



Oughtibridge
Parish Church

25 January 2026

John 12:20-36 – Holding Life Loosely

Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see. Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

1. Jesus talks about his death as the hour of his glory (v23). Why is this so shocking? How does this differ from how we usually think about glory?
2. In v24-26 Jesus calls us to follow him in productive self-sacrifice rather than self-preservation. Where do you feel the challenge to follow Jesus' call?
3. Look again at v24-26. This time notice the *promises* Jesus makes here. How can Jesus' promises help you to follow him in productive self-sacrifice?
4. V27 hints at how costly it was for Jesus to go to the cross. And yet he chose self-sacrifice over self-preservation. How does that make you feel about him?
5. The devil is defeated at the cross (v31). He cannot insist that God punish us because the judgement for our sins has fallen on Jesus. How should we respond when the devil tempts us to despair over our sin?
6. What do you see in Jesus 'lifted up' (v32) that draws you to him?
7. How would our evangelism be impacted by remembering: a) God displays what he is like at the cross b) Jesus died to draw all sorts of people to himself?
8. If we don't grasp the problem of our sin then we won't see why Jesus 'must' be lifted up (v34). How can we keep a real sense of our need for the cross, such that we see Jesus' glory in dying for us?
9. Imagine someone who thinks they can put off responding to Jesus. With v35-36 in mind, what might you say to them?
10. Jesus' glory is shown off through his death. How can you make a point of looking at the cross?

Respond to God's word in prayer

Share any answers to prayer you've seen since you last met

Take some time to pray for each other

*Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a "people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace."
(Taken from 'Lead' by Paul Tripp. p42)*