

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE — WEEK 8

The Gospel of John

Jesus Wept

John 11:28–57; 12:1–36

11:28–37 - Jesus weeps. *The compassion of Christ.*

11:38–44 - Jesus gives life. *Come out of the tomb.*

11:45–57 - Jesus is rejected. *Two responses to Jesus.*

12:1–11 - Jesus is honored. *A costly love.*

12:12–19 - Jesus is King. *The King arrives.*

12:20–36 - Jesus is lifted up. *For this hour I have come.*

As we continue our journey through The Gospel of John, take time with the Scriptures, think through the questions, process **UP (our worship) → IN (our community) → OUT (our neighbors) →**, and ask where God may be giving you an **Invitation (Repent/turn to Him)** and a **Challenge (Believe/live for Him)**.

*“...these are written so **that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” -John 20:31 (ESV)*

SUNDAY — John 11:28–37

THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Jesus enters into the grief of Mary and those around her. His tears reveal His compassion, His love, and the seriousness of the brokenness brought by death.

DISCUSS

1. **Mary and the mourners are weeping (11:31–33).** What does this scene reveal about the reality of grief and loss?
2. **Jesus is deeply moved and troubled (11:33–35).** What does Jesus' response teach us about how He meets us in our pain?
3. **Jesus weeps even though He knows what He is about to do (11:35, 38–44).** What does this reveal about the compassion and humanity of Jesus?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What do Jesus' tears reveal about His heart toward suffering, death, and His people?

IN: How can our church become a place where people can grieve honestly and receive compassionate care?

OUT: Who in your life may need someone to sit with them in their pain rather than offer quick explanations?

INVITATION

What is God saying about your grief or the grief of others, and what is He inviting you to bring honestly before Him?

CHALLENGE

Who will you intentionally listen to or sit with today, offering presence instead of trying to fix everything?

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MONDAY — John 11:38–44

COME OUT OF THE TOMB

Jesus commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb and demonstrates His authority over death. His word brings life where human hope has ended.

DISCUSS

1. **Jesus asks for the stone to be removed (11:39–41).** What do Martha's concerns reveal about the tension between faith and what appears impossible?
2. **Jesus prays publicly so that people may believe the Father sent Him (11:41–42).** What does this reveal about the purpose of the miracle?
3. **Jesus calls Lazarus by name and commands him to come out (11:43–44).** What does this reveal about Jesus' authority and personal care?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus' command over the tomb reveal about His authority as the giver of life?

IN: How can Christian community help people step out of isolation and into the life Christ offers?

OUT: Who may feel trapped by hopelessness and need to hear the life-giving invitation of Jesus?

INVITATION

What is God saying about an area where you feel trapped or hopeless, and how is He inviting you to trust in His life-giving power?

CHALLENGE

What step of obedience will you take today in response to Jesus' invitation to come out and live?

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TUESDAY — John 11:45–57

TWO RESPONSES TO JESUS

The raising of Lazarus leads some people to believe in Jesus while others respond with opposition. Jesus' works reveal His glory, but people must decide how they will respond.

DISCUSS

1. **Many who saw what Jesus did believed in Him (11:45).** What can move someone from witnessing Jesus' work to trusting Him?
2. **The religious leaders respond with fear and plans to kill Jesus (11:46–53).** What can cause people to resist Jesus even when confronted with His works?
3. **Caiaphas speaks of one man dying for the people (11:49–52).** How does this statement point toward Jesus' sacrificial mission?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus' willingness to give His life for His people reveal about His mission and love?

IN: How can we encourage one another to respond to Jesus with faith rather than fear or resistance?

OUT: Who may be observing the work of Jesus but still needs an invitation to believe?

INVITATION

What is God saying about your response to Jesus, and what is He inviting you to surrender or believe?

CHALLENGE

How will you respond to Jesus today with a clear act of faith rather than remaining on the sidelines?

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WEDNESDAY — John 12:1–11

A COSTLY LOVE

Mary responds to Jesus with extravagant love, anointing His feet with costly perfume. Her worship contrasts with Judas' concern for money and the leaders' desire to remove Lazarus.

DISCUSS

1. **Mary pours expensive ointment on Jesus' feet (12:3).** What does her action reveal about the value she places on Jesus?
2. **Judas criticizes Mary's act (12:4–6).** What can cause us to measure devotion through usefulness, cost, or personal benefit?
3. **Jesus connects Mary's action with His coming burial (12:7–8).** What does this reveal about His awareness of the cross and the meaning of her worship?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Mary's worship reveal about the worth and coming sacrifice of Jesus?

IN: How can we encourage one another toward wholehearted and sacrificial worship?

OUT: How can our generosity and love point our neighbors toward the worth of Jesus?

INVITATION

What is God saying about your worship and what you value most, and what is He inviting you to offer Him?

CHALLENGE

What will you give, release, or do today as an intentional expression of love and worship toward Jesus?

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THURSDAY — John 12:12–19

THE KING ARRIVES

Jesus enters Jerusalem as King, fulfilling Scripture while the crowds welcome Him with palm branches. Yet their expectations of kingship do not fully match the kind of King Jesus is.

DISCUSS

1. **The crowd cries, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (12:13).** What expectations might the crowd have placed on Jesus?
2. **Jesus enters riding on a donkey (12:14–15).** What does this reveal about the kind of King He is?
3. **The disciples understand the significance of these events more clearly later (12:16).** How can our understanding of Jesus grow over time?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus’ arrival as King reveal about His identity and kingdom?

IN: How can the church help us worship Jesus for Who He truly is rather than who we want Him to be?

OUT: Who may need to encounter Jesus as the humble and true King?

INVITATION

What is God saying about your expectations of Jesus, and what is He inviting you to surrender to His kingship?

CHALLENGE

What area of your life will you intentionally place under Jesus’ authority today?

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FRIDAY — John 12:20–36

FOR THIS HOUR I HAVE COME

Jesus explains that His approaching death is the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified. Through His death, He will draw people to Himself and accomplish the Father's saving purpose.

DISCUSS

1. **The Greeks come seeking Jesus (12:20–21).** What might their desire to see Jesus reveal about the wider reach of His mission?
2. **Jesus compares His death to a grain of wheat falling into the earth (12:24–25).** How does this image help us understand the relationship between sacrifice and true life?
3. **Jesus says, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (12:32).** What does this reveal about the purpose and reach of the cross?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus' willingness to embrace the cross reveal about His glory, love, and mission?

IN: How can we encourage one another to follow Jesus through sacrifice and faithful obedience?

OUT: Who needs to hear that Jesus' saving work is offered beyond our own circles and communities?

INVITATION

What is God saying about sacrifice, obedience, or your response to the cross, and what is He inviting you to follow Him into?

CHALLENGE

What specific act of self-denial, obedience, or love will you practice today in response to Jesus?

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