

NT365

The New Testament in a Year

Read the entire
New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day, Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes & reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for Small Group discussion.*

Guide #5

Weeks 17-20
John Chapter 13
to Acts Chapter 11



NEW HORIZON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

WEEK #17: JOHN CHAPTER 13-17

Chapter 13

1. Jesus' knowledge of His mission and His close relationship with His Father kept Him going (vs.1,3). What can you do to understand your mission and enhance your relationship with your Father?
2. Jesus gave us an example of the way He wants us to serve by performing the task of the lowliest servant (vs.4-5,12-17). How are you extending Jesus' mission by serving God and others?
3. Sacrificial, selfless, revolutionary, Christ-like love is an act of the will, not merely a feeling (vs.34-35). How is your love for others showing everyone that you are Jesus' disciple?

Chapter 14

1. No longer does anyone have to wonder how to get to God the Father; Jesus says He is the Way (vs.4-7)! All of the Father's promises come true in Jesus, and Jesus gives us both abundant and eternal Life. How did you come to know the "Way"?
2. In these powerful verses, what are we told to do to show our love for Jesus? What are the blessings that come with obedience to His commands (vs.15,21,23-24)?
3. Jesus understands our fears and sends the Holy Spirit to live in us (vs.1,16-17,26-27). What are some other truths Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in these ways?

Chapter 15

1. Twice, Jesus tells us that He is the "Vine," and we are the "branches" (vs.1-8,16). What does Jesus teach we must do to bear "much fruit"? What happens when we do so?
2. By definition, "happiness" is the result of "happenings." But, we can experience the joy of the Lord in all circumstances because Jesus is with us (vs.9-11). How have your experienced joy, even in hardships?
3. Jesus not only calls us friends, but He laid down His life for us so we can know His Father (vs.12-15). What are ways you can demonstrate your love for your Savior?

Chapter 16

1. Jesus promised He would send the Holy Spirit, Who would continue to lead Christ-followers in God's Truth (v.7, 13-15). What truths of God has the Holy Spirit revealed to you?
2. Jesus warns us that we should not be surprised when we experience trouble living in this life (vs.33). In what ways does Jesus help you walk through challenges in your daily life?

Chapter 17

1. This chapter is a prayer of Jesus, a model prayer for us. What is eternal life (vs.1-5)? How did Jesus bring glory to God? In what ways might we do the same?
2. Jesus frequently speaks of His intention for us to have joy in our lives (vs.13-14,17). According to Jesus, how is God's Word related to God's joy?
3. What things does Jesus ask of the Father regarding His followers? What seems to be the purpose of these requests? (vs.15,17,20-21,23-24)? How has God answered Jesus' prayer in your life?

WEEK #18: JOHN CHAPTERS 18-21 & ACTS CHAPTER 1

Chapter 18

1. In vs.20, Jesus answers the High Priest, saying, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple. I have said nothing in secret." Do you struggle with speaking of God in public? What are your intimidations? How are you growing in speaking openly?
2. At Jesus' trial, Pilate declares, "What is truth?" (vs.38). He seems to be unwilling to trust Jesus' words as truth. Which of Jesus' teachings are you able to fully believe? Which of Jesus' teachings is challenging for you to believe?

Chapter 19

1. In vs.26-27 we see Jesus' concern for His mother, even as He suffered on the cross. When have you been challenged to overlook your own needs and care for someone else? When have you done so, or failed to do so?
2. Although Jesus is Divine, the Son of God, He also experienced being human—including thirst and pain (vs.28-29). Does it help you trust Jesus with your trials knowing He has experienced human challenges? What is an example?
3. Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus, but in secret because he feared the Jews (vs.38). Yet on the day of Christ's Crucifixion, Joseph boldly approached Pilate and asked permission to bury Jesus' body. When have you been shy about your faith? When have you demonstrated boldness?

Chapter 20

1. Jesus blessed His disciples and offered His peace (vs.19-21). When have your experienced Christ's peace? What are your needs for Christ's peace today?
2. Thomas struggled with doubt (vs.26-29). Jesus both corrected and encouraged him. Which of your doubts about God has Christ satisfied? When do you tend to doubt God?
3. John tells us why he wrote his Book: "...that by believing you might have life in His Name" (vs.30-31). Has John accomplished his purpose? Do you feel you "believe" and "have life?"

Chapter 21

1. Vs.3-6 demonstrate that our obedience to Christ yields fruit. When have you experienced this truth? What particular act of obedience is Christ calling you to today?
2. Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" (vs.15-17). Some scholars believe Jesus is restoring Peter after Peter denied Jesus three times. For what have you asked and received forgiveness in the past? Is there anything you need to ask Jesus to forgive you for today?

The Book of Acts. Most scholars agree that The Book of Acts is a sequel to The Gospel of Luke, and written by the same author. Here, Christ's Church is born as the Holy Spirit is poured out upon believers on the Day of Pentecost. As the early church grows, we see God's work among Jewish believers through the Apostle Peter (chapters 1-12) and among non-Jewish (Gentile) believers through the Apostle Paul (chapters 13-28). Jesus' ministry of expanding the Kingdom of God continues by His Spirit through His Church.

Chapter 1

1. In vs. 8, Jesus tells his disciples that they will receive power through the Holy Spirit and will be his witnesses to the end of the earth. Christ's followers don't live and witness in their own strength. Have you asked to receive God's power to be a bold witness for Christ? Would you ask to receive more today?

WEEK #19: ACTS CHAPTER 2-6

Chapter 2

1. Notice the international makeup of the crowd in s.8-11. What does this tell us about the universal appeal of the Gospel?
2. Peter calls the crowd to believe on Christ, and to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit (vs.38-39). If you have placed your faith in Christ, in what ways do you sense the Holy Spirit in your life? How does the Holy Spirit influence your life every day?
3. Vs.42-47 tell us about the character and practice of the early church. How do your spiritual practices echo the practices of the early church? What practices might you need to adopt to follow the example of the early church?

Chapter 3

1. In vs.1-8, God uses Peter to heal a lame man outside the Temple. What miracles have you experienced as you or others have placed faith in Christ?
2. Peter calls the crowds to repentance—turning from sin and placing faith in Christ. Notice that "refreshing" and "blessing" accompany repentance. How have you experienced this truth? Is God calling you to repentance in any form today?

Chapter 4

1. In vs.1-3, Peter and John are arrested and taken before the same Council of priests that condemned Jesus. In vs.8, Peter, who earlier denied knowing Jesus, boldly proclaims Christ to the Council. The difference is the presence of the Holy Spirit in Peter's life. When has the Spirit helped you to be bold or counter-cultural in word or deed?

2. The Council warned Peter and John not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus, but Peter and John refuse to be silenced (vs.18-20). When have you felt threatened regarding your faith or values? When have you stood your ground? When have you compromised?

Chapter 5

1. In vs.19, an angel of the Lord releases the Apostles from prison and tells them to go to the Temple and speak to the people. When has God called you to speak out for your faith and values? When have you done so obediently? When have you failed to do so?
2. Peter and the Apostles tell the council, "*We must obey God rather than men.*" (vv 29) What are examples of experiencing this challenge in today's culture? When do you feel pressure to follow the example of culture rather than God?
3. In vs.40, the disciples are beaten for their faith. In vs.41, they rejoice for being worthy of suffering for Christ. When have you suffered disgrace for Christ? How did it feel to remain true to your faith?

Chapter 6

1. In vs.1-6 the Apostles selected seven people to oversee the distribution of food to widows. What does this passage teach us about different roles we serve in Christ's Church?
2. Consider the character and spiritual qualities that made Stephen's a great choice for serving others (vs.3,5,8,10,15). Which of these qualities are apparent in your life? Which could use cultivation? In what ways do you make yourself available to serve others?

WEEK #20: ACTS CHAPTER 7-11

Chapter 7

1. Stephen, Christ's servant, is taken into custody. As he is arrested, Stephen gives a stirring speech (vv.1 & ff.) He charges the religious leaders with the same unbelief that their forefathers demonstrated throughout the Old Testament. In what are you struggling with unbelief today? In what ways does Stephen's speech stir you?
2. Vs.54-60 record Stephen's martyrdom. In what ways did his response demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit? When has God met you in your struggles?

Chapter 8

1. In vs.1-8, persecution breaks out against Christ's church and the believers are scattered. In what ways do you see our culture oppose the message of Christ?
2. In vs.18-19, Simon tries to buy the power of the Holy Spirit. Are you ever tempted to believe you must "earn" God's favor? What are examples of how God has freely given to you?
3. In vs.30-31, an Ethiopian man was reading Scripture, but did not understand what he was reading. When have you struggled with the meaning of Scripture? What have been occasions when God has helped you understand Scripture? What resources are you using to help you understand?

Chapter 9

1. A man named Saul has been pursuing Christ-followers and having them put to death (vv.1 & ff.) At one point, Christ appears to Saul in a vision, and Paul's heart powerfully moved. What was your life like before you met Jesus? How has meeting Him changed you?
2. In vs.17-18, Saul's sight was restored and he is baptized. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he boldly proclaims the Good News of Christ in Damascus. When have you felt God's Spirit within you moving to step out boldly for Christ?

Chapter 10

1. In the early church, the prejudice between Jews and Gentiles was a huge barrier to spreading the Gospel. In vs.28, 34-35, Peter crossed that barrier. What social and religious barriers do you face with your faith? How have you successfully navigated some of these barriers?
2. In vs.39, Peter calls himself a "witness" of the life, teachings, and works of Christ. Does it help you believe the Scriptures knowing they were written by eye-witnesses of Christ? As you experience Christ in your life, do you ever feel like a "witness" of God's goodness?
3. Notice the response of the crowds as Peter shared the message of Christ (vs.47-48.) Have you responded to the message of Christ with faith and baptism?

Chapter 11

1. Vs.15 & ff., God grants faith, salvation and the Holy Spirit to an entire household of unbelievers. God can work anywhere and at any time. When have you seen God work in a surprising way in a surprising context? In what context do you need God to work today?
2. In vs.26, Christ-followers are called "Christians" for the first time. How is your faith impacted knowing that we believe along with others over a 2000 year time span? How are you challenged knowing that those who follow us will stand on our shoulders?