



Series Overview and Guides

2025 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 6

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We courageously follow Jesus in new life.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

—John 16:33

"The promise of suffering for the church is a distinction in the history and literature of God's people...Simply stated, believers in the OT suffered *for their lack of faith (or disobedience)*, while believers in the NT are *promised suffering for their obedient faith*...Christian persecution did not cease after the early centuries. Scholarly volumes document persecution and martyrdom throughout the Middle Ages and recent times [with current] estimates exceeding 90,000 Christian deaths per year resulting from persecution. Thus, believers in Jesus today should not think that experiencing persecution suggests their faith is in error. [Rather], such righteous suffering serves as a dramatic avenue for disciples to glorify Christ who suffered on their behalf."

—Cory Marsh

"On Account of My Name"
*Journal of the Evangelical
Theological Society*



Premise

why we are studying this

In many areas of the globe, including America, we are enjoying a remarkable spiritual harvest. People groups who were considered unreachable – from indigenous tribes in the Amazon basin to Gen Z people in big cities – are in great numbers turning to Jesus. Now, these new believers are desperate for wisdom on following Christ. In John 13-21 we gain the resources needed to bless our own lives and theirs.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth."

—John 17:15-19 NLT

"Evangelicals can't expect the strategies and structures of the positive and neutral worlds will continue to sustain us in this new era [of the negative world]. This means more emphasis on being countercultural [while] remaining focused on mission."

—Aaron Renn

Life in the Negative World

Theme

what the study is about

John takes us from the Upper Room Discourse through the High Priestly Prayer to Jesus' brutal death, resurrection, and commission. In the process, we meet the Lord who is master of His destiny and provider for ours. Believing in Him, one has life abundantly and eternally. Following Him, one experiences courage, love, fruitfulness, and peace that surpass comprehension.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"As for you, follow me."

—John 21:22

"When Jesus asks Peter, 'What is that to you?' (21:24), He is trying to teach the disciple a valuable lesson: God doesn't deal with us on a comparative basis, but on an individual one. He redeems us individually. He rebukes us individually. He rewards us individually."

'Follow Me!' That's the challenge put to Peter. Not to follow John or the rest of the disciples or the majority, but 'Me!'

If you try to follow Jesus while looking over your shoulder to see what direction other Christians are going, sooner or later you're going to stub your toe or stray into a tree. No, you can only *follow* Him if your eyes are *fixed* on Him – Him and only Him."

—Ken Gire and Charles Swindoll
Beholding Christ, the Lamb of God

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this study guide is based on the sermon and personal study notes of

Dr. M. Wayne Braudrick
Lead Pastor, Frisco Bible Church

and is developed by the Frisco Bible Curriculum Team:

Contributors:

AJ Rinaldi, Steve Wilson, Tom Cutrell,
Lauren Noske, Jeanie Brooks

General Editor:

AJ Rinaldi

Layout and Design:

Steve Wilson

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Frisco Bible Church
8000 Sanctuary Drive
Frisco, TX 75033
972.335.8150
contactus@friscobible.com
www.friscobible.com



Frisco Bible Church
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SERIES 6 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-35

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus exemplifies a new way of leadership where authority is expressed in humble service. This kind of surrender glorifies God as Christians choose to love one another. John will become so enamored with this ideal that what he calls "the law of love" will permeate all his writings.

OBJECTIVE

We love one another.

HUMBLE SERVICE

"The towel and the basin, not the sword and the crown, mark the authority of Jesus."

—Dallas Willard
The Divine Conspiracy

"Power, no matter how well-intentioned, tends to cause separation. Service, on the other hand, creates community."

—Philip Yancey
What's So Amazing About Grace?

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we humbly serve one another.

Session 1: The New Leadership

1. Read John 13:1-10. By washing the feet of the disciples, Jesus demonstrated a new way of leadership where authority is expressed in humble service.
 - How is God glorified when Christians choose to love one another?
 - Why was Peter reluctant to let Jesus wash his feet? What does his reaction reveal about his understanding and expectations of Jesus' role?
 - How do Jesus' actions contrast with the world's view of leadership?
2. Read John 13:11-20. Jesus teaches his disciples to follow His example of humility.
 - What are "these things" that Jesus says the disciples should know? (verse 17)
 - What are some practical ways can we do "these things" in our service to each other?
3. Read John 13:21-30. In this passage, Jesus predicted His betrayal.
 - What does Jesus' foreknowledge demonstrate about His nature? How does it affect the way we trust God, even in difficult circumstances?
 - Jesus still invited Judas to participate in the meal (verse 26). What does this teach us about God's grace?
4. Read John 13:34-35 and 1 John 2:7-11.
 - What is the new commandment Jesus gives his disciples?
 - How does this command relate to the imagery of light and darkness (or night)?
 - Why do you think John emphasized in verse 20 that "it was night" when Judas betrayed Him?



SERIES 6 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:36-14:11

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus details a new way. It is telling that the first two centuries of Christians most often described themselves as “followers of The Way.” Jesus here answers a series of questions from His disciples. In the process He details aspects of His way:

- It is beyond mortal humanity, even (and especially?) Peter. (13:36-38)
- It is accessed by belief. (14:1-4) [This appears to have been the text that inspired Bunyan to create *The Pilgrim’s Progress*.]
- It is Jesus – the way, the One with the Father, the doer of miracles. (14:5-11)

OBJECTIVE

We follow The Way.

THE WAY

“Jesus did not say that He would show us the way, teach us the truth, or give us life. He said He *is* the way, the truth, and the life. That is, He is the embodiment of the way to God, the embodiment of God’s truth, and the embodiment of God’s life.”

John Stott
Basic Christianity

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we follow faithfully after Jesus.

Session 2: The New Way

1. Read John 13:36-38. *The Way is beyond mortal humanity.*

- Jesus said, “You cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” What did He mean by that?
- How is “The Way” beyond mortal humanity?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal Peter’s coming denial in this moment?

2. Read John 14:1-4. *The Way is accessed by belief.*

- What did Jesus mean when he said, “Don’t let your heart be troubled”? What was likely troubling the disciples in that moment?
- What does it mean that Jesus is preparing a place for us?
- How does this promise strengthen your faith?

3. Read John 14:5-11. *The Way is Jesus.*

- What does it mean that Jesus is the way, not a way? How does this impact how we think about eternity and salvation?
- How did Jesus’ words and works reveal the Father to the disciples?
- In what ways does this passage encourage you? How can we remind ourselves and one another to “believe also in Jesus” when life is hard or uncertain?



SERIES 6 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:12-31

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus reveals a startling new aspect of the New Covenant, something only hinted at in Jeremiah and Isaiah. The Christian can live in Jesus' name; that is, according to His ethos & pathos. Engaging Triune God in Jesus' name changes all of life. It positions one as:

- a minister endowed with heavenly authority
- a family member with the Father, Son, and Spirit
- to enjoy the presence of God
- a recipient of the peace of Christ

OBJECTIVE

We live in Jesus' name.

IN HIS NAME

"Praying in Jesus' name means coming to the Father in prayer as Jesus' representative. Jesus introduced the idea of representing Him in verse. When we pray in Jesus' name, we claim to be acting for Him. Someone who prays that way will always ask only what is God's will or what is subject to God's will since that is always how Jesus related to His Father. It is impossible to pray in Jesus' name and to ask something contrary to God's will."

—Thomas L. Constable
Constable's Notes on John

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we are fully engaged with Jesus.

Session 3: The New Engagement

1. In verse 12, Jesus says believers will "do greater works than these."
 - What does He mean by "greater works"? (e.g. greater in Number? Scope? Impact?)
 - What would "greater works" look like in our church today?
 - Why is it important that He first "goes to the Father"?
2. Verses 13-14 promise that whatever believers ask "in His name" will be done.
 - What does this mean?
 - Are there any limits on this promise? (Consider the Thomas Constable quote in the sidebar.)
3. Read John 14:16-21. The Greek word for Counselor (*paraklete*) means called to one's side, to plead one's case before a judge.
 - Who is the "other paraklete" promised by Jesus?
 - How does Jesus' resurrection life ("because I live, you also will live") give meaning to the disciples' future and to ours?
 - How is Jesus' promise of not leaving them as orphans fulfilled through the Spirit?
4. Read John 14:27-31.
 - What is the difference between the peace that Jesus gives versus the peace that the world gives?
 - Jesus tells His disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." Why might they have been troubled or afraid in this moment?
 - What are some things that trouble your heart? How does this passage comfort you?



SERIES 6 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-25

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus reveals the richness of Christian experience through abiding in Christ. Dwelling in Him, we can bear fruit. By obeying Him, we can enjoy friendship with Jesus and each other. By keeping His word, we overcome the hatred of the world.

OBJECTIVE

We enjoy friendship with Jesus.

ABIDE

"These two verses (vv. 4-5) seem to encapsulate what Jesus meant by 'abide.' For the grape branch, attachment to the vine gives life and enables the natural production of fruit. The attachment is not glue or magnetic or mechanical adhesion, but interwoven, living connection. Life flows from the vine to the branches and the branches are made part of the life of the vine. Implied in this is utter, complete dependence on God working through Messiah Jesus."

—Martin MacDonald

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we bear fruit and remain in Him.

Session 4: The New Relationships

1. Read John 15:1-11. *We relate to Jesus.*

- Jesus uses the word "abide" multiple times in this passage. What does it mean to abide in Jesus? How is this different from merely believing in Him?
- What aspects of our world or flesh make it difficult to abide in Him?
- According to verse 8, how is the Father glorified?
- In verse 2, the Greek word for remove (*airei*) means to elevate or lift from the ground. How does this help you understand the role of the vinedresser and your relationship to the Father?

2. Read John 15:12-17. *We relate to our brethren.*

- How does Jesus' love for us (v. 12) set the standard for how we love others?
- What does it mean to be called Jesus' friend? How does this differ from merely being a follower or servant? (vv. 14-15)
- How can we cultivate friendships that reflect Jesus' sacrificial love?

3. Read John 15:18-25. *We relate to the world.*

- Why was Jesus hated by the world? How did He respond to those who persecuted Him?
- Should believers expect to experience persecution from the world? Why? (vv. 20-21)
- Have you ever experienced rejection, ridicule, or hostility because of your faith? How did you respond?

