

Dear Life Group Leaders,

In this passage Jesus' public ministry comes to a close. There is a lot of ground to cover but don't worry if you don't get to every question listed below! A good landing point could be to guide your group back to Jesus' prayer in v28, "Father, glorify your name!".

God bless, take care and stay strong

Andy (This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Andy Tuck, who works for our Wimbledon venue)

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE**

### **John 12:20-50**

**This week's BIG IDEA:** Jesus is determined to die on the cross.

1. Before we read our passage today, can anyone summarise where we're up to in John's Gospel? What's recently happened in the narrative?  
*[Leaders note: Lazarus has been raised from the dead, cheering crowds at the triumphal entry and the Pharisees are worried that the "whole world is going after him" (v19).]*

**Please read John 12:20-36**

2. What do you make of Jesus' response to the invitation from the Greeks in v21?
3. v23, why is it significant that Jesus declares that "the hour has come"?  
*[Leaders note: three times so far in John's Gospel it's been said that it hasn't yet come. Check out John 2:4, 7:30, 8:20.]*
4. v24-26, what principle does Jesus articulate here and how should we apply it?  
*[Leaders note: following Jesus means we need to die to ourselves.]*
5. v27-29, what does Jesus pray? What does this mean? Do we pray something similar when we're facing difficult situations or choices?
6. v30-33, what three things will Jesus' death achieve?  
*[Leaders note: It's a moment of judgement of sin, it will drive out the prince of this world (that's satan), and it will draw people to him.]*
7. v34-36, what is Jesus encouragement here? What does he mean by "light" and "dark"?  
*[Leaders note: This is a plea to believe while they still have the chance. There is an urgency to his words, as well as an expressed desire that we would choose to walk in his light.]*

**Please read John 12:37-43**

8. v37-40, why did Israel reject its Messiah?  
*[Leaders note: as a follow-up you might like to ask, "How did God harden their hearts?". Our hearts are harden against a humble Messiah dying on a cross because we want power and glory. Jesus coming and dying on a cross exposes the sinfulness of our sin.]*
9. v41, what insight does this verse give us to the Old Testament prophets, especially Isaiah?

**Please read John 12:44-50**

10. v42-43, what reaction to Jesus does John record for us here? In what ways can we be like those who are afraid to acknowledge Jesus before others?
11. v44-50, what do we learn about belief and judgement in these verses?
12. We've covered a lot of ground today. What's your biggest take away message from today's study? What one thing would you like to apply this week?