

# LEARNER GUIDE

## John 11:1-15

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Savior who is always \_\_\_\_\_.

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us. - 1 John 4:18-19*

## John 11:17-32

*“If you **would have been** here” (Martha, verse 21) - \_\_\_\_\_ tense*

*“I know he **will rise** again” (Martha, verse 24) - \_\_\_\_\_ tense*

*“I am the resurrection and the life” (Jesus, verse 25) - \_\_\_\_\_ tense*

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Savior who brings the hope of the future \_\_\_\_\_.

## John 11:33-35

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Savior who \_\_\_\_\_ when His children \_\_\_\_\_.

## John 11:38-44

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Savior who \_\_\_\_\_.

## John 12:1-8

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Savior with whom we can \_\_\_\_\_.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you know anyone who cannot reconcile a loving God with her past? She asks, “If God is good, then where was He?” How can we minister to someone like this?
2. Based on his study of John 11, here is John Piper’s definition of love: *Love is doing whatever you have to do - or whatever God has to do - at whatever cost, in order for the glory of God to be shown.* In what ways did the events with Lazarus, Mary and Martha inform that definition? Can you think of a time when God did whatever He had to do, at whatever cost, in order to show you His glory?
3. Read Galatians 2:20. Matt Chandler suggests that to live in resurrection power now, we should memorize what the Bible says about us so that when our enemy tries to make us feel defeated, we can say, “I’m not that! That was crucified!” Can you think of any important Bible verses that tell us who believers are in Christ?
4. Read Acts 4:1-2, 4:33, and 17:18. What did the early church’s message focus on? What do you think the global church’s message today focuses more on - the crucifixion or the resurrection? If you sense a shift, what do you think contributed to that and is it positive?
5. What specifically does it mean to you to *let down your hair* with Jesus?

# PERSONAL STUDY

## Part One

*Read John 11:1-12:11*

We see in John 11:45-57 that the Jewish leaders were continuing to actively plot to kill Jesus. John 12:9-11 also reports a plot. Who else did the chief priests want dead and why?

The religious leaders wanted Lazarus dead because he became a physical manifestation of the power of God. Every time people saw Lazarus walking around after being raised from the dead, they were reminded of what God can do!

Go to [BlueLetterBible.com](http://BlueLetterBible.com) and use the search bar to search for the word *Lazarus*. In what two Bible books can this name be found?

Is the Lazarus in the Book of Luke the same Lazarus mentioned in the Book of John?

The Lazarus mentioned in Luke is a poor man in one of Jesus' parables. The Lazarus in John is a different man, a friend of Jesus and the brother of Mary and Martha. Do you find it surprising that the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, which was His most remarkable miracle up to that point of His ministry, was not recorded in the other three Gospels? Why do you think this is?

Tradition says that the other three Gospels were written during the life of Lazarus. And because Lazarus' testimony was so powerful, they did not mention him for fear of exciting the malice of the Jews against him.

Read **Ephesians 2:1-7**. In what ways can our testimony be similar to the testimony of Lazarus?

*Close in prayer*, asking God to reveal to you the power of your testimony and to give you the courage to share it.

## Part Two

Read *John 12:12-43*.

Look at **John 12:12-13**. What two titles did the people assign to Jesus in these verses? And what did they wave as He rode by?

Use [BlueLetterBible.com](http://BlueLetterBible.com) to study the word *Hosanna* in its original language. Reference page 2 of your *Resources* appendix for step-by-step instructions on word studies. What did you learn about the word *Hosanna* and what it literally means?

The word *Hosanna* is of Hebrew origin, and it means “oh, save” or “save now!” In addition to shouting *Hosanna* and *King of Israel*, John tells us that when Jesus rode by the people waved palm branches. Palm branches were an important symbol for Israel during the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Scottish Bible scholar, FF Bruce, explains it this way:

*From the time of the Maccabees palm branches had been used as a national symbol. Palm branches figured in the procession which celebrated the rededication of the temple in 164BC and again when the winning of full political independence was celebrated under Simon in 141BC. Later palms appeared as national symbols on the coins struck by the Judean insurgents on the first and second revolts against Rome (66-70AD and 132-135AD).*

Who do you think they expected Jesus to save and from what?

It’s clear that the crowds had in mind a political salvation for the people of Israel from the oppression of the Romans. But Jesus had something very different in mind. Look at **John 12:20-23**. Who was asking to see Jesus?

The text tells us that some Greeks came to Philip asking for Jesus. They probably chose to approach Philip because his name was Greek. Their request produced an interesting response in Jesus. How did Jesus react when the Greeks came seeking Him?

John teaches us repeatedly in his Gospel Jesus came to be the Savior of the world. When the Greeks wanted to know about Jesus, Jesus saw that as evidence that His mission had reached its climax, and He was now ready to die for the world, the whole world. You and me included.

*Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for His obedience to His mission.*

## Part Three

Read *John 12:44-50*.

These verses mark Jesus' last words in the Gospel of John to the multitude. Commentators call it His final call to belief and remark that His last words to the public were not ones of condemnation, but of tender appeal. Summarize Jesus' words in these verses using your own words. You may want to consult a commentary to help you. (Step-by-step instructions for accessing free commentaries can be found on page 1 of your *Resources* appendix.)

Read **John 20:31** as a reminder of the purpose for which God inspired John to write. The Gospel of John was written to persuade people to believe in Jesus, and it records seven of Jesus' signs or miracles to prove His divinity. John 1-12 give us six of those seven signs. Complete the chart below to review the first six signs.

	Scripture Reference	Description of Sign
1	John 2:1-11	
2	John 4:46-54	
3	John 5:1-15	
4	John 6:1-15	
5	John 9	
6	John 11	

John 12-22, almost half the Gospel of John, covers just the last seven days of Jesus' life. The events of this last week of His earthly ministry are probably familiar to you. What event do you think marked the seventh sign in the Book of John?

Close in prayer, by watching a recap of John 1-12 at [bibleproject.com/explore/video/john-1-12](https://www.bibleproject.com/explore/video/john-1-12) and thanking God for His inspired word that draws us to believe.

## Heart-to-Heart

Spend some time with Jesus using one of the suggestions below. Remember to reference the RESOURCES pages to help you.

- Revisit a verse or passage that stuck out to you this week. Compare the text in a few different Bible translations or do a word study on a few key words.
- Read a commentary on John 11 or 12.
- Journal about what you learned through His Word this week.
- Spend time in prayer, focusing on what the Holy Spirit revealed to you through your study of John 11 and 12.
- Record any questions you still have about the text.

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## Looking Ahead

Read John 13.

Use the space below to record anything that jumps out to you or any questions that come to mind about the text.

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