



Discipleship Guide

Sermon: Dying to Live | Lent Series | Week 2
Speaker: Pastor John Eric Zayas

Date: March 8th, 2026

Discipleship Guide – “Dying To Live” (John 12:20-36)

Key Theme

The kingdom of God multiplies through **surrender, sacrifice, and death to self**.

Jesus reveals that His coming death is not defeat—it is the pathway to **glory and multiplication**.

Session Outline

1. The Moment: When the Nations Begin Seeking Jesus

John 12:20–22

Greeks arrive during Passover asking to see Jesus.

This moment signals something larger:

The message of Jesus is beginning to move **beyond Israel to the whole world**.

Instead of immediately meeting them, Jesus declares:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” (John 12:23)

Their arrival marks the **beginning of the final stage of Jesus’ mission**.

Discussion

- Why might the arrival of Gentiles signal that “the hour has come”?
 - What does this reveal about God’s heart for the nations?
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2. The Kingdom Principle: A Seed Must Die

John 12:24

Jesus uses a powerful agricultural image:

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone.”

A seed that stays intact never fulfills its purpose.

Water does not simply refresh a seed—it **breaks it open**.

Only when the seed **loses its original form** can life begin.

Spiritual Meaning

Growth in Christ requires the breaking of our **comfort, control, and identity outside of Him**.

Discussion

- What areas of life do we resist “dying” in?
 - Why is surrender so difficult?
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3. The Call to Discipleship

John 12:25–26

Jesus moves from describing Himself to describing **us**.

“Whoever loves their life loses it, and whoever hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

Discipleship requires:

- surrender
- sacrifice
- trust

But Jesus promises something profound:

Where He is, His servant will also be.

Reflection

Following Jesus is not about losing life—it’s about **finding the life we were created for**.

4. Glory Through Sacrifice

John 12:27–28

Jesus is honest about the weight of the moment.

He acknowledges His troubled soul but ultimately says:

“Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice from heaven responds.

Jesus reveals that **God’s glory is displayed through sacrifice.**

5. Walking in the Light

John 12:35–36

Jesus closes His public ministry with a warning:

“Walk while you have the light.”

The invitation is urgent.

Those who walk in the light become **children of light.**

Discussion

- What does it practically mean to walk in the light today?
 - What areas of life might God be asking you to surrender?
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Key Discipleship Truths

1. God multiplies what we surrender.
 2. Comfort often prevents growth.
 3. Jesus’ death created life for the world.
 4. Discipleship requires daily dying to self.
 5. Walking in the light produces transformation.
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Prayer

Lord,
Break open every place in us that resists Your work.
Teach us to trust the process of surrender.
Where there is fear, give faith.
Where there is resistance, give obedience.
Let our lives multiply for Your glory.
Amen.

5-Day Devotional: “Dying To Live”

Day 1 — The Turning Point

Scripture: John 12:20–23

Greeks come searching for Jesus.

Their request signals something profound: the message of Jesus is expanding beyond Israel. The nations are beginning to seek Him.

Jesus recognizes the moment immediately.

“The hour has come.”

The cross is no longer distant—it is approaching quickly.

God’s plan has always been bigger than one people group or nation.

It is a plan for the **entire world**.

Reflection Question

Where do you see God expanding His work beyond what you expected?

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to the bigger story You are writing.

Day 2 — The Seed Must Break

Scripture: John 12:24

A seed is beautiful, but it is incomplete.

Until it falls into the soil and breaks open, it remains alone.

Growth begins where comfort ends.

Sometimes the things that feel like breaking in our lives are actually **the beginning of transformation.**

Reflection Question

What comfort might God be asking you to release?

Prayer

God, help me trust You in the breaking.

Day 3 — Losing Life to Find It

Scripture: John 12:25

Jesus challenges our instincts.

The world teaches us to preserve our lives.

Jesus teaches us to surrender them.

The paradox of the kingdom is simple:
when we surrender control, we gain eternal life.

Reflection Question

What area of your life is hardest to surrender to God?

Prayer

Jesus, teach me to trust You more than my own control.

Day 4 — Glory Through Obedience

Scripture: John 12:27–28

Jesus knew what the cross would cost.

Still, He prayed:

“Father, glorify Your name.”

Obedience is not always easy, but it always leads to **God's glory**.

The path of surrender is the path where God's power becomes visible.

Reflection Question

How might your obedience reveal God's glory to others?

Prayer

Father, let my life glorify You.

Day 5 — Walk in the Light

Scripture: John 12:35–36

Jesus ends His public ministry with an invitation:

Walk in the light.

Light reveals truth, direction, and life.

Those who choose the light become **children of light**.

Following Jesus is not simply believing in Him—it is **walking with Him daily**.

Reflection Question

Where is God inviting you to step into greater obedience?

Prayer

Jesus, lead me in Your light.