

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 13

Days 150 - 160

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A Daily Devotional Study Of The Gospel Of John

You will need a Bible of your own to do this devotional study. Reading the Bible with an open heart and mind brings us into God's presence, and getting to know God is accomplished by spending time with him on a daily basis. This study is designed to develop or maintain the habit of meeting daily with God, sometimes referred to as a devotional time with God. It doesn't have to take a large chunk of time, but it needs to be focused on the Scriptures (the Bible). It doesn't have to cover a lot of material or content every day, it just needs to be understood and applied to our lives.

The study days are numbered so that you can do them any day of the week, preferably one each day. However, if you miss a day, it won't matter because the days are not assigned a date or day of the week.

My approach to the study is a verse by verse exploration and application of God's Word to our lives. This is an *inductive* study, which means that we derive meaning from the Biblical text itself rather than from outside sources. The passages for each day are short, to enable you to focus more in depth on a few verses at a time. I frequently bring additional Scripture into the discussion in an effort to ensure accurate interpretation of the day's topics.

How This Devotional Study Works

1. In your Bible, look up and read the verses for the day.
2. Write the first verse for the day in the top left space under *What it Says* (Row 1, Column 1).
3. Working left to right, read the comments in the *Meanings/Principles* space (Row 1, Column 2).
4. Then, write your answers to the questions to clarify *What it Means to Me* (Row 1, Column 3).
5. Continue by writing the next verse in Row 2, Column 1, reading Row 2 Column 2, and writing answers to questions in Row 2, Column 3.
6. Continue working left to right as you go down the page.

To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important information given in that verse and then answer the questions in column three related to the verse. (*Work left to right. It is important to answer each question based on the verse and its meaning in column two.*)

You may choose to either 1) print pages and write in the spaces provided or 2) enter your responses on your computer. If you use your computer you can save your work, then come back and print at any time. If your response exceeds the space allowed you can scroll the text area to see the complete text; but if you print, some of the text may be hidden.

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:1</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1157"></div>	<p>Jesus loves us.</p>	<p>What is the full extent of Jesus' love for me?</p> <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 1157"></div>
<p>John 13:2</p> <div data-bbox="100 1203 428 1623"></div>	<p>Jesus knew that he was about to be condemned, but was still able to love and to demonstrate his love.</p>	<p>How can I continue with integrity when I am condemned or betrayed?</p> <div data-bbox="789 1203 1524 1623"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 13:3 	Jesus knew who he was. Jesus was secure in his position before God, his true identity.	What is my true identity? (Ephesians 1:3-14)
John 13:4 	Jesus was able to voluntarily act for our good by demonstrating humility.	What is God calling me to that requires actions for the good of others right now, ahead of my own pride?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:5</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 974"></div>	<p>Jesus humbled himself and lowered himself to the status of a slave or servant so that we would have an example of true love, God's kind of love.</p>	<p>How might God be asking me to humble myself today in order to provide an example of God's love to someone in my life?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 974"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:6</p>	<p>It is okay to ask the Lord what he is doing.</p>	<p>Have I asked the Lord about the events in my life I don't understand?</p>
<p>John 13:7</p>	<p>We sometimes have to take God's answers by faith because they are beyond our experience and understanding.</p>	<p>How do I feel about the kind of answer Jesus gave Peter, when he gives me the same answer?</p>
<p>John 13:8</p>	<p>It is not okay to tell the Lord what events will be allowed, or what he can or can't do in our lives. If the Lord is doing something in our lives, it is for a reason, and it is for our good.</p>	<p>Is there an area of my life in which I am telling God what he can do or can't do, or how it will be?</p> <p>How can I entrust that area of my life to God?</p>

Day 151 **Read John 13:6-8**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:9</p>	<p>We need to be washed by Jesus, and we have been if we believe he is God's Son and have asked him to forgive our sins. Peter was eager to do whatever Jesus asked in order to walk with him.</p>	<p>How can I remain eager to do whatever Jesus asks as I walk with him?</p>
<p>John 13:10</p>	<p>Believing in Jesus provides for our sins to be removed. It makes us clean. As we go through each day, we are still fallen human beings in a fallen world, and Jesus needs to cleanse our sins and faults as they occur.</p>	<p>How can I experience daily cleansing of my sins? (I John 1:9)</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:11</p>	<p>Judas was not cleansed. He did not believe that Jesus was God's Son who was the only one who could take care of his sin. Those in unbelief do not value the Son of God or his followers and easily betray them for personal gain.</p>	<p>How deeply do I value the Son of God and all who have been cleansed by belief in his name?</p> <p>How do I <i>demonstrate</i> how deeply I value the Son of God?</p> <p>How do I <i>demonstrate</i> how deeply I value Christ's followers?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:12</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1047"></div>	<p>Serving others means setting aside position and pride. It sometimes means working and getting dirty!</p>	<p>Have I ever set aside position and worked for the good of others to the point of getting dirty?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 1047"></div>
<p>John 13:13</p> <div data-bbox="100 1094 428 1444"></div>	<p>Jesus accepts our praise and worship. He is our teacher and our Lord, our Master.</p>	<p>Does the kindness of Jesus sometimes cause me to forget that I am his servant? How can I best avoid that?</p> <div data-bbox="789 1127 1524 1444"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:14</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1014" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 349px;"></div>	<p>If the Son of God, our Lord, set aside pride and comfort for our benefit, we can do it for one another. (Philippians 2:5-8)</p>	<p>How can I “wash another’s feet” today? Next week?</p> <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 1014" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 349px;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:15</p>	<p>Jesus showed us how we ought to behave toward one another: we do not lord it over others, but rather serve them. (Mark 9:33-37)</p>	<p>In what ways could I consistently model serving other followers of Jesus?</p>
<p>John 13:16</p>	<p>If Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, could set aside his glory and minister to us, we can't do less.</p>	<p>What glory have I set aside to minister to others in the body of Christ?</p>
<p>John 13:17</p>	<p>Serving others leads to great blessing.</p>	<p>How have I been blessed through serving others?</p>

Day 154 **Read John 13:15-17**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:18</p>	<p>Not all of the disciples would choose to be blessed by humbling themselves and following Jesus' example. Jesus knew that there was a traitor in the group, and he knew the Scriptures revealed that this traitor would betray him.</p>	<p>Am I willing to humble myself and follow Christ's example in order to be blessed?</p>
<p>John 13:19</p>	<p>Jesus didn't want the disciples to doubt that he was the Messiah when it would appear that he was weak, giving up his life under humiliating circumstances rather than setting up a kingdom on earth.</p>	<p>How does God's kindness affect my thinking? Do I treat it as weakness? (II Peter 3:8-9)</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:20</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 905"></div>	<p>Jesus, sent from God, would send his followers out into the world to continue to demonstrate a sacrificial love that reflects the heart of God.</p>	<p>How can I keep on in humility when some around me see servant actions as weakness? (Matthew 19:28-30)</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 905"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:21</p>	<p>Jesus knew before it happened that he would be betrayed by Judas and that Jesus would suffer greatly and die as a result. Jesus also knew that his disciples would desert him and Peter would deny even knowing him. (John 13:37-38)</p>	<p>Have I experienced the pain of betrayal? How did I feel?</p> <p>In what ways have I betrayed another person?</p> <p>In what ways have I betrayed or denied knowing Jesus?</p>
<p>John 13:22</p>	<p>We don't always know what is in our own hearts or the hearts of those around us, but Jesus knows.</p>	<p>Have I asked Jesus to change the heart of someone who troubles me?</p> <p>Have I asked Jesus to change what is in my own heart?</p> <p>How does it help me to know that Jesus loves me so much he willingly experienced pain from the worst kind of betrayal to save me?</p>

Day 156

Read John 13:21-22

What would I like to say to Jesus?

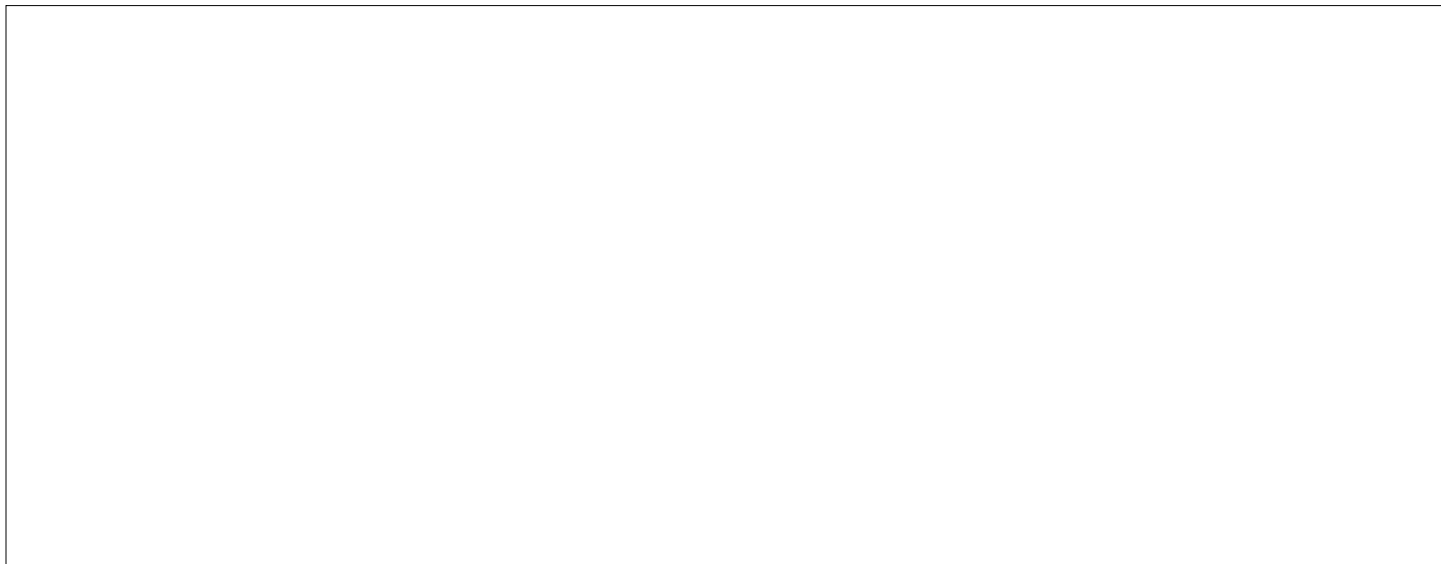
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:23</p>	<p>Review John 13:21-22 from yesterday. (In their culture, they did not sit on chairs but reclined on the floor or on cushions around a low table to eat meals.) John, the author of this book, was the one closest to Jesus, and also the one who would stay with Jesus through his trial and death. Jesus knew John's heart and kept John close to him. While suffering on the cross, Jesus entrusted his mother into John's future care. (John 19:26-27) Jesus loved John like a brother because of his loyalty, faith and commitment to Jesus as his Messiah and the Son of God.</p>	<p>In what way can I stay close to Jesus today, demonstrating my loyalty, faith, and commitment to him as the Messiah and the Son of God?</p>
<p>John 13:24</p>	<p>Sometimes we need Jesus to clarify his message to us. It is okay to ask Jesus to help us understand what he is saying to us.</p>	<p>Is there something in my life that is confusing to me?</p>
<p>John 13:25</p>	<p>We may need to ask specific questions to understand God's Word or to eliminate self-doubt or doubts about others.</p>	<p>What specifically, do I need to know right now? (What specifically do I need to ask Jesus about today?)</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:26</p>	<p>This act showed Jesus' willingness to go to the cross: he gave his life purposefully, knowing it was the fulfillment of the prophetic statement of Psalm 41:9-13 that even those closest to him would betray him and turn away from him, but God would be pleased with him. Jesus answered Peter's question through John, knowing that Peter would also deny him and then seek forgiveness and be used greatly by God to spread the Gospel after he repented.</p>	<p>Can Jesus forgive me?</p> <p>Can I forgive others?</p> <p>What can I learn from Christ's example?</p>

Day 157 **Read John 13:23-26**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:27</p>	<p>The events of the crucifixion were set in motion by Jesus' obedience to the Father. Satan is allowed certain roles to accomplish God's purposes. Evil is still under God's control and God is still able to bring good out of the greatest evil.</p>	<p>What small act of obedience on my part may set in motion great good?</p> <p>What should my prayer be when I encounter evil? (Romans 12:17-21)</p>
<p>John 13:28</p>	<p>God has greater plans than we know, greater plans than our individual perspective illuminates, plans which may not appear to be good to us but are for good and for our good.</p>	<p>What should my prayer be when I don't understand what is happening?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:29</p>	<p>John 12:4-6 reveals Judas' heart. Greed is sometimes a motive for being the one in charge of the money. Greed, or love of money more than God, leads to wrong choices.</p>	<p>Do I love God or money more? What indicators in my life show it?</p>
<p>John 13:30</p>	<p>The time of Jesus' ministry on earth, of being light in the world and teaching them about the Father, was about to come to a close. A time of darkness was at hand.</p>	<p>How can I express my gratitude to Jesus for the light in which he daily calls me to walk and live my life?</p>

Day 158

Read John 13:27-30

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:31</p>	<p>Jesus considered being betrayed and suffering a gruesome death on the cross for us, to be glory gained for himself and his Heavenly Father.</p>	<p>How do I feel about sacrificial giving?</p> <p>About deferring to others?</p> <p>Deferring to God?</p>
<p>John 13:32</p>	<p>Jesus, by being obedient to the Father's will and intentions, gave glory to God. God would reward that obedience with great glory in heaven.</p>	<p>Am I willing to set aside appearances and rewards in this life for glory from God?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:33</p>	<p>Jesus tried to prepare those closest to him for his approaching absence from them.</p> <p>John 16:12-15 tells us that the Holy Spirit now does for us what Jesus did: he tells us what is from God.</p>	<p>Am I depending on the Holy Spirit in ways Jesus' friends were dependent on his presence with them?</p>
<p>John 13:34</p>	<p>Jesus wants us to love each other as much as he loves us.</p> <p>If we love someone we behave toward that person in loving ways, want the best for them, and always forgive. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)</p>	<p>How did, and does, Jesus show unconditional love to me?</p>
<p>John 13:35</p>	<p>Having unconditional love for others changes us. When we are changed on the inside, the results become obvious to others because of the way we behave, the way we treat other people, and the choices we make.</p>	<p>How do I demonstrate unconditional love for other followers of Jesus (my spiritual family)?</p>

Day 159 ***Read John 13:31-35***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:36</p>	<p>Jesus was about to die, rise from death, and ascend into heaven. Peter did not understand what was about to happen. How could he? God is in charge and we are not. God knows what he is doing and we do not always fully understand.</p>	<p>What does it mean to be human?</p> <p>How do I feel about having limits?</p>
<p>John 13:37</p>	<p>We sometimes overestimate ourselves. We sometimes try to tell God what is best.</p>	<p>In what area might I have an exaggerated view of myself?</p> <p>When have I tried to tell God what is best?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 13:38</p>	<p>Our best intentions and resolutions sometimes give way before threats and fear of consequences.</p>	<p>In my humanness, with my limited understanding, my needs, my exaggerated view of myself, how does God want me to come to him? (II Corinthians 5:7, Matthew 11:28-30)</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?