

# John 12

## ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

*“Six days before the Passover began, Jesus went back to Bethany, the town where he raised Lazarus from the dead. They had prepared a supper for Jesus.” (John 12:1-2)*

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In John 12:1-8, Jesus validates that we are created to relate. *“Six days before the Passover began, Jesus went back to Bethany, the town where he raised Lazarus from the dead” (John 12:1).* He returns to Bethany to connect with His friends.

Relating to others involves...

- **Prioritizing people over projects.** Jesus puts people first. He has a mission to fulfill and yet he made connecting with others a priority.
- **Being served by others.** *“They had prepared a supper for Jesus. Martha served...Miriam anointed Jesus’ feet. Then she wiped them dry with her long hair. And the fragrance of the costly oil filled the house” (John 12:2-3).* Although Jesus comes to serve, He also takes time to receive.
- **Courageously addressing concerns with others.** *“Jesus said to Judas, ‘Leave her alone! She has saved it for the time of my burial. You’ll always have the poor with you; but you won’t always have me’” (John 12:7-8).* Jesus boldly confronts Judas’ statement: *“What a waste! We could have sold this perfume for a fortune and given the money to the poor!” (John 12:5).*

Pause to explore with a partner or group member how you might be...

- **Neglecting important relationships in your life.** Answer the following questions: How might I put people first in my life? Who could benefit from receiving from me? How might I give first to this person?
- **Too proud to receive from others.** Pray with our group member about having more humility to be served by others. Others have feedback to offer you. God would want to involve others in meeting some of your relational needs.
- **Avoiding a problem that needs to be addressed.** Ask your group member to hold you accountable to confront difficult people in your life. Perhaps offer a confession about how you might have contributed to the relational disconnect.

Now pray together, asking that the Holy Spirit make you a great “friend” to those in your life: *“Dear Holy Spirit, help me to cherish the important people in my life, giving care to them and receiving from them as well.”*

# John 12 ENCOUNTER JESUS

*“Then suddenly a booming voice was heard from the sky, ‘I have glorified my name! And I will glorify it through you again!’”  
(John 12:28)*

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**E**ntering often into Spirit-led praise and worship seems to be characterized by...

- **Celebrating with praises (eulageo).** *“Everyone was shouting, ‘Lord, be our Savior! Blessed is the one who comes to us sent from Jehovah-God, the King of Israel’”* (John 12:13).
- **Casting out fear.** *“Then Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it to fulfill what was prophesied: ‘People of Zion, have no fear!’”*(John 12:14).
- **Exalting Jesus.** *“All the eyewitnesses kept spreading the news about Jesus to everyone... Isaiah said these things because he had seen and experienced the splendor of Jesus and prophesied about him”* (John 12:17, 41).
- **Drawing others to Him.** *“Now there were a number of foreigners from among the nations who were worshipers at the feat. They went to Philip and they asked him, ‘Would you take us to see Jesus?’”* (John 12:20-21).
- **Selflessness.** *“A single grain of wheat will never be more than a single grain of wheat unless it drops into the ground and dies... For I have come to fulfill my purpose—to offer myself to God”* (John 12:24, 27).
- **Growing faith.** *“Then Jesus told them, ‘The voice you heard was not for my benefit, but for yours—to help you believe’”* (John 12:30).
- **Spiritual awakening.** *“(T)he ruler of this dark world will be overthrown... I have come as a light to shine in this dark world so that all who trust in me will no longer wander in darkness”* (John 12:31,46).

Share with Jesus your hope regarding worship: *“Lord, I’m hoping my worship of You will be characterized more by \_\_\_\_\_ and less by \_\_\_\_\_.”*

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# John 12 EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

“...walk in the light...” (John 12:35)

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**E**ach of us has known of family or friends who started out following Jesus, only to be overtaken by the darkness of sin, self or Satan. How do we understand such return to worldliness, cold-heartedness, and rebellion?

In John 12:35-36, 46, Christ shares this illustration: the darkness is always chasing us and all we have to do for it to overtake us is to stop walking in God’s light! So how are we to understand God’s light and how are we to walk in it?

**To walk in His light involves frequent and recurring encounters with...**

- **Jesus.** *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life’”* (John 8:12). We can practice the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit’s work of Christ-likeness.
- **Scripture.** *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (Psalm 119:105). We can live “naturally supernatural” in all of life as God’s Spirit makes the written Word (logos) the living Word (Rhema).
- **Followers of Jesus.** *“You are the light of the world”* (Matthew 5:14). We can take courageous initiative as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life’s journey.

The Holy Spirit within us is also critical to our walking in God’s light. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals Jesus to us (see John 14:26); brings illumination to Scripture (see 1 John 2:27); and empowers our fellowship together as Christ’s followers (see 1 Corinthians 12:2-13). How’s your walk?

With your group members discuss the three sources of light—God’s Son, His Scripture, and His Saints.

- **Celebrate together one of the areas in which you are thriving:** “I’m doing well at yielding to Scripture’s protective cautions and transforming work through the Word.”
- **Pray together about one of the areas in which you could benefit from more exercise in walking in the light:** “Lord, help me to experience You as You really are through deepened intimacy with You!”

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