# Gospel of John Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## John Chapter 12

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:* This chapter is one of the most challenging to figure out how to fit into the traditional club talk mold. But this is a good challenge because this chapter *must* be a part of *the* gospel John wanted us to know!
* It is tough to pick a passage in this chapter for a club talk but both the triumphal entry and the anointing at Bethany could work. In the middle of a semester I think the anointing fits best as a place to identity with the different characters in the story in order to ask the club where they see themselves right now.
1. Jesus anointed at Bethany (12:1-11)
	1. The location: Bethany / Lazarus (12:1)
	2. The dinner to honor Jesus
		1. Martha served (12:2)
		2. Lazarus reclined (12:2)
		3. Mary (12:3)
			1. Nard
			2. Poured on Jesus’ feet
			3. Wiped with her hair
		4. House was filled with fragrance
		5. Judas criticizes Mary for selfish reasons (12:4-6)
		6. Jesus defends Mary... hints again at his impending death (12:7-8)
	3. Jews seek to kill Jesus and Lazarus... because people were putting their faith in Jesus (12:9-11)
2. Jesus welcomed to Jerusalem in the Triumphal Entry (12:12-19)
3. Jesus predicts his death and unbelief continues (12:20-50)
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| Possible main point(s):* How much is too much when we understand who Jesus really is? Both our entire reputation and everything we posses are to be given to honor Jesus.
* Who are you in this story? Martha = too busy to notice Jesus; Lazarus = chilling with Jesus; Mary = complete devotion to Jesus; Judas = critical of Jesus people, a bit on the fence, Jews = Against Jesus
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus was with people and ate at their houses
* Jesus allowed himself to be worshipped in an extravagant way (even in the midst of the poor and needy)
* Jesus knew that he was about to die
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| What this has to do with our life:* We all have an attitude about Jesus, even a passive attitude makes a statement
* The most worthy and important needs in the world pale in comparison to how we respond to Jesus
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| Relevant technical details:* “Bethany” (v.1) = Literally either “House of figs” or “House of the afflicted/depression/misery/poor”. This town was known for being a place where poor people, the sick, and the lame would live. It is significant that Jesus spent so much time here and that Mary used up so much money in her worship of Jesus in this needy setting.
* Lazarus (v.2) = The person Jesus raised from the dead in the previous chapter, John 11.
* Mary and Martha = The same people as Luke 10 where Mary listened at Jesus’ feet and Martha busied herself with housework and worry, Jesus said Mary had chosen what was better (to focus on Jesus).
* “Pint of pure nard” ( v.3) = Nard is an oil extracted from a plant grown in India. What is important is that it is very expensive (this amount equalled a year’s wages v.5.
* “Wiped his feet with her hair” (v.3) = If perfume was applied it was applied to the top of the head. That she put it on Jesus’ feet (a slave-worthy task) shows her extreme humility. Jewish women never unbound their hair in public unless they were suspected of adultery (Num. 5:18), Mary may have been a woman of loose morals and yet sought to honor Jesus.
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| Possible illustrations:* The most expensive thing you have... bring it and show it to them.
* Perfume... Bring some in, talk about how it is expensive and how the smell can fill an entire room.
* Who are YOU? Make 5 signs or a powerpoint with their names (see above) just to drive your point home.
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

John 12 (NIV84)

*Jesus Anointed at Bethany*

**12** Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

*The Triumphal Entry*

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the King of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written,

15 “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion;

see, your king is coming,

seated on a donkey’s colt.”

16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

*Jesus Predicts His Death*

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

27 “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

30 Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

34 The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

35 Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. 36 Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

*The Jews Continue in Their Unbelief*

37 Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. 38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

39 For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

40 “He has blinded their eyes

and deadened their hearts,

so they can neither see with their eyes,

nor understand with their hearts,

nor turn—and I would heal them.”

41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

44 Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. 45 When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

47 “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”