



2 studies in John 12  
For individuals, groups & 1:1



## **John 11:45 - 12:11**

## **Make Way for the King**

1. Have you ever been part of a welcoming committee?  
What were your assigned tasks?
  
2. What is a religious tradition that you have witnessed or taken part in that you really didn't understand at the time?  
Have you since come to see its purpose or significance?
  
3. Can you recall making a prediction that came true? Were you surprised?

### **Read John 11:45 – 11:57**

4. What reasons do you see for the two completely different responses to the sign Jesus performed in the earlier part of this chapter?
  
5. What do you think the Jewish religious leaders have to fear from Jesus and the people who are believing in him?
  
6. What are the leaders not seeing in the events of the previous chapter?

7. How is Caiaphas' speech in verse 49 & 50 prophetic in a way that he does not understand?

8. What does John tell the reader with his editorial comment in verses 51 & 52?

**Read John 12:1 - 11**

9. Why do you think Jesus allowed Mary to anoint him in this way?

10. In verse 7 Jesus is associating this event with "the day of my burial" not saying that there should be some left for his future burial. If Jesus can so closely link this day with his burial, what does that tell us about how Jesus understands his ministry at this point?

11. It was against Jewish custom for a woman to have her hair untied in the presence of a man who was not her husband, but Mary's love for Jesus and desire to honour him outweighed her concern for convention. Are there areas in your life or our church life together where you feel the tension between honouring Jesus and abiding by convention?

**12.** In what ways could we prepare ourselves for opposition to our witness, like Lazarus, “10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him” (12:10 – 11).

## **John 12:12 - 36**

## **“Glorify Your Name”**

1. When you were young, did the natural cycle of life and death, things growing and dying intrigue you? Frighten you? Go over your head?

2. Can you remember ever being really in the dark?

How did you feel?

What did you do?

3. Do you tend to think of the message of Jesus as something for a select group of people or for everyone?

**Read John 12:12 – 36 & Zechariah 9:9 - 13**

4. What is being promised in this prophecy from the 6th Century BC?

5. How does the Zechariah prophecy shed help us understand what the people are saying in John 12?

6. Why is it significant that Jesus was recognised as the king of Israel in the line of David, as evidenced by the palm branches (symbols of Israel) and the quoting from Psalm 118?

7. How would you explain the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem at the Passover feast?

*See Exodus 12 for background to the Passover feast.*

8. Why does Jesus respond to the request of the Greeks in the way he does in verse 23?

9. Why is the term “glorified” (or “glorification,” etc) an appropriate term to describe Jesus’ crucifixion?

10. How does the crucifixion glorify Jesus?

**11.** How does it glorify God the Father?

**12.** In 11:4 Jesus said that his raising of Lazarus would bring glory to the Son of God. Is this the same kind of glorification as he has in mind here?

**13.** What do you think Jesus when he speaks of the necessity of hating life?

**14.** Why does he use such strong language?

**15.** What do you see are the characteristics of someone who:

- Loves their life

- Hates their life for Christ's sake

**16.** Why does Jesus speak about the means by which he would die, when very few (if any!) of those listening would have understood what he meant?

*See John 18:31 - 32*

**17.** What do we learn about the necessity and the results of Jesus' death and resurrection from his words here?

**18.** How is "the prince of this world" (v 31) driven out by the death and resurrection of Jesus?

**19.** What does it mean to "put your trust in the light" (v 36)?

**20.** Light and darkness are major themes repeated throughout John's gospel. Why do you think John draws on this imagery so deeply?

**21.** Which aspects of your life do you find it too easy to keep loving at the expense of hating your life for Jesus' sake?

**22.** A friend asks, "What has God ever done for me?" Having read this passage, how do you respond?





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