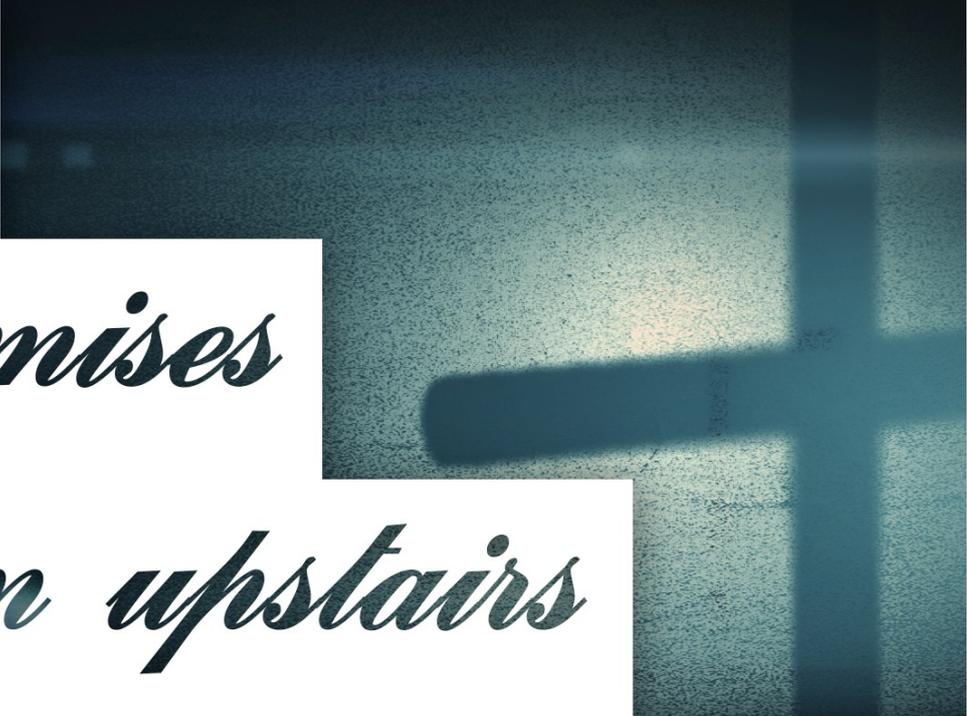


## Study Guide, Term 3/2015



*promises  
from upstairs*

Final lessons from Jesus  
in John 13 -17



### Leaders' Guide

“But I have said these things to you, that  
when their hour comes you may  
remember that I told them to you.”

(John 16:4 ESV)

**GROW  
TOGETHER  
IN JESUS  
FOR GOD'S GLORY**





# Grace Community Groups

Each week, across the Sunshine Coast, small groups from Grace Christian Church meet to

- study the Bible,
- pray together,
- worship God,
- encourage each other,
- care for one-another,
- grow together as followers of Jesus,
- laugh, cry, discuss life's big questions,
- and build lasting friendships!

If you're not part of a group yet, why not? It might take courage to join a group, or it might take a bit of personal rescheduling, but we promise that you won't regret it!



Area/Group Focus	Meeting time	Contact	Phone
<b>Bli Bli</b>	Wednesday, 7.00pm	John Baird	(07) 5448 4040
<b>Buderim</b>	Monday, 7.00pm	Colin Weston	(07) 5476 9648
<b>Buderim/Sippy Downs</b>	Thursday, 7.00pm	Clint Lombard	0478 578 152
<b>Kawana/Wurtulla</b>	Monday (fortnightly), 7.00pm	Tim Richards	(07) 5438 2201
<b>Nambour/Burnside</b>	Tuesday, 7.00pm	Des Morris	(07) 5476 3892
<b>Woombye</b>	1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7.00pm	Hendrik Kroon	(07) 5442 3476
<b>Ladies</b>	Thursday, 10.00am	Alison Sheldon	(07) 5477 1895
<b>Young Mums</b>	Tuesday, 10:30am	Jean Bowen-Jones	0402 746 533
<b>Students/Young Adults</b>	Tuesday, 7.00pm	Callum Lewis	0421 230 119

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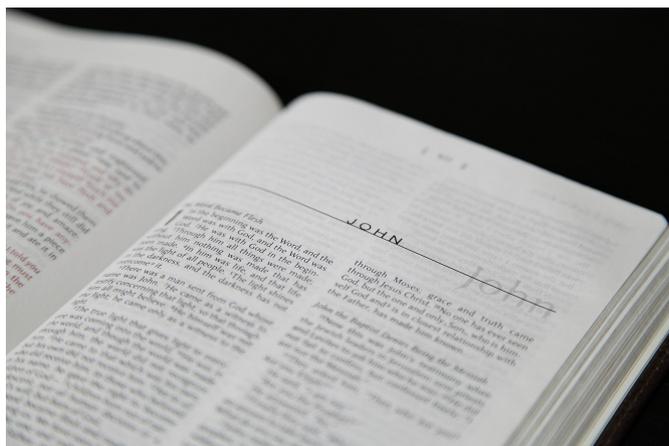
# Introduction to the Study Guide

## Welcome!

We're so glad you're joining us to dig deep in Jesus' words recorded in John 13-17. We trust that as you join us in reading, examining and discovering from this part of the Bible, both in our Sunday services, on your own, and in a weekly group, you will grow in your relationship with God through his Son Jesus Christ.

## Introduction to John

The gospel of John was written by John, a disciple of Jesus. John was one of the first disciples Jesus called. He was a fisherman by trade, along with his brother James (you can read about it in Matthew 4:18-22).



John, together with James and Peter, formed a kind of inner-circle among Jesus' disciples. They were the only ones who got to see Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead (Mark 5:21-43), and the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain (Matthew 17:1-7). They were also the ones who were closest to Jesus during his agonising evening in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-38), just before he was arrested.

John's experience of Jesus, as recorded in all the gospels, was one of profound personal impact. He was utterly changed by meeting Jesus. Perhaps this is why he focusses so much on Jesus' teaching, the words Jesus actually said.

John's gospel is different from the other three gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. We usually call these the 'synoptic gospels', because they give us a 'synopsis' or a survey of the life and ministry of Jesus.

John's gospel, by contrast, selects certain accounts of Jesus' teaching and activity (some of which is not contained in the other gospels), and arranges them in an unusual way. John is not writing a strict history, or a strict biography. Instead, in his own words:

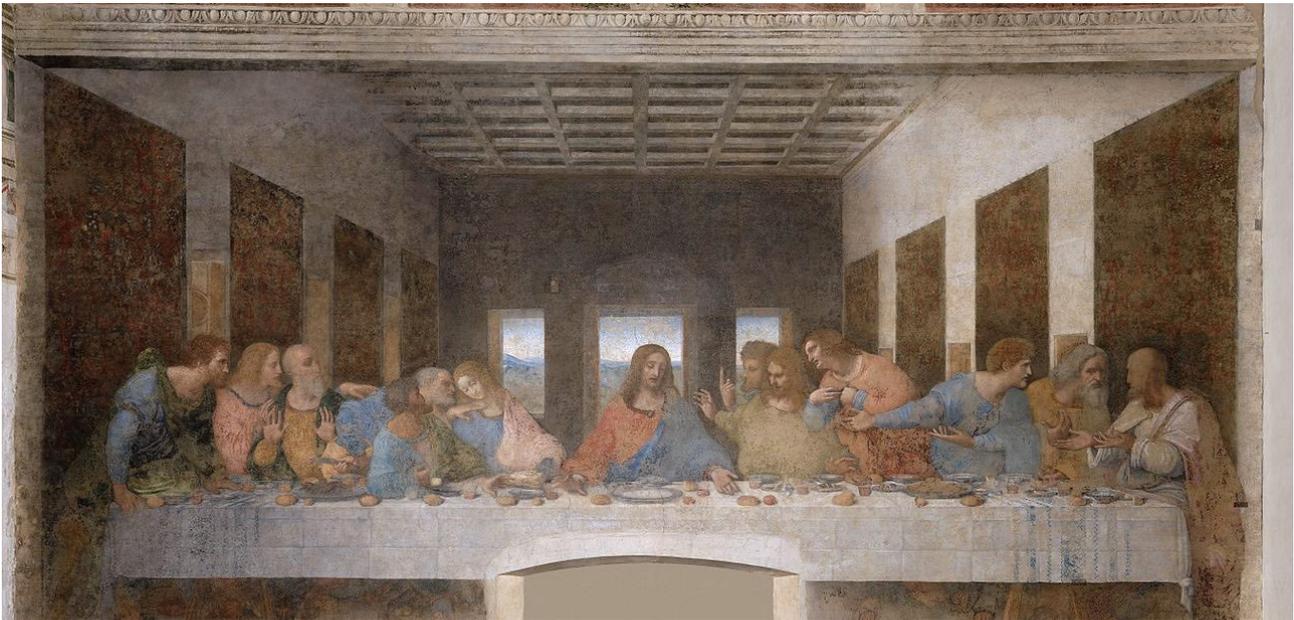
*"...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*

(John 20:31 ESV)

## The Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

The section of John's gospel that we're going to focus on over the next term is known as the Upper Room Discourse (or the Farewell Discourse), and is recorded in John 13-17. It is one of the longest continuous portions of Jesus' teaching recorded anywhere in the Bible.

It takes place on the night before Jesus went to the cross. He and his disciples are gathered in a rented function room in Jerusalem (the “upper room”), enjoying the Passover meal together - the Last Supper.



Jesus has completed his earthly ministry, and now turns his attention exclusively to his small band of followers. These last few hours are crucial, as Jesus gives his disciples everything they need to know and trust as they watch their teacher and Lord head to the cross.

Jesus' encourages them with words about heaven, love, joy, the Holy Spirit, access to God, and future hope. But he also warns them of opposition, suffering, sorrow and separation from himself.

These things aren't just words, they are *promises*. God's promises to be trusted by troubled hearts, as they look towards Jesus' ultimate victory.

This is where the Upper Room Discourse is valuable for us today. These are promises to us as well, from Jesus himself, as we face the challenges of life following our Saviour, but apart from him. These are the things we also need to understand and trust to carry us through the troubles of this life, as we wait for the final victory of our Lord.

We pray that you would grow in your trust of Jesus, and find great peace in him, as we study this part of the Bible together.

- Ps Clint Lombard  
9 July 2015

# How to use this study guide

Each weekly study in this guide is divided into two major sections:

## Sermon

### Sermon Notes

The first section of each study is based around the Sunday sermon. There is a section for you to write notes during the sermon. You might want to write down

- The major points of the message
- Things that interested you
- Important verses and other verse references

This will help you follow what is being taught, but it will also help you remember what you learnt when you look over your notes later.

### The Big Idea

This block is where you can write the one Big Idea of the message. Every message should have one simple, clear '**Big Idea**' which you can take away.

### Questions

It's normal to go away from a Bible message still having questions. This section is for you to write down those things, so that you can try to find out later, maybe by asking the pastor or your group leader, or discussing it with your group.

## Group Bible Study

You can do these studies in your own, but to get the most out of them, you should try and attend a weekly group Bible study - a Grace Community Group. The studies in this guide are designed using an easy framework called '**COMA**':

**Context:** These questions help you understand where the text fits into the big picture. It's about asking, "What's been happening up to this point?"

**Observation:** These questions help you to orientate yourself in the text by looking at what it says. It's about asking, "What ideas come up in the text?" and "What surprises are there?"

**Meaning:** These questions help you try to uncover what the author means. It's about asking, "What does this section tell me about God, about Jesus, and about myself?"

**Application:** These questions help you to work out how to respond to the Bible's message. It's about asking, "How does this passage challenge or confirm my understanding?", "Is there something in my life that needs to change?", or "What does this passage teach me about being a follower of Jesus?"

**Prayer Points** Finally, there is a section to write prayer points. This way you can remember to pray for each other during and after the group meeting, and also keep track of prayers answered. Prayer and praying for each other is a very important part of Christians meeting together.

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19 July 2015

# Love to the End

John 13:1-35

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Sermon Notes

**What is the Big Idea?**

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What questions do I still have?

*(take these questions to your home group and try to find some answers)*

# Group Bible Study - Week 1

 Ask a few people to share reading John 13:1-35 for the group.

**Opening Question:** If you knew you were going to die very soon, what do you think you might want to do with your final hours?

*This question isn't meant to be morbid! It's meant to put us in Jesus' shoes so we understand his motives and character in this chapter, before he goes to the cross.*

---

## Context

Jesus and his disciples are in Jerusalem eating the Passover meal together. What does the Passover commemorate? *(for a clue, see Exodus 12)*

*The Passover meal commemorates God's redemption of the nation of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Significantly, an unblemished lamb was slaughtered for the meal, and its blood was painted on the doorposts of the house. The blood became a sign to God's angel of judgement to 'pass over' that house on the night that all the firstborn in Egypt were struck down dead.*

What major turning-point has just occurred in John's gospel? *(see 12:36-37, 44-50)*

*Jesus has completed his public ministry to the Jewish people. Despite what he had said and done, he was largely rejected by them.*

---

## Observation

What did Jesus do for his disciples in v2-5? Why is it surprising that Jesus would do this?

*Jesus washed his disciples feet.*

*This was a job reserved for slaves. It wasn't the kind of thing a respected teacher should do.*

Why do you think Peter wanted to refuse Jesus in v6?

*Perhaps he was embarrassed that Jesus would serve him in a such a menial way.*

How does Jesus explain the significance of what he has done for his disciples? (v12-15).

*Jesus has given his disciples an example to follow. They are meant to demonstrate a comparable love for one another.*

What does Jesus say the effect of the disciples' love will be? (v34-35)

*By their love for one-another, the world will know that they are the disciples of Jesus.*

Why is Jesus telling his disciples these things? (v19)

*Jesus is telling his disciples these things so that, when the time comes, they will understand who Jesus is and what his death and resurrection have accomplished.*

---

## Meaning

What characteristics of Jesus' love are demonstrated in v1-11? Find as many as you can, and note which verses you find them in.

- v1: His love is **enduring**, because he is willing to love even to the end of his life, not looking to his own needs but to the good of his disciples.
- v3: His love is **selfless** and **humble**, because he knows his status before God, and still loves his disciples.
- v5: His love is **generous**: he even washes the feet of Judas, who he knew would betray him (Jesus washed all his disciples' feet, and Judas was clearly present at the time)
- v31: His love is **approved by God**, and God is glorified in Jesus' love.

What is the "cleaning" that Jesus is talking about in v7-11? (note particularly v7, and see also v19)

*Jesus is using the foot washing to demonstrate figuratively to his disciples what his death would mean. His death would 'clean' the hearts of his followers from sin. His disciples were meant to connect his death the next day to the foot washing and Jesus' words of the previous night, and realise what was going on.*

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## Application

As followers of Christ, we are called to love. But our love is a very particular love - it is meant to replicate the kind of love Jesus showed us.

How we can practically demonstrate this kind of love to the people we interact with everyday?

*This is an open question. Encourage discussion, and encourage your group members to avoid being general and vague. Rather be specific and practical.*

*Some might wish to repent of failing to show this love and resolve to do so towards a particular person. Use this to inform your prayers, and guide the group in encouraging that person and perhaps even holding them accountable (ask them how it's going on a regular basis).*

*Remember to ensure confidentiality within the group if the discussion heads in this direction.*

**Prayer Points:**

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26 July 2015

# The Road Less Travelled

John 13:36 - 14:11

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Sermon Notes

**What is the Big Idea?**

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What questions do I still have?

# Group Bible Study - Week 2

 Ask someone to read John 13:36 - 14:11 for the group.

**Opening Question:** What do you think it really means to “follow Jesus”?

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## Context

Read 13:33, 7:32-36 and 8:21:20-27. What has Jesus been saying?

*Jesus has been speaking to the Jews, in the hearing of his disciples, about his return to God, to heaven. This is a place where only those approved by God can enter, i.e., those who have had their sins forgiven through Jesus.*

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## Observation

What is Peter’s question? (13:36)

*Peter asks Jesus where he is going.*

What is Thomas’ question? (14:5)

*Thomas asks Jesus how they can know the way to where he is going.*

What is Philip’s question? (14:8)

*Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father.*

What does Jesus say is the solution to the disciples’ troubled hearts? (14:1)

*To believe in God and believe in him.*

How does Jesus describe the relationship between himself and God? (14:2, 6-7, 10-11)

*Jesus and God enjoy a Father-and-Son relationship; Jesus is the way to access and know the Father; Jesus is the visible representation of the*

*Father; Jesus acts under the authority of the Father; Jesus is 'in' the Father, and the Father is 'in' Jesus.*

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## Meaning

Why are the disciples distressed? (14:1)

*Jesus has told them that he is going away. This must have been especially big news after the great act of love Jesus has just demonstrated to them.*

Considering everything Jesus has said in these verses, what does it mean to "... believe in God, believe also in me." ? (14:1)

*Believing in God and believing in Jesus is one and the same thing. You can't have one without the other, because of the intimate relationship between the Father and the Son.*

*Believing in Jesus means to trust that he is who he says he is: the way to God, and the visible representation of the Father.*

According to 14:11, what is one purpose of the miracles that Jesus performed during his earthly ministry?

*To give credibility to his claims that he is the Son of God, and to kick-start faith in those who would believe.*

---

## Application

How should Jesus' promises about heaven in 13:36 and 14:1-4 give us hope and encouragement? In what particular circumstances might these promises be welcome?

*The fact that heaven is real and the fact that Jesus acts to prepare our place in heaven and to escort us there should give us certainty and hope to face our own mortality, and to face our physical separation from Jesus in this life because we know where he is, what he is doing and what his plan is.*

How should Jesus' promises about being the exclusive way to God in 14:6-7 and 9-11 give us hope and encouragement? In what particular circumstances might these promises be welcome?

*The fact that Jesus is the only way to God should give us assurance when the world around us causes us to doubt the truth of the gospel. Being a Christian is not about knowing theological ideas or performing certain religious rites, it's about knowing God through Jesus.*

**Prayer Points:**

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2 August 2015

# **Left Behind, But Not Left Alone**

John 14:12-31

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Sermon Notes

**What is the Big Idea?**

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What questions do I still have?

# Group Bible Study - Week 3

 Ask a couple of people to share reading John 14:12-31 for the group.

**Opening Question:** What things first come to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit?

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## Context

What were the major points of last week's study?

- *Jesus is leaving to return to heaven*
- *Jesus is the only way to God, and to heaven*
- *Jesus is the revelation of God in, and to, the world*

---

## Observation

What does Jesus say he will do for the disciples when he returns to heaven? (v16)

*Jesus says that he will ask God to send a helper, who will be with the disciples forever.*

What does the rest of the chapter tell us about this Helper?

- *he is the 'Spirit of Truth' (v16)*
- *the world cannot receive him, because it neither sees him nor knows him (v17)*
- *the disciples do know him, and he is with them, but not yet 'in' them (v17)*
- *he will be the presence of Jesus to the disciples (v18-21)*
- *the helper is the Holy Spirit (v26)*
- *he will teach and bring to mind all that Jesus has taught (v26)*

What are there hallmarks of those who love Jesus? (v15, 21, 23, 28)

- *They keep his commandments; they obey him*
- *They are loved by the Father and the Son, and they will manifest themselves to them and live with them*
- *They will rejoice that Jesus is returning to the Father*

What is Jesus talking about in v29-31?

*His death and resurrection.*

---

## Meaning

Look over what we've discovered about the Holy Spirit in this chapter. What does Jesus mean when he says, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*"? (v12)

*Because the Holy Spirit is the presence of the Father and the Son with the believer, they are empowered by God to act for his glory.*

### **Leaders' Note: Does this mean we can heal, or cast out demons, or raise the dead?**

It's important to note the John frequently uses the work 'sign' in his gospel to refer to miracles (e.g. John 20:30-31). A 'sign' in Scripture does two things: it authenticates the miracle worker as God's representative, and it shows something of God's power in salvation and judgement. This is the background to the idea of miracles and the works of Jesus in John's gospel.

The plain reading of Jesus' words here means that we must not discount the possibility of believers performing miraculous works that *reflect* the works of Jesus. The disciples certainly did perform works like this in Acts (e.g. Acts 3:1-10). (Whether or not these particular works continue beyond the New Testament times is a matter of debate amongst Christians, and is not clear in the Bible).

However, what is clear is that those who have been empowered by God's Holy Spirit can expect to be empowered to live and behave in a way contrary to their old, sinful nature; and in so doing they will be authenticated as Christ's representatives on earth, and will bear witness to God's power in judgement and salvation. Clearly, we shouldn't limit these works to healing, casting out demons and raising the dead!

Of course, Jesus counts the works we are empowered to do as "greater works than these". How amazing is it when we are empowered to explain the Bible to someone, or are given the courage to tell them about Jesus? (see 1 Corinthians 2:4). Surely these must be "greater works", because they hold out the Word of Life? Jesus' works, though performed by the infinite power of the one through whom God created all things (Col 1:15-17), were still shadows of what was to be fully revealed in the gospel.

Why should the news that Jesus is returning to the Father cause the disciples to rejoice? (v28)

*If they had understood the necessary progression of events, they would be rejoicing at Jesus return to God because it would complete God's plan of salvation. Remember that Jesus' return to the Father after his death would confirm the effectiveness of his death on the cross for the sins of the world (see Romans 1:4, 1 Corinthians 15:17)*

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## Application

Are you aware of the presence of Jesus within you, by his Holy Spirit? If so, how?

*This discussion could go down a number of rabbit holes, depending on those in your group.*

*Let people talk, and listen carefully. This discussion will set us up for the next two questions.*

How does Jesus say we can recognise the presence of his Holy Spirit within us?

- *The Spirit will empower us to live in the world in a way which brings glory to God by bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ (v12, see also Acts 1:8)*
- *The Spirit will connect us to God, through Jesus, in prayer (v12-16, see also Romans 8:15, 26-27)*
- *The Spirit will teach us God's Word and bring to mind what was spoken by Jesus (v26)*
- *The Spirit will be the peace of Jesus to us in his absence (v27)*

How is the promised presence of Jesus, through his Holy Spirit, that we have studied in John 14 an encouragement to you in your daily life, this side of heaven? Discuss with your group.

**Prayer Points:**

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9 August 2015

# **A Cultivated Connection**

John 15:1-17

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Sermon Notes

**What is the Big Idea?**

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What questions do I still have?

# Group Bible Study - Week 4

**Opening Question:** What part of being a Christian is most important to you?

 Ask one or two people to read John 15:1-17 for the group.

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## Context

Refresh yourself by discussing some of the major ideas of last week's study (see 14:12-31).

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## Observation

What big "I am" statement does Jesus make in v1?

*"I am the true vine."*

What happens to those who are connected to the vine? (v2, 4, 8)

*Those who are connected to the vine bear fruit.*

What happens to those who do not bear fruit, or are not connected to the vine? (v2, 6)

*Those who are not connected or don't bear fruit are taken away, and destroyed.*

How is God glorified? (v8)

*That those connected to Jesus bear much fruit and prove to be Jesus' disciples.*

What is Jesus' commandment in v12?

*That Jesus' followers reflect his love to each other.*

---

## Meaning

What is the fruit that Jesus is talking about? Give some examples. (see also Galatians 5:22, Colossians 1:10 and Hebrews 13:15)

*Fruit is a metaphor for the 'produce' (i.e. the visible results) of a life of connected to Jesus.*

*These things include love, joy, peace, growing in godliness, growing in knowledge of God through his Word, etc.*

What is the difference between a servant and a friend? Why has Jesus changed his relationship towards his disciples in v15?

*He is demonstrating love for them in dying for them, as a good friend would (v13). He has also 'let them in' on his plans and purpose (v15).*

---

## Application

How can we be connected to Jesus, the vine? (see v3, 10)

*Connection to Jesus means being cleansed by trusting what he has said about his sin-destroying death and life-giving resurrection. It also means obeying his commandments, doing what he says, submitting to him as Lord of our lives.*

What should you do if you believe you are connected to Jesus, but you don't feel like you are 'bearing fruit', i.e. your life doesn't reflect your connection to Jesus?

*The first thing is to act urgently! Jesus says that those in this position are in danger (v2).*

*But he also shows us how to access the Father, by trusting his words and asking "in his name" (v7, 16). Therefore we should pray to God and ask him to help us bear fruit that matches and proves our connection to Jesus.*

**Prayer Points:**

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16 August 2015

# Expect Opposition

John 15:18 - 16:15

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Sermon Notes

**What is the Big Idea?**

---

What questions do I still have?

# Group Bible Study - Week 5

**Opening Question:** Have you ever had an experience where you were treated badly because you were a Christian?

 Ask one or two people to read John 15:18 - 16:15 for the group.

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## Context

How did Jesus describe the relationship that ought to exist between his followers in last week's study? (see John 15:12-17)

*They are to love one-another as Jesus has loved them.*

---

## Observation

What does Jesus tell his followers to expect? (15:18-19, 16:1-2)

*They could expect to be hated, to be persecuted, to be "put out of the synagogue" (i.e. to be ostracised by their community), and even to be killed.*

What will the work of the Holy Spirit be when he comes? (16:8-14)

*He will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness and judgement. He will also guide the disciples into truth, and glorify God.*

---

## Meaning

Why does Jesus say that his disciples can expect hostility? (v18-21)

*Jesus was hated and persecuted, therefore his followers can expect the same. Those who persecuted him did not recognise him, therefore his followers will suffer for following him.*

Why does Jesus quote from Psalm 35:19 in 15:25? (see 15:22-25)

*Jesus has proven who he was by his teaching and his works, and these things now stand as judgement against those reject him. If they understood why he did and said the things he did, they would have understood who he was and loved him, not hated him.*

How does Jesus encourage his followers with insight into the work of the Spirit?  
(see 15:26-27, 16:8-11, 13-15)

*The work that the disciples will do in the world is empowered completely by the Holy Spirit - he bears witness, he does the convicting, he guides, and he will declare to them God's own words. This should encourage the disciples that they do not labour in their own strength, but are equipped by Jesus' Holy Spirit.*

---

## Application

If we understand Jesus' words in this passage, how are we to think through situations when we may be persecuted or treated unfairly for being his followers?

*We must remember that because Jesus' was hated, so we can expect the same as his followers*

*We must remember that those who hate us are really hating God, because they don't know him, or the one he sent, or his children*

*We must remember that that we don't face hostility in our own strength, but we have the Holy Spirit to empower and equip us.*

How can we put these things into action practically when we face hostility for being a Christian?

*(open question)*

*Suggestions:*

- don't take it personally*
- be more concerned about the person's relationship with God than their relationship with us*
- pray to God for help*
- pray for those who treat us badly for being Christians*

**Prayer Points:**

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23 August 2015

# The Night is Darkest Just Before the Dawn

John 16:16-33

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Sermon Notes

**What is the Big Idea?**

---

What questions do I still have?

# Group Bible Study - Week 6

**Opening Question:** Does your hope in Jesus help you to face the struggles and challenges of everyday life? If so, how?

 Ask a couple of people to share in reading John 16:16-33 for the group.

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## Context

Why are the disciples troubled, or sorrowful? Remind yourself from 13:21-22, 13:26 - 14:1, 27-28, 16:5-6

*Jesus has said some hard things, that one of them will betray him, that Peter will deny knowing him, and that he is going away and that they cannot follow him.*

---

## Observation

What are the disciples confused about in v16-18?

*They don't understand what he is talking about. Note: when he has spoken about 'going away', they understand that he may die. When he adds that they will see him again in a "little while" they are confused again, because they have no concept of the resurrection.*

What figure of speech (v25) does Jesus use to explain to his disciples what will happen? What clarity does it bring to future events? (v20-23)

*Jesus uses the picture of a woman giving birth. He contrasts the pain and fear of labour with the joy of birth to explain to the disciples that the suffering he (and they) must go through is necessary to bring about an immensely joyful outcome.*

What events is Jesus talking about in his “figure of speech”? (v16, 20-22)

*His death and resurrection.*

What “lightbulb moment” do the disciples have in v29-30?

*They believe that Jesus has come from God..*

Where can the disciples find peace during the promised time of suffering? (v33)

*In Jesus himself.*

---

## Meaning

Why will there be a change of relationship between the disciples and the Father “in that day”? (v23-28, see also Romans 8:34, Hebrews 10:19-22)

*When Jesus rose from the dead, he rose to God's right hand, and his resurrection confirmed the acceptance of his sacrifice for sin on our behalf by God.*

*Jesus now “intercedes” (intervenes on our behalf) before God, so that we can talk directly to God as we pray “in Jesus’ name”, i.e. appealing to the way Christ and his work is accepted by God.*

How will the disciples’ confusion turn to grief, and then to joy? (v17, 20-24,

*They will be sorrowful and grieve when Jesus is betrayed, arrested and killed. But this will turn to joy when they realise what Jesus has accomplished in his death on the cross - a new, restored relationship with the Father.*

*Of course, this will only be made clear after his resurrection, and more so after his ascension, when the Holy Spirit comes to “guide them in all truth” (16:13, see also, Acts 2:1-12)*

---

## Application

When we face the struggles of life, with its confusion and sorrow, how can the knowledge that Jesus has gone to the Father give us peace and joy? (v33, *see also* Hebrews 4:14-16)

List some practical examples.

**Prayer Points:**

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30 August 2015

# How Jesus Prayed For You

John 17:1-26

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Sermon Notes

**What is the Big Idea?**

---

What questions do I still have?

# Group Bible Study - Week 7

**Opening Question:** What did you think when you first heard the gospel message?

 Ask two or three people to read John 17:1-26 for the group.

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## Context

Spend some time recapping on how Jesus' promises in these few chapters have been an encouragement to you as you wait for him to return.

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## Observation

How would you divide Jesus' prayer into sections?

- *Jesus prays that God would be glorified through his salvation plan (v1-5)*
- *Jesus reports his own success so far in the plan (v6-12)*
- *Jesus prays for his followers (v13-19)*
- *Jesus prays for the future of God's salvation plan (v20-26)*

What specific things to Jesus ask the Father for?

- *That the Son would be glorified so that the Father is glorified (v1, 5)*
- *That the Father would keep those who were given to the Son, in his absence, and make them one (v11)*
- *That the Father would keep Jesus followers from the evil one as they remain in the world (v15)*
- *That the Father would sanctify (i.e. progressively purify/make holy) his followers (v17)*
- *That those who will yet believe may be united as a witness to the world (v20-21)*
- *That the Father would unite them all together in heaven (v24)*

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## Meaning

How would the Father and the Son be glorified in the coming suffering and death of Jesus? (v1, *see also* 12:23-24, 13:31-32)

*The Father would reveal himself in perfect justice and perfect mercy through his Son at the cross, and in the pathway of grace that is now opened so that all may come to him.*

*D.A. Carson, writing in Jesus and His Friends: An Exposition of John 14-17 (p.208), says, “[The Cross] becomes the visible presentation of the redeeming love of God and of his Christ, the superlative manifestation of God’s powerful, saving action on our behalf.”*

How has Jesus succeeded in his mission on earth? (v4-8, 12)

*Jesus has glorified God in the world; he has manifested (i.e. revealed, made clear) God’s name to his people; Jesus has given them God’s words of truth, and they have believed; Jesus has kept and guarded those whom God has given to him.*

What sense do you get from this chapter of Jesus' relationship to the Father, and also to his followers?

*Jesus clearly loves his Father, and desires to obey him, please him and glorify him. He also has a great love for his followers, wanting to care for them, protect them, sanctify them and be reunited with them.*

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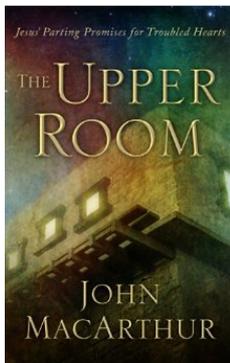
## Application

In what ways does Jesus' prayer for his followers offer hope and encouragement for you?

**Prayer Points:**

# Extra Resources

As a leader, you may want to do some further reading to help you lead your group well. Here are a few ideas. Some of these are also available from the Grace library near the front door.

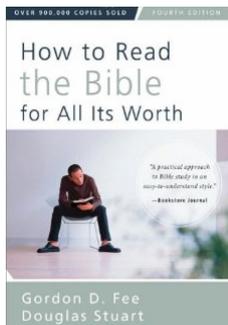
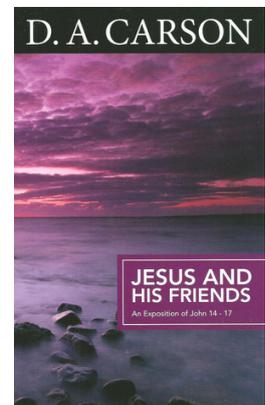


## **The Upper Room: Jesus' Parting Promises for Troubled Hearts** by John MacArthur (© 2014, Kress Biblical Resources)

This new book from John MacArthur surveys the Upper Room Discourse, paying special attention to the promises of Jesus and the peace that trusting in those promises can bring.

## **Jesus and His Friends (An Exposition of John 14-17)** by D.A. Carson (© 2010, Authentic Media)

In this book, respected Bible teacher Don Carson gives an account of some of the last things Jesus said to his disciples before he was crucified, as well as valuable insights into John's view of Jesus, and Jesus' exclusive claims of being mankind's only hope, and the focal point of all history.



## **How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth**, by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart (new edition © 2014, Zondervan)

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth helps readers of all kinds get the most out of their Bible-reading experience. This book contains simple and practical advice for non-Bible scholars to read, study and understand the Word of God.

## **One to One Bible Reading** by David Helm, (© 2011 Matthias Media)

The 'COMA' method used in this study guide is based on this book. Helm helps his readers engage with what they read in the Bible by asking the right questions, both of the text and of themselves. The book includes examples to help you, and COMA outlines customised to different types of Biblical books.



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