



ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- If you had a year's wages to blow on your friends, what would you do? (throw a huge party, take a trip, buy gifts, etc)
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

Chapter 12 marks the close of Jesus' public ministry. In chapters 10 and 11, John has described Jesus as our Shepherd, and we've heard the voice and seen the Good Shepherd. This week, Jesus defines what it means to be a Christian and describes what it looks like to follow Him.

As a group, read John 12:1-8 and 23-26.

1. In this passage, we see Mary take a very expensive ointment, anoint Jesus' feet with it, and then wipe his feet with her hair. What was the purpose behind that? Why was it so significant?
2. What was Judas Iscariot's reaction? (Note: Mathew 26:8 and Mark 14:4 indicates that nearly everyone in the house reacted the same as Judas. Perhaps he is the only one who said what the others were thinking.)
 - Given the value of the perfume (v.5), how would you have reacted as you watched Mary? Why?
3. In verse 25, Jesus says, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." What do you think Jesus means for you to "lose your life?"
4. We learned this week that in order to follow Jesus, we have to let go of pride.
 - How did Mary let go of her pride?
 - What are some negative examples of pride that can restrict our spiritual growth?
5. Another important detail of your relationship with Jesus is your motivation for believing in Him. Why do you attend church? Why do you attend this life group? Why do you want Jesus in your life?
6. One of the signs that the gospel has radically changed you is that you become a person of generosity. Read 1 Timothy 6:7-10.
 - Why do you think it is important to be generous with your resources?
 - Do you trust God with your resources right now?
7. Phil said that we have a tendency to hold back or put a governor on our passion for the Lord.
 - Do you agree or disagree with that assessment?
 - If you agree, why are we hesitant in showing our extravagant passion for the Lord?
 - How does this effect our worship? Our service? Our generosity?



EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

(Life Group leaders: Due to time, you may want to choose just one of the two Equip points below to discuss.)

Equip #1: When you surrender to Jesus and allow him to be sovereign in every area of your life, that is when you really begin to follow Him. If there are conditions to your obedience and belief in Him, then you haven't truly died to self.

Are there any areas of your life that you hold back from God? Are you trying to keep something alive that God already put to death when you became a Christian? What is it and how can you surrender it back to Him?

Equip #2: According to Matthew and Mark, Jesus called his anointing a "beautiful thing" (Mt 26:10; Mk 14:6). What "beautiful thing" would you like to do for Jesus that some might see as wasteful?

Prayer:

- Take some time to pray over each group member's identified action steps and life issues.

Equip Your Mind:

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. ~ Galatians 2:20

Sermon Outline / Notes:

(The following is the sermon outline. This is to be used as a refresher or to help those facilitators who missed the Sunday morning message.)

"Jesus did not come to establish a religion. He desires to build a relationship with us."

"Becoming a Christian is simpler than you might think, it demands more than you likely anticipated, and it is ultimately more rewarding than you expected."

Being a Christ-follower means we have to:

1. Let go of our pride.
2. Consider what motivates us.
3. Practice extravagant generosity.

"A changed heart responds to Jesus with an extravagant act of generosity and worship."

"When was the last time that you were totally broken before the Lord? Where you broke the jar surrounding your heart and you poured it all out?"