SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

John

Chapter 12

The Hour Has Come

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 12:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in John 12

John 12 is the week the hour finally comes. Mary pours out her best, the crowds cheer a King they don't understand, and Jesus tells us about a seed that has to die to bear fruit. This week, ask Him what you are holding back — and let Him show you the life on the other side of letting go.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the John study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Perfume at Bethany

READ · JOHN 12:1–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Mary pour on Jesus' feet, and what filled the house (v. 3)? What did Judas say, and what does John tell us about him (vv. 5–6)?

REFLECT

Mary gave something worth about a year's wages without counting the cost (vv. 3, 5). What is the most costly thing you could give Jesus right now — and what makes you hold back?

REFLECT

Judas sounded spiritual ("given to poor people," v. 5) but his heart was elsewhere (v. 6). Where do you use the right words to cover the wrong motive?

RESPOND — TODAY

Give Jesus one thing today that costs you something — time, money, or pride — and don't tell anyone.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 12:24)

DAY 2 OF 5

Your King Is Coming

READ · JOHN 12:12–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the crowd carry and shout (v. 13)? What did Jesus ride, and which prophecy did it fulfill (vv. 14–15)?

REFLECT

The crowd wanted a king to fight Rome; Jesus came "seated on a donkey's colt" (v. 15). What did you expect Jesus to do for you when you came to Him, and how has He been a different King than you wanted?

REFLECT

"These things His disciples did not understand at the first" (v. 16). What is God doing in your life right now that you don't understand yet — and can you trust Him with it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray "Hosanna" — "Save us now" — over the hardest situation you face, and ask Jesus to be King there on His terms, not yours.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 12:24)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Grain of Wheat

READ · JOHN 12:20–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the Greeks ask Philip (v. 21)? What happens to a grain of wheat that does not die, and what happens if it does (v. 24)?

REFLECT

A grain kept safe "remains alone" (v. 24). What part of your life are you protecting so tightly that it is keeping you alone — your pride, your past, your control?

REFLECT

Jesus says, "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me" (v. 26). Where is Jesus leading that you have been slow to follow?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one thing you are holding in a closed fist. Open your hand in prayer and give it to God. Tell a brother what it is.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 12:24)

DAY 4 OF 5

Troubled and Lifted Up

READ · JOHN 12:27–36

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus say about His soul (v. 27), and what did He pray instead of "save Me from this hour" (v. 28)? What did He say would happen when He is lifted up (v. 32)?

REFLECT

Jesus was troubled and still obeyed (vv. 27–28). Where is your soul troubled right now, and what would it look like to pray "Father, glorify Your name" right there?

REFLECT

"Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you" (v. 35). What step of obedience have you been putting off that you need to take while you can?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take the step from verse 35 today. Then thank Jesus that He was lifted up on the cross to draw you to Himself (v. 32).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 12:24)

DAY 5 OF 5

Believe in the Light

READ · JOHN 12:37–50

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Why did many rulers believe but not confess Jesus (vv. 42–43)? According to verse 47, what did Jesus come to do — and not do?

REFLECT

"They loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God" (v. 43). Whose approval are you most afraid to lose if you speak openly about Jesus?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness" (v. 46). What area of your life still feels dark, and what would it mean to bring it into His light?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person this week, plainly, what Jesus has done for you. Pray for a man you know who is still walking in darkness.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 12:24)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Martha served, Lazarus sat at the table, and Mary poured out the perfume (vv. 2–3). Which of the three are you most like right now, and what would it look like to take the next step toward Jesus?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The chief priests planned to kill Lazarus too, because people believed in Jesus on account of him (vv. 10–11). How is your changed life a witness to others — and what might it cost you?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Some heard the Father's voice and said "it had thundered" (v. 29). How can a man hear God's Word and miss it — and what helps you really hear?

MY PRAYER

Father, glorify Your name in me; Lord Jesus, I want to stop holding my life in my own hand, so today I give You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · JOHN 12:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."