



Family Conversation Guide

(September 12, 2021)

In this week's passage from the Book of John, **Jesus speaks His last public words** before being arrested and dying on the cross (in about four days). In fact, **He cries out to the people because these words are so important!**

READ AND DISCUSS

Ask family members to find [John 12:44-50](#) in their Bibles. Give them pens and paper so that they can take notes as they listen to the sermon.

1. In last week's study of [John 14:27-43](#), after speaking to the religious leaders, Jesus went away and hid Himself, and the religious leaders were arguing about Him. Some believed in Him, but they were afraid to speak out. They were afraid they would be cast out of the synagogue. **Have you ever felt embarrassed about admitting to others that you are a follower of Jesus?**
2. **People today still have trouble telling others they love Jesus. Why?** (*They are afraid they will be misunderstood and that others will reject them*) Many churches do not stand firmly for Jesus out of fear. **In what countries is the church growing fastest, with many people coming to know Jesus?** (*Iran and Afghanistan. And in China, there are an estimated 100 million Christians. In all of these countries, Christians could be imprisoned or put to death for their beliefs. Here in the USA, the church is becoming less and less courageous to speak the truth.*)
3. **According to David Chadwick, what is the "main thing" of the Christian church?** (*The gospel- read [Romans 1:16](#), [Galatians 1:10](#)*) Our church is committed to being faithful to what Jesus called us to do and the preaching of

the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. **What is wrong in many churches?** (*Less preaching of the Gospel, people wanting to hear what makes them feel good, more and more influenced by culture*)
5. In this passage, (**John 12:44-50**) we see Jesus' last public teaching before His death on the cross. In **verse 44**, Jesus "cried out" to the people. The word implies a loud voice. **When someone cries out, do you think that what they are saying is important to them?**
6. Read **verses 44-45**. "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me." **Who sent Jesus?**
7. Read **verse 46**. **Why did Jesus come into the world?** (*Jesus said He came as a light so that others will not remain in darkness, and He came to show us how to live, and to show us the path to our eternal home in heaven*)
8. Read **verse 47**. **What did Jesus come to do?** (*He came to save the world, not to judge the world*) David Chadwick explains that there are two comings of Jesus: He came as a baby in Bethlehem to save us from our sins- He rode on a colt, humbly and in peace, which is what a king did in that day when he was bringing peace, not judgment, to a city. In the next/second coming, He will be riding on a white horse, and He will come as a judge. That is what a conquering king would do in Jesus's day, saying to a city that the citizens were now under his judgment. That is why Jesus cried out. He was trying to warn the people to believe and accept Him now, while they can, before his final judgment.
9. Read **Ephesians 2:10**. We are not saved by our works, but we are saved to do good works. **What are good works?** (*Pause for answers*) We do good works because we have faith in Jesus and we want to serve Him. Our good works prove our faith in him.

10. Jesus wanted us to be ready for His second coming, when He will judge on the last day. **What are signs of the second coming of Jesus?** (*Earthquakes, pestilence -pandemics, deception of the believers with false teaching, wars, etc.*) For more on this, read **Luke 21:25** and the verses that follow, Also, the parallel passages in **Mark 13** and **Matthew 24**. **Are any of these things happening now?**
11. Read **verse 48**. **What happens to the one who rejects Jesus?** (*They will be judged on the last day- only those who are rescued and forgiven by Jesus will get into heaven. He came to save us.*)
12. Read **verse 49**. **Who gave Jesus the authority to speak, and told Him what to say?** (*God did- He only said and did what the Father told Him to do*). **Isn't this what we should do as well?**
13. In **verse 50**, Jesus says that the Father's command is eternal life- the good news, the gospel. **What does this mean for us?** (*We are saved and forgiven because of Jesus' sacrifice-we have a new life in Christ, and we choose to love each other and share the gospel with all in obedience to what God tells us to do. We must let Christ, not culture, define us, and we need to be a part of the community of believers- the church-serving in love and kindness and proclaiming Jesus to others*). To possess the gift of eternal life is our greatest, most valuable possession.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Have each member of the family talk about the ways that the world needs Jesus, now more than ever. **How can we be a part of the change that is needed? Does knowing Jesus help us to be better world-changers? How?**

FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Have your younger kids practice saying these phrases in a normal voice, then crying them out loudly:

- “Fire!”
- “Don’t touch that!”
- “Watch out!”
- “Listen to me!”

Ask, “Which way of speaking do you think people would pay more attention to—the regular voice or when we are crying out? When would we need to cry out something?” (*When it is very important, when there is danger, etc.*)

“The last time Jesus spoke to the people before He was arrested and died on the cross, He cried out the words because He wanted them to know that God sent Him to save them and to be a light to the world. He wanted them to have another chance to believe before it was too late, because the only way they could be forgiven of their sins and go to heaven was to believe in Him. **Is that important news for us to hear?** Jesus wants you to believe in Him, too. He wants you to let Him lead you and for you to be a part of His work in the world.” (*This is a good time for a conversation about salvation, parents.*)

PRAYER

“God, Thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be rescued and forgiven, and live with You forever in heaven. Thank You for giving us things You want us to do in this world, especially telling others about what Jesus has done for us. We love You. Amen.”