

Discourse in the Upper Room



We will be looking this year at the teachings of Jesus during the time of the “Last Supper”. John gives considerable coverage in his Gospel (chapters 13 - 16) to the occasion, and the passage will form the basis of our studies. This block of teaching is commonly known as the “Discourse in the Upper Room”, although only chapters 13 and 14 take place there. In the last verse of chapter 14 Jesus says “Come now, let us leave”, so the remaining sections occur elsewhere. The passage is followed in Chapter 17 by Christ’s prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, which will be used this year to provide meditations for Good Friday.

John wrote his gospel to dispel certain heresies that had started to creep into the early church, especially those which sought to deny the divinity of Christ. John summarised the purpose of his writings in verse 31 of chapter 20 “... *these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*” [New King James]. Studying John’s gospel should therefore be particularly relevant if we are seeking to get a clearer vision of who He is and the relevance of His teaching. It is inevitable though, that such deeper knowledge will lead to a greater understanding of the way in which He wants us to live and behave.



Perhaps surprisingly, unlike the other three Gospel writers John makes no mention of Jesus’ actions that we now follow as the communion. Instead, John’s focus is very much on the teaching, particularly in relation to the Father and the Holy Spirit.



There will be five studies, each looking at a small part of Jesus' teaching. The relevant portions of scripture are given below. Do read through these in advance and form your own views on their meaning and relevance to us, and perhaps what our response should be.

- Feb 19:** *"The Way of Salvation"*
Chapter 14 verses 1 - 14
- Feb 26:** *"Servanthood"*
Chapter 13 verses 1 - 35
- Mar 4:** *"The Father and the Spirit"*
Chapter 14 verses 15 - 31
Chapter 16 verses 5 - 15, 25 - 33
- Mar 11:** *"Source of Life"*
Chapter 15 verses 1 - 17
- Mar 18:** *"Rejection"*
Chapter 15 verses 18 - 25
Chapter 16 verses 1 - 4, 16 - 24
Chapter 13 verses 36 - 38



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An article by Rick Renner with some teaching on the Holy Spirit is available on the Benefice website with other course resources.

Images by Phil Ware
<https://www.heartlight.org/>