



JOHN 13 - 16

THE FAREWELL DISCOURSE

A Bible Study for
Personal use
and Life Groups

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In John Ch. 13 John's gospel changes direction, Jesus public ministry is over, and the journey to the cross takes centre stage. We are told that Jesus knew his hour had come, and his death was imminent. How would you respond if this was you? We have a phrase for what most people would do - a bucket list. A list of things that you want to do before you kick the bucket.

Although Jesus sits and has a meal with friends, as many of us would perhaps like to do if we knew our death was imminent, the focus for Jesus is not on enjoying his last bit of time on earth, but instead to invest into his disciples, knowing that they would need some context in order to process what was about to come. This is where the 'Farewell Discourse' comes from, chapters 13-16 of John are like a goodbye speech from Jesus, but less to have a final say and more to instruct and inform his disciples about who they are, what God will do for them, and how they are to live as Jesus' followers in the days, months and years ahead. This is why this discourse is possibly better titled 'The Discipleship Discourse.'

In the following Bible Study we will look at several themes from the 4 chapters, and see how these themes feature within John 13-16, as well as exploring how they fit into the wider story of John, and the Bible. In total we will look at 7 themes from John 13-16, and although not an exhaustive list, they cover the main aspects found in John 13-16. They are:

1. Jesus' Own
2. Service
3. Trouble
4. Holy Spirit
5. Abiding
6. Bearing Fruit
7. Love, Joy and Peace

Each week there will be parts for you to do alone, as a kind of Bible study, as well as questions for you to discuss with Life Groups. If you are not a part of a Life Group then you can simply go through each week by yourself.

If you are a part of a Life Group, here is how I suggest you use this resource:

- Step 1. Before you meet with or chat with your Life Groups do the first 3 questions yourself, and choose a key verse for the theme. It is best if everyone in the group does this, rather than just the person leading, as it allows for discussion.
- Step 2. Meet as a Life Group and share what you have put questions 1-3.
- Step 3. Discuss the questions with your Life Group.
- Step 4. Lastly there is some application points, one already given and then room for you to come up with your own either as an individual or as a Life Group.

Early Morning Bible Study

As well as being a resource for you to study yourself and with your Life Group, I will also be leading an early morning Bible Study every Friday morning at 7am on Zoom. This will be after you have looked at the material with your Life Group, and will give us an opportunity to explore the theme further. Each week I will send the Zoom details to the Life Group Leaders and they can pass those on to the group. If you aren't a part of a life group and would like to have the meeting details please email davidturner@thebeacon.org.

The dates will work as follows (example given is for LG's on a Wednesday Evening):

Week	Life Group Date	Friday Bible Study Date
Jesus' Own	15 April	17 April
Service	22 April	24 April
Trouble	29 April	1 May
Holy Spirit	6 May	8 May
Abiding	13 May	15 May
Bearing Fruit	20 May	22 May
Love, Joy and Peace	27 May	29 May

KEY THEMES

Below there is space for you to write a summary of each theme as presented in John 13-16. The hope is that each week you will discover a little more about your identity in Christ and what Jesus both has done for us, has promised us, and has called us to. Each week after you have looked at the various parts of that theme and discussed it with your Life Group (if applicable) you can then write your summary here. You could even come up with a summary collectively as a Life Group.

To help, at the end of this booklet I have shared my summaries with you, but I would encourage you to write yours each week before turning to that. You may want to have a quick look at them before you start the whole thing. However, it is important to remember that even if your summary is different to mine, that that is ok, we will all pick up on different things, and be struck by certain elements more than others, and as long as your summary links in to the theme and more importantly John 13-16 then that is great.

1. JESUS' OWN

2. SERVICE

3. TROUBLE

4. HOLY SPIRIT

5. ABIDING

6. BEARING FRUIT

7. LOVE, JOY AND PEACE

JESUS' OWN

What verses in John 13-16 speak on this subject (directly or indirectly)?

Where else in the John's Gospel or Bible do we see this theme alluded to?

KEY VERSE

(what would you say is the key verse for this theme in John 13-16?)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

John 13-16 addresses this theme of Jesus' own, directly for example in John 13:1, and indirectly when he uses the vine imagery in John 15. Who were/are Jesus' own, and what made them so?

What is the significance of Jesus washing his disciples' feet?

Using Ch. 13, v1, v8 and v14-15, what could we say is a three step process to being Jesus' own?

Read 14:20-21, what do these verses tell us about our new identity as Jesus' own?

How does John 14 say we can demonstrate (or express) our love for Jesus?

APPLICATION

1. Take some time to reflect on the ch 13vv. 1 & 8. Do you know the full extent of Jesus' love for you? Are there times where you don't feel worthy like Peter? Ask Jesus to pour his love on you in a time of quiet and prayer.

2. _____

S E R V I C E

What verses in John 13-16 speak on this subject (directly or indirectly)?

Where else in the John's Gospel or Bible do we see this theme alluded to?

K E Y V E R S E

(what would you say is the key verse for this theme in John 13-16?)

L I F E G R O U P D I S C U S S I O N Q U E S T I O N S :

Jesus washes the disciples feet and then calls the disciples to follow this example. In John 14:12 Jesus tells the disciples they will do greater things than him. Can these two ideas, service and greatness, work together? If so how?

If we see the foot washing as an introduction to John 13-16, what impact does this have on the call to bear fruit in John 15:8?

In John 13-16 Jesus in different ways regularly calls the disciples to obey him. Do you think obedience is easy? Why do we struggle to obey Jesus? What ideas/passages from John 13-16 can help us be motivated to obey?

A P P L I C A T I O N

1. Washing feet was a culturally important and relevant act of service. It is not so applicable today, but we could do similar culturally relevant tasks. Write a list of as many modern equivalents as you can, then choose one that you can start to do this week.

2. _____

TROUBLE

What verses in John 13-16 speak on this subject (directly or indirectly)?

Where else in the John's Gospel or Bible do we see this theme alluded to?

KEY VERSE

(what would you say is the key verse for this theme in John 13-16?)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What type of trouble does Jesus tell the disciples they may face?

What encouragement can we take from 13:21, 14:1 and 14:27 and how do we live out living with an untroubled heart? Are there any other pointers in John 13-16?

What does 16:1-11 tell us about trouble? Why do they tell us Jesus spoke about it? How does this differ from the way the world would see trouble and God?

APPLICATION

1. Read 16:33, here Jesus tells us we will face trouble and ends by telling us to take heart because he is victorious. Take some time to write in a journal or on your phone, verses that speak about Jesus victory and what he has achieved for us, so that you can turn to them if/ when you are in trouble and they can help you to 'take heart.'

2. _____

JOHN 13-16
THE FAREWELL DISCOURSE

HOLY SPIRIT

What verses in John 13-16 speak on this subject (directly or indirectly)?

Where else in the John's Gospel or Bible do we see this theme alluded to?

KEY VERSE

(what would you say is the key verse for this theme in John 13-16?)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus tell us about the Holy Spirit? Who is he and what does he do? Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit in any of these ways?

Read 16:7, do you think it is better that Jesus ascended and sent the Holy Spirit for us? Many people would love to have a face to face with Jesus, so why is the Holy Spirit "better"?

Why is the Holy Spirit described as the Spirit of Truth? How does this tie in with 14:6? How do we discern truth? (suggestion—are there any verses that speak about prayer in John 13-16?)

APPLICATION

1. Jesus says he will leave us with his peace, and it is clear that this will come though the Holy Spirit. Take some time this week to invite the Holy Spirit to rest on you, and to fill you with peace. Many people share that this is the greatest experience of the Holy Spirit, greater than any 'spiritual fireworks.'

2. _____

JOHN 13-16
THE FAREWELL DISCOURSE
A B I D I N G

What verses in John 13-16 speak on this subject (directly or indirectly)?

Where else in the John's Gospel or Bible do we see this theme alluded to?

KEY VERSE

(what would you say is the key verse for this theme in John 13-16?)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

In 15:4 Jesus says 'abide (remain) in me' what is the motivation to abide in Jesus? And what is the process that Jesus describes when we remain in him?

What does it mean when Jesus commands us to abide in him? Does he say anything that would help us to know what we are to do to continually abide in him? How will we know that we are abiding in him, what would be a sign that we are?

Read John 21:1-9 what aspect of Jesus teaching from John 15 does this demonstrate? Has there been any times where you have tried to do something in your own strength, and then when you turn to God you see a remarkable (or perhaps unremarkable) change?

APPLICATION

1. Jesus makes it clear that to abide in him, we need to be obedient to what he has called us to do. Identify one command of Jesus that you struggle to live out and come up with an action plan of how you will work on it.

2. _____

BEARING FRUIT

What verses in John 13-16 speak on this subject (directly or indirectly)?

Where else in the John's Gospel or Bible do we see this theme alluded to?

KEY VERSE

(what would you say is the key verse for this theme in John 13-16?)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Taking John 13-16 as a whole what do you think Jesus means by 'fruit' that we are called to bear in 15:4?

In John 15 Jesus says several times that the branches that do not bear fruit will be cut off, do you think this means that we are judged by how much we do? Or does it mean something else?

In 15:7 Jesus says that whatever we ask will be done for us. Do you think this means we can get whatever we want? Or does the rest of this verse and the wider context of it point to something else?

APPLICATION

1. Make a list of some of the fruit you have noticed or others have seen in your life as a result of your relationship with Jesus. Take some time to pray and thank Jesus for his work in your life.

2. _____

LOVE, JOY AND PEACE

What verses in John 13-16 speak on this subject (directly or indirectly)?

Where else in the John's Gospel or Bible do we see this theme alluded to?

KEY VERSE

(what would you say is the key verse for this theme in John 13-16?)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How does John 13-16 describe love? How does love and obedience work together, they do not seem like two words that work together?

Why is joy so important? How is Jesus going to give them joy? How do the disciples experience joy in John 20? How does this relate to the promises that Jesus makes in John 14-16?

What is peace the antidote to that Jesus mentions in John 13-16? Why does Jesus put such an emphasis on the disciples hearts not being troubled when he is telling them at the same time that he will die? How will the peace Jesus offers make a difference? And how does Jesus give the disciples and us peace? Does John 20 link in to peace at all?

APPLICATION

1. Write these three down in your journal and next to each one reflect on how you have experienced these over the years. Note down next to each how you have experienced them, particularly around your faith and following of Jesus. Have any come at odd times? Was you on your own or with others? Did Jesus reveal himself at any of these times?

2. _____

KEY THEMES

Below you will find my summaries for each of these themes, please remember when looking at these that we will each see things slightly differently, you may see something I haven't, so don't "mark" your summaries, but instead use these as a guide and as a help to exploring John 13-16.

1. JESUS' OWN

John 13 serves as an introduction to the whole discourse and central to the opening verses is that Jesus loved his own. He demonstrated this love by washing their feet, itself a pointer to the greater work of the cross. Those whom Jesus loved, and who loved Jesus in return were to be Jesus' own, a new community, the new vine. Jesus' disciples were called as part of their identity as one of his own, to follow Jesus example of service, love and sacrifice. Certain things would mark them as Jesus' own, the Holy Spirit would come and live in them, and they will bear fruit through abiding with Jesus.

2. SERVICE

Following on from the new identity as Jesus' own, Jesus' followers were to be servants. they would be servants in their actions towards one another, and through their obedience to Jesus. They would also, like Jesus, be treated like servants by the world, and be hated and persecuted. However, despite their attitude of service they would be called children of God, and are considered friends by Jesus, who would prepare a place for them with the Father in the life to come.

3. TROUBLE

Following Jesus would not be a ticket to an easy life, this could not be any clearer from both the timing and setting of this interaction Jesus has with his disciples, right before Jesus arrest and execution, but also from the content. Jesus tells the disciples various times to not be troubled or afraid, and shares with them some of things he will do to help them in the new life, once he has departed. Jesus also warns them of the hate, rejection and persecution that they will experience, but encourages them that they will be well equipped to deal with the troubling circumstances both internally and externally.

4. HOLY SPIRIT

It is important to recognise that although I have selected Holy Spirit as a theme, he is a person, one of the Godhead. Jesus mentions the coming 'helper' several times in John 13-16, describing him as the Spirit of truth, and the Advocate. To his troubled disciples Jesus assures them that it will be better for him to leave, and for them to have the helper. Quite a claim, that with hindsight we can miss the significance of. God would be with us, each of us who follow Jesus and become his own, taking on his call to service, through

the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit will be how we will know the father and know what Jesus has taught so we can obey his words, and it will be through the Spirit that God will make his home with us.

5. A B I D I N G

The vine metaphor used by Jesus in John 15 has come to be one of the most defining descriptions of the relationship between Jesus and his disciples. It can be easy to take the verses on bearing fruit and seek to apply these, but these lose their grounding in the truth if we do not first look at abiding, or remaining, in Jesus. Like a branch needs to be connected to it's vine in order to bear fruit, we also need our relationship with Jesus. If we focus on the fruit, we can lose sight of the relationship. It will be through our relationship with Jesus that we "achieve" anything, yet achieving is the wrong term, success is simply being in relationship with Jesus, from this all else flows. Being with Jesus, through the Holy Spirit is of upmost importance in the christian's walk. The call to follow Jesus could be described twofold, abide and go. When you truly abide you can not help but go and obey out of your love for Jesus, but you can not effectively go, without constantly abiding.

6. B E A R I N G F R U I T

Jesus is clear, bearing fruit is an important part of being his follower but only because it flows out of the relationship we have with him. The type of fruit we are to bear is not simply works of service, but more the joy, peace and love that he promises us. in particular Jesus regularly commands his disciples to love one another as he has loved them. Jesus washes the disciples feet, a sign of the washing that he will offer us through the cross. As we receive love from Jesus, we love those around us. The vine and the branch is how this relationship will look. Within the context of this relationship that we will have with Jesus, we will be able to hear his commands, and know what to ask for, and receive it too. In the context of this relationship, we will bear fruit and others will see that we are Jesus' disciples.

7. L O V E , J O Y A N D P E A C E

In the midst of a farewell message, on the night that Jesus would be betrayed, and before he would be tortured, abused, ridiculed and executed, to say that a theme of such a message is love, joy and peace seems quite odd. Yet, these are things that Jesus regularly speaks of. His motive for the cross is clear, he loves the world, and specifically loves his disciples. Jesus wants his disciples to not be troubled or afraid but instead to know peace, a peace different to anything the world has known. Jesus promises that the disciples grief will turn to joy too. Yes we will face trouble, yes life may be tough, yes the world may hate us, but these things will not have the final say, Jesus will, he has overcome the world, and love, joy and peace are ours forever.