

*John: The Gospel of Light and Life*  
*Adam Hamilton*  
*Chapter 4 Discussion*  
*The Farewell Discourse (pgs. 89-106)*

***Before We Begin***

*Chapters 13-17 in the Gospel of John is the Last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. These chapters are often referred to as “The Farewell Discourse.” In these chapters John records, the words of instruction and encouragement that Jesus wanted to leave with his disciples before his death, resurrection, and ascension.*

*Our discussion will focus on Chapters 13-15. In these chapters we sense a great love, compassion, and concern for the disciples as he prepared them, for the challenges that they would face as they fulfilled the call to be witnesses for Christ.*

***Ponder This.....***

- *What words of wisdom have been passed along to you by a family member of special friend?*
- *How have these words influenced your life?*

***Opening Prayer***

*Holy God of light and life, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit that remains with us always. As we study your Holy Word, let us be receptive to what you want to teach us. Grant us courage to live as you call us to live and to share the love of Christ with the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

***Bible and Book Study and Discussion***

***Farewell Discourse: John 13 (pg. 111) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1838-1841)***

- *The setting is the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples.*
- *John’s account differs from the account found in the three Synoptic Gospels.*
- *Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe in detail Jesus’ breaking bread and giving the cup. The Apostle Paul was familiar with the tradition in the Synoptic Gospels and wrote about it in his letter to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 2005-2006).*
- *In contrast, John barely mentions the bread and cup (John 13:2, 26) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1838-1839).*

**Read John 13:1-20 (pg. 111) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1838-1839)**

- What do we learn through these two stories about the meaning of greatness and servanthood in the kingdom of God?
- How is the disciples' attitude toward greatness, as revealed in Luke 22:24-26 (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1794)
- Why did Peter at first refuse to let Jesus wash his feet? Why did Peter change his mind?
- Have you ever washed the feet of another person? If yes, how did you feel about the experience?
- Have you ever had your feet washed by someone else? If yes, how did you feel about the experience?
- What acts of service in our culture today might be equated with washing feet in Jesus' day?
- How and why do acts of service make us happy? (John 13:17) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1839).

**Farewell Discourse: John 14 (pg. 113-115) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1841-1843)**

- Verse 1 centers on the theme of trust.
- Verse 6 is one of the "I AM" sayings.
- In these verses, Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for the fact that his time on earth is coming to an end.
- Jesus assures his disciples that he will not leave them alone. He promises the presence of the Holy Spirit.

- In verse 16 Jesus promises that God “will send another Companion, who will be with you forever.”
- In verse 18 Jesus promises, “I won’t leave you as orphans.”

***Holy Spirit Discussion:***

- What word is used for *Companion* in your Bible?
  
- Who does Jesus say the Companion is?
  
- Who is the Greek word for spirit?
  
- What is the Hebrew word for Spirit?
  
- How are these words translated?
  
- What word for spirit is only found in John’s Gospel?
  
- How does Hamilton define *paraclete* in relation to the Holy Spirit?

***Read Genesis 2:4b-7 (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 8)***

***Read John 20:22 (pg. 163) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1855)***

- How did God give life to humankind?
  
- How did Jesus give the Holy Spirit to his disciples?
  
- How is this significant to you?

- Where else in John's Gospel has John drawn a comparison between the creation stories and the life of Jesus?
- In most translations, Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 begin with the same three words, "In the beginning..."
- God formed the human person from the ground. Jesus healed the blind beggar with the mud made from the ground.
- In our book, how does Hamilton describe the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- Are you paying attention to ways the Holy Spirit is present and at work in your life?
- How do you invite the Holy Spirit into your life? How have you experience the Holy Spirit?

***Farewell Discourse: John 15 (pg. 114-115) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1843-1844)***

***Read John 15:1-8 (pg. 114) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1843)***

- How does this "I AM" saying enhance your understanding of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit keep you connected to the vine, which is Christ?
- What does verse 15:5 mean in your life?

***Read John 15:9-17 (pg. 114-115) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1843)***

***Read Matthew 22: 35-40 (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1657)***

- What is the greatest commandment Jesus calls us to obey?
- What is the relationship between bearing fruit and obeying the call to love?

- What is the relationship between Jesus' promise of continuing presence through the Holy Spirit and the commandment to love?
- What is the relationship between Jesus' example of washing the feet of the disciples and the call to share Christ's love with the world?
- How do you remain in Christ's love? (John 15:9-10)
- How do you obey the command to love?

### *Hymn Study and Discussion*

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*  
*Edwin Hatch*

*Verse 1*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

*Verse 2*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

*Verse 3*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.

*Verse 4*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

*This passage in John correlates with Genesis 2:7 where “the LORD God formed a man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”*

- *What do you think that the author of this hymn was trying to invoke?*

*To summarize the message of the hymn, it is suggested that the breath of God “brings new life and love, purity, and obedience, surrender and inspiration, and eternal life.”*

### ***Wrapping Up***

#### ***Closing Prayer***

*Gracious and Holy God, thank you for the Holy Spirit, the gift of your continuing presence that remains with us always. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that leads, guides, and empowers us. Open our eyes to the ways you call us to use our talents and abilities to serve others and bear fruit for your kingdom. Let us remain in your love. Let love for you guide our actions and our speech. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*