

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

A STUDY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

I can't think of a better way to start the New Year than by picking up our study in John! We started working through John's account of Jesus' life in March of last year. We took a break for the Journey Project and Advent, and now we are heading back into John.

The passages that we will cover in the next nine weeks record the final few hours that Jesus spends with his closest friends. In these passages, we see that Jesus cared for his friends, and he was concerned for their peace, joy, faithfulness and love for one another. I think that is amazing and wonderful. Just hours before Jesus was tortured and crucified, he was concerned for others.

What would we be doing if we knew that we would be betrayed, tortured and killed in a few hours? My guess is we would not be concerned about other people. My guess is we would be concerned about ourselves. We would be seeking our own comfort and peace. That isn't what Jesus did. Jesus was filled with concern for others, so he spent his final hours, not seeking his own peace but offering words of comfort, peace and final instruction to his friends.

My prayer for us as we study John 14 - 17 is that we would encounter Jesus' care and concern and be filled with his peace.

Every blessing,
Pastor Charlie for the Preaching Team

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SMALL GROUPS AT FAITH

WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP?

Small groups are small gatherings of people from Faith that meet regularly for friendship, prayer and Bible study.

Each small group is unique because it is shaped by the people who attend. However, at the heart of each small group is a desire to see a tight-knit community form that is marked by a growing love for Jesus and for the other people in the small group.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN A SMALL GROUP?

We are made for friendship with God and others. When we are not known and loved by others, we suffer because we are not experiencing all that God created us to experience. Additionally, life is too difficult to journey alone. Therefore, small groups are a place where we can connect in friendship with other people through the ups and downs of life.

HOW DO I GET CONNECTED TO A SMALL GROUP?

The easiest way to get connected to a small group is to go to www.faithchurchfortcollins.org/smallgroups. You can also sign up on Sunday by filling out a Connect Card. Finally, if you would like to join a small group, you can call the church at **970-226-2095**.

INTRODUCTION TO SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

No one is born into this world with a theology. So each generation must rediscover the truths of Scripture for itself.

Preaching the Bible is one of the primary tools God has given the church for this to take place.

Small groups are a place where the preaching at Faith is applied and where our church is encouraged to live out God's Word. Members of Faith's small groups take time each week to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, share specific insights from the Bible and care for one another so that, as a church, we grow up to maturity in Jesus.

This study guide has been put together to give you an overview of our current sermon series so that you know where we are going and can be prepared for great discussions in your small group.

Here is an overview of what you will find for each week in this study guide:

Main Passage – This is the passage the teaching pastor will preach from.

Secondary Passages – These passages help to unpack and explain the main passage.

Passage for Memorization and Meditation – This is one passage to memorize and meditate on throughout the week so that at all times you are giving Jesus an opportunity to work in your life.

Overview – This is an overview of what will be discussed in small group this week.

Opening Question – This is a general question meant to spark conversation.

Discussion Questions – These are questions related to the Bible passages.

Application Section – These are questions and ideas for applying the Bible to your life.

Table Time With Kids – These are questions and ideas for families with young kids.

These materials are not meant to be a rigid formula for your small group, but rather a means for intentional study, discussion and life application so that ultimately, as a church, we grow together to maturity in Jesus.

We hope you find this helpful.

Title: Words for Troubled Hearts

Main Passage: John 14:1-3

Supplementary Passage: Philippians 4:6-7

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

**HUMBLE YOURSELVES, THEREFORE, UNDER THE MIGHTY
HAND OF GOD SO THAT AT THE PROPER TIME HE MAY EXALT
YOU, CASTING ALL YOUR ANXIETIES ON HIM, BECAUSE HE
CARES FOR YOU.**

-1 PETER 5:6-7

Overview: The disciples were troubled men. Jesus' betrayal, torture and death were all imminent, and the disciples were about to be overwhelmed with grief, doubt and confusion.

Knowing their coming anguish, Jesus took the time to prepare them to live with peace in a time of great fear and uncertainty.

We, too, live in a time of fear and uncertainty and can find our hearts troubled. No one is immune to anxiety. Partly from inward causes and partly from outward causes, the journey of life is at times troubling. This is why Jesus' words to his disciples are so poignant. When rightly understood, Jesus' words help us find peace when our hearts are troubled.

OPENING QUESTION

- What things cause people to have troubled hearts?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 14:1-3. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What does this passage reveal about Jesus?
- Why do you think the disciples' hearts were troubled?
- What remedy does Jesus offer for their troubled hearts?
- What promises does Jesus make to his followers?
- What does it mean that Jesus goes to prepare a place for his followers?
- Jesus tells us to *believe in God; believe also in me*. What does this mean?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What is involved in preparing something special for someone you love? With this in mind, what does Jesus' preparing a place for you reveal about the way Jesus views you?
- What impact does it have on your soul knowing that Jesus has gone to prepare a special place for you?
- How does unbelief cause you to have a troubled heart?
- What truth is Jesus inviting you to embrace today?

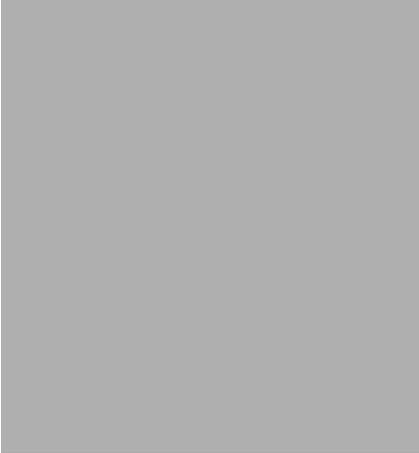
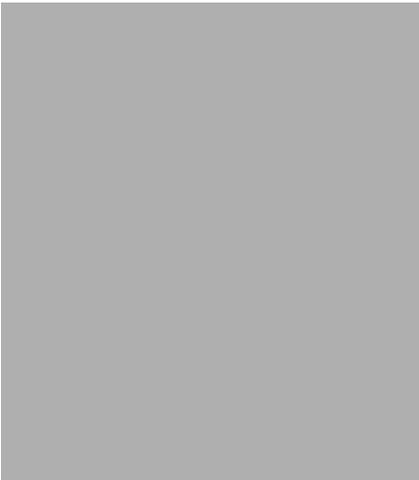


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 14:1-3. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What promises does Jesus make in this passage? *He promises to go and prepare a place, and he promises to come back to take us to himself.*
- What helps us to have peace when we are afraid? *We can find peace when we are afraid by remembering Jesus' promises to us.*
- Imagine the perfect place. What would it be like? Jesus tells us that he has gone to prepare a place for us. What do you think that place will be like?

Title: The Way to the Father

Main Passage: John 14:4-11

Supplementary Passage: Hebrews 4:15-16

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

JESUS SAID TO HIM, "I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.

- JOHN 14:6

Overview: The story of the Bible is the story of God as a good, loving and providing Father. Sadly, because of sin we have all wandered away from our heavenly Father. So one of the main questions that the Bible sets out to answer is, "How do we get back home?"

In John 14:4-11 Jesus reveals that he is the answer. He was sent by the Father to show us the way home. He is the way, the truth and the life. In other words, God is a Father to everyone who believes in Jesus.

The disciples knew this, but they thought they needed more information. They thought getting back to the Father was more complicated than trusting in Jesus. It wasn't. All they needed was faith in Jesus, and they had this, which meant they had a single hope and a secure access to the Father. In Jesus they could boldly approach God. In Jesus they could come home.

OPENING QUESTION

- What comes to mind when you think of a good, perfect, loving father?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 14:4-11. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What do these verses reveal about Jesus?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “*You know the way to where I am going*”?
- Why do you think Thomas doubted Jesus’ words?
- What bold claims does Jesus make about himself in verses 6-11?
- What does the way, the truth and the life represent? What is Jesus communicating by using these words to describe himself?
- Read Hebrews 4:15-16. How are we encouraged to approach God because of Jesus?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- How does knowing Jesus is *the way* affect your life?
- How does knowing Jesus is *the truth* affect your life?
- How does knowing Jesus is *the life* affect your life?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS CONT.

- What do you think it looks like to boldly approach God?
- What things keep you from boldly approaching God as your good Father?
- Based on what Jesus reveals about himself in this passage, how do you think Jesus wants us to respond to him?
- What things do you need in your life today? Close small group by bringing those things to the Father in Jesus' name.

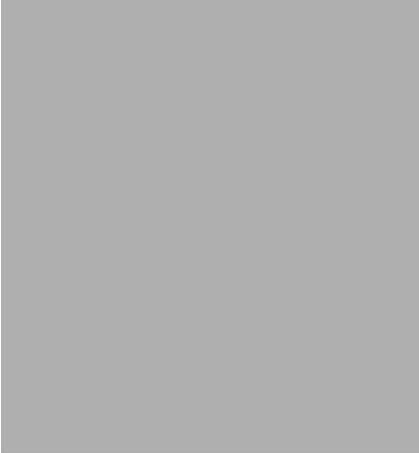
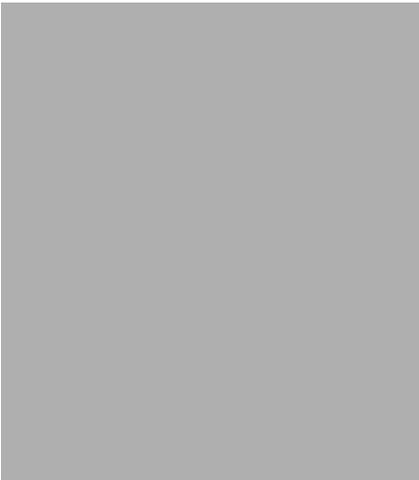


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 14:4-11. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What does Jesus say about himself? *Jesus says that he is the way, the truth and the life.*
- What does it mean that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life? *It means that Jesus is everything that we need. He is the way to the Father, he is the truth about God and he is the source of eternal life.*
- What things do you need? Spend some time as a family bringing those needs to God in Jesus' name.

Title: Doing the Works of Jesus

Main Passage: John 14:12-14

Supplementary Passage: John 14:34-35

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

IF YOU ASK ME ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT.

- JOHN 14:14

Overview: Our passage for this week contains two great promises from Jesus. The first promise is that Christians will do greater works in this world than Jesus. Such a notion seems preposterous to even consider, but Jesus wasn't kidding.

The works that Jesus did in this world were works of love. So by saying that we will do greater works than he did, it seems that Jesus was very serious when he said that the world will know us by our love.

The greatness of our works of love are a greatness of quantity, not quality, because the work of love that Jesus did was infinite in its quality. Jesus lovingly laid down his life for us. This was qualitatively the greatest work of love ever done. He made a way for the whole world to return to God.

And yet Jesus does promise that we will numerically do more works of love than he did. This means that as we follow Jesus, we should expect great opportunities to love.

Jesus' second promise was that he will provide everything that we need to live the life of love he has called us to live. This is a great promise. Not only are there many opportunities to do works of love, but we will have everything we need to lovingly respond.

OPENING QUESTION

- What are some of the greatest works that humans have accomplished?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 14:12-14. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What promises did Jesus make in this passage?
- What works did Jesus do? How does this help you to understand the works that we will do?
- How could we possibly do greater works than Jesus?
- How do you see the history of the church as a fulfillment of Jesus' promise that his people will do greater works of love? What good things have Christians done for the sake of love?
- What do people need in order to do works of love like Jesus?
- Jesus promises to provide everything that people need if they ask in his name. Why is it important to see our neediness as we seek to do the work that Jesus has called us to do?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Are you participating in doing greater works than Jesus did? Do you believe that it is even possible?
- What works of love has Jesus called you to do?
- What gets in the way of doing the works that Jesus has called you to do?
- Who is one person you could intentionally love this week? What do you need from Jesus to love this person?
- What does it look like to ask for things in Jesus' name?
- What things do you need right now to live a life of love? Close small group by asking in Jesus' name for the things that you need.

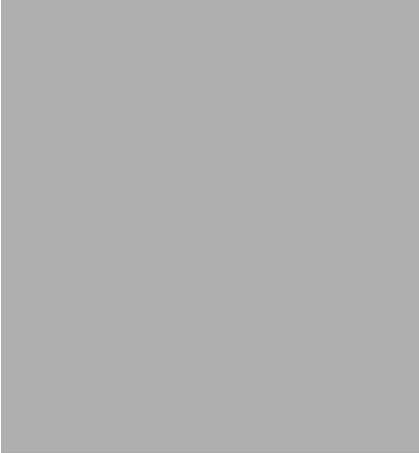
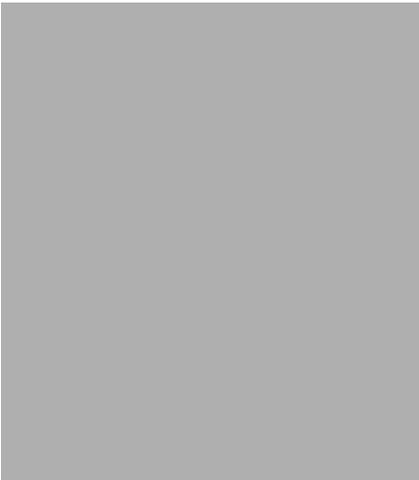


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 14:12-14. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What promises did Jesus make in this passage?
- What does it look like for you to love people like Jesus loves?
- What do you need from Jesus to love people like he loves?
- Who is one person you could intentionally love this week?

Title: Love-Shaped Obedience

Main Passage: John 14:15-31

Supplementary Passage: 1 John 5:1-5

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

JESUS ANSWERED HIM, “IF ANYONE LOVES ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORD, AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME TO HIM AND MAKE OUR HOME WITH HIM.”

- JOHN 14:23

Overview: We learn from these verses that union with Jesus inevitably leads to a transformed life. If we love Jesus, we will keep his word. This is a lesson of immense importance. The proof of our love for Jesus is not solely in talking about him but in steadily doing his will and walking in his ways. Good feelings and desires are useless if they are not accompanied by love-shaped obedience.

I think the phrase “love-shaped obedience” is important to notice. Jesus doesn’t want us to obey out of duty. He wants us to obey out of love. In other words, he isn’t looking for people who begrudgingly follow. He is looking for lovers who long to follow.

Also notice that in these verses, Jesus clearly places love before keeping his commandments. This helps us to see that love leads to obedience, not the other way around. Simply put, we first belong to Jesus and then because we belong, we obey.

I also find it very encouraging that Jesus promises to provide the Holy Spirit to help us. It seems that Jesus knows we will need help in our obedience, and out of love for us, he is willing to provide everything that we need. The gift of the Holy Spirit is clear evidence that Jesus wants something so much more than duty-driven followers. He wants followers who love him and who are animated by the Holy Spirit.

OPENING QUESTION

- When you think of the word *obedience*, what comes to mind? Do you see obedience as something positive or negative?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 14:15-31. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What did Jesus say would happen to the people who love him?
- What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do when he comes? How is the Spirit's work connected to our love and obedience?
- Why do you think Jesus begins to talk about the work of the Holy Spirit in this section of John?
- Jesus says he will manifest himself to the people who love him. What does this mean?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What do you think it looks like to follow Jesus out of a sense of duty?
- What do you think it looks like to follow Jesus out of a sense of love?
- Do you tend to follow Jesus more out of duty or love? Explain your answer.
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit increase your love for Jesus?
- As your love for Jesus grows, your obedience to him will flow. How have you seen that truth worked out in your life?
- What increases your love for Jesus?

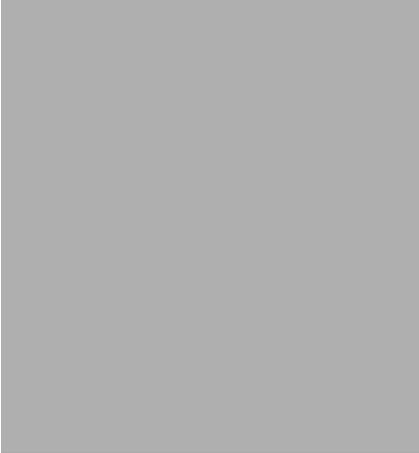
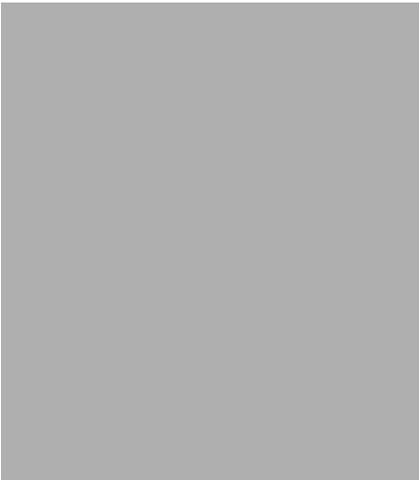


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 14:15-31. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What does Jesus say will happen if we love him?
- What does it look like to keep Jesus' commandments?
- What helps you love and obey Jesus?

Title: Abide in Me

Main Passage: John 15:1-17

Supplementary Passage: Galatians 5:16-24

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES IN THE VINE, NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME.

-JOHN 15:4

Overview: These verses contain one of the most cherished metaphors Jesus gives for our relationship with him. He is the vine, and we are the branches. This metaphor reveals that connection and closeness to Jesus is the whole secret to our life, strength, health and fruitfulness. In ourselves, we do not have life, or strength or spiritual power. All that we have comes from Christ, so Jesus' simple invitation is to abide in him.

Abiding in Jesus is the distinguishing mark of a true Christian and out of that union, the fruit of the Spirit comes. This helps us to see that connection to Jesus leads to a fruitful life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.¹ In other words, connection to Jesus is never dormant. It always leads to spiritual health and vitality.

In these verses, we also learn the hard truth that God prunes us so that we will be more fruitful. The meaning of this is clear. Just as a gardener prunes and cuts back branches in order to make them more fruitful, God purifies and sanctifies us by the circumstances of life. He allows trials, hardships and testing to come to increase our reliance on Jesus and our fruitfulness in life. One pastor put it very well when he wrote, "It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply."²

¹ Galatians 5:22-23

² A.W. Tozer

We may not like this reality, but Jesus reveals it is part of our journey with him. So let us remember to abide in Jesus and trust the gardener who prunes us, not to destroy us, but so that we bear much fruit.

OPENING QUESTION

- What has been your experience with gardening?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 15:1-17. What stands out to you from these verses?
- In these verses, Jesus says that he is the vine. What does this metaphor reveal about Jesus?
- In these verses, Jesus says that God the Father is the vinedresser or the gardener. What does this metaphor reveal about God the Father?
- In these verses, Jesus says that Christians are branches. What does this metaphor reveal about you and your life as a Christian?
- In these verses, Jesus says that branches connected to him bear fruit. What does the fruit represent? What things should show up in your life as you abide in Jesus?
- Jesus identifies laying down your life for a friend as the highest form of love. How does this help you understand the kind of fruit that is to grow as you abide in his love?
- Branches that disconnect from Jesus wither and are thrown into a fire. What does this represent?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Who is one of the most fruitful Christians you've ever known? What was it like interacting with them?
- Though it hurts, Jesus clearly reveals that the Father prunes us to make us more fruitful. How have you experienced the pruning work of the Father in your life?
- What things disconnect you from the vine?
- The main point of this passage is to abide in Jesus. How do we abide in Jesus? What does it mean to abide in his love? What does this practice of abiding actually look like?
- Is there anything in your life that needs to be pruned so that you can bear more fruit?
- What fruit has been most evident in your life over the last six months?

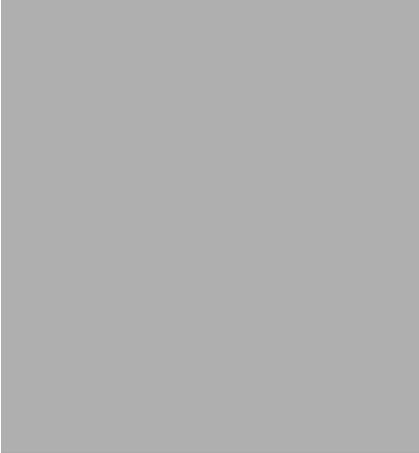
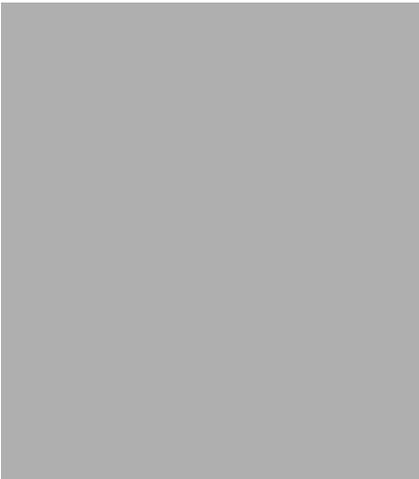


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 15:1-17. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What does Jesus mean by saying that he is the vine and we are the branches?
- What does Jesus mean when he says that the Father is like a gardener who prunes the branches?
- As a family, talk through different ways that God the Father has pruned you.
- As a family, talk through what it looks like to abide in Jesus.
- What fruit have you seen in your family as members of your family have been abiding in Jesus?

Title: Hated but Helped

Main Passage: John 15:18-16:15

Supplementary Passages: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

REMEMBER THE WORD THAT I SAID TO YOU: 'A SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER.' IF THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU. IF THEY KEPT MY WORD, THEY WILL ALSO KEEP YOURS.

-JOHN 15:20

Overview: The Christian life is many things, but it is not easy. Jesus clearly said that his followers would be hated and persecuted. While this is not the most encouraging word for Christians to hear, it is deeply helpful because it sets clear expectations for life until Jesus returns. Not everyone will treat us with kindness and gratitude. Because of our commitment to Jesus, some people will hate and hurt us.

The good news in the midst of this troubling revelation is that Jesus did not leave us alone. He promised to send a Helper. This Helper is the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. He guides us and works in those who persecute us to convict them of sin and draw them to Jesus.

So the clear expectation that Jesus gives to his followers is this: you will be hated but helped.

OPENING QUESTION

- What are some unrealistic expectations that people can have about life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 15:18-16:15. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What do these verses reveal about Jesus?
- What do these verses reveal about life for followers of Jesus?
- What do these verses reveal about the Holy Spirit?
- What are different ways that Christians can be persecuted for their faith in Jesus?
- In what ways does the Holy Spirit help Christians who are persecuted?
- In what ways does the Holy Spirit help those who persecute Christians?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10. How is the apostle Paul an illustration of the help the Holy Spirit brings to those who persecute Christians and also the help he brings to persecuted Christians?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Talk about some of the unrealistic expectations that you have had about being a Christian.
- Can you think of a time when you were persecuted for following Jesus? What did that persecution look like? What did you lose (e.g., popularity, loss of job, loss of friendship, etc.)?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS CONT.

- How did the Holy Spirit help you during that time of persecution?
- How is the Holy Spirit helping you during this season of your life?

TABLE TIME WITH KIDS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 15:18-16:15. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What is a realistic expectation? *A realistic expectation is a vision of what to expect for the future.*
- What realistic expectations does Jesus give to his followers? *They will be hated for their faith in Jesus, but they will be helped by the Holy Spirit.*
- As a family, talk about some of the ways that Christians are hated by people in the world.
- As a family, talk about some of the ways that the Holy Spirit helps Christians.
- How is the Holy Spirit helping your family during this season?

Title: Gospel-Shaped Joy

Main Passage: John 16:16-33

Supplementary Passage: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

**I HAVE SAID THESE THINGS TO YOU, THAT IN ME YOU MAY
HAVE PEACE. IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION.
BUT TAKE HEART; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.**

-JOHN 16:33

Overview: This passage reveals that knowledge about a good future is the foundation of joy.

Think about it like this. If you had to spend a year of your life in a cold prison cell, eating only bread and vegetables and drinking only water, but you were told that at the end of that difficult year you would be released and given five million dollars as a reward for your perseverance; you would go through that hard year with a certain amount of joy because of your knowledge about a good future. But imagine that you were told that at the end of the year, you would be given only a bronze plaque to commemorate your experience in prison. If that were the future that was coming, you would go through that year grumbling. Why? Because the future wouldn't be something to look forward to.

In this final section of instruction, Jesus tells his disciples that his absence from them will be a time of great sorrow and yet his returning will be a time of boundless blessing. Additionally, Jesus tells them that they will have instant, immediate and direct access into the very presence of God. Jesus reveals these things so that his disciples can have a clear picture of the good future that is coming. When we embrace the good future that is ours in Jesus, we can live with joy, peace and perspective.

OPENING QUESTION

- When you think about a good future, what immediately comes to mind?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 16:16-33. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What vision for the future does Jesus give his disciples in these verses?
- In verse 22 Jesus says, *I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.* What is Jesus referring to here?
- Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus' people have instant, immediate and direct access into the very presence of the living God. Why does this reality bring peace and joy into whatever circumstance you face?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What happens when you forget that joy is a product of what you hope for in the future, not what you experience in your life today?
- What do you hope for in the future?
- What blessings are you looking forward to experiencing when Jesus returns?
- How does knowing that Jesus has overcome the world affect the way you view the difficult things you endure as you wait for him to come again?

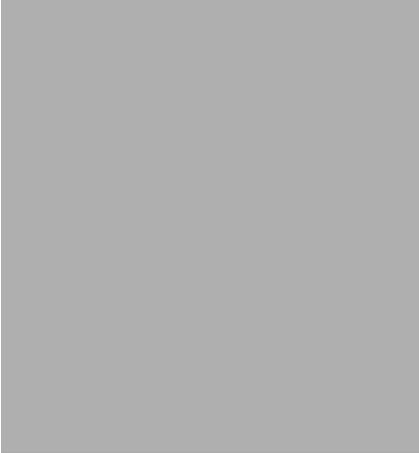
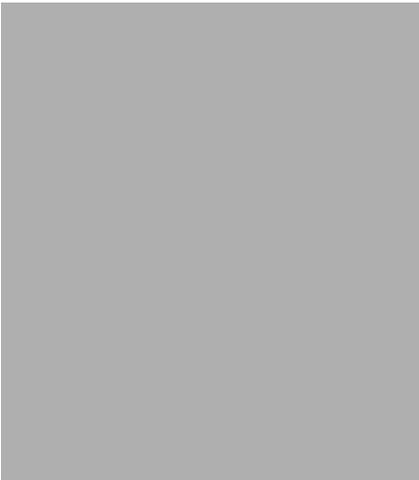


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 16:16-33. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What does Jesus say will happen to his followers in the future? *He says they will have a time of sorrow, but then they will see him and rejoice and no one will take away their joy.*
- Why is the day when Jesus returns such a great day for Jesus' followers? *On that day Jesus will bring massive blessings to them, the biggest blessing being that they will finally get to see him face to face.*
- What blessings are you looking forward to experiencing when Jesus returns?

Title: Jesus Prays for Himself

Main Passage: John 17:1-5

Supplementary Passage: Hebrews 1:1-5

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

**AND NOW, FATHER, GLORIFY ME IN YOUR OWN PRESENCE
WITH THE GLORY THAT I HAD WITH YOU BEFORE THE
WORLD EXISTED.**

-JOHN 17:5

Overview: John 17 is one of the most treasured chapters in the Bible. In this passage, Jesus talks to God the Father and gives us a glimpse of the communion that Jesus has had with the Father for all eternity. Jesus' prayer is a great pattern for us to follow as we talk to God in prayer.

This week we will focus on the first five verses of Jesus' prayer. In these verses, we see that Jesus celebrates the reality that he has accomplished the work the Father sent him to do, and he requests that the Father now glorify him with the glory that he had with the Father before the world existed.

Celebrating Jesus' work in this world and praying for Jesus to be glorified in this world are two great topics to think about when we talk with God the Father in prayer. So this week, we are going to learn what it looks like to celebrate Jesus' work and request that Jesus be glorified in our world.

OPENING QUESTION

- Talk about a time when you asked someone to do something for you. How did you feel when that person accomplished that task?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 17:1-5. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What does Jesus celebrate as he talks to God the Father?
- What does Jesus request as he talks to God the Father?
- What is glory?
- What does it mean to glorify something?
- Read Hebrews 1:1-5. According to this passage, why is Jesus worthy of glory?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What would it look like for you to have times of prayer where you celebrate the work Jesus has done in this world?
- What would it look like for you to have times of prayer requesting that God the Father glorify Jesus in this world?
- What does it look like for you to glorify Jesus with your life?
- What would it look like to live in a world where Jesus is being glorified?
- Personally, why do you think Jesus is worthy of glory?

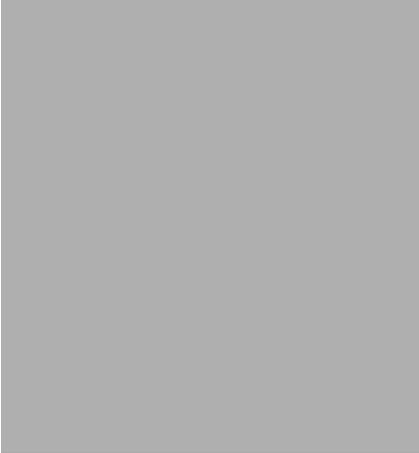
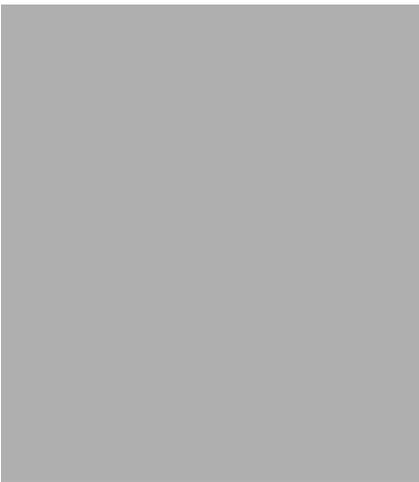


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 17:1-5. What stands out to you from these verses?
- Jesus celebrated with the Father all he had accomplished in this world. As a family, come up with a list of the things that Jesus has accomplished in your family.
- Jesus asked the Father to glorify him, which means he wanted the Father to show the world just how great he is. As a family, come up with some things you could do to bring glory to Jesus.

Title: Jesus Prays for Us

Main Passage: John 17:6-26

Supplementary Passage: Psalm 133

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

AND I AM NO LONGER IN THE WORLD, BUT THEY ARE IN THE WORLD, AND I AM COMING TO YOU. HOLY FATHER, KEEP THEM IN YOUR NAME, WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE.

-JOHN 17:11

Overview: Hearing someone pray for us can have a deep and lasting impact. It's wonderful to know that someone cares enough about us to take the time to take our needs to God in prayer.

In John 17:6-26, Jesus prays for us. He brings our needs before God the Father and asks him to sustain, sanctify and unify his people. This shows us Jesus' great care and concern. He really is a good Savior who wants blessing and provision for his people.

If you are a follower of Jesus, you are the Father's answer to Jesus' prayer. By the power of the Holy Spirit you can continue to intercede for others as Jesus did. So this week is a chance to celebrate that we are the Father's answer to Jesus' prayer, and it's a chance to learn how we can pray like Jesus for the strength, sanctification and unity of Jesus' people.

OPENING QUESTION

- Have you ever heard someone pray for you? What was that experience like?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 17:6-26. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What do these verses reveal about Jesus?
- What did Jesus ask the Father to do for his disciples? (verses 6-19)
- What did Jesus ask the Father to do for all his followers? (verses 20-26)
- What do you learn from this prayer about the relationship between God the Father and Jesus?
- What do you learn from this prayer about Jesus' heart for his followers?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Jesus' prayer for his people is a great pattern for how we can pray for others. How could you use this prayer for yourself, your family, your friends or anyone else you care for?
- Unity is one of the things Jesus wants to characterize his people. What things can divide Christians?
- What are specific ways you could cultivate greater oneness with other Christians?
- How have you seen prayer affect your life?
- What do you learn from this passage about the purpose and practice of prayer?
- As you think about Jesus' prayer to God the Father, what request from Jesus most resonates with you?
- Close small group by praying intentionally for one another.

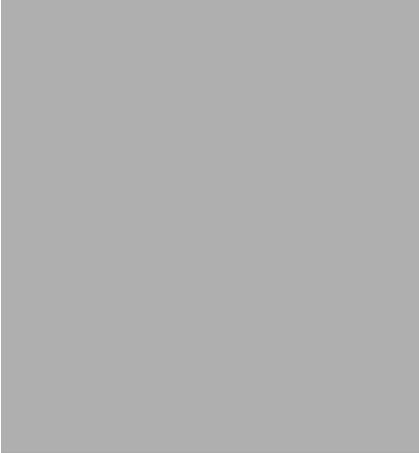
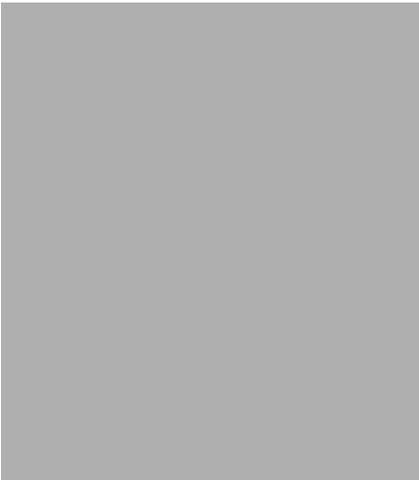


TABLE TIME WITH KIDS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud John 17:6-26. What stands out to you from these verses?
- What do these verses reveal about Jesus?
- What did Jesus ask God the Father to do for his followers?
- What things create division in your family?
- What can you do to cultivate unity in your family?
- Parents, take this week to intentionally pray for your children in a similar way that Jesus prays for his followers.

