

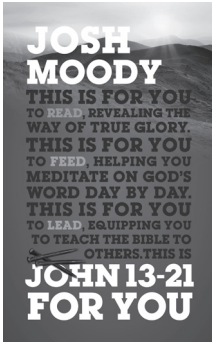
Josh Moody

John 13–21

The Place of Greatest Glory



 **8-Session Bible Study**



John 13–21 For You

These studies are adapted from *John 13–21 For You*. If you are reading *John 13–21 For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *John 13–21 For You*:

Study One > Ch 1	Study Five > Ch 6
Study Two > Ch 2	Study Six > Ch 7-8
Study Three > Ch 3-4	Study Seven > Ch 9
Study Four > Ch 5	Study Eight > Ch 10

Find out more about *John 13–21 For You* at:
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John 13–21: The Place of Greatest Glory

A Good Book Guide

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study John 13 – 21?

“These [things] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

Welcome to the second part of John’s Gospel—what is known as the “book of glory”. In chapters 1 – 12, the “book of signs,” John described the miracles that Jesus did that pointed to himself as the Son of God. Now, from chapter 13 onward, the hour has come for Jesus to be glorified (12:23). Yet the place of greatest glory is deeply counterintuitive: the Messiah’s glory will come through the cross. And it is by believing in him that we have life—life to the full (10:10).

As chapter 13 opens, we are in Jerusalem with Jesus. It is the Passover. Right at the start of the Gospel, John the Baptist declared that Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (1:29), and that promise is now going to be fully fulfilled. We will follow along as Jesus prepares his disciples for what is about to happen: washing their feet, promising them the Holy Spirit, calling them to remain in him, and praying for them, and for us. This is some of the richest teaching that we will hear from the mouth of our Lord.

Then we come to the pinnacle of John’s Gospel: Jesus’ crucifixion. Yet through the twists and turns of the narrative, we see that it is not a tragedy but a victory. But it is a victory that comes about through a most unlikely event: the sacrificial death of the hero of the story. And it is a victory that is ultimately displayed by Jesus’ wonderful, death-defeating, peace-bringing resurrection three days later.

John 13 – 21 calls us to follow Jesus in order to have the life to the full that he offers. That following will involve sacrifice—dying to ourselves—as Jesus tells Peter in the Gospel’s powerful closing chapter. But we’ll see that life in Jesus’ name is the only life worth having; indeed, it is the only real life at all.

So read on and enter into the book of glory: a glory which the world has never known, but which those who believe in the Son of God will have an eternity to look on, face to face.



1

Power to Serve

John 13:1-38

Talkabout

1. Have you ever seen someone in a position of power do something unexpected? What was it, and what made it so surprising?

Investigate

 Read John 13:1-17

DICTIONARY

Passover (v 1): annual festival to remember the Israelites' rescue from Egypt (see Exodus 12).

This whole section of John begins with a time marker: "It was just before the Passover Festival" (v 1). John's first readers knew that Jesus had died at Passover, so John uses this phrase to turn our minds toward that event as we read this episode.

2. What is it that is moving Jesus both to go to the cross and to wash his disciples' feet (v 1)? Why is this extraordinary?

3. Look at the way John describes this moment in verses 3-5. What is so shocking about what Jesus does?

4. Why does Peter object to having his feet washed, do you think (v 6-8)? What has he misunderstood about Jesus?

- What is it that makes him change his mind (v 8-9)? What has he rightly understood about Jesus?

5. In what way is this foot-washing...

- a picture of the love Christ will show on the cross (v 10-11)?

- an example of the love he expects his people to demonstrate (v 12-15)?

Verse 10 is a little complicated but readily explicable. The Christian does not need a "bath" anymore—they have been born again by God's Spirit and are in Christ. But they do still need on occasion to receive forgiveness through regular repentance and confession of their sins (as in 1 John 1:8-9).

Apply

Jesus is showing his disciples how God's authority and power should be revealed in loving, humbling service: "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15).

6. Think about some of the things you do for others at church, home or work. How can we tell whether our actions are genuine acts of service?

7. What two motivations does Jesus give for us to serve others in this way (v 16-17)?

- How will these help you to be increasingly servant-hearted?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Jesus laid down his power for the sake of his disciples. Think about the "power" that you have, in the various spheres of your life. What would it look like for you to lay that power down in loving service of others this week?

Investigate

 **Read John 13:18-30**

8. Why does Jesus tell his disciples that he is going to be betrayed (v 19)?

9. How does this incident show God's total sovereign control over the events that are about to unfold?

- v 18

- v 21

- v 26

- v 27

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Why did Judas do it? There are many possible explanations for Judas' betrayal of his Lord. At a human level, we know it was at least partly done out of greed (John 12:6). But there was another level of motivation too—a spiritual dynamic; the devil was at work (13:2, 27).

Read 1 Peter 5:8-11

- What does Peter warn Christians about?
- Do you, and Christians you know, give much thought to this prowling lion? Why is that, do you think?
- What does Peter tell us to do?

One of the great tragedies in John 13 is that, at least in principle, Judas could have repented. But now the die is cast and it is too late. There can come a moment when you so harden your heart to the truth of God that the course of your life is set. Be warned—when you say no to Jesus

and yes to evil, there may come a time when you can no longer say yes to Jesus.

 **Read John 13:31-38**

DICTIONARY

Son of Man (v 31): Jesus often used this title to refer to himself (see Daniel 7:13-14).

Glorified (v 31): Christ's greatness would be revealed at the cross.

10. Where and how will God's glory be most clearly displayed (v 31-32)?

- How is this different from the way we normally think about glory?

11. Jesus has clear foreknowledge of both Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. How does this make his earlier foot-washing even more remarkable?

Apply

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (v 34-35)

12. To what extent is your church characterized by this kind of love?

- Instead of love, what other things are you in danger of prizing more dearly as a church?

- What would it look like for you to move closer to the vision that Jesus has for his church?

Pray

Praise Jesus for his power—he is the one who has “all things under his power” (v 3).

Thank Jesus for his love—that he was willing to lay down that power in order to love his people “to the end” and to make them clean (v 1).

Pray that, as a church, you would also be those who use your power to serve and to love one another.