

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of August 2, 2015

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## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Come Holy Spirit*

**Next week's readings:** John 14

This week Jesus teaches that it is good for us for him to go to the cross, because it would mean that he could send his Holy Spirit to us. What does the gift of the Holy Spirit mean to our lives as followers of Jesus?

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# Daily Readings

Monday	<p><b>Read John 11:55-57.</b> In Numbers 9:6 we see that ceremonial uncleanness would prevent someone from being able to celebrate the Passover. Since this was one of the highlights of the year, you can imagine people would plan ahead to be able to be part of the festivities. Are there ways we 'prepare ourselves' to enter into worship today? What helps us prepare our hearts to receive the Lord?</p>
Tuesday	<p><b>Read John 12:1-8.</b> Bethany was close to Jerusalem, so Jesus often stayed with Mary and Martha when he was on his way to the city. Six days before the Passover, when many were observing rituals of cleansing in preparation for Passover, Mary washed Jesus' feet, not with water, but with Nard, a costly perfume. Mary takes on the role of a servant (slave) and gives up a substance of great price. What do you think Mary was communicating to Jesus in this act? How does Jesus interpret it?</p>
Wednesday	<p><b>Read John 12:9-19.</b> Five days before the Passover, Jesus is met by the crowd as he enters into the city. People who are hungry to see a deliverer come flocking to greet Jesus because they had heard about what he had done for Lazarus. Jesus enters riding on a donkey colt. In doing so, he fulfilled the prophesy from Zechariah 9:9 and showed his humbleness. Can you imagine how Caesar would enter a city? How would a military leader enter the city? What did Jesus' entrance communicate?</p>
Thursday	<p><b>Read John 12:20-50.</b> In the days leading up to the Passover, Jesus taught those who had gathered for the festival. He compared his life to a seed that must die before it could become what it was meant to be. Jesus tells the disciples that his hour has finally come and, in doing so, is comforted by God his Father. Some believe in Jesus, but others doubt him. What does Jesus' faithfulness in the face of this hard road tell us about his character?</p>
Friday	<p><b>Read John 13: 1-30.</b> Just five days before, Mary had knelt at his feet to prepare him for what was to come (his burial). Jesus now takes the role of the servant to wash the feet of his disciples and to prepare them for the life they will soon be called to begin. They are going to be called, not as status seekers, but to be servants of the savior, and their greatest status will be found in being like their master. What Mary voluntarily humbled herself to do, to honor Jesus, Jesus now teaches his disciples to do for each other, to honor him.</p>
Saturday	<p><b>Read John 13: 31-38.</b> The image of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples is one of humbleness, but it is also a picture of love. It is in loving one another that others begin to understand who Jesus is. How can you grow in showing radical, servant hearted love in Jesus' name today?</p>