

Family • Faith • Holy Spirit • Mission

Small Group Preview

Jesus community where **God's kingdom is realized on this earth**

2025. 2. 2. Bothell Campus Gym 2pm



시애틀형제교회
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEATTLE

To the Small Group Leaders

Church Uplifting Church

With the dream of missions given by God, we step into the threshold of February 2025. Last month, together with several brothers, we stepped on the land of Turkey in the region of Asia Minor where Apostle Paul preached the gospel over 2,000 years ago. While feeling the breath of Apostle Paul who walked on this land with the gospel, the outreach team of our church also once again proclaimed the name of Jesus. Through the missionaries and churches dedicated to this land, we pray with both hands for the spring of Christ to come again to the land of Turkey.

In 2025, Community Church of Seattle will proclaim "Mission On Plus, church uplifting church." Now, we will not only preach the gospel but also move forward with the ministry of equipping disciples to raise up many churches to proclaim the gospel together. We thank the members who have pledged their prayers and material support for this ministry. Through various outreaches, we will serve many of God's churches both domestically and internationally. And by the end of this year, we will offer up the joy and gratitude received from the churches revived and strengthened by our church to the Lord.

The leader of missions is the Holy Spirit. The most important role of the church is to obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the leader of missions. Please pray for our church to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as a community. Also, we wish to pray together that each and every person will be led by the Holy Spirit into missions. This year, may it be a year in which you, your family, and the members of your household are gloriously used for missions and God's kingdom. Let us join hands and run towards the great history of missions, answering God's call.

Servant in Christ, **James Kwon**



Embracing the members with a shepherd's heart

Small Group Preview

Small Group Usage

Living Life Weekly Bible Study 2, February 10th Scripture, P166

Ice Breakers

Open the door of your heart by briefly sharing your life over the past week, your quiet time (QT), and things you are thankful for.

Examine God's Word

Please read John 11:36-44 together. Circle or underline the repeated words or expressions that carry important meanings.

Understand Setting

When the Apostle John wrote the Gospel of John, he used the word "sign" instead of "miracle" seven times. He also listed the expressions "I am ~" that reveal Jesus' identity seven times. The number seven in John's writings (the Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and Revelation) is used as a number of completeness. By using the seven signs and the seven expressions revealing Jesus' identity, the Apostle John wanted to convey to the readers that Jesus is the Savior (Messiah, Christ) mentioned in the Old Testament and that salvation can be received through Jesus. Today, we will examine the seventh and final sign, the most dramatic sign that symbolizes Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

Meditate the Text

1-1 **Observation** When Martha hesitated at the command to move the stone from the entrance of the tomb, what did Jesus say? (John 11:40)

.....

1-2 **Application** If there has been a moment when you realized your limitations, or a time when you overcame those limitations through faith and saw God's glory, please share it.

.....

2-1 **Observation** When the people moved the stone from the entrance of the tomb, what did Jesus pray about? (John 11:41)

2-2 **Application** If there has been a time when you prayed with assurance of God's answer, thanking Him before the situation changed or the problem was solved, please share it.

Review the Text

Jesus performed the amazing sign of raising Lazarus from the dead. Just as God is the Creator of life, Jesus demonstrated that He is the Son of God with the same authority and power by bringing Lazarus back to life. Through this sign of raising Lazarus, Jesus also prefigured His own resurrection. Just as Lazarus was brought back to life, Jesus will also rise again by the power of God. Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ, who performed many signs in the Scriptures. Therefore, anyone who believes in Jesus through His signs and words will receive life. This is God's plan of salvation that He intended to accomplish by sending Jesus to this earth (John 20:31).

Pray through the Text

- 1 Grant me the eyes of faith to focus solely on the great and mighty God.
- 2 May I experience God's help and His answers to my prayers amid the difficulties and prayer requests I face.



Embracing the members with a shepherd's heart

Small Group Preview

Leader Usage

Living Life Weekly Bible Study 2, February 10th Scripture, P166

Ice Breakers

Open your heart by briefly sharing your life over the past week, your quiet time (QT), and things you are thankful for.

Examine God's Word

Please read John 11:36-44 together. Circle or underline the repeated words or expressions that carry important meanings.

NIV	GOD'S WORD	ESV
<p>36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"</p> <p>37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"</p> <p>38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.</p> <p>39 "Take away the stone," he said.</p> <p>"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."</p> <p>40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"</p> <p>41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.</p> <p>42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."</p>	<p>36 The Jews said, "See how much Jesus loved him."</p> <p>37 But some of the Jews asked, "Couldn't this man who gave a blind man sight keep Lazarus from dying?"</p> <p>38 Deeply moved again, Jesus went to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone covering the entrance.</p> <p>39 Jesus said, "Take the stone away."</p> <p>Martha, the dead man's sister, told Jesus, "Lord, there must already be a stench. He's been dead for four days."</p> <p>40 Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you would see God's glory?"</p> <p>41 So the stone was moved away from the entrance of the tomb. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me.</p> <p>42 I've known that you always hear me. However, I've said this so that the crowd standing around me will believe that you sent me."</p>	<p>36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"</p> <p>37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"</p> <p>38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.</p> <p>39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."</p> <p>40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"</p> <p>41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.</p> <p>42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."</p>

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

43 After Jesus had said this, he shouted as loudly as he could, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out. Strips of cloth were wound around his feet and hands, and his face was wrapped with a handkerchief. Jesus told them, "Free Lazarus, and let him go."

43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Understand Setting

When the Apostle John wrote the Gospel of John, he used the word "sign" instead of "miracle" seven times. He also listed the expressions "I am ~" that reveal Jesus' identity seven times. In John's writings (the Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and Revelation), the number seven is used as a number of completeness. By using the seven signs and the seven expressions revealing Jesus' identity, the Apostle John wanted to convey to the readers that Jesus is the Savior (Messiah, Christ) mentioned in the Old Testament and that salvation can be received through Jesus. Today, we will examine the seventh and final sign, the most dramatic sign that symbolizes Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

Meditate the Text

1-1 **Observation** When Martha hesitated at the command to move the stone from the entrance of the tomb, Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" (John 11:40)

Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" (John 11:40). Thank you for the correction!

Explanation Jesus, seeing the sorrow and pain of Lazarus' family and the Jews mourning, wept and was deeply moved in His spirit (John 11:35, 38). This showed Jesus' deep sadness and grief over people's inability to recognize His divine power to give life. The fact that Lazarus had been dead for four days and that there was a stench proved that this was not something orchestrated by man. Jesus, still speaking to Martha who did not fully understand His power, invited her to believe. By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus would reveal God's glory before their eyes.

1-2 **Application** If there has been a moment when you realized your limitations, or a time when you overcame those limitations through faith and saw God's glory, please share it.

Explanation We tend to think of God within the limits of our own understanding. However, we must set aside our own thoughts and move forward in faith, grounded in Scripture. The God revealed in the Bible is beyond our thoughts and imagination; He is the Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth. When we focus not on our immediate circumstances or people but on God, we will encounter the great and mighty God. When we are assured that this God is with us, we can endure, overcome, and resolve any problem.

2-1 **Observation** When the people moved the stone from the entrance of the tomb, what did Jesus pray about? (John 11:41)

He lifted His eyes and thanked the Father for hearing His prayer.

Explanation In the Gospel of John, Jesus continuously demonstrates a united relationship with God the Father through intimate communion. Jesus knew the plan that God had for Lazarus, and by acting on it, He was confident that God had already heard and would answer His prayer. Jesus and the Father were in a close relationship, sharing the same purpose. Through Scripture, we too can understand God's will and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, embrace God's heart.

2-2 **Application** If there has been a time when you prayed with assurance of God's answer, thanking Him before the situation changed or the problem was solved, please share it.

Explanation People seek signs and evidence. However, God first requires prayers offered with complete faith. Even though circumstances and situations may not change immediately, when we persist in prayer, God gives us assurance through Scripture and the Holy Spirit. When God provides this assurance through His Word and the Spirit, we are given the strength and courage to overcome even the most difficult situations.

Review the Text

Jesus performed the amazing sign of raising Lazarus from the dead. Just as God is the Creator of life, Jesus demonstrated that He is the Son of God with the same authority and power by bringing Lazarus back to life. Through this sign of raising Lazarus, Jesus also prefigured His own resurrection. Just as Lazarus was brought back to life, Jesus will also rise again by the power of God. Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ, who performed many signs in the Scriptures. Therefore, anyone who believes in Jesus through His signs and words will receive life. This is the salvation plan that God intended to accomplish by sending Jesus to this earth (John 20:31).

Pray through the Text

- 1 Grant me the eyes of faith to focus solely on the great and mighty God.
- 2 May I experience God's help and His answers to my prayers amid the difficulties and prayer requests I face.

Word Studies

Verse 36 **See how much He loved him** Jesus, upon seeing Mary and Martha weeping over the loss of their brother Lazarus, also wept. The word used to describe Jesus' weeping is the only occurrence of this specific term in the New Testament. This word is distinct from the other words for crying or weeping used in the Scriptures. Jesus' weeping was not merely a response to the sorrow of Lazarus' family, but rather a profound expression of empathy and grief. Though He, the Lord of life, was present among them, He wept over the great sadness caused by death. Jesus' tears reflect His deep compassion for His loved ones and His sorrow over the reality of death. "Accordingly, I would maintain that Jesus' weeping here is directly related to the failure of his followers to recognize his mission as the agent of God. God's Son was in their midst. They really missed the point. That fact becomes more evident in the next two segments of the story." _Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11 in NAC, 307.

Verse 39 **Take away the stone** In the 1st century, tombs were often natural or man-made caves located slightly away from residential areas. Archaeological findings show that caves with one or more chambers were used as tombs, and the entrances were typically sealed with large stones that were not too thick. The shape of Lazarus' tomb is similar to the tomb where Jesus would later temporarily rest. This type of tomb apparently served not only the body of Lazarus but also that of Jesus (cf. 19:41-20:1-12). Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11 in NAC, 308.

Verse 39 **By this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days** Like the Egyptians, the Jews also used spices for the dead. However, unlike the Egyptians, the Jews did not mummify the body. Due to the hot climate, the decomposition of the body progressed rapidly, and a foul odor soon appeared. "Bodies began decomposing rather quickly in Palestine because they were not preserved by embalming processes in the manner of Egyptian funerary procedures. Spices were used primarily to hide the smell of decay." _Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11 in NAC, 308; Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 215.

Verse 40 **If you believe, you will see the glory of God** The seventh sign recorded by the Apostle John is the climax of all the signs that have occurred so far. This sign demonstrates Jesus' power over death and serves as a foreshadowing (or preview) of His own resurrection. "Lazarus's death is viewed by Jesus as an occasion for the glory of God to be revealed. This seventh, climactic sign demonstrates Jesus' power over death, thus foreshadowing his own resurrection." _Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 216.

Verse 41 **Father, I thank you that you have heard me** In the Gospel of John, Jesus continually shows a unified relationship with God the Father. Jesus knew the plan God had for Lazarus, and in carrying it out, Jesus was certain that God had already heard and would answer His prayer. Jesus and the Father shared the same purpose in their intimate relationship. "Of course, "Jesus is in constant communion with his Father, who always 'hears' even the unspoken thoughts of his heart, and therefore has already 'heard' his petition for Lazarus" (Barrett 1978: 402)." _Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 216.

Verse 42 **That they may believe** As mentioned in John 20:31, the Apostle John arranged the signs, including the resurrection of Lazarus, to show that Jesus is the Christ who has conquered

death, and through Him, people may receive life. “In this case the mission statement (“that they may believe that you sent me,” 11:42) is very close to the purpose statement of the Gospel (20:31).” _Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11 in NAC, 308.

Verse 44 **The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face** There is no other record in the New Testament where a dead person is bound with strips of linen in such a way. The situation in today's passage suggests that Lazarus, who had been dead, was in no condition to rise and move on his own. The possibility that Lazarus might not have truly died is ruled out, as the stench confirmed he was definitely dead. Lazarus' resurrection serves as a foreshadowing of Jesus' own resurrection. “In any case, one ought not suppose that Lazarus's graveclothes restricted his movement to the extent that his coming out of the tomb necessitated a “miracle within a miracle.” ... “In fact, The resurrection of Lazarus, occurring before that of Jesus, could only be a pale anticipation of what was yet to come(Carson 1991: 419).” _Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 217.



Embracing the members with a shepherd's heart

Small Group Preview

Small Group Usage

Living Life Weekly Bible Study 3, February 17th Scripture, P168

Ice Breakers

If you've had the experience of someone washing your feet or washing someone else's feet, feel free to share it.

Examine God's Word

Please read John 13:12-20 together. Circle or underline the repeated words or expressions that carry important meanings.

Understand Setting

The Apostle John gives a more detailed account of the events that took place the night before Jesus was arrested, compared to the other Gospels. In the limited time left, Jesus shared important teachings with His disciples. First, He shared the final Passover meal with them (the Last Supper or Holy Communion). Then, Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13:1-20). Following this, He taught them about the only way to salvation, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and the parable of the vine. Afterward, Jesus prayed fervently in the Garden of Gethsemane until dawn. Today, we focus on the event of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. At that time, washing someone's feet was a task performed by lowly servants. Although Jesus was the exalted God of the universe, He girded Himself with a towel and, in the lowest of forms, demonstrated the example of servitude to His disciples.

Meditate the Text

1-1 ← **Observation** During the Last Supper, why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet Himself? (John 13:15)

1-2 Application Share specifically how you can practice the love Jesus showed in your daily life.

2-1 Observation Jesus said that He knows who He has chosen, but what prophecy from the Old Testament would be fulfilled? (John 13:18)

2-2 Application If you've ever been betrayed by someone you deeply trusted, share how you responded at that time and how you feel about it now.

Review the Text

Jesus spent the evening of the Passover with His disciples, knowing that He would be arrested by the soldiers the following morning. In this crucial moment with little time left, He taught His disciples the essential lessons they needed. One of these was the act of Jesus, their Teacher and Lord, personally girding Himself with a towel and washing the disciples' feet. Through His actions, Jesus taught them humility and servanthood, showing them by experience. Humility and servanthood are not only aspects of Jesus' character but also qualities that every disciple of Jesus must embody. Let us also pray to resemble Jesus, bearing the fruits of humility and service as small examples of Him to those around us.

Pray through the Text

- 1 May I practice the humility and service of Jesus with my family and those around me.
- 2 May I grow in intimacy with Jesus and become more like Him in character.



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Examine God's Word

Please read John 13:12-20 together. Circle or underline the repeated words or expressions that carry important meanings.

NIV	GOD'S WORD	ESV
12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.	12 After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothes, he took his place at the table again. Then he asked his disciples, "Do you understand what I've done for you?"	12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"
13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.	13 You call me teacher and Lord, and you're right because that's what I am.	13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.
14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.	14 So if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet.	14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.	15 I've given you an example that you should follow.	15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.
16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.	16 I can guarantee this truth: Slaves are not superior to their owners, and messengers are not superior to the people who send them.	16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.	17 If you understand all of this, you are blessed whenever you follow my example.	17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'	18 "I'm not talking about all of you. I know the people I've chosen to be apostles. However, I've made my choice so that Scripture will come true. It says, 'The one who eats my bread has turned against me.'	18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'

19 "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.

20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

19 I'm telling you now before it happens. Then, when it happens, you will believe that I am the one.

20 "I can guarantee this truth: Whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Understand Setting

The Apostle John provides a more detailed account of the events that took place the night before Jesus was arrested compared to the other Gospels. In the limited time left, Jesus shared important teachings with His disciples. First, He had the final Passover meal with them (the Last Supper or Holy Communion). Then, Jesus washed His disciples' feet (John 13:1-20). Afterward, He taught them through His farewell discourse, covering the only way to salvation, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and the parable of the vine. Later, Jesus prayed fervently in the Garden of Gethsemane until dawn. Today, we reflect on the event where Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. At that time, washing someone's feet was a task performed by lowly servants. Although Jesus was the exalted God of the universe, He wrapped a towel around Himself and showed His disciples the example of humble servitude.

Meditate the Text

1-1 **Observation** During the Last Supper, why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet Himself? (John 13:15)

Just as Jesus did for His disciples, He showed them the example so that they too would do the same.

Explanation In the Gospel of John, the Apostle John consistently uses the words "Teacher" and "Lord." The term "Teacher" reflects the close, intimate relationship between a teacher and disciple in Jewish society. The term "Lord" was used in the first century to refer to God. Jesus, though being both the Lord and a revered Teacher, demonstrated the teachings He imparted through His actions. In Greek, the word "example" literally means "to show beneath the eyes," indicating something placed before one's eyes to be shown. It can also mean "model," "good example," "bad example," or a pattern. In Greco-Roman society, courage or bravery was often set as an example. However, Jesus placed before His disciples the example of humility and service, qualities they were to follow.

1-2 **Application** Share specifically how you can practice the love Jesus showed in your daily life.

Explanation The Apostle John, following Jesus' teachings, recorded that those who listen to and act upon His words will be blessed. Among the figures in the Bible, the Apostle Paul is one who also strove to imitate Jesus and practice His teachings. Because Paul made every effort to be like Christ, he wrote to the Corinthians: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). Just as Jesus served me, I too must serve my family and neighbors.

2-1 **Observation** Jesus said that He knows who He has chosen, but what prophecy from the Old Testament would be fulfilled? (John 13:18)

"He who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9).

Explanation "Lifting up one's heel" is a phrase that describes an animal kicking with its hind legs, symbolizing betrayal by someone who was once trusted. This verse is a quotation from Psalm 41:9. Psalm 41 was written by David and the phrase was used when Ahithophel conspired with Absalom to rebel against David. In ancient Hebrew culture, sharing bread at the table of someone superior was a pledge of loyalty (2 Samuel 9:7-13; 1 Kings 18:19; 2 Kings 25:29). Betraying someone after sharing a meal with them is understood as an act of betrayal after having promised loyalty, which is something utterly unforgivable. According to this passage, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus.

2-2 Application

If you've ever been betrayed by someone you deeply trusted, share how you responded at that time and how you feel about it now.

Explanation Jesus' example presents the model we should follow. If I have experienced an unexpected betrayal, I can share about it. Also, we can discuss how Jesus would have responded in such a situation. On my own, it is difficult to follow Jesus' example, but I will pray for the Holy Spirit's help so that I may follow Jesus' example.

Review the Text

Jesus spent the evening of the Passover with His disciples. He knew that He would be arrested by the soldiers the following morning. During this important and limited time, He taught His disciples the essential things they needed to know. One of these teachings was when Jesus, who was both their Teacher and Lord, took a towel and washed His disciples' feet. He demonstrated through action and allowed His disciples to experience it, teaching them humility and servanthood. Humility and servanthood are part of Jesus' character, and they are qualities that all His followers must embody. Let us pray that, like Jesus, we may bear the fruit of humility and servanthood as small reflections of Jesus to those around us.

Pray through the Text

- 1 May I practice the humility and service of Jesus with my family and those around me.
- 2 May I grow in intimacy with Jesus and become more like Him in character.

Word Studies

Verse 12 **When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place** Before His arrest, when there was little time left, Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples and washed their feet. When He sat down again, it signified that He took His place as the leader and teacher of the disciple community. "In the present section, Jesus, upon returning to his seat, drives home the lesson that he intended to teach his disciples by washing their feet. Rather than focusing on the external act itself, Jesus points to the "principle that underlay that action" (Morris 1995: 550)." _Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 250.

Verse 13 **You call me Teacher and Lord** In the Gospel of John, the apostle John consistently uses the terms "teacher" and "Lord." The word "teacher" reflects the intimate relationship between a teacher and a disciple in Jewish society. The term "Lord" was used in the first century to refer to God. To the disciples, Jesus was recognized both as their teacher and as God. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.'" John's Gospel regularly portrays Jesus being addressed in those terms by his disciples or others [Köstenberger 1998a: 97–128].⁴⁰ The designation "rabbi" was in keeping with Jewish teacher-disciple relationships; "Lord," on the other hand, was an expression commonly applied to God in the LXX. Jesus acknowledges being both." _Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 250.

Verse 15 **Set you an example** In Greek, the word "example" literally means "to show something placed beneath the eyes." In other words, it refers to "a model," "something good," "something bad," or a "pattern." In Greco-Roman society, courage or bravery was often seen as a model to follow. However, Jesus demonstrated before His disciples that humility and service should be the example to follow. "Greco-Roman writers likewise use the term to denote examples of various virtues." ... "whereas Greeks and Romans prized virtues such as courage or military prowess, Jesus exemplified humility, self-sacrifice, and love." Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 251.

Verse 17 **You will be blessed if you do them** The Apostle John, following the teachings of Jesus, recorded that those who hear His word and act upon it will be blessed. The teachings on obedience and action are also mentioned and emphasized in the New Testament. "A blessing is pronounced on those who put Jesus' words into practice (cf. 7:17; 12:26; see Ridderbos 1997: 464; Morris 1995: 552). The importance of acting on one's knowledge is stressed repeatedly in the NT (e.g., Matt. 7:24–27 par.; James 1:22–25). Similar statements are attested in Greco-Roman sources." _Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 251.

Verse 18 **He who shared My bread has turned against Me** The phrase "to lift the heel" is a figurative expression describing the action of an animal kicking with its hind legs, and it signifies betrayal by someone who was once trusted. This verse is a reference to Psalm 41:9. Psalm 49 was written by David and uses this expression in the context of Ahithophel's conspiracy with Absalom against David. In ancient Hebrew culture, sharing bread at the table of a superior was a sign of loyalty and allegiance [2 Samuel 9:7–13; 1 Kings 18:19; 2 Kings 25:29]. To betray someone who shared bread with you is seen as breaking a vow of loyalty, performing an act that is utterly unacceptable. "Rabbinic interpretation took Ps. 41:9 to refer to Ahithophel's conspiracy with Absalom against David.³ In ancient Semitic cultures,

eating bread at the table of a superior amounted to a pledge of loyalty (2 Sam. 9:7–13; 1 Kings 18:19; 2 Kings 25:29), and “to betray one with whom bread had been eaten . . . was a gross breach of the traditions of hospitality” (Bernard 1928: 2.467).” Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 252.

Verse 18 **To fulfill this passage of Scripture** Unlike the other Gospels, the Apostle John deals more extensively with the Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus’ death. He emphasizes that Jesus did not die helplessly due to the false accusations of others, but rather, he was moving toward his suffering and death according to God’s plan, as recorded in the Scriptures. This portrayal highlights that Jesus’ crucifixion was not a random event but part of God’s sovereign will and the fulfillment of prophecies. “But at the transition to the rejection of Jesus in the Centerpiece of the Gospel, this expression is introduced for the first time (12:38), and it is employed thereafter an additional five times in the Farewell Cycle and Death Story in reference to the fulfillment of an Old Testament text (13:18; 15:25; 17:12; 19:24, 36) and twice in reference to the fulfillment of Jesus’ words (18:9, 32). John wanted his readers to understand that the death of Jesus was no accident and that the sacrifice of the Lamb of God was God’s means for dealing with the sin of the world (1:29).” _Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11 in NAC, 67; Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 253.

Verse 19 **You will believe that I am who I am** The Apostle John records that Jesus was fully aware of all that was to happen and forewarned that everything would unfold according to God’s will. Through this process, Jesus desired for His disciples to firmly believe in Him, and the Apostle John also captured Jesus’ intentions in his writing. This demonstrates that Jesus’ actions and teachings were not only fulfilling prophecy but were also aimed at strengthening the faith of His followers. John’s Gospel emphasizes that everything happening was part of a divine plan, encouraging believers to trust in God’s purpose and Jesus as the fulfillment of that purpose. “Moreover, John 13:19 clearly indicates that the fulfillment of Jesus’ prediction was to be understood by his disciples as a confirmation of his identity and mission.” _Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11 in NAC, 67.

Verse 20 **Whoever Accepts me accepts the one who set Me** This expression is found in the other Gospels as well. Through this statement, Jesus hinted at the future mission of His disciples. The disciples, like Jesus, would either be welcomed or rejected. Just as Jesus was rejected by Judas Iscariot, His disciples might also face rejection. Nevertheless, in every circumstance, Jesus promised to lead His disciples with intimacy and guidance. Despite challenges and opposition, His presence and direction would remain with them, ensuring that they were not alone in their mission. “This teaching (which mirrors Jewish teaching on representation [see commentary at 5:23]) is also found in the Synoptics (Matt. 10:40; Mark 9:37; Luke 10:16; cf. Matt. 25:40). In context, this statement, which is rather surprising at this juncture, 6 may serve the dual purpose of alluding to Judas’s betrayal and of anticipating the disciples’ future commission, which will entail identification with Jesus, their sender (20:21), and lead them to experience similar rejection as did their master (Carson 1991: 471–72). Perhaps in order to encourage his followers not to waver in the face of Judas’s imminent defection, Jesus reminds them of their close association with him in their mission (Ridderbos 1997: 467).” Andreas J. Köstenberger, John in BECNT, 253; Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11 in NAC, 67.

• Ministry Prayer Request for February •

Major Ministry Schedule

- May many believers become channels of blessing, shining the light of the gospel to the nations through their dedication in prayer and material support for missions.
- Through the commitment to intercessory prayer, may many believers remain spiritually awake and become a community that prays more widely, deeply, and abundantly. Through the New Year Revival Conference (January 13-17), may the entire church be filled with God's Word and the Holy Spirit.
- Through the Evangelism Explosion training (36th session, 2/10-4/28), may many believers be trained to evangelize and bear fruit by boldly sharing the gospel, leading souls to salvation. Through the Bible Reading Challenge, may the saints be filled with God's Word.
- Grant wisdom and grace to the ministry team and campaign team preparing for Mission On Plus 30 days.
- Give leadership and wisdom to the shepherds and shepherdesses serving the small groups, so that unity may be achieved.
- Pour abundant grace on the EW congregation during every worship service, and may new members be well established in their small groups with the help of their small group leaders.

Next Generation Prayer Request

- May the students of Sonlight and all volunteers experience God's comfort and guidance, trusting and relying on Him in every situation.
- May the Coram Deo students become prayer partners for each other in the new year, growing together as a community of faith, and may the main speaker for the retreat, Pastor, be filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word from February 15-17.
- As the NEXT students attend their retreat at Warm Beach Camp from February 15-17, may they meet God personally through this experience and grow into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him. May Pastor Lee Jong-Dae, who will serve as the speaker, be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- May the EW College students walk closely with God and overcome the unbiblical values, challenges, and trials they face in the world.

*Mission On Plus 30 Days Preparation meeting will be 3/16. There is no March & April Small Group Preview material and on 3/16, Mission On Plus 30 Days materials will be available.

Family • Faith • Holy Spirit • Mission

Small Group Preview

Jesus community where God's kingdom is realized on this earth

2025. 2. 2, Bothell Campus Gym 2pm



시애틀형제교회
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEATTLE

Publisher | James Kwon

Editor | Pastoral Staff

E-mail | hyungjaecommunity@hyungjae.org

Address | 3727 240th St SE, Bothell, WA 98021

Phone Number | 425-488-1004