why do you think Jesus shared a meal with His disciples now?

What does it look like for you to be on mission in your daily life? In your family, workplace, community groups?

Reflecting on John's gospel

As we finish our studies in John's gospel we read...

Jesus performed many other 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 Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. (John 21:25)

What story or passage in John's gospel did you enjoy the most?

What is something that has challenged you?

What character trait of Jesus have you been reminded of?
How has this encouraged you?

How have the events recorded in John's gospel strengthened or encouraged you to believe in Him and find life in His name?

If you did the Easter devotionals, what stood out to you or what did you appreciate?

Pray

Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for continuing to reveal Himself in His word as we have studied John together. Thank Him for John's account of Jesus' life, for all that we have read together. Thank Him for what has encouraged you. Pray for each other in the ways you have been challenged. Pray that as we continue to read God's word together, that we would continue to grow in our belief and trust in Jesus, finding life in His name.

Thank God for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that we have celebrated over Easter. Thank Him for the love and mercy shown on the cross. Pray that in Jesus' death, we would die to our old selves, and instead live in freedom as children of God. Also pray for the visitors who were able to hear the gospel this Easter.

