

**Grangetown Baptist Church; Gospel of John Study Guide; Chapters 15-21**  
**4 of 4**

1) What is Christian faithfulness? Who is the most faithful Christian you've ever known? What was her or his secret?

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**Background John 15-17**

In the hours before his arrest, trial, and execution, Jesus gathered His disciples in a private room in order to teach them some final lessons, remind them of some great truths, and encourage them to trust and obey through the difficult times just ahead.

Chapter 15 begins with a vine-branches example familiar to many of us about Christian living. This involves the necessity of fruitfulness in a believer's life and the impossibility of such an experience without a rich, deep, vital, ongoing relationship with Christ.

Those who lived such a life, Christ warned at the end of chapter 15, would experience (just as He had) the world's fierce hatred. But the disciples were not to panic over this prospect. In chapter 16, they heard the reassuring words that the Spirit of God would come, not only as their Helper and Comforter, but also as the Convicter of all who are antagonistic to the gospel. "Be of good cheer," Christ concluded, "I have overcome the world."

In the final moments before His arrest, Christ prayed for His followers (chapter 17). It exhibits the face-to-face communion the Son had with the Father and, more than any other episode in the Gospels, reveals a detailed account of the content of the communication between God the Father and God the Son.

This chapter forms a transition, marking the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and the beginning of His intercessory ministry for believers. In many ways the prayer is a summary of John's entire Gospel.

In fifty words or less, summarize what Christ taught using the example of the vine and branches.

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What does the “Lord’s Prayer” (chapter 17) reveal about Jesus’ goals and desires for His followers?

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**Execution of the Son of God John 18:1-19:37**

How do you feel when you stop to ponder the fact that Jesus Christ suffered and died on a cruel cross for your sins? When have you been most affected by this truth?

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What ongoing situation in your life causes you to become timid about your faith in Christ? Why?

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What friends, neighbors, colleagues, etc. need to know that Jesus died in their place, for their sins?

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## **Resurrection of the Son of God John 18:38-21:25**

Chapter 20 records the resurrection of Christ and a number of His appearances to His followers. Jesus appeared to His own in order to confirm their faith in the living Christ. Such appearances were so profound that they transformed the disciples from cowardly men hiding in fear to bold witnesses for Jesus.

Once again John's purpose in recording these post-resurrection appearances was to demonstrate that Jesus' physical and bodily resurrection was the crowning proof that He truly is the Messiah and Son of God who laid down His life for His own.

Jesus seems to go to great lengths to restore Peter (for example, three questions of devotion to parallel his three prior denials; a charcoal fire to perhaps recall even the smells of that fateful night). Why do you think He did that? What lessons are here for us?

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If Jesus Christ rose from the dead (and He did!), He is alive! How specifically should this historical fact make a difference in your life this week? In what you do? In what you do not do?

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