

The Gospel of John John 12

Memory Verse: *“If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him”* (John 12:26 ESV).

Background Helps:

In John 12 we come to the conclusion of Jesus’ public ministry as recorded in this Gospel. In an earlier forecast we outlined the Gospel of John like this:

Prologue (1:1-18)

Jesus’ Ministry to the World (1:19–12:50)

Jesus’ Farewell Ministry to His Disciples (13–17)

Jesus’ Passion and Resurrection (18–20)

Epilogue (21)

John 12 includes the following segments:

- Jesus’ anointing by Mary at Bethany (12:1-8)
- The triumphal entry (12:9-19)
- Certain Greeks seek Jesus and he responds (12:20-36)
- John’s summary of the public response to Jesus (12:37-43)
- Jesus’ final public appeal (12:44-50)

Next week, beginning in John 13, the focus will turn to Jesus’ private ministry to his disciples, preparing them for his departure to heaven.

Lesson Helps:

A theme which seems to hold John 12 together is the response of the people to Jesus’ public ministry. It seems like this would be a good week to give your students another opportunity to respond to the gospel. A possible aim: My students will learn about the people’s final response to the public ministry of Jesus, so that they will believe in him.

Here are some possible emphases for your lesson:

- The contrast between Mary and Judas’s response to Jesus (12:1-8)
- The various responses to Jesus surrounding his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (12:9-19)
- The response of certain Greeks to Jesus (12:20-22)
- The response of the crowd to Jesus (12:28b-36)
- John’s summary of people’s response to Jesus (12:37-43)

You could end your lesson with Jesus’ own appeal to the people in verses 44-50 to believe in him. Or, if you are confident that all your class members are already believers, end your lesson with the memory verse and an appeal to serve Christ.

Another option: Give an overview of the chapter and concentrate your lesson on just one segment such as the anointing at Bethany or the triumphal entry.

Home Assignment:

 Read: John 13

 Memorize: John 13:34 ESV

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