

# the gospel of *john*

## tool kit Part 4

The Gospel of John is a literary masterpiece. It is simultaneously simple and complex, straightforward and mysterious, beautiful and haunting. In it we find some of the most memorable events in the life of Jesus as well as some of his most demanding words. Because there are no other biblical books like it, the gospel of John has drawn the attention of simple Christians, people variously opposed to the Bible, and the greatest Biblical scholars in world history since it was penned in the first century. There is simply no other book like it.

In this preaching series, we will walk through the gospel at a pace that is intentionally balanced so as to allow a focus on individual words and sentences without losing sight of the larger themes and metanarrative, elements which this gospel is built upon. The following pages are part 2 of resources intended as a supplement to this preaching series. They can be used in a variety of ways, from deeper individual study or devotion, small group discussion, to family dinner-table discussion. Just like a chest of tools, pull out whatever part of this kit is useful for your specific need. You need not master all of its contents to put it to good use. Enjoy parts or the whole, just enjoy.

### Tools in the Kit

- Discussion Questions Part 4



## Discussion Questions Part 4

Just how is one supposed to utilize these discussion questions? Because this section of the tool kit is probably the most important, this question is central. The answer: these discussion pages can be used in several ways. They can also be used in any combination. Use one or all of them.

Following the above proposed preaching schedule we offer a separate page for each sermon passage. These questions allow for a diversity of applications and plenty of white space to write notes. Among other uses, each page is designed for at least three distinct applications: deeper individual or devotional study; small group discussion; family devotions and meal-time thought questions. NOTE WELL: Questions intended for family devotions or meal-times are underlined.

**Devotional Use** – Individuals may want to use these pages in their own Bible study times during the week. In this case, all of the questions can be mined in turn, writing in the white space or on the back of the facing page.

**Small Group Use** – Use of these discussion pages within a small group setting necessitates that you move quicker through the “Engage the Text” section to focus more on the application questions (at length). This approach will also allow for the useful devotional use above and keep the small group discussion moving to a good conclusion focused on life change. Since most small groups this Fall will not begin meeting until after Labor Day, our discussion pages includes a “Catch Up” page which will serve as the first for small groups after Labor Day. It will cover all of chapter one and will place these groups back in line with the weekly sermons.

**Family Use** – The underlined questions are so highlighted because they serve as open-ended questions that would easily fit into a family meal time or devotional discussions. It may go like this: “Thinking about the sermon and study last Sunday at church, what do you think about...?”

**Challenge** – These closing comments are intended as activities to focus on throughout the week. Ask about these activities next time you meet together.

For sake of length and preparation time, we have decided to release these questions in several parts. Pay attention to the website for the final installment of questions to appear under the Tool Kit icon. We recommend that you print each section of the tool kit and mark it up with your own comments.



# John 13:1~38 – Love in Dirty Water

## Starter Questions

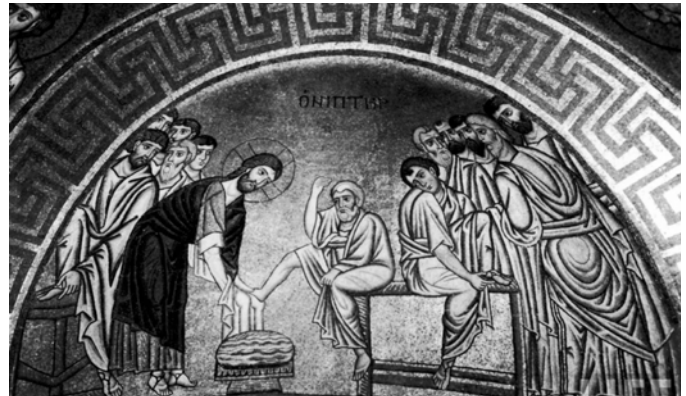
Who is the most humble person you know?

Who is the most loving person you know?

## Engage the Text

Take time to reread John 13.

In one word, what would you say this passage is about?



What is significant about the timing of this narrative (13:1)?

What does it mean that Jesus' "hour had come"?

Can you identify five things that Jesus "knew" in verses 1-4?

Why do you think Simon Peter reacted this way in 13:6?

How do verses 10 and 11 help you understand the meaning of "wash" and "bath/clean" respectively? (HINT: Who is the one who is "not clean"?)

In 13:15, what kind of example did Jesus give his disciples? An example of what?

Do you notice any significant shift in 13:20?

So far Jesus has been the "sent one" throughout John. How does He progress the idea here?

What would a Passover meal in the first-century have looked like?

How does John's Gospel treat the person of Judas?

How do you interpret 13:2 and 13:27?

What is "new" about the commandment to "love one another"?

## Application Questions

What do you think it means that "no slave is greater than his master"?

How would you apply this truth to your life?

How can you appropriate in your own life the kind of "humble love" that Jesus shows here?

How is your love for other people? How would you rate in on a scale of 1 to 10?

What relationship in your life right now needs some "humble love" maintenance?

# John 13:39~14:15 – The Father on Display

## **Starter Questions**

What individual on this earth knows you the best?

How does this intimate knowledge of you show up?

## **Engage the Text**

Take the time to reread John 14-17 in one sitting.

It is very important to get a feel for the unity of the whole passage.

What would be troubling the disciples' hearts (“your” in 14:1 is plural)?

Restate Jesus' dialogue with Thomas about “the way” in your own words. Trace the dialogue through 14:4-7.

Restate Jesus' dialogue with Philip about “the Father” in your own words. Trace it through 14:8-21.

What does “I am in the Father and the Father is in me” really mean?

How would you explain this statement to someone who doesn't believe in the gospel?

What does it mean to ask “in My name”?

How is this different than simply asking for anything?

Does 14:14 mean that we have a “blank check” kind of opportunity in prayer?

How do 14:12-14 qualify what Jesus will do in response to asking “in My name”?

## **Application Questions**

What are you most fearful of?

What is Jesus' antidote for fear in this passage?

How does it encourage you to know that Jesus has prepared a “dwelling room” for you?

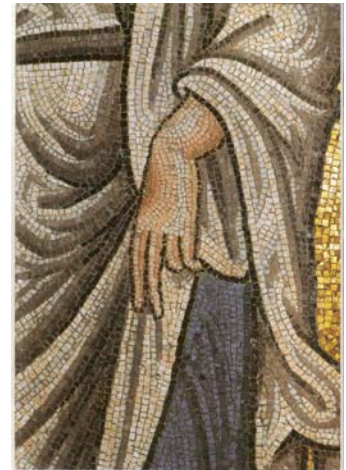
How do you interact with people that believe there are “many” ways to God, just like there are many paths to the top of a mountain? How does John 14:6 challenge this notion?

How would you explain the Trinity to someone? Do you believe the Trinity is important?

How would you explain the relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son?

What role does prayer play in your life?

What is the relationship between love and obedience? How about in relationship to God?



# John 14:16~31 – The Forgotten God

## **Starter Questions**

Who is the best person you've ever worked with? Why?

## **Engage the Text**

Take the time to reread all of John 14.

Although we are starting again in verse 16, where does the current discussion begin?  
What is the question that starts this dialogue?



(NOTE: The word “another” in 14:16 does not mean “different,” but “of the same kind.” Since Jesus is speaking, the significance of this word is worth some meditation.)

Where is the residence of this Spirit of truth?  
What does Ephesians 1:13-14 add to this picture?

In v.21, how is love for Jesus characterized?

How does our variable and shifting love for Jesus differ from His love for us?

What in the dialogue precipitates Judas' question about “disclosure”?  
Restate Judas' question in your own words.

(NOTE: The word “abode” or “dwelling” in 14:23 is the same word as in 14:2.)  
What significance do you notice in this connection?

Why does Jesus continue to emphasize the connection between “love” and “obedience”?

In context, who does the “you” refer to in 14:26? Does this apply to us today?

In v.28, what does “go away” and “come to you” refer to?

## **Application Questions**

What does it mean to you that Jesus says “because I live you will live also” (14:19)?

What does it mean when Jesus says “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you” (14:27)?  
How do you experience peace in your life right now?  
Where is there a complete lack of peace?

What specific gifts do you and others think the Holy Spirit has given you? (1 Cor 12)?  
How are you currently exercising these gifts?

# John 15:1~16 – Joy in Fruitfulness

## Starter Questions

What gives you the deepest sense of accomplishment and contentment?

Why?

## Engage the Text

Take time to reread John 15.

Within the entire chapter, what stands out to you as the central idea?

Can you find a purpose statement where Jesus explicitly says why he is speaking about this?

Underline or note each time “bear fruit” or “fruit” appears in 15:1-16. What do you make of this?

(NOTE: The verb “prune” in 15:2 is directly related to the noun “clean” in 15:3. They have the same root.)



In context, what does the “do nothing” in 15:5 refer to?

Within the overall purpose of this chapter, how would you restate 15:6 in your own words?

What is the difference between a “disciple” and a “believer”?

How does the statement of 15:11 help to interpret the entire passage?

Since the subject slightly changes gears in v.12, how does “love” relate to fruitfulness?

How does 15:16 help connect these two ideas?

How would you summarize Jesus’ teaching in 15:1-16 in your own words?

## Application Questions

What fruit is the Holy Spirit working to bear in your life right now (Galatians 5:22-23)?

How is God “pruning” or encouraging you to bear more fruit?

How are you laboring to “abide” in Jesus? What practical steps are you taking?

Does your spiritual life produce joy? Why or why not?

How can you love others “as Jesus loved His disciples” or as He loves you now?

# John 15:17~16:4a – Stumbling in the World

## *Starter Questions*

As a believer, where do you feel the greatest sense of tension or friction with the world?

## *Engage the Text*

Take time to reread John 15:1-16:4.



# John 16:4b~15 – Role of the Holy Spirit

## ***Starter Questions***

What would your life look like with a full-time personal assistant?

## ***Engage the Text***

Take time to reread John 16.



# John 16:16~33 –Joy and Grief

## *Starter Questions*

What is the greatest loss you have experienced?

## *Engage the Text*

Take time to reread John



# John 17:1~12 – Lord’s Prayer Part 1

## ***Starter Questions***

What is your biggest prayer request right now?

## ***Engage the Text***

Take time to reread John 17.



# John 17:13~26 – Lord's Prayer Part 2

## ***Starter Questions***

In what individual have you invested the most of your time and energy?

## ***Engage the Text***

Take time to reread John 17.

