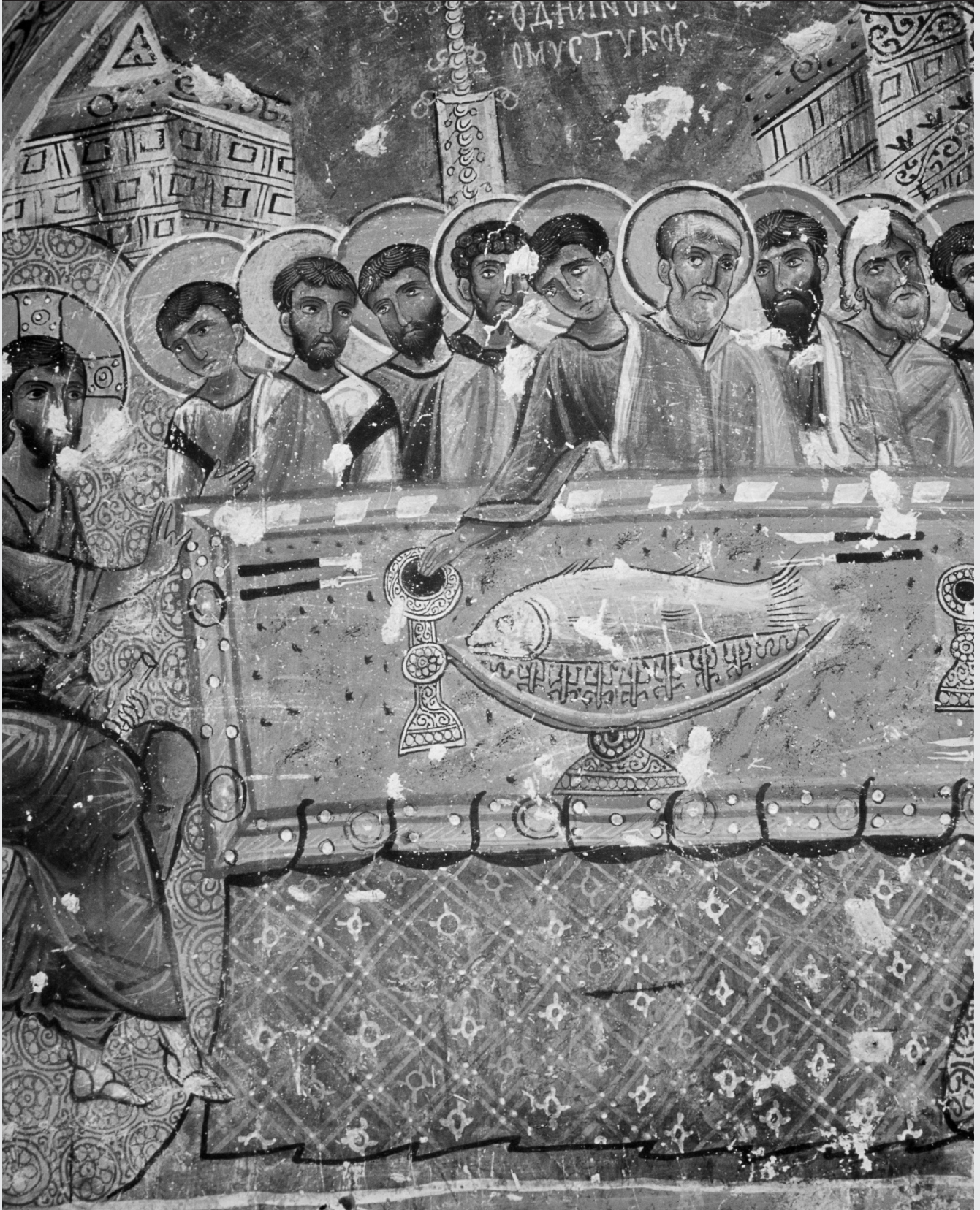


Study Guide



Confronting the Enemy

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.

John 12:1–50

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study and at the week’s assembly.

Psalm

Read Psalm 118 this week. Divide the psalm into portions to read each day.

Hymn

This is the day the Lord has made;
He calls the hours His own.
Let heav’n rejoice, let earth be glad,
Let praise surround the throne.

Hosanna to the King of kings,
To David’s holy son!
He helps us, He descends and brings
Salvation from the throne.

Blest be the Lord, who comes to us
With messages of grace;
Who comes in God His Father’s name
To save our sinful race.

Isaac Watts, alt.

Prayer

Pray each time you begin your study of these lessons. Ask God to guide you by His Spirit, to give you understanding, and to help you apply the Word you study to your daily life.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 1

Day 1 • Read John 12:1–11

1. Matthew and Mark tell the same story as John does in these verses, but they add some additional details. Look up Matthew 26:6–8 for this additional information:

a. Where was the dinner?

b. What did Mary anoint besides the feet of Jesus?

c. Besides Judas, who else was indignant at “this waste”? See also Mark 14:4–5.

2. Reread John 12:7–8 and compare these verses with Matthew 26:10–13. List things Matthew adds to John’s account:

a. How was Mary’s act connected to Jesus’ burial?

b. How will Mary’s act be remembered?

3. The nard cost a year’s salary. Jesus’ disciples complained that the money Mary paid for the nard should have been used instead to alleviate the needs of the poor. Jesus defended her. What are some principles to consider in deciding how much money we ought to contribute to the church for sharing the Gospel and how much should be given for alleviating the physical needs of the poor?

1 Corinthians 9:14

James 2:15–16

4. Compare the references below.

John 6:70–71

John 12:6

John 13:27

How can we keep from becoming consumed by greed and a tool of Satan like Judas?

7. a. What resulted from the “miraculous sign” of the raising of Lazarus (vv. 17–18)?

b. How does the resurrection of Jesus affect you?

c. How do you continue to do what this crowd did?

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Day 2 · Read John 12:12–19

5. a. Why were so many people in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover? See Deuteronomy 16:16. (Note: The Passover celebration is also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread.)

b. Who were included in the crowd mentioned in verses 12, 17–19?

6. How did the Pharisees and chief priests (the leaders of the people whose authority was centered in the high council, the Sanhedrin) react differently than the crowd or the disciples? See John 12:10–11, 19; 11:50–53, 57.

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Day 3 · Read John 12:20–33

8. These Greeks, since they came to worship at the Jewish Passover, must have been “God-fearers.” “God-fearers” were people attracted to the Jewish faith because of its teaching about the one true God and because of the moral lives Jews lived in contrast to the immoral lives of many Gentiles. But “God-fearers” did not convert, or become proselytes, probably because of Jewish nationalism and the strict requirements of the law concerning circumcision, diet, and other matters. List two other “God-fearers” noted in Acts 8:26–29 and 10:1–2.

9. In John 12:23 Jesus again uses “Son of Man” to refer to Himself. With this term Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah, the Savior God had promised to send (Daniel 7:13–14). Compare John 12:23 with these other verses in John: 2:4; 7:8; 7:30; 8:20; and 13:1. What did Jesus mean when He said “the hour has come” (12:23)?

10. Jesus was troubled and wondered whether He should ask to be spared from this “hour” (v. 27). Compare how Jesus felt in the Garden of Gethsemane and what He prayed for there (Matthew 26:36–39).

11. a. Who is the “prince of this world” (v. 31)? See Ephesians 2:2 and 6:11–12.

b. In what sense would the prince of this world be driven out? See John 16:11 and Hebrews 2:14–15.

c. How is Satan’s defeat good news for you? See Romans 8:33–39.

12. a. Jesus used the term “lifted up” in verse 32, as well as in John 3:14. What does He mean by “lifted up”? See John 19:17–18; 3:14–15.

b. How does Jesus being lifted up draw you to Him? See 2 Corinthians 5:14–15, 19–20.

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Day 4 • Read John 12:34–41

13. The crowd remembered from the Scripture (“Law” in v. 34 refers to Old Testament Scripture in general) that the Messiah would rule forever.

a. How is this supported in these passages?

Daniel 7:14

Isaiah 9:7

b. How did it come about that though Jesus was crucified, He nevertheless rules forever?

Ephesians 2:19–22

Philippians 2:8–11

14. a. In verses 35–36 Jesus speaks about having the light and putting trust in the light. Read John 8:12 and 12:46 and identify the light.

b. What coming events did Jesus have in mind when He told His disciples, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light” (v. 35)?

15. John says that Jesus' opponents "would not believe" (John 12:37) in spite of the miraculous signs they saw. John then quotes Isaiah 53:1 and 6:10, saying they "could not believe" because God would not let them. What did God do (John 12:40)?

b. What do you think is the difference between "praise from men" and "praise from God" (v. 43)?

16. God only hardens hearts after they have first rejected Him. Read the following passages and note what God wants for all people:

a. Matthew 23:37

b. 1 Timothy 2:4

c. Romans 10:12

c. How might Christians today put praise from men ahead of praise from God?

18. How does John 12:44–46 substantiate the deity of Jesus? See also John 8:12 and 1 John 1:5.

19. **Challenge question.** How do you explain the apparent contradiction of John 12:47; John 5:27; Acts 17:31; and Matthew 25:41–46? In your answer consider Luke 19:10 and John 12:48.

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Day 5 • Read John 12:42–50

17. a. Some Jews put their faith in Jesus, but others wouldn't. Read about secret believers in John 12:42–43. Why were some afraid to confess openly their faith in Jesus? (See how the rule the Jewish leaders established was put into effect in John 9:22, 33–35.)

20. What verse in chapter 12 means the most to you? Consider memorizing it.

Getting Our Bearings

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.

John 13:1–14:14

Resources for Worship

Use these resources during the week and at the assembly.

Psalm

Read a portion of Psalm 41 each day as you begin your study this week.

Hymn

Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Johann F. Ruopp; tr. August Crull, alt.

Prayer

As you study these lessons, pray each day that God would help you stand in awe at Jesus' love for you and help you learn to love as He loved.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 2

Day 1 • Read John 13:1–17

1. Jesus talks with His disciples around the table where they eat the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday, the night on which the Lord's Supper will be instituted. Jesus had Peter and John make the arrangements

for the meal, which would take place in a borrowed Upper Room (Luke 22:7–13). John records the first of Jesus' discussions with His disciples in chapters 13–14. Where the conversation in chapters 15–16 took place is unknown (see John 14:31). In 13:1 John stressed two things about Jesus: He knew everything that would happen; He loved His disciples.

a. In verses 1, 3, and 11, what specific things does Jesus know?

b. How would Jesus show the "full extent of His love" (vv. 1–3)? See 1 John 3:16.

2. **Challenge question.** a. Skim chapters 13–17 and note the word *love* and its various forms. How many times does it occur? (In chapters 1–12 love is used only six times.)

b. What is your interpretation of this word's frequent usage?

3. a. What effect did the devil have on the heart of Judas (vv. 2, 27)?

b. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* How have you experienced the work of the devil regarding your own inner feelings or outward temptations?

c. What help do you find in the following references?
Ephesians 6:10–18

James 4:7

4. Read verses 6–10 again. Shoes in those days were sandals, soles with straps to hold them on the feet. Water pots usually stood at the entrance of houses for use in washing the feet of those who entered. If the household contained servants, a servant would do this. Jesus and His disciples had no servants, and no one volunteered for this menial task.

a. Why do you think Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet?

b. What would be a similar task today?

5. Jesus wanted His disciples to remember what He said to them in verse 16. In what areas of your life do you have opportunities to display a servant attitude and in this way be Christlike?

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Day 2 · Read John 13:18–30

6. How did Judas’s action fulfill Old Testament prophecy?

Psalm 41:9

John 13:26–27

John 18:2–3

7. What evidence do you find in the verses below that Jesus loved Judas and gave him a chance to change?

Matthew 26:50

Luke 22:48

John 13:21–30

8. What indicates that the other disciples were not aware of what Judas was planning (John 13:22–30)?

9. “The disciple whom Jesus loved” (v. 23) is not named. Read John 21:20–24 to discover who this disciple was.

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Day 3 • Read John 13:31–38

10. The glory of the Father is closely connected to that of the Son’s death and the resurrection, to the fulfillment of His mission. God is glorified in the obedience of Jesus and in the salvation His mission provided. In what ways might we glorify God?

Romans 15:5–6, 9

2 Corinthians 9:13

1 Peter 2:12

11. Maundy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter) gets its name from the “new command” Jesus gave to His disciples (John 13:34). Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “command.” Read John 13:34 and Leviticus 19:18. How does this “new command” to love compare with the old?

12. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Think about God’s love for us in Jesus as you read 1 John 4:7–12. Think also of the kind of love God wants to see in us. Evaluate your practice of love by putting a number behind each word: 1 for weak; 2 for average; 3 for strong.

- a. Selfless _____
- b. Sacrificial _____
- c. Understanding _____
- d. Forgiving _____

13. a. Love marks the disciple of Jesus (John 13:35). Read how Paul describes this love in the life of a disciple in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. What impresses you most about this description of Christian love?

b. What is it that *motivates* us to show Christian love? See 1 John 4:19.

14. Evidently Peter ignored what Jesus said about love and picked up on His words about going away. Peter declares, “I will lay down my life for You” (13:37). Read also Matthew 26:35 and Luke 22:33. In spite of his strong affirmation, Peter later denied he even knew Jesus. How do you account for his failure?

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Day 4 • Read John 14:1–7

15. Jesus saw that His disciples were troubled. What do John 13:33 and 38 suggest about what was troubling the disciples?

16. In saying, “In My Father’s house are many rooms,” Jesus was referring to heaven. The original Greek word for house means “dwelling place” and emphasizes permanence. Where else does God dwell?

Matthew 18:20

1 Corinthians 3:16

17. Try to explain in your own words what these phrases in John 14:6 mean:

a. I am the way.

b. I am the truth.

c. I am the life.

18. Many world religions share a philosophy that there is only one God but many different paths (religions) lead to Him. What does Jesus, in John 14:6, indicate about this philosophy?

20. Jesus said that we are to pray "in My name" (John 14:13-14). In the Old Testament the name of God refers to His nature and character as a loving, powerful, and trustworthy God. (For examples, see Psalm 9:10; 20:7; 22:22.)

a. How does knowing this meaning of the name of God help you to understand Jesus' promises regarding His name in John 14:14?

b. What do the following verses add to your understanding of praying in Jesus' name?

Ephesians 2:18

1 John 5:14

21. Tell about a time when you received an answer to a specific prayer.

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Day 5 · John 14:8-14

19. **Challenge question.** Why could the disciples see the Father by looking at Jesus (v. 11)? See also 2 Corinthians 5:19.