

JOHN 13-17

OVERVIEW OF JOHN

“I would love to have been a fly on the wall in that room.”

Many of us have said something like this when reflecting on a crucial conversation that took place behind closed doors. John 13-17 offers us that very opportunity. These chapters invite us into one of the most sacred and significant conversations in history.

The Bible gives us four accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus—the Gospels. Each records the final Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples on the night before His crucifixion. Each writer emphasizes different elements of that evening and includes unique details. But only John lingers in the upper room. Only John slows the moment down allowing us to hear what Jesus said and see what He did over the course of those final hours.

Only John tells us that Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. Only John records their confusion, their fear, and their questions. Only John preserves Jesus’ extended promises about the Helper—the Holy Spirit. Only John invites us to overhear Christ’s intimate prayer—not only for the Twelve, but for all who would believe through their message.

In just 155 verses, John 13-17 opens a window into the heart and mind of Jesus on His final night before the cross. We see His compassion for His disciples. We hear His patience as He prepares them for what is to come. We sense His steady resolve as He faces the suffering before Him. And throughout the evening, we encounter promise after promise—glorious promises: promises to prepare a place, to return, to send the Spirit, to give peace, and to love to the very end.

For believers throughout the centuries, these chapters have been a wellspring of comfort, courage, and clarity. What would Jesus say if we had only one night together? We do not have to speculate. Through John's Spirit-inspired Gospel, we are given the answer. The question now is whether we will listen—whether we will read carefully, ponder prayerfully, and allow the words of Jesus to shape our lives.

Welcome to the upper room with Jesus.

DAILY READINGS

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| I. JOHN 13:1-28 | V. JOHN 16:16-24 |
| II. JOHN 14:1-31 | VI. JOHN 16:25-33 |
| III. JOHN 15:1-25 | VII. JOHN 17:1-26 |
| IV. JOHN 15:26-16:15 | |

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 12:46

JOHN 13-17

**Before the cross, before the arrest,
Jesus gathers with His disciples in an
upper room for one final evening together.**

He knows what is coming. The hour has arrived. And with the time that remains, He turns His full attention to those who have been following Him.

| John 13-17 captures what He chooses to say.

These chapters are not public teaching meant for the crowds. They are personal and intentional, words given to prepare His disciples for what lies ahead. Jesus is going away, and they will remain. So He gives them what they will need most.

He calls them to love one another. He reminds them that He alone is the way to the Father. He teaches them to remain in Him, like branches connected to a vine. He prepares them for trouble and promises them peace. And He prays, for them and for all who will believe through them.

This is more than a final conversation. It is a foundation for what it means to follow Jesus. These words were meant to shape the lives of His disciples then, and they still shape ours today.

Grid of dots for notes.

DISCUSSION

Imagine you were going on a two-year trip around the world. Who would you want to have over for your last evening at home before you left? What would you want to talk about? How would you feel if your closest friend or family member were the one leaving for two years?

When you think of the last night Jesus spent on the earth before His crucifixion, what are the images that come to your mind? What do you picture when you hear the words “upper room” or “last supper?”

Why is it significant that everything on this final night—leading up to Jesus’ arrest—is directed only to His true disciples, with Judas leaving before the teaching begins? What did Jesus want to entrust to them that He was not offering to the crowds?

Read these key verses aloud.

Read each one two times, pausing between verses to allow all the individuals to reflect and the group to respond with insights or comments.

- John 13:1
- John 13:34-35
- John 14:6
- John 15:4-5
- John 16:33
- John 17:20-21

Pray for the upcoming study in John 13-17.

Ask God to do what only He can do in and through you and your group as you commit together to engage with these passages.

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one
who believes in me should stay in darkness."

JOHN 12:46

