

JOHN 12-17

JOHN 12

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life (John 12:25).

MY NOTES

JOHN 13

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another (John 13:34).

1. Why do you think John wrote verse three? What things do you need to know and trust about your standing with God that will help you not pursue status, authority, control or position?
2. In looking at these verses, Jesus doesn't tell us a definition of love, he shows us one. How is His definition of love different from our culture's definition? How is it the same?
3. How has God demonstrated His love for you in your life?
4. Do you think there are some present day equivalents of washing someone's feet that you need to do for other Christians? How can you as a group and us as a church embrace more of this radical call to love each other?

JOHN 14

In light of who Jesus is and as we wait for his return, we have the privilege of praying in Jesus' name.

1. Jesus says some powerful words in verses 1-4, comforting his disciples with the truth about a future place for them. Do these comfort you? What are some life circumstances in which it would be good for you to remember these verses?
2. How do we comfort other believers with the truths of verses 1-4 without coming across as mechanical or un-empathetic?
3. In verses 12-14 Jesus goes from talking about "works" to talking about prayer. In your life, how closely connected is "doing" and prayer? How can the two be more closely connected in your day-to-day?
4. Do you think verse 14 is true? How are we supposed to put verse 14 into practice?

JOHN 15

In light of who Jesus is and as we wait for his return we abide in Jesus and obey to bear fruit.

1. In these verses we are never commanded to “produce fruit,” instead we are commanded to “abide in him.” Are there any statements in these verses that help identify what it actually looks like to “abide” in Jesus?
2. Jesus is the “true vine,” which means there are false vines. We can tend to try and get nourishment, refreshment, and sustenance from a variety of different sources, or “false vines” in our life. What are those false sources of nourishment in your life?
3. In describing how God works with us to increase our fruitfulness, Jesus says God “prunes.” What does this “pruning” look like in your life right now? Are you fighting it or accepting it?
4. What comes to your mind when you think about a person bearing fruit? What is Jesus saying the fruit is? (see verse 7, 8, 10, 11, 16)
5. In verse 11, Jesus says that he has spoken these things so that his joy would be in us. Do you get joy when you obey Jesus? For you, what’s the difference about this joy that comes from abiding in Jesus, the true vine, opposed to joy from a different vine?

JOHN 16:6-15

In light of who Jesus is and as we wait for his return, we pursue a relationship with the Paraclete.

1. The Holy Spirit “convicts” (verse 8). That’s a key word to understand. How is the Holy Spirit’s work similar and different to how our culture “convicts” each other?

2. Because of our sin, because of our past, and because of certain desires, we can ignore, suppress, or silence the Spirit’s voice in our lives. How can you tell the difference between His voice and your own voice?

3. We all struggle at times with a relationship with the Holy Spirit. What’s the hardest part about a relationship with the Holy Spirit for you?

4. In verse 13-14, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit speaks only what he hears from Jesus. Read John 14:26 and 15:26. According to these verses, what do you think Jesus is saying is the key for discerning the Spirit’s voice?

5. How can you pursue listening for His voice above the noise of what “I want to do” and what “I’ve always done”?

JOHN 17:1-8

We see in Jesus' prayer His pristine way of thinking. He wants to lift us to that.

Here are six points of contrast to be inspired by:

- As powerful as Jesus was, God's plan led to circumstance that felt beyond him. He prayed. We should do do too.
- There are stressful and seemingly impossible times when we must connect with God and seek his will.
- Jesus prayed to win in all circumstances. It requires God.
- There is a way to live where everything else is death.
- That life does not end. It gives way to greater glory than anything else. Strive for that type of life.
- Jesus is immersed in equipping us in his most consuming, worrisome and dreadful time. Jesus has already faced the worse. We can count on him. Pursue him.

1. Do you think we all have an "hour," an intense season that will define our purpose in living on the earth? What do you think such a season might look and feel like?

2. In verse two Jesus makes an important statement about Himself. What is it? When is it important to remind ourselves of this?

3. Jesus talks about God glorifying Him and Him glorifying God. Why are both important? In what sense does God "glorify" us? What are some ways in which you have been led to glorify God in the days ahead?

4. Jesus makes an important statement about life in verse three. What are some ways in which we don't really seem to trust this statement by Him?
5. What are some important things Jesus says and infers in these verses about us, those who believe in Him? How do such things lift your spirit?

JOHN 17:9-19

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours (John 17:9).

MY NOTES

JOHN 17:20-26

The focus of Jesus' prayer turns to unity, an elusive thing for humankind.

1. Jesus prays that His followers would all be "one" (verse 21) and "that they may become perfectly one." As you look all of the disciples of Jesus today, do you think we are "one"?
2. How can you, as an individual, contribute to the "one-ness" of the disciples of Jesus at Red Mountain? What is your place among Jesus' followers?
3. In verse 25, why did Jesus say "O righteous Father"? Why does Jesus want us to overhear this part of His prayer?
4. According to verse 26, how do we have the love of God in us? What does this mean we should be pursuing?