



# Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: John 13:1, 16-31, 34-35*

### Community Group Material for week of Nov. 12, 2023

John 13:1, 16-31, 34-35

**1** Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

**16** “Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. **17** If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. **18** “I’m not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the Scripture must be fulfilled: **The one who eats my bread has raised his heel against me.** **19** I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he. **20** Truly I tell you, whoever receives anyone I send receives me, and the one who receives me receives him who sent me.”

**21** When Jesus had said this, he was troubled in his spirit and testified, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

**22** The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one he was speaking about. **23** One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus. **24** Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who it was he was talking about. **25** So he leaned back against Jesus and asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

**26** Jesus replied, “He’s the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it.” When he had dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son. **27** After Judas ate the piece of bread,

Satan entered him. So Jesus told him, "What you're doing, do quickly."

<sup>28</sup> None of those reclining at the table knew why he said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Since Judas kept the money-bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup> After receiving the piece of bread, he immediately left. And it was night.

<sup>31</sup> When he had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him..."

<sup>34</sup> "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you

### **Sermon Summary:**

As Jesus and his disciples are together at supper a contrast between Judas and the disciple Jesus loved becomes apparent. Judas is an example of what a disciple should not be. The unnamed disciple that Jesus loved is an example of what a disciple of Jesus should be. If we look at all the occurrences of Judas in this gospel we see a person who gradually has a negative development rather than a sudden decision to betray Jesus. Jesus does not publicly expose him but gives him opportunities to change course. In contrast, the disciple that Jesus loves follows after Jesus from early on, never mentions his name, and eventually stays with Jesus even at the crisis of the cross. He humbly never mentions his own name, instead providing us with an example of what a disciple of Jesus should be. At the end of the gospel he indicates that he is the writer.

### **Discussion:**

1. Read John 13:21-22. Why would the disciples look at one another?
2. Jesus indicated to the beloved disciple who would betray him without mentioning a name. Why do you think he did this?
3. This section of verses spends a lot of time on Judas. Why do you think the writer included this?
4. Why do you think Jesus didn't publicly expose Judas?
5. How does this reveal the heart of God?
6. Why do you think the disciple that Jesus loved is not named?
7. Read John 1:35-40; 13:23-25; 19:26-27; 20:1-8; 21:7, 20, 24. List all the characteristics of this disciple. What characteristics stand out to you as an example of what a disciple should be?
8. What characteristic stands out to you most?

### **End with Prayer**