

# What We Value: All About Jesus

## John 12:1-11

### Welcome (10 mins)

If you had a year's wages to spend on friends, which would you choose: a) big party? b) out-of-this-world trip for a few? c) extravagant gift for one?

### Worship (10 mins)

Sing: [All Hail King Jesus \(Chords\)](#)

How wonderful it is to worship a King who knows and loves us.

### Word (30 mins)

1. This isn't the first time Jesus has visited the house of Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus. What were Martha and Mary doing this time Jesus visited their home, and what would the atmosphere have been like given the events from chapter 11?
2. Given the value of the perfume (v.5), how would you have reacted as you watched Mary? Why?
3. Why do you think Mary would do this for Jesus? Who would normally be washing a guest of honour's feet? What does this say about Mary?
4. How does the fragrance of Mary's worship of Jesus change the atmosphere? (v.3)
5. How does Jesus interpret Mary's action? How is his comment in verse 8 especially applicable to Judas?
6. How is the blindness of the priests shown by their reaction to Lazarus (vs.9-10)?

### Wonder (5-10 mins)

Find a scented candle, turn the lights off and light it. Spend some time allowing the fragrance to fill the room. You may want to read

this poem by Andrea Skevington., or slowly re-read out loud the passage in John 12 from a different Bible translation.

### Mary, of Bethany, at your feet a third time

And so you come once more to Bethany,  
and share a meal with Lazarus,  
a resurrection feast,  
foreshadowing foreshining  
all those kingdom feasts you told of:  
wedding banquets with long tables  
set wide with good things,  
with room enough for all,  
welcome at your table.  
Now, in Bethany, the house is ablaze with light,  
shutters and doors thrown open,  
all wide open with joy unspeakable,  
music, laughter, dancing, wild thanksgiving  
for one who was dead is alive again,  
And all night, while crowds pour in from Jerusalem,  
the feast goes on, and on,  
as Mary enters now, cheeks glistening with joy,  
past her brother at your side, back from the grave.  
She kneels at your feet again,  
pours out extravagant nard,  
scandalous anointing of your warm, living feet,  
unbinds her hair and lets it flow like water  
over them, wiping them in such reckless  
and tender thanksgiving.  
Fragrance fills the room, the house, the night,  
as more people pour from Jerusalem to you,  
to you, who comes to us in our weeping,  
who shares our bread with us,  
and brings us to such joy as this.

### Witness (5-10 mins)

Alpha is just around the corner and starting on 24th January at 7pm. Who could you prayerfully invite to come with you to the launch? More details and sign up at [cck.org.za/alpha](http://cck.org.za/alpha)

# What We Value: Built Up in the Word (2 Tim 3:10-17)

## Welcome (10 mins)

If you were to write a final piece of advice to your great grandchildren, what would you say?

## Worship (10 mins)

Sing: [Firm Foundation \(Chords\)](#)

Read: Psalm 119:9-16

Spend some time as a group seeking the Lord together. What is God saying to encourage and build up the group?

## Word (30 mins)

Read: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

1. What areas of Paul's life does he ask Timothy to consider? (3:10-11)
2. Read Acts 14:19-22 to get a picture of Paul's life. How was Paul persecuted at Antioch, Iconium and Lystra?
3. What does Paul give as a certainty for Christ-followers in verse 12? How does that make you feel? Have you ever experienced this?
4. In response to verses 12-13, what does Paul encourage Timothy to hold onto, and why?
5. If you were to put verse 16 into your own words for a friend who has never read the Bible, what would you say?
6. Have you experienced God's word equipping you to do every good work? If so, how?

## Wonder (5-10 mins)

Is there a passage from the Bible that you have found really encouraging during hard times? Take a big piece of paper and jot down key words or phrases from those passages to create a collage of encouragement for your group. Spend some time praying these scriptures over each other.

## Witness (5-10 mins)

On Sunday, Guy finished his sermon by giving us all a bunch of bible challenges:

- To read through a gospel in one sitting
- To join a bible in a year reading plan on youversion or the Bible in a year app
- To read through the bible from Genesis, chapter by chapter all the way to Revelation (If you do this one you receive a prize from Guy)

Think through these challenges and decide what you would like to do and share it with the group. Support one another as they complete this challenge.

# What We Value: Care for One Another (Romans 12:9-21)

## Welcome (10 mins)

In his book "The Five Love Languages", Dr Gary Chapman unpacks the main ways we give and receive love: through words of affirmation, quality time, giving gifts, acts of service and physical touch. Which of these resonate with you? Share with the group your top love languages.

## Worship (10 mins)

Sing: [Goodness of God \(Chords\)](#)

## Word (30 mins)

This week we are considering our value "Care for One another." In this passage God calls us to genuine love that goes beyond the walls of the Church and extends to even our enemies. Read Romans 12:9-21

1. If you were to attach an emoji to verses 9 through 13, which one would you choose and why?
2. What does Paul encourage us toward and warn us away from? Draw two columns separating and contrasting the warnings and encouragements.
3. When is it harder to practice love, when you are hurt by someone close to you or an acquaintance? Why?
4. How are love (v9) and peace (v18) the basis for all the other guidelines here?
5. Think back to a time you experienced genuine love (maybe in the form of your primary love language). Share your experience. How can we as a group foster genuine love for one another, with our love languages in mind?

## Wonder (5-10 mins)

Of the commands listed in these verses which two are the easiest to keep and which two are the most difficult?

Pray for each person that you may be able to love one another genuinely with the love from the Father.

## Witness (5-10 mins)

How can we create opportunities for our love for one another as a small group to be experienced by those on the outside?

Brainstorm ideas together that you can commit to.

# What We Value: Dare to Share (Matthew 10:1-20)

## Welcome (10 mins)

Who was one of the more unusual house guests you or your family ever hosted?

## Worship (10 mins)

Sing: [All hail king Jesus \(chords\)](#)

## Word (30 mins)

This week we are considering our value "Dare to Share."

1. What did Jesus do before sending out his disciples (v.1)?
2. How would the instructions Jesus gave in v.7-8 have resonated with the disciples after all they've experienced of Jesus in chapters 8-9?
3. In verse 5 Jesus limits the disciples' ministry to the Jewish people as God's primary message carriers of his salvation plan to the world. In what way was this restriction lifted after Jesus' resurrection (see Matthew 28:18-20)?
4. If you were to write Jesus' instructions on a postcard with these headings, what would you say? How would you update it for a short-term mission today?
  - What to bring
  - What to say
  - What to do
  - How to respond if you're not welcome
5. Jesus states that his followers will come up against opposition when they share his good news (vs. 16-20). What advice does Jesus give for how they are to face this opposition? Which particular piece of advice do you want to carry with you this week?

## Wonder (5-10 mins)

Sharing our faith can be a daunting task, and we need the Holy Spirit to empower us. Pray a simple prayer "Come Holy Spirit" and ask the Lord to show you what's hindering you in daring to share. After a few moments, ask Him to reveal how He wants to help you share the good news in His power and strength.

## Witness (5-10 mins)

Our outreach partner focus this month is Kwatouta Katenda (KK), with Holy Trinity Church in Windhoek. KK was a much-loved intern at CCK in 2022 and went on to plant a church back in his homeland of Namibia. You can watch his latest update [HERE](#).

He asks us to pray for:

1. The Christianity Explored (CE) Course they've just started. Pray that the Lord will provide all the food and materials they need.
2. A youth group that started last night in Havana, an informal settlement of Katutura in Windhoek. Pray that the Lord will minister to the young souls in Havana.

# What We Value: Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-12)

## Welcome (10 mins)

What language(s) other than your native tongue would you love to speak fluently, and why?

## Worship (10 mins)

Sing: [Come Holy Spirit](#) ([Chords](#))

## Word (30 mins)

1. Why were the disciples gathering and waiting in the upper room? (See Acts 1:7&8)
2. In this passage how does the Holy Spirit reveal Himself?
3. Looking at verse 5 why did God choose Pentecost as the day to give His Holy Spirit? What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit reveals Himself today?
4. Would you naturally respond more like those in verse 12 or verse 13 and why?
5. How did this encounter of the Holy Spirit empower the believers to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth and begin the Church?

## Wonder (5-10 mins)

As a group take time to share an experience or testimony of an encounter with the Holy Spirit. What happened? Where were you? How did you feel?

After sharing, take some time to pray together, asking the Holy Spirit to come and fill each member of the group.

This could be an opportunity for someone in the group who may have never experienced the Holy Spirit before or may feel

confused about the Holy Spirit to be prayed for to encounter and be filled by the Holy Spirit.

## Witness (5-10 mins)

Have you experienced an empowering from God to witness about Christ?

Each Alpha we have a weekend or day where we intentionally spend the day learning more about the Holy Spirit and asking Him to come and fill us. This term it is on the 9th of March. As a group pray for those who are attending that they may experience the Holy Spirit in a real way and be filled with God's love.