



## SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

### Small Group Guide: John 12.20-33

#### Open with Prayer:

#### Sermon Summary:

When a group of Greeks arrived seeking Jesus in John 12.20-33, it triggered something the whole Gospel had been building toward: Jesus finally declaring, "*The hour has come.*" But instead of seizing the moment the crowd expected, He talked about a seed dying in the ground. This passage sets two definitions of glory side by side. The world measures glory by influence, recognition, and platform. Jesus measures it by surrender, obedience, and the Father's name being lifted high. The call for us is the same one Jesus answered Himself: lay it down, let it die, and trust that what grows from surrender outlasts anything we could have built on our own.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. The Greeks came with one simple request: "We wish to see Jesus" (John 12.21). What does it say about them that they came looking for Jesus Himself, not just a miracle or a message? What does your own pursuit of Jesus typically look like?
2. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus kept saying "the hour has *not* yet come" (John 2.4, 7.6, 7.30, 8.20). What does it tell you about Jesus that He was living on a timeline no one else could see? How does that encourage you when God's timing doesn't match yours?
3. In John 12.24, Jesus says a grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die before it produces fruit. Where in your own life have you seen something that felt like loss eventually produce something you couldn't have planned for?
4. Jesus told His followers to lose their lives, and then in the very next breath He did it Himself (John 12.25-27). Why does it matter that Jesus went first? How does that change the way you hear His call to surrender?
5. The Pharisees saw the crowds and called it glory (John 12.19). Jesus saw the cross and called it the hour. How do you personally tend to measure whether something is "working" for God? Where does that scorecard come from?
6. Jesus prayed "Father, glorify Your name" instead of "Father, save Me" (John 12.28). Is there an area of your life right now where you are still praying for rescue when God might be inviting you to pray for His glory instead?

7. The Father responded, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." What does it mean to you personally that heaven notices and responds to a surrendered life?

### **Key Takeaways:**

- You cannot crown Him while you are still crowning yourself. Surrender is not a one-time moment. It is a daily posture.
- Jesus never asks you to walk a road He did not walk first. He denied Himself before He ever asked you to deny yourself.
- The world measures glory by what you gain. God measures it by what you release.
- A seed that refuses to die stays alone. A seed that dies produces a harvest that outlasts the moment.

### **This Week:**

This week, identify one specific thing you have been holding onto out of comfort, reputation, or fear. It might be a conversation you have been avoiding, a preference you keep protecting, or a need for recognition you keep feeding.

- Write it down, pray over it by name, and intentionally release it to God with this simple prayer: "Father, forget my name. Glorify Yours."
- Come back to your group next week ready to share what that experience was like.