



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Two

We continue the focus on what it means to live out this command and promise from Jesus. Jesus said, “in this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world.” (John 16.33) We consider what it looks like to overcome anxiety. Our culture is riddled with anxiety and fear—a reality that has increased substantially over the last couple of years. It’s helpful to remember that Jesus himself faced trouble. There are three instances in John 11, 12, and 13 where it is clear that Jesus understood what He was saying when He told his disciples to “take heart” in the face of troubles. Jesus had experienced it too. And for us to live this out, we have to stay connected to Jesus no matter what.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

God,  
Thank you for coming to us.  
Sometimes we lose sight of what it means that you sent Jesus—you put on flesh to dwell with us.  
It means that our troubles are understood and not too big for you.  
Give us peace.  
Keep us connected to you—for you have overcome this world!  
Amen.

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: JOHN 11.33-36

*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.* <sup>34</sup> “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

*“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.*

<sup>35</sup> *Jesus wept.*

<sup>36</sup> *Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”*

- The witnesses to this scene noticed that Jesus was in tears just like they were. Jesus felt the emotion of the moment. He was not immune to it—even though he knew what was to come. What does it mean to your experience of trouble or grief that Jesus wept outside a tomb?
- *Imagine Jesus feeling any loss or sadness you have ever felt. Thank Him for his promise of new life.*

## **TUESDAY: JOHN 12.24-27**

*Very truly I tell you, 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.<sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.<sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

<sup>27</sup> *“Now my soul 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.<sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”*

- Jesus was explaining what was to come. The road to the cross would be hard and painful. He admitted that His soul was troubled by it all. But He knew that avoiding the trouble that lay ahead would delay the knowledge of the glory of God. Watching the internal struggle of the Son of God is one reason it makes sense to Jesus our brother and Savior. Where in the story of Jesus have you seen Him most identify with your life?
- *With gratitude, thank Jesus for His willingness to face troubles...that we might see the glory of God for ourselves.*

## **WEDNESDAY: JOHN 13.20-21**

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”*

<sup>21</sup> *After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”*

- Jesus draws out the connection between following Him and following God the Father. Then He experiences a troubled spirit once again and proclaims that one within His inner circle would betray Him and turn Him over to the authorities. It is a bittersweet good-bye meal with His disciples. Both statements start off with “Very truly”. It is true that accepting Jesus is the way to accept the Father. It is also true that people will disappoint you and cause you trouble.
- *As you pray, ask God to fill you with grace to withstand the troubles you face today. Tell God that you believe He sent Jesus to rescue you.*

## **THURSDAY: JOHN 14.1-4**

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.<sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.<sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.”*

- The trouble-narrative shifts to admonition against remaining in a place of trouble. Jesus knows our need and meets it. The way out of troubled hearts? To believe in Jesus.
- *Picture a place prepared for you by Jesus. More than what it might look like, focus on how your heart feels in a place that Jesus dwells with you.*

## **FRIDAY: JOHN 15.4**

*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

- Staying connected to Jesus is essential to not only surviving but thriving in this world. There is strength to weather storms when you are attached to (part of) Jesus. The DNA of the vine moves into the DNA of the branch. When you remain with Jesus He grows life inside of you and you can bear fruit.
- Pray for abiding connected to Christ today.

## **SATURDAY: GALATIANS 2.20**

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

- Paul knew that his life was all about Jesus. The more you follow Jesus, the less you remain the same. We live life in our body and yet we also live life by faith in Jesus. To the world, it looks like we are fully subject to the world. By faith, we are subject to Christ who has overcome the world.
- Pray for the passion of Paul to infiltrate your thinking today. May this perspective change the way you see yourself.

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- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

How do we take heart in the way that Jesus invites us to?

1. **Trust Jesus.** Are you able to trust Jesus? When do you find it most difficult to trust Jesus?
2. **Stay Connected to Jesus.** Have your mind set on Him, so that when troubles come, you will turn to Him, speak His name. What helps you to remember to turn to Jesus?
3. **Claim it.** Have confidence when you say, “This is what’s true.” that you will have what you need. Why do you think we might be hesitant to claim Jesus’ victory over this world?