

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This Easter we're jumping ahead to look at the how John tells the story of the first Easter week. This week we're in John 12; next week we'll explore John 20 and Jesus' resurrection. There are two stories in this week's passage. v1-11, tell the story of Jesus being anointed by Mary at Bethany. v12-19, of Jesus' triumphal entry in to Jerusalem. So, there is lots to cover!

NB We won't be releasing a Guide next week. The next one will be available from Sunday 24th April.

Happy Easter and God bless,

Andy *(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Andy Tuck, who is on the staff team of our Wimbledon venue)*

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 12:1-19

This Week's BIG IDEA: Who and how do we worship?

Please read John 12:1-19.

1. v1, where are we in John's Gospel? What's recently happened and what is to come?
[Leaders note: NB John 11 and the raising of Lazarus, and that Passover is approaching.]
2. v1-2, what details are we given about this dinner party and this moment with Mary?
3. How does Mary worship Jesus? What is her example to us? What do you want to apply from her example in your own worship?
[Leaders note: her humility and extravagance.]
4. What could you pour out in worship to Jesus? How do you worship him through you use of time, skills and money? What could you give to him in praise of who he is and what he has done for us?
5. v4-6, how can we learn from Judas' negative example? What do we need to be watchful of in our own hearts when we are worshipping God with others? How can we guard against a love of money that ensnared Judas?
[Leaders note: you could also ask your Life Group about how they approach worship on a Sunday. How is your worship focused on Jesus, or are you tempted to judge others like Judas does?]
6. v7-8, what is Jesus' response to Judas and what does it tell us about our priorities as followers of Jesus?
[Leaders note: Jesus does not foresee a time, this side of his return, when the world will be without the poor. That is not a reason not to care for the poor, but it is a reason to emphasise the saving work of Christ, which empowers service of the poor and rich alike with the message of the cross. Our mandate to care the poor is clear and repeated throughout scripture (e.g. Acts 4:34 which fulfils Deut 15:4). So, we're not being presented with competing loyalties. Rather, it is a prime case of both/and, with each at the proper occasion, and all in the light of the cross.]
7. v9-11, what is the reaction of the crowd and the chief priests to these events?
8. v12-13, how does this Jerusalem crowd react to Jesus' arrival? What were their expectations of Jesus?
9. v14-15, read Zechariah 9:9-10. What do we learn about the Messiah through these verses?
[Leaders note: humble, peaceful, universal.]
10. Reflect on the crowd's actions and these verses from Zechariah. How might these inform our own worship?
11. v16-19, how would you categorise these reactions to Jesus? Who do you know that would fit in to them?
12. How are you planning on preparing for and celebrating Easter this week?