

# SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

## WEEK TWENTY-FIVE: JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH

### READING

20 Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration 21 paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” 22 Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus. 23 Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. 25 Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

32 And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” 33 He said this to indicate how he was going to die. John 12 (NLT)

### TEACHING

In this story, some Gentiles (non-Jewish God fearers) had travelled to Jerusalem for the Passover and they wanted to meet Jesus. They had heard stories about the miracles and the healings and they were curious. When the disciples let Jesus know, his answer seems a little odd. He starts talking about how the time has come for him to “enter into his glory.” Then he starts talking about seeds dying...what is this all about?

There is something about the request of the Greeks that causes Jesus to realize the hour of his suffering and death is near. When most people think of glory they think of victory and power and strength, but for Jesus his path to glory is going to be marked by pain, sorrow and death. He then uses the example of the seed to explain that through his death, many will experience life. Every farmer and gardener know that a seed has to fall in the ground and die so that there can be greater life.

Jesus challenged his disciples to do the same. No, none of us can die for the world’s sins, but there is a way in which we can lay our lives down to serve and love others so that we will find true life both here on earth and forever in heaven.

Jesus knew that he would have to be lifted up on a cross if he was going to draw everyone to himself. When we see Jesus dying on the cross for us it helps us in two ways. Objectively, we can know that his sacrifice and his victory is enough for us. Subjectively, our hearts can be melted and moved by the beauty of what he did.

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## RESPONSE

### OPENING QUESTION(S):

- Have you ever tried to plant something (a flower or plant)? How did it go?

### TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- In this story, who wanted to meet Jesus?
- What did Jesus say about the seed (kernel of wheat)?

### CHILDREN:

- In this story, who wanted to meet Jesus?
- What did Jesus say about the seed (kernel of wheat)?
- How did Jesus' death bring life for you and me?

### TEENAGERS:

- How did Jesus respond to the request from the Greeks?
- What was Jesus trying to teach us by using the example of the kernel of wheat?
- What are some ways you can lay down your life to serve and love others?

### ADULTS:

- What does sacrificial love look like in your own life?
- How do the objective and subjective aspects of the cross help you love Jesus?

## PRAYER

*God, thank you that Jesus came to die so I could live. Help me to live not for myself but for your glory and for the good of those around me. There are so many times when I am selfish and when I make decisions or say words that help me and might hurt others. Please forgive me of those times when I love myself more than you. Help me to see the truth of what Jesus did for me at the cross and help me to see the beauty of what Jesus did for me at the cross. Fill my heart with truth and beauty so that I can both know and experience your goodness. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

Jesus' words in verse 32 remind us of this passage from earlier in John:

*14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. John 3*

Take a few minutes and read this story in Numbers 21:6-9. Ask yourself: In what ways is Jesus "the greater bronze serpent?" In other words, how did the bronze serpent foreshadow what Jesus would come to do for us? The Israelites were told to "look and live." What does that look like in our lives today? How do we look and live at the cross?