

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Oct. 26th, 2025

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Text

John 11:45-12:11

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation." 49 Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! 50 You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." 51 He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, 52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. 53 So from that day on they plotted to take his life. 54 Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples. 55 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. 56 They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, "What do you think? Isn't he coming to the festival at all?" 57 But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.

12 *1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the*

poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." 9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

Overview of Sermon

This week, Pastor Mike took us into the passage that deals with the outcome of Lazarus being raised from the dead in which not everyone was thrilled about this miracle. Just as a reminder to us all, John wrote this Gospel in order that those who read it might believe in Jesus as Lord and that by belief would come to have life in Jesus (John 20:30-31). The goal for us as a church as we journey through this Gospel is to recognize the instances where we encounter Jesus in our lives and then re-orient ourselves around Him. The same was for the Jews who encountered Jesus or who heard about the miracle He had performed, then came to faith in Jesus as the Messiah. However, not everyone was a fan of Jesus and still were skeptical and even hostile to Him and His ministry. The Jewish leaders gathered as the Sanhedrin and agreed that Jesus was growing as a threat to the nation of Israel's way of life, political power, and security so they plotted to kill him.

Jesus begins to move around Israel more quietly and just before Passover he heads to Bethany for a dinner in his honor. There, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus throw Jesus a party to celebrate and as an act of honor, Mary took a pint of nard, poured it on the feet of Jesus, and washed his feet with her hair. This was an extravagant act of honor and worship to Jesus for who He was and what He had done. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, was mortified that the perfume was wasted when all He wanted was to skim some money off the top to keep for himself. Jesus recognizes her act of devotion and foreshadows his coming death.

Mary's act was one of extravagant abandon that recognized how much Jesus is worth and how little the things of this world are worth. It's not to say physical things don't matter or can't be enjoyed, but rather they need to be put in place around Jesus being the centre of our lives. Our time and how we spend it might be the most extravagant gift that we can pledge and surrender to Jesus. To surrender our time to Jesus is be a disciple who has encountered the risen Lord in their own life.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What's the most extravagant gift you've ever given or received? What made it so special?

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- What are the different responses to Jesus in this passage? (Mary, Judas, Jewish Leaders, Crowd of Jews)
- Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus? What was at stake for them?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- The sermon defined “extravagant abandon” as “the intentional act of surrender to Jesus and Jesus only that leads one to reorienting their life around the person, the works, and the teachings of Jesus”. Does this definition excite, challenge, or intimidate you? Why?
- The sermon mentioned several areas where our time reveals our priorities: entertainment, relationships, family, money, comfort. Which of these do you most struggle with keeping Jesus at the centre of your life?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: How does my time reflect that Jesus is at the centre of my life?

- I would encourage in your small groups to set aside 10-15 minutes to do a “time audit”. It's exactly what it sounds like, review the past week, set blocks into your calendar of how you spent your time.
- If you have a hard time remembering what you did, keep a time audit for the week ahead. This can be a helpful tool to review the day and see what you spend your time on.

Prayer: Jesus, be the centre of my life. Guide me as I seek to steward my time in a way that honours You and makes You known. Amen.

Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.