

Gospel of Saint John

Lecture 12

Upper Room 2

Abide in Me

John 15:1–17:26

True Vine · Paraclete · Joy · High Priestly Prayer



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Lecture 12

01. Welcome

“Abide in me, and I in you.”

John 15:4

John 15:1–17:26

Welcome

Lecture 12 · Upper Room — Part II

“Abide in me, and I in you.”

John 15:4

John 15:1–17:26

Plan

The Gospel moves from signs to glory

Book of Signs

John 1–12

Signs reveal the Son
and bring the Hour into view.

Book of Glory

John 13–20

The Hour unfolds through the Upper
Room,
the Cross, and the Resurrection.

We are here: John 15–17

Plan

Book of
Signs

Book of
Glory

#	Date	Topic	Covenantal Theme
1	Jan 14	Foundations of the Study	Intent, Methodology, & Covenant 101
2	Jan 28	The Prologue (1:1–18)	The Logos & The New Covenant
3	Feb 11	Witness, Cana, & Temple (1:19–2:25)	New Wine & The New Temple
4	Feb 25	The New Birth (3:1–21)	Nicodemus & Rebirth into the Family
5	Mar 11	The Samaritan Woman (4:1–54)	Living Water & True Worship
6	Mar 25	Healing & Authority (5:1–47)	The Son's Work & The Sabbath
7	Apr 8	The Bread of Life (6:1–71)	The Eucharist: Covenant's Manna
8	Apr 22	Tabernacles & Light (7:1–8:59)	The Light vs. The Darkness
9	May 6	Sight & The Shepherd (9:1–10:42)	Spiritual Sight & The Shepherd-King
10	May 20	Lazarus & The Hour (11:1–12:19)	Victory over the Ultimate Curse
11	Jun 3	The Upper Room I (12:20–14:31)	The Entry & The Way to the Father
12	Jun 17	The Upper Room II (15:1–17:26)	The Vine & The High Priestly Prayer
13	Jul 1	The Passion (18:1–19:42)	The Final Sacrifice & Victory
14	Jul 15	Resurrection & Restoration (20–21)	The New Creation & The Final Charge

The Journey Thus Far

John 1–11

1. The Word came to His own — John 1

4. The Light judged the darkness — John 7–8

2. The Bridegroom began the new creation —
John 2–4

5. The Shepherd began to gather His sheep —
John 9–10

3. The Son revealed the Father's work — John 5–6

6. The Resurrection called His own from the tomb
— John 11

And now, when the Greeks come seeking Jesus, the Hour has arrived.

Agenda

John 15:1–17:26

- 1 — **The True Vine** Abiding, pruning, fruit, friendship
- 2 — **The Hatred of the World** Why the Church is opposed
- 3 — **The Work of the Paraclete** Witness, conviction, truth, glory
- 4 — **Sorrow Turned to Joy** The little while and the victory of Christ
- 5 — **The High Priestly Prayer** Glory, consecration, unity, mission

One movement: from communion in Christ to mission in the world.

Phone Your Questions

1. Open your browser
2. Go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com)
3. Type the code **gosj12**



You can ask anonymously

Invocation

Come, Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,
through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

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02. Covenental Testament

One Speech, Not Five Topics

The connective tissue of John 13–17

- Almost nothing happens after 13:30 — just one farewell speech before the arrest
- Ancient genre: the **covenantal testament**— Jacob (Gen 49), Moses (Deut 31–33), Paul (Acts 20)
- These speeches circle, not argue: love, courage, instruction, warning, prayer
- John 13–17 hits every note — more than once

*Five chapters, one
farewell — heard in five
movements.*

John 13–17 is Jesus preparing the Church for His visible departure.

The Passage Map

One discourse, five intensifying movements

15:1-17

Abide in Christ

vine · pruning · fruit · friendship

15:18-16:4

Endure the world

hatred · persecution · witness

16:4-15

Receive the Spirit

conviction · truth · glory

16:16-33

Pass through sorrow

little while · joy · victory

17:1-26

Enter the Prayer

glory · consecration · unity

Chapter 13 – The Hour Has Come

GOSJ 13:1–38

- Judas leaves — betrayal set in motion
- Footwashing: love demonstrated, not just described
- “Love one another as I have loved you” — the new commandment
- Peter’s bold promise, corrected: he will deny Him three times

“Now is the Son of Man glorified” (13:31)

John 13 is Jesus announcing His visible departure.

Chapter 14 – Not Alone

GOSJ 14:1–31

- “Let not your heart be troubled”
- Many rooms in the Father’s house — He goes to prepare a place
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life”
- The Holy Spirit promised — He will not leave them desolate
- “My peace I leave with you”

*Losing His presence
does not mean losing
access to the Father*

John 14 is Jesus consoling His disciples.

Chapter 15 – The True Vine

GOSJ 15:1–27

- “Abide in Me... apart from Me you can do nothing”
- Fruit-bearing is the visible result of that union
- “This is My commandment, that you love one another” — again
- No longer servants but friends
- The world’s hatred — because they no longer belong to it

*Abiding, not striving, is
how the union holds.*

John 15 is Jesus anchoring His disciples.

Chapter 16 – Joy Returns

GOSJ 16:1–33

- Persecution is coming
- “It is to your advantage that I go” — so the Spirit can come
- The Spirit’s work: convicting the world, guiding the disciples
- Sorrow like labor pains — turning into joy nothing can take
- “I have overcome the world”

*The grief is real — and
it is not the end of the
story.*

John 16 is Jesus strengthening His disciples.

Chapter 17 – Sent As One

GOSJ 17:1–26

- “Father, the hour has come, glorify Thy Son” — the frame closes
- “I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me”
- Keep them, sanctify them, protect them from the evil one
- “That they may be one, even as We are one”
- “That the love with which Thou hast loved Me may be in them”

*Jesus’s parting blessing
in His Testament.*

John 17 is Jesus praying for His disciples.

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03. The Testament's Major Themes

The Central Question

The connective tissue of John 13–17

Everything from Judas's departure until the end of chapter 17 answers one question:

What will become of Jesus' disciples when He is no longer visibly walking beside them?

The answer

*Jesus is leaving,
but He is forming
a people in whom
He will remain.*

John 13–17 is Jesus preparing the Church for His visible departure.

The Disciples Are Not Ready

The future witnesses look painfully fragile

Before the mission, John shows the weakness:

Judas has betrayed Him.

Peter will deny Him.

Thomas does not know the way.

Philip does not understand who Jesus is.

The others are confused, sorrowful, and about to scatter.

The world will hate them.

And yet...

*These same men
must carry Christ's
revelation
to the world.*

The Church begins not with apostolic strength, but with Christ's grace.

1. Where Is Jesus Going?

John 14:1–6

Jesus does not vanish into absence:

He returns to the Father.

He prepares a place for His disciples.

His destination becomes their destiny.

The “way” is not a map; it is the Son Himself.

He explains

*I go
to the Father—
and I bring you
with Me.*

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

John 14:6, RSV-CE

2. How Can They Remain United to Him?

John 15:1–11

They will no longer walk beside Him as before:

They must abide in Him.

They live from Him as branches from the vine.

His word remains in them.

Fruit comes from union, not self-reliance.

He explains

*Remain
in Me—
and My life
will bear fruit
in you.*

“Apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, RSV-CE

3. How Will He Remain Present to Them?

John 14:15–31; 16:4–15

His visible departure becomes a deeper presence:

The Paraclete will dwell with them.

The Spirit will teach and remind them.

The Spirit will guide them into all truth.

The Spirit will glorify Christ in the Church.

He explains

*I go—
and the Spirit
will make Me
present
within you.*

“He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

John 14:26, RSV-CE

4. How Must They Live Together?

John 13:34–35; 15:12–17

The new community receives its law:

Not generic kindness.

Not mere fellowship.

Not natural sympathy.

Christ's own self-giving love becomes the law of the apostolic community.

He explains

*Love
one another
with the love
I have given
you.*

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:12, RSV-CE

5. What Mission Will They Receive?

John 15:16, 26–27; 17:18–20

They are not merely comforted; they are sent:

Christ chose them.

Christ appointed them to bear fruit.

The Spirit will bear witness.

The apostles will bear witness.

Future believers will come through their word.

He explains

*You are
chosen,
appointed,
and sent.*

“You also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

John 15:27, RSV-CE

6. How Will They Survive Persecution?

John 15:18–16:33

The world's hatred is not a surprise:

The world hated Christ first.

The servant is not greater than his master.

Their peace will not come from safety.

Their courage will come from Christ's victory.

He explains

*The world
will hate you—
but I have
overcome
the world.*

“Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33, RSV-CE



7. What Is Their Final Destiny?

John 17:1–26

Jesus prays the whole future of the Church into the Father's hands:

Keep them.

Sanctify them in the truth.

Send them into the world.

Make them perfectly one.

Bring them into My glory.

He prays

*That they
may be one—
and behold
My glory.*

“That the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

GOSJ 17:26, RSV-CE



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04. The Testament's Key Points

“I Am the True Vine”

GOSJ 15:1–17

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1, RSV-CE

Christ is faithful Israel in Person.
The Father cultivates the covenant vineyard.
The Church bears fruit only as branches in the Son.

COVENANT IMAGE

Not self-improvement with religious wallpaper — life flows from union.

The Father Prunes What He Loves

JGOSJ 15:2–6

“Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

John 15:2, RSV-CE

Pruning is medicinal covenant discipline.

The cut is not abandonment. It is the Father refusing to let the branch become decorative deadwood.

FRUIT > FOLIAGE

Abiding Has a Shape

Commandment · joy · friendship · election

Commandments

"If you keep my commandments..."

Joy

"that my joy may be in you"

Friendship

"I have called you friends"

Election

"I chose you... bear fruit"

Love

"love one another"

Abiding

"Abide in my love"

Christian freedom is not branch autonomy. It is life received, kept, and poured out in love.

Loved by Christ, Hated by the World

GOSJ 15:18–16:4



“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.”

John 15:18, RSV-CE

The world is not neutral space; it can be organized resistance to the Son.
Persecution confirms belonging, but never excuses bitterness.
The disciple must witness without becoming worldly in return.

OPPOSITION WITHOUT HATRED

Two Witnesses, One Testimony

GOSJ 15:26–27



The Church does not invent the testimony. She receives it, guards it, and speaks it.

The Paraclete Convicts the World

John 16:8–11

Sin

refusal to believe

Righteousness

Jesus goes to the Father

Judgment

the ruler of this world judged

The Spirit exposes reality by glorifying Christ.

He Will Guide You Into All Truth

GOSJ 16:12–15

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

GOSJ 16:13, RSV-CE

Not a new gospel beside Christ.
Not private novelty against the apostles.
The Spirit takes what is Christ’s and declares it to the Church.

Tradition is living, not invented.

The Spirit safeguards the apostolic deposit as the Church grows in understanding.

DEI VERBUM 8

Sorrow Turned to Joy

GOSJ 16:16–24

“You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.”

John 16:20, RSV-CE

The “little while” passes through the Cross.

Jesus does not promise painless discipleship. He promises Paschal joy: the kind the world cannot give and cannot take.

PASCHAL JOY

Be of Good Cheer

GOSJ 16:25–33

“In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

GOSJ 16:33, RSV-CE

The disciples will be scattered, but Jesus is not alone.
Prayer in His name rests on the Son’s access to the Father.
Peace is not the absence of battle; it is communion with the Victor.

What is Joy?

It's not what you think ...

1. Joy Is Not the Same as Pleasure
2. Joy Is Not Mere Cheerfulness
3. Joy Is a Fruit of Charity
4. Joy Is Participation in Christ's Own Joy
5. Joy Can Coexist with Sorrow
6. Joy Rests upon Hope
7. Joy Is a Foretaste of the Beatific Vision
8. Joy Is Covenantal.

*Christian joy is truth wearing the garment of hope
When the soul possesses God through grace and loves Him through infused charity,
joy arises as a fruit of that communion.*

The High Priestly Prayer

John 17:1–26

17:1–5

Jesus prays for His glorification

The Hour reveals the Son and the Father.

17:6–19

Jesus prays for the apostles

Guard them. Consecrate them. Send them.

17:20–26

Jesus prays for all believers

Unity in divine love becomes witness.

Jesus does not merely teach prayer. He draws the Church into His own prayer.

“That They May All Be One”

Unity as participation, not mere teamwork

*“That they may all be one; even as thou,
Father, art in me, and I in thee.”*

John 17:21, RSV-CE

Unity begins in the Trinity, not in strategy.
The Church’s visible charity becomes a sign to the
world.
Division obscures the mission; holiness heals it at the
root.

Ecclesial unity is cruciform.

It is received from above, preserved by truth,
and expressed in sacrificial love.

Consecrated in Truth, Sent into the World

John 17:14–19

Father

The Church

not of the world · sent into the world

World

“Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth.”

John 17:17, RSV-CE

The Shape of Christian Life

John 15–17 gathered into one command of grace

Abide

Endure hatred

Enter His prayer

Bear fruit

Receive the Spirit

The Church survives the night because her root is not in the world but in Christ.

Etiquette

- 1 Stay on topic
- 2 Be concise
- 3 If I don't know, I'll say so

*“Ask, and you will receive,
that your joy may be full.”*

John 16:24