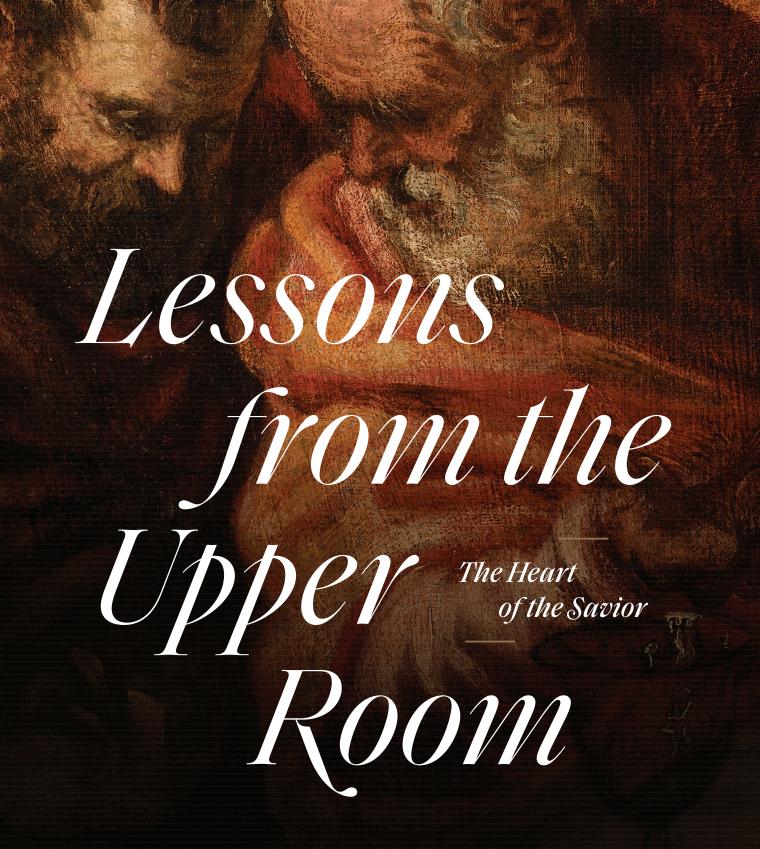
S T U D Y G U I D E



SINCLAIR B. FERGUSON

# Lessons from the Upper The Heart of the Savior Room

STUDY GUIDE

Lessons from the Upper Room Study Guide © 2021 by Ligonier Ministries

Published by Ligonier Ministries 421 Ligonier Court, Sanford, FL 32771 Ligonier.org

ISBN 978-1-64289-381-6

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher, Ligonier Ministries.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV $^{\circ}$  Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version $^{\circ}$ ), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# How to Use This Study Guide

This study guide includes a chapter synopsis, a lesson objective, key passages, key points, and discussion questions from each chapter in *Lessons from the Upper Room*, as well as questions that focus on a relevant passage of Scripture from each chapter. Participants should first read each corresponding chapter of the book in order to make the best use of this guide.

Chapter Synopsis: This section summarizes the material in the chapter and provides a reminder of what the chapter covered. It serves to help readers remember what they've already read in the book.

**Lesson Objective:** This section explains the purpose of the chapter and the intended outcome of the study guide lesson.

**Key Passages:** This section quotes several passages from the chapter so that readers can remember some of the more significant things the author said. It can also serve as a starting point for discussion if the group leader would like to ask questions or provide thoughts related to excerpts from the book.

**Key Points:** This section outlines many of the basic ideas that the author mentioned in the chapter. It helps readers recall not just the big idea of the chapter but also its supporting ideas and their flow.

Scripture Reading: This section highlights one of the chapter's key points in God's Word. It helps readers identify the scriptural basis of important Christian doctrines and develops their ability to understand Scripture through questions about the reading. These questions are also ideal for group study.

## Lessons from the Upper Room

Reflection Questions: This section provides readers with questions that could be asked of themselves or in a small-group setting. The questions are designed to help readers understand the chapter and apply that knowledge to their lives.

**Prayer:** This section closes the study with an opportunity to come before the Lord in prayer based on what readers have learned.

1

# The Mind of Christ

John 13:1-12

### **Chapter Synopsis**

The Farewell Discourse showcases the mind of Christ. When He washed His disciples' feet, He pictured His humility as the Word made flesh. This foot-washing, which opens the Farewell Discourse, uniquely captures the Apostle Paul's theology of the humiliation and exaltation of our Savior in story form, as well as serving as an epilogue of sorts to the second major division of John's gospel, the Book of the Passion. As such, it clues us in to the nature of the work that Christ was about to accomplish and how we ought to respond to it.

### **Lesson Objective**

This chapter will help you see the structure of John's gospel and how the foot-washing of John 13:1–12 connects to Philippians 2:6–9. By doing so, you will understand the true identity of Jesus as the eternal Son of God and His humility in becoming a man to accomplish salvation.

### **Key Passages**

In less than twenty-four hours, the Savior will be dead—crucified. Well aware that this is His certain destiny, He wants to show His disciples that He loves them to the end. (p. 5)

He is acting out a parable of the gospel, showing them by means of a dramatic sign both who He is and what He has come to do. Here, in the foot-washing, He reveals both His person and His work, both His identity and the purpose of His ministry. (p. 10)

God's Son "emptied" Himself not by subtraction from His deity but by addition, by His assumption of our frail humanity. (p. 13)

John's picture here reflects Old Testament prophecies—and none more clearly than Isaiah's description of the Suffering Servant (Isa. 52:13–53:12). . . . The prophetic picture painted by

### Lessons from the Upper Room

Isaiah is now symbolically dramatized here by Jesus. He gets up, He kneels down, He washes, but then He resumes His place. (p. 17)

### **Key Points**

The Scene in the Upper Room (pp. 4–6): The Farewell Discourse takes place on the Passover night on which Jesus was betrayed. It should be read in this light, as Jesus' parting words to His disciples to assure them of His love and prepare them for what was about to come.

The Structure of John's Gospel (pp. 6–8): John's gospel consists of two parts, bookended by a prologue (John 1:1–18) and an epilogue (21:1–25). The first major division is the Book of Signs (1:19–12:50), and the second major division is the Book of the Passion (13:1–20:31). As a helpful exercise, get out a Bible and look over these divisions.

The Foot-Washing and Other Texts (pp. 8–11): The foot-washing of John 13 vividly displays the Apostle Paul's teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ in Philippians 2:6–9, giving us a picture of His humiliation and exaltation. It also connects us back to John's prologue and to the Suffering Servant imagery of Isaiah 52:13–53:12.

The Foot-Washing in Five Stages (pp. 11–19): The foot-washing of John 13 teaches about Jesus' person and work in five stages: (1) origin—Jesus understands His divine origin and mission (John 13:1–3); (2) humiliation—Jesus, the Master, stooped to wash the feet of the disciples, His servants (vv. 4–5); (3) salvation—Jesus' act pictures the cleansing that will be accomplished by His death (vv. 6–11); (4) exaltation—Jesus returns to His seat of honor (v. 12); (5) implication—as Lord, Jesus calls us to follow His example (vv. 13–17).

### Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5–11 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- What phrases define what it means that Jesus "humbled" Himself?
- What are the ethical implications of the incarnation?

### Lessons from the Upper Room

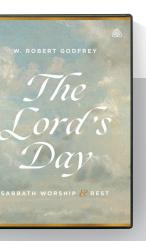
### **Reflection Questions**

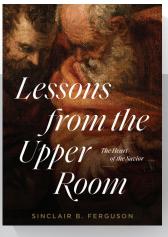
- 1. Imagine that you were in the upper room as one of Jesus' disciples. How would you have reacted to the foot-washing and why?
- 2. What two contexts must be heeded when reading the Farewell Discourse? Where is this scene in the upper room located in terms of the structure of John's gospel? How might understanding this location help you to enter into the scene of the upper room?
- 3. In what general way is the gospel of John different from the Synoptics, and how is this especially true in John 13–17?
- 4. How would you respond to someone who said that Jesus emptied Himself of His divinity in the incarnation? How could the foot-washing scene help you in your response?
- 5. Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12. What points of contact do you find in this text and the opening scene in the upper room?

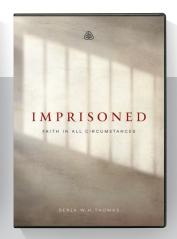
### **Prayer**

- Praise God that He has given us such a vivid portrait of His Son in His Word.
- Confess any areas where you, like the disciples, exhibit self-serving tendencies.
- Thank God for His Son, Jesus Christ, who willingly emptied Himself by becoming a man.
- Ask God to help you display the humility of our Lord Jesus Christ with others.

We want to see men and women around the world connect the deep truths of the Christian faith to everyday life.



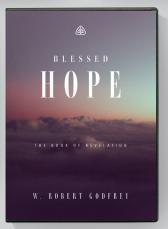


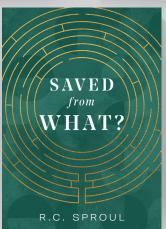


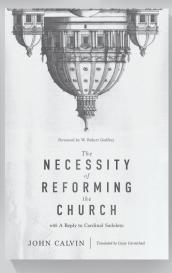


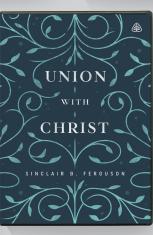












Order your copy of this title, download the digital version, or browse thousands of resources at **Ligonier.org**.