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GOSPEL





# THE BOOK OF GLORY

## Part 3 | John 13-18

### The Book of Glory...

In 2021 and 2022 we studied the first half of John's Gospel together, which is often referred to as 'The Book of Signs' (John 1-12). In it, John recounts eyewitness testimony about Jesus' *public* ministry, and the many *signs* he performed. These *signs* point to Jesus' true identity as God's chosen Messiah.

The section we'll focus on this term is often referred to as 'The Book of Glory' (John 13-21). Chronologically, things slow right down as John narrows in on the final few days of Jesus' earthly life. John gives us a glimpse of Jesus' *private* ministry to his disciples in the upper room as he prepares them for his death, and the passion account that follows.

So why call it 'The Book of Glory'? Undoubtedly, those who coined the phrase recognised that the glorification of Jesus was synonymous with his death, resurrection, and exaltation.

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Note: At the end of each study, you will see the following box:

**Faith • Hope • Love**

This is to remind us that as we pray for each other to grow in spiritual maturity, we should pray that we will grow in these ways:

- **Faith:** That we will learn to trust God in every situation and in all things.
- **Hope:** That we will grow to set our hearts on the treasure that we have in Jesus.
- **Love:** That we will grow in self-giving love - that puts others before ourselves

# Study One

## John 13:1-17

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*With power and status at people's disposal, what is your experience, or observations of the world around you, with respect to the use of that power? Cite some examples – past and present.*

### Read John 13:1-17

1. John signals a new section of his gospel here with his reference to the Passover (v1). Without going into the detail of the first Passover, how does John's 'gear change' here add to the direction of his gospel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  2. Have a look at the following verses. What do they tell us about what Jesus *knew*:
    - a. vs 1? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. vs 3? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - c. vs 11? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  3. The contrast between what Jesus *knows* and how he *acts* here is remarkable. What role does Jesus take when he washed his disciples' feet? What does this show us about Jesus' character? (refer to Philippians 2:6-7)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  4. How does Peter's interaction with Jesus (vs 6-11) help us understand the deeper significance, or symbolism, of what Jesus was preparing to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  5. What does Jesus mean in verse 8 when he says to Peter, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me'?
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6. What conclusion (vs 14-17) does Jesus draw from washing their feet? How does this attitude differ from the examples you spoke of at the start of this study?

⇒ *One danger of this passage might be to assume that Jesus is only an example for us to follow. Why is this not the case? How can we prevent ourselves from falling into this trap?*

⇒ *How are you personally challenged by Jesus' example and his command to do as he has done? How can you grow in this area of your life?*

⇒ *What does it look like for you to apply this passage as we serve one another at church?*

Prayer: Thank God for the humility he's shown in Christ's sacrificial love and service. Ask God for wisdom to follow his example as he commands us to.

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Two

# John 13:18-38

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*Think of a time when someone really let you down. How did you feel? How did you deal with it? What comforted you in the midst of the betrayal?*

## Read John 13:18-38

1. Against the backdrop of Jesus washing his disciples feet, there's an uncomfortable shift in the narrative that takes place in verse 18. What is Jesus alluding to? (hint: check out verse 21)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  2. How does Jesus' prediction aid his disciples in believing that he really is who he claimed to be?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  3. Despite the seriousness of his prediction, what seems to be Jesus' primary concern:
    - a. vs 19-20? \_\_\_\_\_
  
    - b. vs 31-32? \_\_\_\_\_
  
    - c. vs 34-35? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  4. How does John's writing help us to better understand:
    - a. the plans of Judas?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. the work of Satan?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - c. the purposes of God?
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5. Read Acts 2:23:

*<sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

How does this help us to understand the tension between human responsibility (embodied by Judas) and God's sovereign control over the events that John records for us?

6. What is the significance of the "new" commandment in vs34? Why is it important for disciples of Jesus?

⇒ *Think about the yardstick that Jesus gives to judge whether we are his disciples. How do you stack up?*

⇒ *What might it look like to apply his teaching: "by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (vs35) to your current life circumstances?*

Prayer: Ask God for wisdom to know how to love one another, and strength to carry it out.

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Three

## John 14:1-31

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*Think of a time when you were required to comfort someone or someone needed to comfort you. How did you feel? What was said? How was it comforting? Where did it fall short?*

With Jesus heading towards betrayal, the agony of the cross, and himself deeply troubled in his heart and spirit at what lies ahead (12:27) – it's *Jesus* who speaks words of comfort to his troubled and confused disciples....

### Read John 14:1-14

1. Discuss some of the reasons in these verses to suggest why the disciples may have been feeling anxious and troubled at this point.
2. How do Jesus words in verses 2-4 provide comfort for the disciples to trust in Jesus as he commands in verse 1?
3. How does Jesus respond to Thomas' question (vs 5) in verse 6-7? How would you explain these words of Jesus to a friend who is checking out the Christian faith?
4. What remarkable truths about Jesus are revealed in his interaction with Philip in verses 8-12? (see also John 1:14, 18; 12:45, Heb 1:3).
5. What 'greater things' might Jesus' followers do (vs 12-13)? How does Jesus *going* enable that to happen?



**Read John 14:15-31**

6. This section introduces two key themes which Jesus' teaching will expand on in the coming chapters – the place of obedience and the coming of the Holy Spirit:
- a. How are love and obedience connected in this passage (vs 15, 21, 23-24)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How do these verses introduce us to, and teach us about, the person and work of the Holy Spirit (vs 16-17, 20, 26)?

*[Note: we will spend more time learning about the Holy Spirit in study five and six.]*

⇒ *What comfort or challenges do you get from the image of the Father's house having many rooms?*

⇒ *How do you feel about the exclusive claims Jesus makes in 14:6?*

⇒ *What promise from these verses means the most to you and why?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Four

## John 15:1-17

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Read John 15:1-17

1. Draw a picture of the image that Jesus presents in 15:1-8. Label all the elements.



2. What does this image of Jesus as the vine (to which the branches must be attached) suggest about him?
3. What is the fate of the 'fruitless' branches? What sort of person do the fruitless branches represent?
4. From the context of the surrounding verses, what is the fruit that Jesus has in mind?

5. What work of God in the Christian life does this “pruning of branches to make them more fruitful” imagery describe?

⇒ *Clearly it is important for disciples to remain in Jesus. From the context of the passage, how do we remain in him?*

6. What does Jesus promise those who do remain in Him? In particular, what does he promise about the nature of his relationship with them?

7. How are we meant to understand the promise made in vs7? (hint: compare it with 14:13-14 & 16:23-26)

⇒ *Do you live as if obedience to Jesus’ commands & love for others is the way to joy? If not, why not? What aspects of your thoughts or your actions need to change?*

⇒ *Nobody sets out to stop abiding in Jesus, but it happens. What are some of the things we need to be conscious of to know if we’re moving in that direction?*

⇒ *What steps can you make together as a group to ensure it doesn’t happen to you, or anyone else in your group? (i.e. what will it look like to help one another to be fruitful branches, rather than cut-off ones?).*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Five

## John 15:18 - 16:5

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One of our mission partners at St Faith's is [Open Doors](#). What do you think about when you hear the phrase, 'the persecuted church'?

### Read John 15:18-16:5a

1. Why does 'the world' hate Jesus? Is such opposition inevitable? Why or why not?
2. What does 'belonging to the world' look like and involve? How do love and obedience of Jesus' commands play into this?
3. In verses 20-21, Jesus promises that his disciples will be persecuted *because of his name*. What do you think that phrase means? (see also John 14:13-14)
4. Jesus declares 'the world' guilty of sin for their hatred of him (v22-24). What is their guilt based upon?

In these next verses, Jesus shifts his focus from the *cause* of persecution (who Jesus is and why he's come) to the *response of Jesus' disciples* to persecution.

5. What do we learn about the person and work of the Holy Spirit through verses 26-27? In particular.....
  - a. His titles (see also 14:16, 26).
  - b. His purpose and work.

6. What is the purpose of Jesus' teaching for the disciples in this section (16:1, 4a)? How might we be challenged by that today?

7. What is the reason for such opposition (v3)? How does this relate back to the earlier verses in 15:18-21?

⇒ *How can a person's life testify about Jesus (15:26-27)? What does it look like for your life to testify about Jesus....*

○ *In your community or workplace?*

○ *In your home?*

○ *In your church?*

⇒ *How have you faced opposition from others in your life because you've lived in obedience to Jesus?*

⇒ *How can you face the future knowing that you will be persecuted on account of Jesus in your life?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Six

## John 16:5-33

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*What do each of these phrases have in common: "It's not you, it's me!"; "I need space"; "I need to find myself"; "We can still be friends"; "You'll be happier with me gone"; or "It's better for you that I go away".*

### Read John 16:5-15

1. How might Jesus' disciples have felt upon hearing Jesus' words in vs7? What have they misunderstood?
  - a. Why is it truly to their advantage that Jesus goes away?
  
2. What's the nature of the 'help' that the Spirit will provide (see 8-14)?
  
3. How will he prove the world wrong regarding sin (vs9), righteousness (vs10), and judgment (vs11)?
  
4. Focusing in on vs12-15:
  - a. What will the Spirit do?
  
  - b. How will he do it?
  
  - c. What will he *not* do?

**Read John 16:16-33**

5. What is the main source of the disciple's confusion?
  
6. Given that Jesus is the one facing imminent crucifixion and death, what is significant about his focus in vs19-22? Why do you think he does this?
  
7. Despite the emotional rollercoaster they're about to experience, things are going to change forever. What about 'that day' means that the disciples will 'no longer ask [Jesus] anything'?
  
8. What do you think it means to ask for something in Jesus' name? (see vs23-24) How might the Spirit help us in this?

⇒ *How might Jesus words to the disciples have brought them peace? How might it bring us peace?*

⇒ *What do you think about this statement: "There's a difference between knowing that there's more to know and needing to know more"?*

⇒ *Does your knowledge of Jesus' resurrection, and life with the Spirit, bring you joy? Or do you feel like you need to know more?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Seven

## John 17:1-26

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*Imagine you've just announced to your Community Group that you're leaving. You're moving to another country; you won't be seeing them for years and it's happening soon. You decide that you're going to pray for them. What would you pray? Why?*

What we're about to read is **the prayer of Jesus** before he is arrested, put on trial and crucified.

Don Carson says this about Jesus' prayer: *'In some respects the prayer is a summary of the entire Fourth Gospel to this point. Its principal themes include Jesus' obedience to his Father, the glorification of his Father through his death/exaltation, the revelation of God in Christ Jesus, the choosing of the disciples out of the world, their mission to the world, their unity modelled on the unity of the Father and the Son, and their final destiny in the presence of the Father and the Son.'*\*

**We will break the prayer into three sections** – read the section and then ask one another what you think the main themes are, who Jesus is praying for and why. There are some additional questions if you need some further guidance....

### Section 1 - John 17:1-5

1. What are the main themes of Jesus' prayer? Who is Jesus praying for and why?

Additional questions for further guidance.....

- How will Jesus glorify his Father?
- What, according to these verses, is eternal life? How is that different from how you may have explained eternal life to someone?
- How does Jesus give eternal life?

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\* Carson, D. A. (1991). [\*The Gospel according to John\*](#) (p. 551). Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

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## Section 2 – John 17:6-19

2. What are the main themes of Jesus' prayer? Who is Jesus praying for and why?

Additional questions for further guidance.....

- What glory comes to God through Jesus' disciples (v10)?
- What does Jesus mean when he says that his disciples are 'not of the world' (v16)?
- What does 'sanctify' mean (v17)? How does such sanctification come about (v17-19)?

## Section 3 – John 17:20-25

3. What are the main themes of Jesus' prayer? Who is Jesus praying for and why?

Additional questions for further guidance.....

- What picture of unity do we see in verses 21-23? What is the outcome of such unity?
- Discuss the sequence of 'making God known' to the world in verse 26.

⇒ *What do you learn about prayer after studying the prayers of Jesus (and being included in them yourself!)?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Eight

## John 18:1-27

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*Imagine John's gospel was written by Disney instead of the apostle John. What might a 'glorious Disney victory' look like as the king takes his rightful throne? Consider how different it might be from what John records for us as Jesus heads to the cross.*

### Read John 18:1-11

1. What is your impression of Jesus from this section?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is significant about the way arresting officers respond to Jesus? (see vs5-6). Why do you think they respond like this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In vs10 things get a little spicy as the narrative takes a violent turn:
  - a. What did Peter do? Why do you think he did it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Why was he wrong to do it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Why does Jesus tell Peter to stop?

### Read Isaiah 51:17-23

4. What is the 'cup' that Jesus is referring to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Who should be drinking from that cup?

⇒ *What difference does knowing that make in your life?*

**Read John 18:12-23**

6. What is your impression on Jesus from this section?

7. How do Jesus' words and actions contrast with Peter's words and actions?

8. What is Jesus' response to being slapped? (vs22-23). What doesn't he do? What does he do?

⇒ *What does that mean for us when we don't receive earthly justice?*

⇒ *What do you think we can learn from Peter's failures?*

⇒ *How is Jesus' glory seen in his arrest and interrogation? How does this shape and flavour your understanding of what 'glory' looks like?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Nine

## John 18:28-40

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*"What is truth? said jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer." Thus begins Francis Bacon's essay on truth, published back in 1597. Do you think our contemporary cultural moment values the truth? Why/why not?*

### Read John 18:28-40

1. Consider the actions of those that John records for us in the narrative:
  - a. What impression of Jesus' accusers emerges?
  - b. What impression of Pilate emerges?
  - c. What impression of Jesus emerges?
2. What is ironic about the Jewish leaders' concern about ceremonial uncleanness?
3. What 'truth' do we learn of Jesus' purpose and mission? What does he disclose?
4. What clues in the passage suggest that Pilate wasn't interested in the answer to his question: "What is truth"?
5. Given what the apostle John has chosen to record for us in his gospel, what answer do you think he would have given to Pilate's question in vs38?

⇒ *What principles does that answer hold for how you live your life?*

6. What irony is there in the release of Barabbas?

7. What should we make of the Jews' demand that Jesus be crucified? What does it reveal about their concern for truth and justice?

⇒ *What warning is there in that for us?*

⇒ *What does it look like for you to be 'on board' with that purpose and mission of Jesus:*

- *in the place that you spend the most time each day?*
- *with the immediate family that God has given you?*
- *with the spiritual family that God has given you (St Faith's)*

Prayer: Ask God for mercy that we might always recognise the truth of the gospel & the lordship of Jesus.

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# What's your next step in **pedals!**



**Pray** for their salvation. "Please soften .....’s heart so they accept you as their saviour".



Pray that God gives you an **Evangelistic Opportunity**.  
"Please give me an opportunity to talk about You with ....."



**Do** they know you're a Christian? If not, **Drop** a Christian word in a sentence. "How was your weekend?... I went to church...."

Do they know any other Christians? If not, WHO would be a good person to introduce them to? Who might they get along with? And HOW would you introduce them? For a social, coffee, beer, BBQ...? WHEN could you arrange this?



**Ask**. Have you asked them what they believe? If they've had any church experiences?

If it seems too soon for a spiritual convo, have you asked them what their interests are? Have you asked them WHY they like those interests? Have you asked them deeper questions? Have you shown a deeper and genuine interest in them?



**Listen**. Have you listened to their points of view? Their interests? Their struggles? Their loves? Their hates? Their beliefs? Their issues with Christianity?



**Share**. Have you shared with them why you're a Christian? What it means to be a Christian? The difference that Jesus has made in your life?



**Invite**. Have you invited them to hear more? What do you think would be best for them? Alpha? Read the Word 121? Read a book or listen to a podcast in their own time? Come to church?

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# pedals!

Name	Friend	Next Step

# You're invited!

## discover

Discover is a four week series exploring the Christian faith. Each session builds on the last, as we discover different aspects of God - our Creator, King, Father, Judge, Saviour and Helper and the deeply meaningful impact that has on our day to day life.

Each session starts with a delicious meal and an opportunity to connect, relax and build friendships.

The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation, with three ten minute short talks giving opportunity to process and discuss.

One of the most important parts of Discover is the chance to share thoughts and ideas. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously!). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute to your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

To find out when we are running the next Discover, visit [stfaiths.church/discover](http://stfaiths.church/discover) or email Marcus Druitt | Pastor [marcusestfaiths.org.au](mailto:marcusestfaiths.org.au)