

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **The Master & Five Who Followed**

##### ***John 1:1-51***

##### **Introduction**

It was a great day in our history when a man first walked on the moon. But the Bible declares that a far greater event took place two thousand years ago. God walked on the earth in the person of Jesus Christ. John opens his Gospel with a beautiful hymn of exaltation to Christ. It is one of the most profound passages in all the Bible. It is written in simple, straightforward language, yet in studying the depths of its meaning, it is a passage where we never reach bottom. It is an ocean-sized truth, and we have to be content to paddle around in shallow water.

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1. What do you hope will happen in your life as a result of studying the Gospel of John?
  2. Read John 1:1-18. Why do you think John calls Jesus *the Word* (set w. 1, 14)?
  3. In verses 13 what facts does John declare to be true of the Word"
    - a. Why are these facts significant for understanding who Jesus is?
  4. What do the symbols of life (v. 4) and light (v. 5) tell us about Jesus and why he came to earth?
    - a. How has Jesus brought these qualities into your life?
  5. John contrasts Jesus' rejection by the majority with his reception by a few (w. 9-13)- What facts about Jesus should have brought the majority to receive him (w. 9-11)?
  6. How would you explain to someone both the meaning and results receiving Jesus (w. 12-13)?

7. According to verses 14-18, what specific aspects of God's character revealed to us through Jesus?
8. Read John 1:19-34. According to these verses, what steps did John take to guarantee that people would not look at him but at Christ?
9. How would you summarize John's testimony concerning Jesus?
10. Read John 1:35-51. In these verses we are introduced to five men: Andrew, Simon, Philip, Nathanael and one unnamed disciple (John). How did each man respond to the testimony he heard about Jesus?
  - a. Which of these responses have you encountered as you have shared your faith in Jesus Christ?
11. John records more than a dozen names or descriptions of Jesus in this chapter. What are some of these?
12. Which of the names of Jesus has the most significance to you personally? Explain why.

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#### Wine & a Whip

#### ***John 2:1-25***

#### Introduction

After I had given a presentation on the claims of Christ, a skeptical student asked: "What proof do you have that Jesus really was who he claimed to be?" People have been asking that question for two thousand years! For John the convincing proof of Jesus' deity was found in his words and deeds. No one but God could say the things Jesus said, and no one but God could do the things Jesus did.

In chapter two, John pulls two events from the early ministry of Jesus that demonstrate his power and authority. We are shown a miraculous sign as Jesus exercises his creative power to turn water into wine. We are also shown a prophetic sign as Jesus cleanses God's temple in Jerusalem. Both signs demonstrate that Jesus was the fullness of God clothed in humanity.

1. What initially convinced you that Jesus was more than a man?
2. Read John 2:1-11. When the groom's parents ran out of wine for their! guests, Jesus' mother asked him to help (v. 3). What do you think Jesus expected Jesus to do? (Remember, according to verse 11 Jesus had not yet performed any miracles.)
3. What did Jesus mean by his reply to Mary in verse 4?
4. In your opinion, why did Jesus command that the servants fill the pots with water (v. 7)? (Obviously, Jesus could have simply created wine in the empty pots.)
5. If you had been a wedding guest, what do you imagine your reaction would have been to this miracle?
  - a. How did Jesus' disciples respond (v. 11)?
6. According to verse 11, the purpose of Jesus' miracle was not to save the groom from embarrassment but to display Christ's glory. What aspects of Christ's glory does this miracle reveal to you?

7. Read John 2:12-25. How does John's picture of Jesus in verses 15-16 fit with today's popular concept of him?
8. What is the significance of Jesus' claim that the temple is "my Father's house" (v. 16)?
9. Only the Messiah had the authority to cleanse the temple. The people recognized that and asked Jesus for a miraculous sign to confirm his identity (v. 18). To what "sign" did Jesus point them (w. 19-22)?
  - a. Why do you think that particular sign was so significant in Jesus' mind?
10. Why didn't the disciples immediately grasp what Jesus was talking about when he said, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (w. 19, 22)?
11. If people were believing in Jesus because of the miraculous signs, why didn't Jesus "entrust himself to them" (w. 23-25)?
12. What do we learn from this passage about Jesus' concern for his Father's reputation?
13. In what practical ways can you demonstrate the same concern toward the holy character of God?

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#### The New Birth

#### ***John 3:1-36***

#### Introduction

I talked today to a junior in college who is only one month old. No, she isn't a child genius. Recently a friend explained to her the claims of Christ. As she responded in simple faith, she experienced the joys of spiritual birth. The most beautiful explanation of the new birth is found here in John 3. It's a passage that children can understand and one that the greatest saints of God have never fully grasped. It's a message not so much to be analyzed and dissected as it is to be received with joy.

1. What are some of the positive images associated with birth?
2. Read John 3:1-21. What is your impression of Nicodemus?
3. Why do you think he comes to see Jesus at night?
  - a. Why does he come to see Jesus at all?
4. Jesus' reply to Nicodemus (v. 3) seems to have nothing to do with Nicodemus's statement (v. 2). Why do you think Jesus brings up the subject of the new birth?
5. Why do you suppose Nicodemus responds to Jesus' explanation with such amazement (v. 9)?
6. Why is Jesus likewise amazed at Nicodemus's ignorance (w. 10-12)?

7. How does the story of Moses lifting up the snake in the desert (w. 14-15; see Num 21:4-9) illustrate our need and Christ's offer?
8. What impresses you about God's supreme act of love (w. 16-17)?
9. How and why does our response to God's Son determine our destiny (w. 18-21)?
10. This passage emphasizes the importance of our personal response to Jesus Christ. How would you describe your response?
11. Read John 3:22-36. In your opinion, what motivated John's disciples to raise the issue of Jesus' ministry?
12. How would you summarize John's view of the character and ministry of Jesus?
13. How did John demonstrate by his attitude and actions that Jesus was superior to him?
14. What is one way you can demonstrate Christ's superiority in your life?

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### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **Soul & Body-Saving & Healing**

#### ***John 4:1-54***

##### **Introduction**

I love humanity; it's *people* I can't stand!" Those well-known words from a member of the "Peanuts" gang still make us chuckle. But our smiles hide the fact that we sometimes feel exactly like that. John says very little about Jesus' contact with the multitudes. But long sections of the Gospel are devoted to conversations Jesus had with individuals. Jesus was open, warm and vitally interested in people.

In John 4 we see Jesus reach out first to a woman, then to his disciples, and finally to a grieving father. Watching Jesus give himself to people with love and compassion will help us care for those God puts in our paths.

1. When have you been able to turn an ordinary conversation into a discussion about Christ?
2. Read John 4:1-26. Why do you think Jesus "had to go through Samaria" on his way to Galilee (v. 4)? (Jews normally went around Samaria to avoid contact with the hated Samaritans.)
3. What is surprising about Jesus' question to the Samaritan woman (w. 8-9)?
  - a. What present-day situations might arouse the same racial, religious and sexual prejudices?
4. How does Jesus' offer of "living water" contrast with what the woman thinks he means (w. 10-15)?

- a. What does this offer of "living water" mean in your life and experience?
5. Why do you think Jesus brings up the woman's long list of past marriages and her present adulterous relationship (w. 16-18)?
6. Why does the woman suddenly change the subject and begin talking about the controversy over the proper place of worship (w. 19-20)?
7. How does Jesus handle her question about this Samaritan-Jewish controversy (w. 21-24)?
8. What principles can you draw from Jesus' conversation with the woman to help you in discussing the gospel with non-Christians?
9. Read John 4:27-42. From your reading of this passage, do you think the Samaritan woman genuinely believed? What do you see in the passage that supports your position?
10. How is the disciples' confusion about food (w. 31-33) similar to the woman's confusion about living water?
11. After his encounter with the Samaritan woman, what specific lessons does Jesus apply to his disciples and to us (w. 34-38)?
12. Read John 4:43-54. How does the royal official's attitude toward Jesus?
  - a. Differ from the response Jesus had already anticipated (see v. 44)?
13. What does this "second miraculous sign" Jesus performed (v. 54) reveal about him?
14. What has Jesus taught you in this chapter about meeting the specific needs of those around you?



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#### Deity on Trial

##### ***John 5:1-47***

#### Introduction

In my high-school years, I was hooked on television lawyer programs. Those intrepid men and women always found the missing piece of evidence that would rescue the innocent and convict the guilty. I've learned since high-school days that sometimes judges and juries are wrong. Men and women may hear all the testimony and still make a wrong decision.

In John chapter five Jesus is on trial. It is not a formal trial in a courtroom, but all the elements of a trial appear in the story. A group of people are forced to make a decision about Jesus in their hearts. They hear all the evidence but make a disastrously wrong decision. Judgments are still made for and against Jesus. Whenever he is presented as Savior and Lord, people decide in their hearts to believe his claims or to turn and walk away.

1. What are some reasons why people reject Jesus Christ?
2. Read John 5:1-15. Based on the scene and conversation around the pool, how would you describe the feelings and attitudes of the invalid?
3. How do you think the man felt after his healing?
4. The seventh commandment said: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (see Exd 20:8-11). In their zeal to apply this command, what were the Jews failing to see John 5:9-15)?
5. When have you been more concerned about a religious activity than the reality behind it? Explain.

6. Read John 5:16-30. Jesus explains that the work of creation ended on the seventh day, but not the work of compassion (w. 16-18). Why does his explanation make the Jews even more determined to kill him?
7. What insights do verses 19-23 give us into (a) the Father's devotion to the Son and (b) the Son's dependence on the Father?
8. According to Jesus, why is our response to him a matter of eternal life or death (w. 24-30)?
9. Read John 5:31-47. What "witnesses" does Jesus call forward to testify on his behalf?
  - a. How does their testimony validate his claims?
10. What counter-accusations does Jesus make against those who are attacking him?
  - a. Why would each one be a severe blow to the religious piety of these Jewish listeners?
11. How can we avoid the kind of religion that is outwardly pious but inwardly bankrupt?
12. According to this chapter, what really influences our verdict for or against Jesus?

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### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### Jesus, The Bread of Life

##### ***John 6:1-71***

##### Introduction

Do you realize that during your lifetime you will probably spend over thirty-five thousand hours eating? That's the equivalent of eight years of not stop meals, twelve hours a day! The problem, of course, is that even after; big meal we get hungry again. At best, food only satisfies us for a few hours, Yet in this chapter, Jesus offers us food that satisfies our hunger forever. You can't buy it in a grocery store. It is found only in Jesus himself.

1. How do you usually respond to an "impossible" situation—a problem in your life that doesn't seem to have a solution?
2. Read John 6:1-15. How would you characterize Philip's and Andrew's response to the problem of feeding this enormous crowd (w. 5-9)?
3. If Jesus knew what he was going to do (v. 6), why do you think he asked these two disciples for advice?
4. How do you think the disciples felt as they gathered up the pieces left over (w. 12-13)?
5. What insights does this passage give you into how Christ may be at work in the difficult situations in your life?
6. Read John 6:16-42. Imagine that you are one of the disciples, rowing the boat in dark, rough waters (w. 16-21). How would your concept of Jesus have been altered by seeing him walk on water?
7. The next day the people were hungry again, so they came seeking Jesus (w. 22-25). How does he try to redirect their thinking (w. 26-33)?
8. How does Jesus' claim to be the bread of life (v. 35) relate to his miraculous feeding of the five thousand (w. 1-13)?

9- Based on the remarks of some in the crowd (w. 41-42), do you think they finally understood what Jesus was saying? Explain.

10. Read John 6:43-59. When Jesus said, "This bread is my flesh," the crowd could think only of cannibalism (v. 52). What do you think it means to eat?

Jesus' flesh and drink his blood (v. 53-59)? Is this something we do once for all time, or is it an ongoing process? Explain/

11. Read John 6:60-71. In these verses Jesus turns away from the crowd and focuses on his disciples. How would you describe their responses to his "hard teaching"? Which response best describes your present attitude toward Jesus? Explain.

12. Jesus has contrasted the two appetites found in every person—the appetite for food that perishes and the appetite for food that endures. In what ways has Jesus satisfied the spiritual hunger in your heart?

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#### Confusion over Christ

#### ***John 7:1-52***

#### Introduction

Not long ago I had a series of conversations with a young man about Jesus Christ and why faith in him is so important. At first, the young man was interested. He was open to listen to God's Word and to consider Christ's claims. As time went on, however, he became more and more hostile to Christ. Finally, he told me that he didn't want to pursue his investigation any further. He had decided to reject Christ and his offer of salvation.

That is precisely the pattern that John traces in his Gospel. In the early chapters, men and women responded to Jesus with belief. Then some of those who were following him turned away. Now open warfare breaks out between Jesus and his enemies—and yet, some still seek the truth. This chapter will help you respond positively to the wide variety of attitudes toward Jesus today.

1. Have you ever had to work with someone who disliked or even hated you? What was it like to face that person every day? (Or what do you think it would be like?)
2. Read John 7:1-13- The first blast of hostility against Jesus comes from his own family. How would you characterize the statements made by Jesus' brothers?
3. Why do you think Jesus waits to go to Jerusalem until after his brothers have left (v. 10)?
4. What counsel would you give a believer who faces spiritual opposition from his or her family?
5. Read John 7:14-52. When Jesus makes his presence in Jerusalem known, people begin to challenge the origin (and, therefore, the authority) of his teaching. According to Jesus, how can we verify the truth of his teaching (w. 16-18)?

6. What other opinions or questions do people have about Jesus in verses 20-36?
  - a. How does Jesus respond to each one?
7. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, large vats of water were poured out on the pavement of the temple court as a reminder of God's provision of water in the wilderness. With that custom in mind, how would you explain the significance of Jesus' remarks in verses 37-39?
  - a. To what extent has Christ been a continual source of spiritual refreshment for you? Why or why not?
8. Throughout the chapter John gives us a sampling of various reactions to Jesus. Identify some of the reactions of various people and explain why you think they reacted the way they did.
9. Which of the opinions you have identified in this chapter are still expressed today, and in what way?
10. Based on Jesus' example, what should our response be to such reactions?
11. If you were the woman, how would you feel as you left Jesus' presence?
12. What can we learn from this passage about Christ's attitude toward us— even when we feel awful about ourselves?
  - a. What does it teach us about forgiving and accepting others?

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*BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

**Caught in Adultery**

***John 7:53-8:11***

**Introduction**

Nothing is more humiliating than being caught in an act of disobedience! Whether it's a child with his hand in the cookie jar or an adult driving over the speed limit, we all know the sinking feeling of being caught. In John 8, a woman is caught in the most awkward of situations—in the very act of adultery. The way Jesus responds to her may surprise you.

1. Think of a time when you hurt someone and that person was willing to forgive you. How did it feel to be forgiven?
2. Read John 7:53—8:11. What do we know about the character and motives of those who bring this woman to Jesus?
3. How do you think the woman feels when the men make her "stand before the group" and publicly expose her sin?
4. How do you feel when someone exposes a sin in your life—either privately or publicly?
5. While it is obvious that the woman is guilty, what elements of injustice can you find in this situation?
6. In your opinion, what was Jesus writing in the dirt?
7. The Pharisees and teachers were often very self-righteous. Why do you think they went away rather than stoning the woman (w. 7-9)?
8. Why are we tempted to condemn other people's sins rather than our own?
9. How would you describe Jesus' attitude toward the woman (w. 10-11)?
10. Do you think Jesus was condoning the woman's sin by not condemning her? Explain.

11. If you were the woman, how would you feel as you left Jesus' presence?
12. What can we learn from this passage about Christ's attitude toward us— even when we feel awful about ourselves?
  - a. What does it teach us about forgiving and accepting others?



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#### Jesus, the Light of the World

#### ***John 8:12-59***

#### Introduction

*Jesus* never spoke in public without creating controversy. In fact, he was constantly in trouble! Rather than retreating behind the safety of a pulpit, Jesus spoke in settings where people were bold enough to talk back. In this portion of John's story, Jesus makes a series of claims about himself. Each claim is met by a challenge from his enemies. Each challenge is then answered and the answer leads to the next claim. Throughout this interchange, Jesus shows us how to speak the truth in the face of hostility. He also reveals some amazing things about himself.

1. Have you ever tried to talk about Christ with a family member or co-worker who was hostile to your message? How did you feel at the time?
  - a. How did you try to penetrate that person's spiritual barriers?
2. Read John 8:12-30. Jesus' first claim is: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." What does it mean to walk in darkness (v. 12)?
  - a. How has following Jesus brought light into your life?
3. The Pharisees challenge the validity of Jesus' claim (v. 13; see Deut 19:15). How does Jesus answer their challenge (w. 14-18)?
4. Jesus' reference to his Father leads to his second claim—that he came from God. How does this claim heighten the tension between Jesus and the Jews (w. 19-30)?
5. It seems as if Jesus is deliberately provoking the Jews by what he says. Why do you think he is being so blunt?
6. Read John 8:31-59. Jesus makes another startling claim in verses 31-32: "If you hold to my teaching. . . then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Why does holding to Jesus' teaching lead to true knowledge and freedom?

7. Those who had believed interrupted to say that they were already free. What analysis does Jesus give of their "freedom" (w. 34-36)?
8. Jesus' opponents also claim to have both Abraham and God as their father. According to Jesus, how does their conduct contradict their claim (w. 39-47)?
9. Why is our conduct the truest test of our beliefs?
10. What is it about Jesus' statements that make his enemies want to stone him (w. 48-59)?
11. Summarize the various attacks voiced against Jesus in this chapter and explain how Jesus' example will help you face spiritually hostile people.
12. In what ways does your lifestyle validate (or invalidate) your claim to be a follower of Christ?

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### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **A Blind Man Sees the light**

#### ***John 9:1-41***

#### **Introduction**

Our sight is a wonderful gift from God. We marvel at the fiery colors of a sunset, the rich pastels of spring and the delicate beauty of a flower. How tragic it must be to never see the light of day. Yet there is a far greater tragedy than physical blindness. In this passage Jesus meets a man who has been blind from birth. The man illustrates that those who are blind often see clearly, while those with sight see nothing at all.

1. If you could have any of the powers that Jesus had to do good, which would you choose and why?
2. Read John 9:1-12. Based on the question the disciples ask Jesus (v. 2), how do they view the relation between sickness and sin?
  - a. What is Jesus' view of the same issue?
3. In your opinion, which of these views is more widely held among Christians today? Explain.
4. In verse 5 Jesus claims to be the light of the world. In what sense does the physical healing of the blind man confirm his spiritual claim?
5. Why do you think Jesus goes through the process of making mud and instructing the man to go wash, instead of simply healing him instantly?
6. Read John 9:13-41. On what grounds do the Pharisees object to this miracle (w. 16, 22, 24, 29)?
7. Still skeptical, the Jews send for the man's parents (v. 18). How would you describe the parents' attitude and response (w. 19-23)?

8. How do the Pharisees react when the genuineness of the miracle becomes undeniable (w. 28-34)?
9. When might Christians today exhibit the Pharisees' attitude to a marvelous work of God's grace or power?
10. How would you describe the various emotions this man must have had as he moved from being healed by Jesus through the questioning and final rejection by the Pharisees?
11. What is Jesus' purpose in seeking out the healed man the second time (w. 35-38)?
12. Throughout this chapter, how have the Pharisees exhibited the kind of stubborn spiritual blindness Jesus describes in verses 39-41?
13. What principles in this chapter could help us improve our spiritual eyesight?

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### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **The Shepherd & His Sheep**

##### ***John 10:1-42***

#### **Introduction**

*Jesus was* a master at using simple, everyday objects or events to illustrate profound spiritual truths. The farmer scattering seed, the vine sustaining the branches, and sparrows falling to the earth all took on a new dimension in Jesus' eyes. In John 10, Jesus uses the scene of a shepherd enclosing his sheep in a sheepfold to give us one of the most moving pictures of our salvation and security in Christ found anywhere in the Bible. If you've ever doubted the love of Christ, Jesus will give you a healthy dose of assurance in this chapter.

1. What usually prompts you to have doubts about your salvation or your walk with Christ - your own sin? Feelings of unworthiness? Personal failures? Explain.
2. Read John 10:1-21. Jesus uses the picture of the sheepfold as a "figure of speech" (v. 6). What spiritual truths is Jesus trying to convey (w. 1-5)?
3. What does Jesus mean when he describes himself as "the gate for the sheep" (w. 7-10)?
4. In verses 11-15 Jesus talks about the shepherd's care for his sheep. What can you learn from those verses about Jesus' care and relationship with you?
5. What does Jesus reveal about the future of his flock (v. 16)?
  - a. In what ways do you feel a part of "one flock" under "one shepherd"?
6. Why do you think Jesus stresses that he lays down his life of his own accord (w. 17-18)?
7. Read John 10:22-42. According to Jesus, how are the Jews in this passage different from his sheep (w. 22-27)?

8. Jesus calls his followers *sheep*. What impressions (positive and negative) does the picture of sheep bring to your mind?
9. How do you respond to promises and assurances Jesus gives his sheep in verses 28-29?
10. When Jesus claims that he and the Father are one, the Jews pick up stones to stone him (w. 30-33). Do you think his defense is a denial of his deity (w. 33-36)? Explain.
11. Which promise from Jesus in this chapter is most encouraging to you?
  - a. How can that promise help you with your answer to question 1?

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#### Resurrection & Life

#### ***John 11:1-57***

#### Introduction

Ever since God judged Adam and Eve, death has plagued humanity. It separates us from those we love and looms over our own lives like a menacing spirit. In this chapter Jesus reaches out to a family struggling with the pain of death. He shows us why we need never fear death again.

1. Think back to the death of a family member or friend. Did that death cause you to question God's love? Explain.
2. Read John 11:1-44. How can we resolve the seeming conflict between Jesus' love for Lazarus and his deliberate delay in helping him (w. 4-5)?
3. How can those verses help us when we feel abandoned by God in a time of great need?
4. What additional insight into God's purposes can we gain from Jesus' statement in verse 15?
5. What elements of doubt and faith do you see in Martha's statements to Jesus (w. 17-27)?
  - a. How does Jesus stretch Martha's faith in this brief encounter?
6. Jesus declares to Martha that "he who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (w. 25-26). What kind of "life" and "death" is Jesus referring to in each case?
  - a. How should Christ's statement radically alter our views of life and death?
7. Why do you think John emphasizes that Jesus was deeply moved by Mary's grief and the anguish of those with her (w. 28-38)?

8. Based on this passage, how would you respond to those who believe that grief is incompatible with real faith?
9. Read John 11:45-57. How would you explain the fact that the people who see the same miracle respond in two totally different ways?
10. What does this account reveal about the value of miracles for bringing people to faith in Christ?
11. In what ways will this chapter change the way you respond to personal difficulty or the apparent delay of God?



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#### The King's Last Acts

#### ***John 12:1-50***

#### Introduction

If you have ever felt rejected or misunderstood, you know how Jesus felt as his public ministry came to an end. The hostility against him had risen to a fever pitch. His gentle compassion and abundant miracles were met with oppression and violence. Jesus knew what none of his friends knew—that he was about to die. In spite of the fleeting attempts of the crowd to make him King, Jesus chose the way of the cross.

1. If you knew for sure that you had only one week to live, what would you do with that week?
2. Read John 12:1-11. What motivates Mary to pour expensive perfume on Jesus' feet?
3. Judas objects to Mary's extravagance. What motives and wrong thinking lie behind his objection (w. 4-8)?
4. In what ways should we be extravagant in our devotion to Jesus?
5. Read John 12:12-36. What do the shouts of the crowd tell us about their expectations of Jesus (w. 12-19)?
6. How do Christ's statements about his mission clash with the crowd's expectations (w. 23-28)?
7. Jesus often used apparent contradictions to drive home a truth. How would you explain verse 25 in terms that apply to your life (see also w. 26-28)?
8. Jesus makes it clear that he is about to die. According to verses 23-33, what will Jesus' death accomplish (note w. 23-24, 28, 31-32)?
  - a. Which of these results is most encouraging to you? Explain.

9. Read John 12:37-50. When we stubbornly refuse to believe, what happens to our spiritual senses, and why (w. 37-41)?
10. Although some of the leaders "believe" in Jesus (w. 42-43), how are they like the man who loves his life and loses it (see v. 25)?
11. Jesus' last public message to his people is recorded in verses 44-50. What indications do you find that he is still reaching out in love and grace to those who have rejected him?
  - a. How can you apply the example of Jesus to people who reject you or your testimony about Christ?
12. In your own life are you more interested in earthly acclaim and glory or are you willing to lose your life for Christ's sake? Examine your direction and life goals in the light of Jesus' commitment to do the will of the Father.

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#### The Son as a Slave

#### ***John 13:1-17***

#### Introduction

There were two things on Jesus' heart the night before his crucifixion— his Father and his disciples. In John 13—17, we have the privilege of listening to his conversations with them both. However, before Jesus can instruct his disciples about his death, he has to act out a lesson in servitude. Jesus also shows us the spirit he expects in those who follow him. Greatness in Christ's eyes does not come from having many servants but from being the servant of many.

1. Have you ever been asked to do a demeaning, lowly job? What thoughts went through your mind at that time?
2. Read John 13:1-17. According to John, what did Jesus know about himself (w. 1-3)?
3. In light of that knowledge, what is remarkable about what Jesus did next (w. 4-5)?
4. Foot washing was normally done by servants or slaves. Why do you think Jesus washed his disciples' feet instead of simply talking to them about love?
5. What tasks at home, at work or in church would be equivalent to foot washing?
6. How do you think Jesus felt as he washed Judas's feet?
  - a. How do you think Judas felt?
7. Was Peter simply being humble when he refused to allow Jesus to serve him (w. 6-8)? Explain.
8. What spiritual truth was Jesus trying to communicate to Peter (and to us) in verses 8-11?
9. Like Peter, do you ever feel awkward or uncomfortable when others try to serve you? Explain.

10. After he had finished washing the disciples' feet, how did Jesus explain the significance of his actions (w. 12-17)?
11. Based on Jesus' words in verse 17, how would you describe the relationship between knowledge, action and joy in the Christian life?
12. What has this chapter revealed to you about your attitude toward serving?
13. In what specific ways can you model the humility of Jesus toward those with whom you live or work?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **The Betrayer & the Boaster**

#### ***John 13:18-38***

#### **Introduction**

There are some people we just don't like to be around! They aren't necessarily our enemies. They simply have the uncanny ability to irritate us. If we had been one of Jesus' disciples, we would probably have found it difficult to be around Peter. He was blunt and, at times, arrogant. On the other hand, we might have regarded Judas with trust and respect. The only one who saw deeply enough to discern the true character of these men was Jesus.

1. Has someone in your life ever hurt you deeply? What was your response to him or her?
2. Read John 13:18-30. Jesus takes this opportunity to predict his betrayal. How would his prediction dispel any doubts the disciples might have and strengthen their faith (v. 19)?
3. Evidently, the disciples did not know who would betray Jesus (v. 22). What does this tell us about how Jesus had treated Judas?
4. How would you have treated Judas if you knew he would eventually betray you?
5. How do the disciples interpret Jesus' instruction to Judas in verse 27 (w. 28-29)?
6. Can we apply Jesus' example to the way we should treat our "betrayers," or was this a unique situation that really doesn't apply today? Explain.
7. Read John 13:31-38. What was "new" about Jesus' command in verse 34?
8. John later wrote: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 Jn 3:16). In what practical ways can we exhibit this sacrificial love?
9. Why does that kind of love convince all of humanity that we are Jesus' disciples (v. 35)?
10. Do you think Peter's declaration in verse 37 comes from pride or from sincerity? Explain.

11. Three people stand out in this passage—Jesus Judas and Peter. What one character quality of each—good or evil—impresses you the most?

- a. What can you do to avoid the failures and to follow after the strengths of each of them?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### Comfort for a Troubled Heart

##### ***John 14:1-31***

#### Introduction

The call came late at night. A broken sob was followed by these words: "Our son is dying. Will you please come to the hospital?" As I made the trip through darkened streets, I wondered what I could say to bring comfort to these heartbroken parents. Jesus faced that challenge too. In this chapter he comforts eleven disciples who feel like their world is coming unglued.

1. Think of a friend who is going through a personal crisis. If you were with that person now, how would you try to help him or her?
2. Read John 14:1-13. What had Jesus said in chapter 13 to cause his disciples to have "troubled" hearts (v. 1)?
3. In your opinion, how would the promises Jesus makes in verses 1-4 bring comfort to his disciples?
4. After being with Jesus for over three years, what have both Thomas and Phillip failed to realize about him (w. 5-14)?
5. In light of verses 5-14, why is it crucial for our focus to be on Jesus himself?
6. Read John 14:15-31. Another source of comfort for these troubled disciples would be the Holy Spirit. What does the title *Counselor* tell us about the Spirit's ministry?
7. According to Jesus, how will the Spirit bring comfort and help to his followers (w. 15-27)?
8. In what specific ways has the Spirit brought comfort or help in your life?
9. What is the relationship between our love and obedience to Jesus and his love and presence in our lives (w. 15-24)?

- a. How is this different from legalism—earning Christ's love and presence through our good works?
- 10. How does the peace Christ offers differ from that which the world offers (w. 25-30)?
- 11. We began this study by thinking about friends who are going through times of trouble or pain. What help has this chapter given you for ministering to them?
- 12. How can Jesus' words help you in a personal crisis or when you have a troubled heart?



# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### The Secret of Remaining

##### ***John 15:1-11***

##### Introduction

The final weekend before Christmas is not the time to visit a shopping mall. If you are fortunate enough to find a parking spot, the press of people inside makes shopping almost impossible. One mother was giving final instructions to her young son before plunging into the crowd: "Stay close to me and hold my hand all the time. We won't get separated if we hold on to each other." As Jesus prepared his disciples to face life without his visible presence, he impressed on them the importance of staying close to him spiritually. He said, "Remain in me." If you've ever longed to understand the secret of spiritual growth, you will find it in Jesus' words to us in John 15.

1. Have you ever felt far from Christ since becoming a Christian? What circumstances made you feel that way?
2. Read John 15:1-11. Jesus' instruction to his disciples in this passage revolve around three symbols—the vine, the gardener and the branches. What is Jesus trying to communicate by calling himself the *true vine*?
3. What is the significance of calling his disciples *branches*?
4. Instead of commanding us to bear fruit, why is Jesus' only command "Remain in me" (v. 4)?
5. What does it mean to remain in Christ?
6. The fruit produced by the remaining branch is often viewed as a reference to new converts. But branches produce grapes, not other branches. What other possible meanings are there for *fruit*?
7. The Father's ministry as the gardener is to "cut off every branch . . . that bears no fruit" (v. 2). What do you think that means?

8. The Father prunes fruitful branches to make them more fruitful (v. 2). In what ways have you experienced the Father's "pruning"?
  - a. What were the results?
9. What spiritual benefits result from remaining in Christ (w. 7-11)?
10. There are three categories of branches described in this passage—those bearing no fruit, those bearing some fruit, and those bearing much fruit. In which category would you place yourself and why?
11. If you are not bearing much fruit, what is Jesus' counsel to you in these verses?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **The Cost of Friendship**

***John 15:12-16:4***

#### **Introduction**

While on earth, Jesus did not surround himself with a group of students or even a group of followers. He placed himself in the company of friends. To admit that we need friends is a sign of maturity, not immaturity. Close relationships are Christ like! In this passage Jesus shows us what friendship with him is really like. There's both comfort and cost.

1. In your opinion, what are some of the most important qualities in a friendship?
2. Read John 15:12-17. Jesus' command in verse 12 is, "Love each other as I have loved you." In what specific ways did Jesus demonstrate his love?  
In what practical ways can we, like Christ, lay down our lives for our friends?
3. What are the requirements and benefits of friendship with Christ (w. 14-17)?
4. Is being a friend of Jesus the same as being a believer in Jesus? Explain.
5. Read John 15:18-25. If love is to characterize our relationship with other believers, hate will characterize our relationship with the world. What reasons does Jesus give for the world's hatred?
6. Give one or two specific examples of how you have experienced the world's hatred as a Christian.  
  
How did you respond to the hostility at the time?
7. What does Jesus mean when he says that without his coming, his words and his miracles, the world "would not be guilty of sin" (w. 22-25)?
8. Read John 15:26—16:4. In what specific ways will the Counselor and the disciples themselves continue the ministry begun by Jesus (w. 26-27)?

9' What kind of treatment can the disciples expect from those who do not know Christ (16:1-4)?

10. What kinds of persecution are most probable for us in our society? Explain.

11. If we as Christians are not persecuted in some way, what might that imply about our spiritual commitment?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### Secrets of the Spirit

#### ***John 16:5-15***

#### Introduction

A lovely woman in our church died not long ago. She knew for almost a year that, unless the Lord intervened, the cancer in her brain would kill her. That year gave her time of wonderful interaction with her husband and family. Her family had the opportunity to express their love for her, and the dying woman had the privilege of passing on her godly wisdom.

In John 16 Jesus knows that he will die in less than twenty-four hours. When his disciples are faced with that reality, they become troubled (14:1), afraid (14:27) and filled with grief (16:6). Jesus responds to each of their concerns by talking about the coming Holy Spirit.

1. What would you want to tell your family or closest friends if you knew that you had only a short time to live?
2. Read John 16:5-15. Jesus said that it was for the disciples' good that he go away and that the Counselor come. Why was the Spirit's presence more profitable to the disciples than Jesus' presence?
3. In what ways is it more profitable today to have the Holy Spirit actively present than to have Jesus here on earth? Explain.
4. What did Jesus say the Spirit's ministry would be toward the world (w. 8-11)?
5. How does the Spirit do the same work in the hearts of unbelievers today?
6. "The prince of this world" mentioned in verse 11 is Satan. In what way does Satan "now stand condemned"?
7. Why is it important for the Holy Spirit to convince the world that their "prince" is already condemned?
8. What can we infer from verses 8-11 about our part in evangelism?

9. The Spirit's ministry is one of communication. What specific things Jesus say the Spirit would communicate to the disciples?
10. In what ways does the Spirit guide us into all truth and bring glory to Jesus Christ today?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show “The Way of True life,”**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **A Dying Leader's Last Command**

##### ***John 16:16-33***

#### **Introduction**

Those who believe in Christ are not shielded from life's deepest problems. We must still race sorrow, rejection and heartache. We see our loved ones die. We sometimes feel alone and unloved. We see our marriages fail or our children go their own way rather than God's way. Jesus gives us some very practical help in these verses for racing life's crises. He doesn't answer all our questions, but he gives us what we need to survive.

1. How do you tend to react in the midst of a personal crisis?
2. Read John 16:16-24. It is obvious that the disciples are confused and concerned about Jesus' statements (w. 16-18). Why do you think they are confused?
3. Jesus answers their questions, not by giving them an explanation but by making them a promise (w. 19-22). What was the promise?
  - a. Why would it bring them joy in the midst of their grief and confusion?
4. How can this incident help us when our questions to the Lord seemingly go unanswered?
5. What new promise regarding prayer does Jesus give his disciples (w. 23-24)?
  - a. How would this promise make their joy complete?
6. What connection can you make for your own life between problems, prayer and joy?
7. Read John 16:25-33- How would Jesus' assurance of the Father's love help the disciples in the days just ahead of them?
8. In verse 32 Jesus predicts that his disciples will abandon him. How do you think that failure affected their feelings of self-worth?

- a. How does failure affect you?
9. How would Jesus' promise of peace and victory (v. 33) sustain them through that failure?
  10. Which of the promises in this chapter have made the deepest impression on you? Why?
  11. How can these promises strengthen your heart during the trials and discouragements of the future?



# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### The Master's Final Prayer

#### ***John 17:1-26***

#### Introduction

The approach of death has a way of bringing our priorities into focus. People who know death is imminent also know what is really important in life and who they really care about. In Jesus' final prayer with his disciples, he prays for himself, for them and for you! Every believer is on Jesus' mind as he faces the greatest trial of his life—the cross.

1. What specific people would you want around you in a crisis, and why?
2. Read John 17:1-5. Jesus makes only one request for himself—that the Father would glorify him, so that he might glorify the Father. In what way would each one glorify the other?
  - a. Why do you think that was so important to Jesus?
3. To what extent is God's glory foremost in your mind on a daily basis? Explain.
4. How is Jesus' definition of eternal life (v. 3) different from merely living forever?
  - a. In what ways do you actively seek to know the Father and the Son better?
5. Read John 17:6-19. According to these verses, what specific ministries did Jesus have toward his disciples?
6. Twice Jesus asked the Father to protect his disciples from the evil one (w. 11, 15). Why would that protection have been so important in Jesus' mind as he faced the cross? (v. 21, 23) Is our unity a powerful argument for the reality of Jesus?
7. Jesus also asked the Father to sanctify his disciples through his word (v. 17). How can we allow God's Word to have that kind of effect on our lives?
8. Read John 17:20-26. Jesus prayed that those who believe in him would be
9. In what practical ways can we demonstrate our oneness with other believers?

10. Jesus obviously prayed this prayer out loud to bring comfort and assurance to his disciples. In what particular ways do Jesus' words encourage and assure you?
11. How do the concerns that were on Jesus' heart as he faced death match up with the concerns that would be on your heart if you were facing death?
  - a. How would you account for the difference?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

"Jesus, you're under Arrest!"

***John 18:1-27***

#### Introduction

Most of us would hate the thought of being arrested and brought to trial. If we were guilty of a crime, being arrested would be humiliating. But if we were innocent, it would be devastating. Yet in what should have been a demeaning experience for Jesus, we see again his majesty and glory. Jesus uses an experience of attack, betrayal and abandonment to demonstrate his confident trust in the Father. His calm assurance will help us face life's hurts and injustices with the same trust in the same Father.

1. How would you respond if a group of people falsely accused you of a crime and even called the police to have you arrested?
2. Read John 18:1-14. Why would Jesus go to a place where Judas knew he might be found (w. 1-3)?
3. When the soldiers say they are seeking Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus replies "I am he" (lit. "I am"; v. 5). How would you explain the reaction of the soldiers (v. 6)?
4. If you had been one of Jesus' disciples, what feelings would you have had when the soldiers arrived at the garden?
5. Based on Peter's reaction (v. 10), what were his feelings?
6. What insight do Peter's action and Jesus' rebuke (v. 11) give you about our attempts at times to "help God out" in our own strength and wisdom?
7. Read John 18:15-27. Think back to the deepest sin of your life. How does a look at your own sin change your attitude toward Peter's denial of Jesus?
8. What contrasts do you see between Jesus' and Peter's response to this crisis?
  - a. What factors made the difference in each man's response

9. When your faith or commitment to Christ is challenged, which of the two men are you most like? Explain.
10. What can we learn from Peter's failure about being ready to stand against the world's challenges?
11. What specific events in this passage display (a) Jesus' courage, (b) his power and (c) his obedience to the Father?
  - a. Which attitude of Jesus in this section impresses you most?
12. How will this study change the way you will face a time of testing in your own life?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### Pilate on Trial

#### ***John 18:28—19:16***

#### Introduction

Christ Killers!" The words made my stomach tighten. Someone had spray-painted the words and a series of swastikas on the Jewish synagogue in our city. Anti-Semitism had raised its ugly head again.

The New Testament does blame the Jewish leaders for condemning Jesus to die. But they weren't acting alone. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, also condemned Jesus to die. He did so even though he knew that Jesus was innocent. There is a sense, too, in which we killed Jesus. He died for our sins and in our place. The most amazing answer to the question of who killed Jesus is that no one did! Jesus said, "No one takes my life from me. I lay it down of my own choice."

1. To what extent are you tempted to compromise your Christian faith or witness because of peer pressure?
2. Read John 18:28-38. How do the Jewish leaders reveal their hypocrisy by refusing to enter Pilate's (a Gentile) home (v. 28)?
3. A Roman trial included four basic elements: the accusation, the interrogation (search for evidence), the defense and the verdict. What events or statements from the text are included in each?
  - a. The accusation:
  - b. The interrogation:
  - c. The defense:
  - d. The verdict:
4. How would you describe Jesus' "kingdom" based on his response to Pilate (v. 36)?
  - a. How does it make you feel when you read the record of injustice done toward Jesus?

5. Read John 18:39—19:16. Pilate obviously was trying to release Jesus. What specific attempts did he make? How does it make you feel when you read the record of injustice done toward Jesus?
6. What can you conclude about Pilate's character after reading this passage! What kind of man was he?
7. The Jews' true charge against Jesus comes out in verse 7—"He claimed to be the Son of God." Why do you think Pilate reacted to that statement as he did (w. 8-9)?
8. Why didn't Jesus say more to Pilate (w. 9-11)? Shouldn't he have defended himself more vigorously?
9. What parallels can you draw between the crowd's threats toward Pilate (v. 12) and the world's attempts to detour Christians from fully following Christ?
10. The message of the Gospel is that Jesus took upon himself the condemnation that we deserve. In what specific ways do you see Christ's grace demonstrated in his trial before Pilate?
  - a. How can you respond appropriately to Christ's grace to you?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show “The Way of True life,”**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### Obedient to Death

##### ***John 19:17-42***

#### Introduction

There is nothing pleasant or attractive about an execution. The only one I've ever seen was in a televised news report from Vietnam. A captured soldier was shot. It left a knot in my stomach for days.

In Jesus' day execution was designed to be public and painful. The account of the crucifixion is not easy to read. You may be tempted to think that Jesus' death was a cruel mistake. It wasn't. Jesus' life was not taken from him; he laid it down willingly. It was part of his plan—a plan that included you and me. His cross was in a very real sense our cross.

1. When you think about death, what feelings and thoughts come to mind?
2. Read John 19:17-27. Crucifixion was obviously a brutal and tortuous form of execution. Why do you think John leaves so much of the agonizing detail out of his account?
3. Three groups were involved in Jesus' death—the soldiers, the Jewish leaders and Pilate. How would you characterize each one's attitude toward Jesus?
  - a. In what ways do their attitudes toward Jesus parallel those of men and women today?
4. How do you think Mary, Jesus' mother, felt as she stood by the cross?
5. How is Jesus' tender care for her evident even while he is dying (w. 26-27)?
6. Read John 19:28-42. What was the significance of Jesus' cry, "It is finished" (v. 30; see John 17:4)?
7. What evidence does John give that Jesus really died?
8. Why was it so important for John to establish the certainty of Jesus' death?

9. What feelings and thoughts would have gone through your mind if you had helped prepare Jesus for burial?
10. Where were Jesus' disciples during his crucifixion and burial (see Jn 16:32)?
11. Why do you think they were so conspicuously absent?
12. Under the same circumstances, do you think you would have been more like Joseph and Nicodemus or Jesus' disciples? Explain.
13. When it comes to public identification with Jesus, how is it possible to respond in the same ways today?
14. What aspect of Jesus' death has made the deepest impression on you, and why?



# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show “The Way of True life,”**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **The Son Is Up!**

#### ***John 20:1-31***

#### **Introduction**

The story circulated for days in the hospital where my brother worked. An orderly was told to take a body to the morgue. Simply out of habit, the orderly felt the man's wrist for a pulse. When he realized his mistake, the orderly quickly dropped the arm, but not before his sensitive fingers told him something his mind struggled to believe. There was a pulse! The doctors were called, and the man revived.

That story may or may not be true. But I know of one account of a man coming back to life that is true. The man lived for years after the event. In fact, he is still alive, as we will see in this passage.

1. How would you react if a friend told you he had seen someone raised from the dead?
2. Read John 20:1-31. John records three witnesses to the empty tomb: Mary Magdalene, Peter and "the other disciple" (John himself). What important details do we learn from each one (v. 1-9)?
3. Why is it important to prove the tomb was empty?
4. John also records three appearances of the risen Christ: to Mary, to his disciples and to Thomas. Why do you think Mary doesn't immediately recognize Jesus (w. 10-15)?
  - a. After she does recognize him, what impresses you most about their encounter (v. 16-18)?
5. When Jesus appears to his disciples, what specific gifts and promises does he give them (v. 19-23)?
  - a. What do you think is the significance of each gift or promise?
6. Finally, Jesus appears to Thomas (v. 24-29). How does Thomas's attitude—both before and after Jesus appears to him—add credibility to the resurrection?

7. How does Thomas's exclamation "My Lord and my God" (v. 28) provide a fitting climax to John's Gospel?
8. What can we learn from Jesus' encounter with Thomas about dealing with people who have doubts about Christianity?
9. Is believing that Jesus rose from the dead as important as believing that he died on the cross for our sins? Explain.
10. John tells us why he has written his Gospel in verses 30-31- Of all the "miraculous signs" John has included, which have been most convincing to you? Why?

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.**

## **Study to show "The Way of True life,"**

### *BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE*

#### **A Walk with a Resurrected Man**

##### **Introduction**

Most of us find it easier to forgive than to forget. We may be ready to forgive someone who has hurt us deeply, but we have a hard time trusting that person again. Peter failed Jesus miserably. He promised to give up his life if necessary to protect Jesus but denied him a few hours later. Peter knew Jesus had forgiven him. But would Jesus still trust him? Could Jesus still use him to bring glory to God? Will Christ still use us after we've foiled?

1. Describe how you feel when someone you have hurt refuses to forgive you.
2. Read John 21:1-14 What was the significance of Peter's decision to return to fishing (v. 1-3)?
3. What was Jesus trying to show the disciples by allowing them to catch such a large number of fish (v. 4-6; see Lk 5:4-11)?
4. When Peter hears that "It is the Lord." (v. 7-8) he jumps into the water and begins swimming ahead of the boat. What does this reveal about Peter and his relationship with Jesus?
  - a. How would you have responded if you had denied the Lord only a few days earlier?
5. Read John 21:15-25. What subtle differences do you notice in Jesus' three questions and Peter's responses (v. 15-17)?
  - a. What do you think is the significance of those differences?
6. What can we learn from this passage about the steps involved in restoring a Christian who has sinned?
7. Why do you think Jesus chose this particular time to predict the kind of death Peter would die (v. 18-19)?

8. How does it help to know that you can still serve and glorify God it matter what your past failures have been? ;
9. What does Jesus' rebuke to Peter (v. 22) reveal about the danger of comparing ourselves with other Christians? ',
10. As you have studied through John's Gospel, what aspect of Jesus' character or ministry has impressed you most?
11. What responses have you made in your heart and life as a result of that; deeper understanding?