
PART 1

CONNECT GUIDE



WALLACE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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AS WE BEGIN A READING PLAN

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- Day 1: John 3:1-8
- Day 2: Numbers 21:4-9
- Day 3: John 3: 9-21
- Day 4: Psalm 36
- Day 5: John 3:1-8

WEEK 3

- Day 1: John 13:1-20
- Day 2: John 13:21-30
- Day 3: John 13:31-38
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- Day 3: John 8:30-47
- Day 4: John 8:48-59
- Day 5: John 8:31 and 8:58

WEEK ONE

DAY 1: JOHN 3:1-8

UUPG Prayer Focus: Omani Arabs in Djibouti / Lodha in India

The conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus is one that we can revisit time and time again, still learning something new every time. It's a conversation that many in our culture can find so much insight in because we can relate to Nicodemus in many ways. Nicodemus was raised in a religious, proper culture. He had devoted his life to good behavior and discipline. He was even a leader among the people of his community. Yet there was still something inside him that drove him to seek better answers.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. Pharisees believed that they were saved by their ethnicity. Yes, they were diligent to follow the law, but the primary belief of the Pharisees was that they were destined for eternal life because their ancestors received the law. This caused them to believe that they were essentially superior to all others just because of who and where they were born. They were meticulous with their adherence to the law because they believed you would receive further curses and blessings from God exclusively based on your ability to keep the commandments. Yet he was perplexed, because he could clearly see that Jesus was performing miracles and being blessed by God while teaching very different from the religious leaders. Many of the Pharisees hated Jesus for this,

but Nicodemus made the wise move and took his questions directly to Jesus.

For many of us who grew up in the “Bible Belt” there was a time when we were content with good behavior and the illusion that where we were born made us morally superior. However, when we encounter the teachings of Jesus we are always confronted with a deeper need to admit our sin, seek healing, and let the Spirit break us from our preconceived notions. SO as we begin this study, I would urge you to take some encouragement from Nicodemus. Find the tension between the assumptions we grew up with and what Jesus says in the Bible. Let them make you uncomfortable. Then take those questions directly to Jesus so he can tell you what it looks like to be His disciple.

- Have you ever had something you believed challenged? How did you work that out?
- Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to reveal where you still have assumptions that don't line up with the teaching of Jesus.

DAY 2: NUMBERS 21:4-9

UUPG Prayer Focus: Socotran in Yemen / Eastern Punjabi in Myanmar

As a general rule, it's not good when snakes show up in a story. Our reading today is no exception. The snakes arrived as judgment on the people of Israel for grumbling and complaining about how God was taking care of them. They got the message and apologized pretty quick, but God didn't take the snakes away. No, instead he made them look at the very image of the thing that was killing them to remind them of their sin, but if they trusted God and believed that He would follow through on what He said then they would be healed. The statue didn't heal them, it was a reminder of why they needed healing. It was their faith and trust in God that healed them.

Over a thousand years later, Jesus explained that He had come to do the exact same thing. In John 3, Jesus tells Nicodemus that the "Son of Man" had to be raised up like the serpent in the wilderness. That seemingly obscure story in Numbers tells us how Jesus would offer healing to us, the people who grumble, complain, and reject God's leadership. Just like the snake venom was killing the people of Israel, our rejection of God is killing us. Jesus' death on the cross is the ultimate image of humans rejecting God. So we have to look (metaphorically of course) at the cross, recognize the very thing that is killing us and cursing the world, then trust that God will keep His word and heal us if we believe.

Jesus seems astounded that Nicodemus doesn't get it. That's because God had been telling His people for hundreds of

years exactly what it would look to be saved, many of them were just too caught up in rules and checklists to get it.

- Why is it tempting to complain about our circumstances instead of just trusting God?
- When we share the Gospel how can we ask people to recognize their own sin without sounding condescending or judgmental?

DAY 3: JON 3:9-21

UUPG Prayer Focus: Croats in Slovenia / Bilen in Entrea

Nicodemus had a problem. He didn't know exactly what that problem was, but something deep in his heart kept telling him there was, in fact, a big problem. Luckily for him, Jesus knew exactly what that problem was and was happy to help him through it. You see, Nicodemus thought that he was already good. He thought that because he was Jewish he had a special deal with God. He thought that because he was well educated he could figure out how to save himself. He thought that because he was disciplined, that God would be impressed with his resume? Jesus had to tell Nicodemus that none of that could save him.

Nothing we can do as humans is impressive to God. Any good work we do is something we were supposed to do anyway.

Thinking we could be saved by the law is like thinking we deserve a raise at work for showing up and doing the bare minimum. Just like Nicodemus we often think we get a special deal with God because of who our family is or how we grew up, but God has the same standard for every single person and we've all blown it. With modern technology we often think we can solve all the world's problems, but we always find out we've just created a new type of evil, just like the Pharisees and their interpretation of the law. The only thing we can ever do to help ourselves is depend on the faithfulness of God and the work of Jesus.

If we think we're good to go because of how much we know, how we grew up, or all the good stuff we do, then Jesus is here to tell us that we too have a problem, and He's the only one who can fix it. We have to follow Him and be His disciples. If we want to be a disciple of Jesus then we have to recognize that we're not good enough on our own. We can't think, discipline, work our way to Him. Jesus had to come to us.

- Why is it so tempting to turn a relationship with Jesus into a checklist of do's and don'ts?
- What do you do to remind yourself about your dependence on Jesus and not your own abilities?

DAY 4: PSALM 36

UUPG Prayer Focus: Ghomara Imazinghen in Morocco /
Reshiat in Ethiopia

In John 3, Jesus was trying to help Nicodemus understand that there aren't "good people" and "bad people" that God sorts out and chooses between. No, there are simply people, who are all in the same boat. Sin has corrupted each and every one of us. That sin and that corruption look very different based on an individual's personality, circumstances, and capabilities, but in terms of where we stand with God, it's all the same: we're condemned.

While we all start at the same place, we don't have to end there. Psalm 36 helps us understand the difference between the person who sees themselves as the authority vs the person who recognizes the righteousness of God and willingly submits to Him. If we look at what the Bible tells us about the ways of God we will see our selfish, arrogant ways in a brand new light. The wise person recognizes that their own desires are corrupted, and that they need God to change their hearts and set them free from sin. This can only be done by trusting in the perfect life, sacrificial death, and permanent resurrection of Jesus.

The foolish person doubles down and says "Nope, I'm always right. I can do this without God." or even more deceptively

"I can make myself right with God on my own terms." It's so easy to miss the call of the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus and submit to the ways of God, because our corrupted nature tells us that we're always right. To be Jesus' disciple however, we have to recognize that our own plans, desires, and intentions represent a condemning rebellion against God, and the only path to safety is through exclusive dependance on the cross.

- Are there any places in your life where it's tempting to think you know better than God?
- Why is it so tempting to slide back into arrogance even when we know submission to Jesus is the only way?

DAY 5: JOHN 3:1-8

UUPG Prayer Focus: Somalis Saudi Arabia / Lupanshui Miao in China

The only reaction we get from Nicodemus in this conversation with Jesus is "how can this be?" It's important to recognize that the teachings of Jesus are often hard to accept. Even for people who should get it. Especially for people who have developed their own idea about what Christianity should be from sources like culture, family, or personal experience. Often when we are confronted with what Jesus says about how we should live there is a tension between Him and some other source we value. We find ourselves saying "how can this be?" Maybe for you it sounds like : "But my parents and grandparents said something different?" "But the politicians I

like say that's not good." "But my favorite youtube celebrity has a different take" or even "But I don't like that, I like the way I do it."

Jesus continued the conversation with Nicodemus. He kept reiterating the message. He told him time after time in different ways. He did the same with the crowds in Jerusalem. He was extremely patient, even when His own disciples didn't get it. Jesus died for these very people even though they had a hard time understanding why He came. So be patient with yourself and with those you are trying to share the Gospel with. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue guiding you along the way, and keep taking steps every day to release your own desires and intentions so you too can be a disciple of Jesus.

- What part of your own culture or personality is the hardest for you to submit to Jesus?
- What makes it hardest for you to be patient with others when they don't understand?

DISCUSSION GUIDE: OCTOBER 4, 2026

WEEK ONE: JOHN 3

BORN AGAIN

This week we took a closer look at Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. We learned that Nicodemus was part of a tradition that believed salvation was inherited from ancestors. Jesus' statement that he must be born again was contrary to everything Nicodemus had ever been told, but he couldn't deny the power and authority of Jesus. Today, we will take a deeper look at why we must be born again to be Jesus' disciple, and then apply how we should love out that truth as a collection of disciples in the church.

ACTION STEP

How will I live out the action step this week?

SERMON NOTES

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CONNECT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: WEEK 1

- Have you ever been given new information that changes something you've believed your whole life? My whole world was wrecked when I found out it was lime sherbet and not lime "sherbert." Nicodemus on the other hand, found out that his ancestry meant nothing in his standing with God. What information have you received in your life that caused you to rethink everything?
- What does verse 5 mean when it says we need to be born of "water and the Spirit?"
- Read Numbers 4-9. How is Jesus like the Serpent in the wilderness?
- Nicodemus had a hard time accepting Jesus' teaching because he was holding on to a myth of his culture. What are the most prevalent myths about how people are saved in our culture?

WEEK 2

DAY 1: JOHN 8:12-20

UUPG Prayer Focus: Kyrgyz in United States / Rana in India

We don't get to pick and choose the parts of the Bible we want to believe. That, however, is what the Pharisees who were arguing with Jesus wanted to do. They loved the parts about receiving blessings from following God. They loved the parts about their ancestors being chosen to receive the law. They loved the parts about God executing justice on enemies. They didn't really like the parts about Jesus being that blessing, because that threatened their political power. They didn't like the parts where their ancestors missed the point and thought the law would save them. They REALLY didn't like the part where the enemies of God are the people who twist His commandments to oppress people.

They tried to be clever and find loopholes to trip Jesus up in His teaching. They did this because they didn't understand their history, their law, and indeed the story of the whole world was designed to help us recognize Jesus as the messiah. Today, people still want to pick and choose their favorite parts of Scripture to fit their own agenda. Prosperity preachers want all the blessing but none of the suffering. Nationalists want to quote 2 Chronicles 7:14 but don't want to hear about the refugee or the sojourner. Postmodernists want all of Jesus' compassion, but none of His authority. If we want to be Jesus' disciples we have to continue in His word, and accept ALL of Scripture as authority.

- Why do so many groups want to twist the Bible to support their own beliefs?
- Which parts of the Bible do you struggle with the most?

DAY 2: JOHN 8:21-29

UUPG Prayer Focus: Bulgarians in United States / Nawars in United Arab Emarites

Last week, in our study of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, we learned that we have to admit we're not enough before we can ever be Jesus' disciple. We need the Holy Spirit to show us how sinful we are so we can recognize our need for a savior. In the conversation this week, we are going to be focused on the next step: Recognizing that Jesus is, always was, and always will be the one and only savior of humanity. God spent hundreds of years proving this, and recording those stories in the Old Testament so that we could recognize who Jesus is and place our trust in Him. Jesus didn't sugarcoat or dance around this. In John 8:24 He says "If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

The Pharisees wanted someone committed to the supremacy of Jewish culture, not someone who was inviting the world. The people wanted a conquering general who would free them from Rome, not a man who would sacrifice himself without fighting back. We often want a moral policeman who condemns those we find improper, not a man of compassion

who ate with prostitutes and tax collectors. We often want a Jesus who forgives, but not one who asks us to sacrifice everything for His kingdom. It's really easy for us to try and make Jesus a tool for our own agenda.

That's why we have to keep reading the Bible. Jesus Himself gets to tell us who He is and exactly what He came to do. He gets to tell us what the Christian life looks like and what it will cost us. So let's keep reading. Let's not try and ask Jesus to fulfill our wishlist. Let's let the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit tell us exactly who they are.

- What are the biggest misinterpretations of Jesus you've encountered in your life?
- Why do you think so many people want Jesus' example, but not His authority?

DAY 3: JOHN 8:30-47

UUPG Prayer Focus: Singkil in Indonesia / Kaghzi in India

The greatest illusion in life is the idea that we are in control... and yet we work so hard to maintain that illusion. We believe that we are deciding every single action we take, and yet our internal desires, assumptions, and (in most cases) cultural conditioning have already narrowed down our choices to a few predictable outcomes. Yes, from our limited perspective life often seems erratic and nonsensical, but when we zoom

out and look at the repeated patterns of humanity throughout history, we have to realize that human behavior is little more than an algorithm of sin. This is exactly what Jesus is telling the Pharisees in John chapter 8. Jesus tells them they need to be set free from the sinful nature in their hearts if they ever want to be able to know God or follow His ways.

Hearing the law isn't enough, we would have to follow everything perfectly. Jesus is the only one who has ever done that. Even if we could control our actions, we would also have to have perfect motivation for every single action. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5 and 6 that the intentions of the heart are just as important as the actions we take. Anyone who believes they have that type of control over their own mind is purely delusional. Jesus in fact tells the Pharisees that they hate the ways of God if they aren't willing to put their faith in Him and be set free.

This may be one of the hardest lessons and hardest requests in all of Scripture. If we want to be Jesus' disciples we have to be willing to admit we are slaves to our corrupted desires, and that no one can free us but Jesus Himself.

- Why do we strive so hard for the illusion of control?
- What part of your life is the hardest to admit you don't have control over?

DAY 4: JOHN 8:48-59

UUPG Prayer Focus: Lois in India / Marwadi in Nepal

If we want to be disciples of Jesus then we have to recognize Him as God. One of the first major controversies in the church was the Arian Controversy. Parts of the church began to believe that Jesus was a created being and not God Himself. There are numerous cults in our world today that want us to believe that Jesus was a created being or an angel. Pop culture would have us believe that Jesus was just a good teacher, but not a divine being. However, in this passage Jesus clearly tells us that He is God Himself.

As the argument with the Pharisees continues, Jesus pulls no punches. He rejects their ethnic nationalism and tells them they are little more than children of the Devil because they refuse to recognize who He is. They claim their lineage from Abraham is all they need, but Jesus reminds them in a very specific way that he existed LONG before Abraham. He tells them "Before Abraham was I AM!" At which point they pick up rock and attempt to kill Him. This wasn't just boiling frustration on the part of the Pharisees. Jesus just used the first person proper name of God referring to Himself. Under the law of Moses this would be punishable by death... except for the fact that in this case it's true.

If we want to be disciples of Jesus then we have to recognize

Him as God. At church, at home, at work, in our thoughts, on the weekends, and most importantly in our hearts. We have to acknowledge who He is and be willing to give Him that authority in every area of our lives.

- Why do you think so many false teachers want a version of Christianity where Jesus is not God?
- Is there any place in your life where you have trouble acknowledging Jesus as God?

DAY 5: JOHN 8:31 & 58

UUPG Prayer Focus: Kemak in Timor-Leste / Ngoni in Mozambique

In John 8:31 Jesus tells us that if we continue in the word, then the truth will set us free. It's such a powerful statement that it has in some ways become a cliché, but when we do that to a verse of the Bible it gets taken out of context and loses its meaning. Throughout the years many people have used the phrase "the truth will set you free," to describe a number of instances in which they feel that gaining a certain type of knowledge will change your belief about something. Most famously, there was a major university that had this carved into a stone wall.

They believed that after the discovery of science and

technology humans no longer needed to believe in the supernatural. They believed we could reject any form of supernatural event as “mythology” now that we understood the natural phenomenon behind it. I’m a great fan of science. I’m thankful for medicine that keeps us alive. I’m thankful for our understanding of weather data to keep us safe in emergency situations. I’m thankful for archeology and history studies because... well because I’m a nerd. None of those things however can tell us how to live. Now we live in a world where even science isn’t trusted because someone’s favorite social media influencer tells them that their doctor is part of a giant conspiracy. Nothing can free us from the way our sinful nature will twist every human idea.

Nothing except for that one truth that Jesus was talking about. Jesus said that if we continued reading the Scripture we would understand who He is and then by putting our faith in Him we could be set free from our own evil desires. If we continue, even one more page, in the Bible from where Jesus makes this statement we see that Jesus is the God of the universe that set a plan in motion to rescue those who would believe in Him. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is God. Jesus is the only answer that can set us free.

- Take some time today and recognize Jesus as God and thank Him for what He has done for all of us.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the opportunity to share this message with someone else.

DISCUSSION GUIDE: OCTOBER 11, 2026

WEEK TWO: JOHN 8

This week we analyzed John chapter 8. While arguing with the Pharisees in the temple, Jesus explained that one must have a continued devotion to Scripture and its teaching if they want to count themselves among His disciples. Specifically, they must recognize that Jesus is the messiah and God Himself in the flesh. Today we will talk more about how a disciple of Jesus needs to recognize His identity and lordship through devotion to living out the Scripture.

ACTION STEP

How will I live out the action step this week?

SERMON NOTES

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CONNECT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

- In verse 31, Jesus says that His disciples need to “abide” in His word. Why does He specifically choose the word “abide” and not just read His word, or do His word? What does this mean for us?
- In this passage Jesus says we will be set free from sin if we know the “truth,” meaning the truth in verse 8:58, that He is God in the flesh. Many of us believe this and still struggle with various sins. How can we be “set free,” and still struggle?
- Jesus clearly expected the people of Israel to recognize Him because they knew Scripture. How can we be devoted to Scripture in a way that allows us to know Jesus better?
- The Pharisees knew their genealogy well, yet Jesus denies their claim to be “children of Abraham.” What does it mean to be a child of Abraham? Read Genesis 15:6 to help you find this answer.
- How can you be devoted to abiding in the word this week?

WEEK THREE

DAY 1: JOHN 13:1-20

UUPG Prayer Focus: Manbhav in India / Khakas in Russian Federation

Last words can be very powerful. They carry weight and they tend to strike us with a lot of emotion. It's also extremely rare that someone is able to plan their last words. Yeah we see it in movies and TV all the time, but in reality we usually don't know which words will be our last. Jesus on the other hand has an entirely unique situation. He knows this meal with His disciples will be the last time they sit together before his death and resurrection. Yes, He will return from the grave and give them further instructions, but everything will be different then. This moment, this last meal with the friends He traveled with was a unique and temporary moment even for the man who crafted eternity.

So in this cosmically unique moment, did Jesus give instructions on systematic theology? Did He explain how he wanted governments and economies to work? Did He talk about work ethic or good behavior? No, He showed His disciples how to express love through service and humility. With only hours left before the most important event of all time and space, Jesus chose to show love for those He valued, and encouraged them to do the same.

It can be really easy to get caught up in the cares of the world. It can be easy to craft our own agenda around our temporary cultural battles. It can be so tempting to try and do Christianity our own way and lose the point of the whole thing. Let's never forget that Jesus showed us what this is supposed to look like in those few hours before the cross.

- How can you follow Jesus' example of humility in this passage?
- How can you follow Jesus' example of service in this passage?

DAY 2: JOHN 13:21-30

UUPG Prayer Focus: Mosuo in China / Slovenes in United States

Are you still willing to love someone who intends you harm? Are you still willing to serve someone if they are conspiring against you? Are you still willing to be humble even if you are right and they are wrong and you know? That's exactly what Jesus did in John chapter 13. He knew that Judas was going to betray Him. He told people at the table before it happened. This was not new information to Jesus, and yet the previous passage tells us that He still humbled Himself and washed the feet of ALL the disciples. Jesus still taught, cared for, and served the very person who was going to betray Him, knowing all along

that it would happen. That type of love isn't natural. It can only come from God Himself.

Too often in our culture Christianity becomes a culture war where we pretend that we are setting the world right with our moral example. Social media has become a graveyard for our witness because so many Christians have decided their mission is to belittle, berate, or cleverly "burn" anyone who doesn't share their social or political agenda. It seems we've become so obsessed with "winning the culture," that we've lost sight of Jesus Himself. So today, take a minute to consider how you plan on showing humility through service, even to those who may consider you their enemy.

- Why is it so hard to follow the example of Jesus in caring for those who mean us harm?
- How can we help the church as a whole focus on the example of Jesus instead of a misguided culture war?

DAY 3: JOHN 13:31-38

UUPG Prayer Focus: Patkars in India / Muslim Khatri in India

People wear cross necklaces, they do those silly "Like and share if" posts on social media, they say "have a blessed day," and they even put those little fish symbols on their car

bumper. (While driving 20 over the speed limit, playing with their phone, and running redlights...) Yes, people do all types of things to try and visually identify themselves as followers of Jesus. The irony is that everything we just mentioned amounts to little more than posturing or marketing. Jesus told us how to identify as Christians, and it's not something we can buy or sell. It's not something we can just say or proclaim. No, it's something we have to live out consistently every day .

Here at the end of John 13, Jesus tells His disciples that the world will know they are His followers by the way they love each other. The same thing applies to us today. We must be devoted to showing sacrificial love to all those around us. Especially our fellow church members. There's no room for a false politeness, or a weekly Sunday tolerance in Christianity. Jesus didn't say "get along." He didn't say "keep up appearances." Jesus said that we are His disciples if we are willing to show each sacrificial and unconditional love. Then He willingly died to show us how that's done.

- How do Christian symbols without Christian love hurt our witness to the world?
- How are you choosing to display love today?

DAY 4: JOHN 14:1-14

UUPG Prayer Focus: Western Punjabi in Libya / Malays in Sri Lanka

It's also important to notice that chapter 13 isn't the entire conversation. Just turn the page and you'll see that Jesus takes time to encourage His disciples not to lose heart. They had no clue that He was about to be killed, and even less of a clue that He would be resurrected 3 days later. Jesus spent all of chapter 13 telling His disciples what they should: Love one another. He also set the example and showed them how to do it. In the beginning of chapter 14 He reminds them where the motivation and the ability to show this love comes from. It comes from Jesus Himself.

Not Jesus and good economics. Not Jesus and a positive attitude. Not Jesus and really disciplined behavior strategies. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. As we read about Jesus and watch His example, He reminds us that if we see Him then we are seeing God in the flesh showing how to do this whole Christian life thing. Yes, Jesus was going somewhere they couldn't go, but He was going there so He could make a way for them, and by extension us, to follow Him there. Our faith and our belief, however, has to be in Him and Him alone, because He is the way, the truth, and the life.

- Why is it human nature to add a check list or a set of rules alongside believing in Jesus?
- What are the most common things you've seen people try and treat as litmus tests for Christianity? How can we help them understand that we can't add our own rules to Jesus?

DAY 5: JOHN 14:15-31

UUPG Prayer Focus: Upper Pokomo in Kenya / Tatar in Turkmenistan

Do you remember math? Those of you who are still in school hopefully know math quite well so you can pass your test. Those of us who have been out of school for a while might struggle just a bit remembering the rules. One of the very important things we have to remember in math is that the answer can change if we do the steps out of order. YOU not only have to get the right numbers, you have to get the process done in the right order to get the right answer. That's exactly what Jesus is telling His disciples here in the second half of John 14. Let's do this as an equation so it will make sense.

Step 1: We were all born sinful and hostile towards God. We can't love God because our human nature is corrupt and we automatically think what we want is more important. Step 2: When we hear the Gospel, the Holy Spirit changes our heart and breaks sin's control over us leaving us free to accept the gift of Jesus's sacrificial death and resurrection. Step 3: We can now love God (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) because He has changed our hearts, and because we love Him we will naturally begin to change the way we live and follow His commandments. Step 4: The Holy Spirit prompts us in places we need to change and we respond through surrender and discipline.

It has to work in that order. If we try to change the step then the answer will be wrong. We can't earn God's love by changing our behavior. That's legalism. We can't inherit our ancestor's belief. That's what the Pharisee's believed. We

can't pray some magical prayer and then forget about Jesus. That's false conversion. If Jesus has saved us then we will listen to the Holy Spirit and little by little start following His commandment. The change in our lives is the proof of what Jesus has done. Let's make sure we follow Jesus' equation. It looks like this.

- What steps do many people try to misorder in Christianity? Why is this so common?
- How is the change in your life showing you evidence of what Jesus has done?

DISCUSSION GUIDE: OCTOBER 18, 2026

WEEK THREE: JOHN 13

LOVE

This week we look at John chapters 13 and 14 to see what Jesus had to say to His disciples in the hours leading up to His betrayal and trial. We weighed the importance of this moment in history as well as its unique nature. We saw that Jesus chose to set an example of sacrificial love in these hours and told His disciples that it would be THE thing that set them apart as His followers. Today we will look at how the example of Jesus motivates us to show sacrificial, humble love to those around us.

ACTION STEP

How will I live out the action step this week?

SERMON NOTES

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CONNECT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: WEEK 3

- Have you ever been on a vacation or mission trip and ended up really loving a particular place or people group? What did you love about it? How did you express that new found affinity you gained from that experience? If you have a story from a mission trip, please share it with your group.
- Paul was specifically called by God to be the “apostle to the Gentiles.” What types of struggles and sacrifices did Paul undergo for the privilege of sharing the Gospel with so many new places? If you don’t know any off the top of your head then look through the book Acts to find some.
- Peter was called to share primarily with his Jewish brothers. Paul felt called to the Gentiles. Many people believe that Simon traveled to Persia, and Thomas went all the way to India. How do we decide if we are called to stay where we are or move to another place in the world? How can we reject convenience and comfort to be obedient to the Gospel and share with the world?
- Your Connect leader has a list of mission opportunities at Wallace. Listen as they share this list with you. Which of these opportunities sound most interesting to you?

