



**Riverside Small
Groups Study
Gospel of John
Part III
John 15 - 21**

If you could download or have only one book, would you choose the Bible or a commentary of the Bible? While we see background information and scholarly insights are helpful, we believe that learning to trust God speaking to you in and through the Bible a much more crucial discipline. Start with scripture and then go to others to help you wrestle with the questions raised in scripture for you. Our hope is to help everyone learn that the Bible is “living word” and that the Holy Spirit is active in the lives of every believer to reveal truth in the scripture that reveals the God made known in Jesus Christ. Studying scripture is less about knowing the answers and more about wrestling with the right questions. Maybe one of the most important questions asked in scripture is when Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?”. We believe Jesus is still asking that question and our hope is that this study of the Gospel of John will help you find your answer to that question. This study is using J.R. Briggs scripture questions modified plus a question or two relevant to the individual passage.

Gospel of John: Chapter 15

It is important for disciples to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives and to interact with scripture on their own rather than leaning on the teaching of others. Jesus asked around 307 questions in the Gospels and only answered 3. Jesus also often taught in parables, forcing the listeners to use their God-given abilities to listen and discern. This study of John does not rely on giving a group all the answers, but on empowering the group to make disciples as Jesus made disciples, wrestling with questions and scripture. Trust God to be in your discussion and if there is a question or an issue that you would love to discuss more come Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to Coffee and Scripture at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea.

Read each passage as a group and then wrestle with the questions that follow. Those not reading out loud to the group might find it helpful to circle, underline, mark words or phrases that stick out as they listen.

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. ² He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. ³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything. ⁶ If you don’t remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

✓ What “struck” you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

⁹ “As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷ I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. However, I have chosen you out of the world, and you don’t belong to the world. This is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you, ‘Servants aren’t greater than their master.’ If the world harassed me, it will harass you too. If it kept my word, it will also keep yours. ²¹ The world will do all these things to you on account of my name, because it doesn’t know the one who sent me.

²² “If I hadn’t come and spoken to the people of this world, they wouldn’t be sinners. But now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me also hates the Father. ²⁴ If I hadn’t done works among them that no one else had done, they wouldn’t be sinners. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ This fulfills the word written in their Law, They hated me without a reason.

²⁶ “When the Companion comes, whom I will send from the Father—the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

✓ What “struck” you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ Check out Matthew 22:37-39 compared to verse 12 in this passage. What is the consistent message of Jesus in both gospels?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

Gospel of John: Chapter 16

It is important for disciples to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives and to interact with scripture on their own rather than leaning on the teaching of others. Jesus asked around 307 questions in the Gospels and only answered 3. Jesus also often taught in parables, forcing the listeners to use their God-given abilities to listen and discern. This study of John does not rely on giving a group all the answers, but on empowering the group to make disciples as Jesus made disciples, wrestling with questions and scripture. Trust God to be in your discussion and if there is a question or an issue that you would love to discuss more come Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to Coffee and Scripture at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea.

Read each passage as a group and then wrestle with the questions that follow. Those not reading out loud to the group might find it helpful to circle, underline, mark words or phrases that stick out as they listen.

¹ I have said these things to you so that you won't fall away. ² They will expel you from the synagogue. The time is coming when those who kill you will think that they are doing a service to God. ³ They will do these things because they don't know the Father or me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them.

"I didn't say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Yet because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. ⁷ I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don't go away, the Companion won't come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. ⁹ He will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don't believe in me. ¹⁰ He will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I'm going to the

Father and you won't see me anymore. ¹¹ He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world's ruler stands condemned.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. ¹³ However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. ¹⁵ Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you. ¹⁶ Soon you won't be able to see me; soon after that, you will see me."

¹⁷ Some of Jesus' disciples said to each other, "What does he mean: 'Soon you won't see me, and soon after that you will see me' and 'Because I'm going to the Father'?" ¹⁸ What does he mean by 'soon'? We don't understand what he's talking about."

¹⁹ Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, so he said, "Are you trying to find out from each other what I meant when I said, 'Soon you won't see me, and soon after that you will see me'?" ²⁰ I assure you that you will cry and lament, and the world will be happy. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman gives birth, she has pain because her time has come. But when the child is born, she no longer remembers her distress because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. ²² In the same way, you have sorrow now; but I will see you again, and you will be overjoyed. No one takes away your joy. ²³ In that day, you won't ask me anything. I assure you that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Up to now, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive so that your joy will be complete.

✓ What "struck" you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about the Companion, the Spirit of Truth?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

²⁵ “I’ve been using figures of speech with you. The time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in such analogies. Instead, I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name. I’m not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷ The Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I left the Father and came into the world. I tell you again: I am leaving the world and returning to the Father.”

²⁹ His disciples said, “See! Now you speak plainly; you aren’t using figures of speech. ³⁰ Now we know that you know everything and you don’t need anyone to ask you. Because of this we believe you have come from God.”

³¹ Jesus replied, “Now you believe? ³² Look! A time is coming—and is here!—when each of you will be scattered to your own homes and you will leave me alone. I’m not really alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I’ve said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world.”

✓ What “struck” you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

Gospel of John: Chapter 17

It is important for disciples to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives and to interact with scripture on their own rather than leaning on the teaching of others. Jesus asked around 307 questions in the Gospels and only answered 3. Jesus also often taught in parables, forcing the listeners to use their God-given abilities to listen and discern. This study of John does not rely on giving a group all the answers, but on empowering the group to make disciples as Jesus made disciples, wrestling with questions and scripture. Trust God to be in your discussion and if there is a question or an issue that you would love to discuss more come Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to Coffee and Scripture at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea.

Read each passage as a group and then wrestle with the questions that follow. Those not reading out loud to the group might find it helpful to circle, underline, mark words or phrases that stick out as they listen.

¹ When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. ² You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. ³ This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. ⁴ I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I shared with you before the world was created. ⁶ “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ “I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave

me, that they will be one just as we are one. ¹² When I was with them, I watched over them in your name, the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ Now I'm coming to you and I say these things while I'm in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. ¹⁴ I gave your word to them and the world hated them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁵ I'm not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁷ Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth. ²⁰ "I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. ²¹ I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. ²² I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. ²³ I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me. ²⁴ "Father, I want those you gave me to be with me where I am. Then they can see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ "Righteous Father, even the world didn't know you, but I've known you, and these believers know that you sent me. ²⁶ I've made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that your love for me will be in them, and I myself will be in them."

✓ What "struck" you as you read this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ What obstacles are in your life to joy?

✓ What obstacles are in your life to being one with other believers?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

Gospel of John: Chapter 18

It is important for disciples to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives and to interact with scripture on their own rather than leaning on the teaching of others. Jesus asked around 307 questions in the Gospels and only answered 3. Jesus also often taught in parables, forcing the listeners to use their God-given abilities to listen and discern. This study of John does not rely on giving a group all the answers, but on empowering the group to make disciples as Jesus made disciples, wrestling with questions and scripture. Trust God to be in your discussion and if there is a question or an issue that you would love to discuss more come Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to Coffee and Scripture at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea.

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¹ After he said these things, Jesus went out with his disciples and crossed over to the other side of the Kidron Valley. He and his disciples entered a garden there. ² Judas, his betrayer, also knew the place because Jesus often gathered there with his disciples. ³ Judas brought a company of soldiers and some guards from the chief priests and Pharisees. They came there carrying lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴ Jesus knew everything that was to happen to him, so he went out and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

⁵ They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene."

He said to them, "I Am." (Judas, his betrayer, was standing with them.) ⁶

When he said, "I Am," they shrank back and fell to the ground. ⁷ He asked them again, "Who are you looking for?"

They said, "Jesus the Nazarene."

⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you, 'I Am.' If you are looking for me, then let these people go." ⁹ This was so that the word he had spoken might be fulfilled: "I didn't lose anyone of those whom you gave me."

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high

priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹ Jesus told Peter, “Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?” ¹² Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the guards from the Jewish leaders took Jesus into custody. They bound him ¹³ and led him first to Annas. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. (¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it was better for one person to die for the people.)

✓ What “struck” you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Because this other disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard. ¹⁶ However, Peter stood outside near the gate. Then the other disciple (the one known to the high priest) came out and

spoke to the woman stationed at the gate, and she brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The servant woman stationed at the gate asked Peter, “Aren’t you one of this man’s disciples?”

“I’m not,” he replied. ¹⁸ The servants and the guards had made a fire because it was cold. They were standing around it, warming themselves. Peter joined them there, standing by the fire and warming himself.

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the chief priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, “I’ve spoken openly to the world. I’ve always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews gather. I’ve said nothing in private. ²¹ Why ask me? Ask those who heard what I told them. They know what I said.”

²² After Jesus spoke, one of the guards standing there slapped Jesus in the face. “Is that how you would answer the high priest?” he asked.

²³ Jesus replied, “If I speak wrongly, testify about what was wrong. But if I speak correctly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him, bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing with the guards, warming himself. They asked, “Aren’t you one of his disciples?” Peter denied it, saying, “I’m not.”

²⁶ A servant of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said to him, “Didn’t I see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷ Peter denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

✓ What “struck” you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ If you were Peter, what would you do next when you heard the cock crow?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

The Jewish leaders led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. It was early in the morning. So that they could eat the Passover, the Jewish leaders wouldn't enter the palace; entering the palace would have made them ritually impure.

²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

³⁰ They answered, "If he had done nothing wrong, we wouldn't have handed him over to you."

³¹ Pilate responded, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your Law."

The Jewish leaders replied, "The Law doesn't allow us to kill anyone." (³² This was so that Jesus' word might be fulfilled when he indicated how he was going to die.)

³³ Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?"

³⁵ Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

³⁶ Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this

world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here."

³⁷ "So you are a king?" Pilate said.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice."

³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

After Pilate said this, he returned to the Jewish leaders and said, "I find no grounds for any charge against him. ³⁹ You have a custom that I release one prisoner for you at Passover. Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?"

⁴⁰ They shouted, "Not this man! Give us Barabbas!" (Barabbas was an outlaw.)

✓ What "struck" you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

- ✓ What are the implications of Jesus saying His followers are not being called to fight for Him?

- ✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

Gospel of John: Chapter 19

It is important for disciples to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives and to interact with scripture on their own rather than leaning on the teaching of others. Jesus asked around 307 questions in the Gospels and only answered 3. Jesus also often taught in parables, forcing the listeners to use their God-given abilities to listen and discern. This study of John does not rely on giving a group all the answers, but on empowering the group to make disciples as Jesus made disciples, wrestling with questions and scripture. Trust God to be in your discussion and if there is a question or an issue that you would love to discuss more come Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to Coffee and Scripture at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea.

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¹ Then Pilate had Jesus taken and whipped. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. ³ Over and over they went up to him and said, "Greetings, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

⁴ Pilate came out of the palace again and said to the Jewish leaders, "Look! I'm bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no grounds for a charge against him." ⁵ When Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here's the man."

⁶ When the chief priests and their deputies saw him, they shouted out, "Crucify, crucify!"

Pilate told them, "You take him and crucify him. I don't find any grounds for a charge against him."

⁷ The Jewish leaders replied, "We have a Law, and according to this Law he ought to die because he made himself out to be God's Son."

⁸ When Pilate heard this word, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He went back into the residence and spoke to Jesus, "Where are you from?" Jesus

didn't answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said, "You won't speak to me? Don't you know that I have authority to release you and also to crucify you?"

¹¹ Jesus replied, "You would have no authority over me if it had not been given to you from above. That's why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." ¹² From that moment on, Pilate wanted to release Jesus.

However, the Jewish leaders cried out, saying, "If you release this man, you aren't a friend of the emperor! Anyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes the emperor!"

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he led Jesus out and seated him on the judge's bench at the place called Stone Pavement (in Aramaic, Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was about noon on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jewish leaders, "Here's your king."

¹⁵ The Jewish leaders cried out, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

Pilate responded, "What? Do you want me to crucify your king?"

"We have no king except the emperor," the chief priests answered. ¹⁶ Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

✓ What "struck" you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ Who or what is your king? Who do you want to be your king?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. ¹⁷ Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, Golgotha). ¹⁸ That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate had a public notice written and posted on the cross. It read "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. ²¹

Therefore, the Jewish chief priests complained to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews' but 'This man said, "I am the king of the Jews.'""

²² Pilate answered, "What I've written, I've written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and his sandals, and divided them into four shares, one for each soldier. His shirt was seamless, woven as one piece from the top to the bottom. ²⁴ They said to each other, "Let's not tear it. Let's cast lots to see who will get it." This was to fulfill the scripture,

They divided my clothes among themselves,
and they cast lots for my clothing.

That's what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine

was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. ³⁰ When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, “It is completed.” Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

³¹ It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn’t want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down. ³² Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. ³³ When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn’t break his legs. ³⁴ However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he speaks the truth, and he has testified so that you also can believe. ³⁶ These things happened to fulfill the scripture, They won’t break any of his bones. ³⁷ And another scripture says, They will look at him whom they have pierced.

³⁸ After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away. ³⁹ Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, nearly seventy-five pounds in all. ⁴⁰ Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus’ body and wrapped it, with the spices, in linen cloths. ⁴¹ There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

✓ What “struck” you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ What risks did Nicodemus take here, compared to John 3?

✓ What insight did the writer of this Gospel gain from passages, like Isaiah 53 and the Psalm 22 that Jesus quoted on the cross, both written 110s of years before Jesus was crucified?

✓ What does this passage mean to your every day, ordinary life?

Gospel of John: Chapter 20

It is important for disciples to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives and to interact with scripture on their own rather than leaning on the teaching of others. Jesus asked around 307 questions in the Gospels and only answered 3. Jesus also often taught in parables, forcing the listeners to use their God-given abilities to listen and discern. This study of John does not rely on giving a group all the answers, but on empowering the group to make disciples as Jesus made disciples, wrestling with questions and scripture. Trust God to be in your discussion and if there is a question or an issue that you would love to discuss more come Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to Coffee and Scripture at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea.

Read each passage as a group and then wrestle with the questions that follow. Those not reading out loud to the group might find it helpful to circle, underline, mark words or phrases that stick out as they listen.

¹ Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.” ³ Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. ⁴ They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. ⁵ Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in. ⁶ Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷ He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. It wasn’t with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. ⁸ Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ They didn’t yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent

down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means Teacher).

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” ²² Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and

stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

✓ What “struck” you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ What are the reasons this Gospel was written? How is it “good news” (the meaning of the word “gospel”)?

✓ What does this passage mean to my every day, ordinary life?

Gospel of John: Chapter 21

It is important for disciples to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives and to interact with scripture on their own rather than leaning on the teaching of others. Jesus asked around 307 questions in the Gospels and only answered 3. Jesus also often taught in parables, forcing the listeners to use their God-given abilities to listen and discern. This study of John does not rely on giving a group all the answers, but on empowering the group to make disciples as Jesus made disciples, wrestling with questions and scripture. Trust God to be in your discussion and if there is a question or an issue that you would love to discuss more come Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to Coffee and Scripture at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea.

Read each passage as a group and then wrestle with the questions that follow. Those not reading out loud to the group might find it helpful to circle, underline, mark words or phrases that stick out as they listen.

¹ Later, Jesus himself appeared again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two other disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter told them, "I'm going fishing." They said, "We'll go with you." They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus called to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn't haul in the net. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they weren't far from shore, only about one hundred yards.

⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you’ve just caught.” ¹¹ Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn’t torn, even with so many fish. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ Jesus asked a second time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.” ¹⁷ He asked a third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, “Do you love me?” He replied, “Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ I assure you that when you were younger you tied your own belt and walked around wherever you wanted. When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will tie your belt and lead you where you don’t want to go.” ¹⁹ He said this to show the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. After saying this, Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me.” ²⁰ Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. This was the one who had leaned against Jesus at the meal and asked him, “Lord, who is going to betray you?” ²¹ When Peter saw this disciple, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?” ²² Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain until I come, what difference does that make to you? You must follow me.” ²³ Therefore, the word spread among the brothers and sisters that this disciple wouldn’t die. However, Jesus didn’t say he wouldn’t die, but only, “If I want him to remain until I come, what difference does that make to you?” ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies concerning these things and who wrote them

down. We know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If all of them were recorded, I imagine the world itself wouldn't have enough room for the scrolls that would be written.

✓ What "struck" you as you read this passage?

✓ What encourages you in this passage?

✓ What disturbs, jolts, or startles you in this passage?

✓ What does this passage reveal about Jesus?

✓ If Jesus asked you the questions he asked Peter, how would you answer Him?

✓ What does it mean to love Jesus?

✓ What does it mean to follow Jesus?

✓ What does this passage mean to my every day, ordinary life?
