

Bible chat notes week starting 13 11 22

John 12: 20 - 33 (The Message)

There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?"

Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal."

"If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honour and reward anyone who serves me. "Right now I am shaken. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'"

A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again." The listening crowd said, "Thunder!" Others said, "An angel spoke to him!"

Jesus said, "The voice didn't come for me but for you. At this moment the world is in crisis. Now Satan, the ruler of this world, will be thrown out. And I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me." He put it this way to show how he was going to be put to death.

1. How do you feel about Remembrance Day? How do you experience the day and the two minutes of silence? What does it all mean to you?
2. Can we respect the courage of those who fight in war, and also the courage of those who refuse to fight on ethical grounds?
3. Non-Jews would sometimes come and worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. Why do these Greeks want to see Jesus? Why don't they just ask Jesus directly?
4. Consider Jesus' response to the Greeks' request. Taken literally it might seem a bit rude! But John's gospel is a bit like a dramatised version of Jesus' life. What spiritual or theological message might the gospel be intending to convey?
5. Discuss the meaning of the short parable about the grain of wheat. What does it tell us about Jesus? What does it tell us about following Jesus?
6. If you haven't already done so, try to get to the heart of these words: *anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.* What do these words mean to you? Could you live by them?
7. Does the end of the text have any answer for those Greeks? In the days to come, how would they know Jesus?
8. Can you apply this passage to those who risked or lost their lives in war?