

## Come, Follow Me: June 3 - 9

### John 13 – 17

#### "Continue Ye in My Love"

The scriptures this week show Christ preparing His apostles for His departure. Christ used the Passover to do this. The Passover festival (comprising the Passover sacrifice, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Honored Son first-fruits offering) is meant to testify of Christ's birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. By giving this imagery to Moses just as the Israelites prepared to leave Egypt, Christ could then announce Himself as the fulfillment of these symbols.

#### **Before the feast of the Passover (John 13:1):**

Christ's feast with His apostles occurred on Wednesday evening, while the rest of the Jewish population and pilgrims celebrated the following evening, Thursday night. Christ was taken down from the cross before [sundown on Thursday](#) for the Passover High Holy first day, which occurred on Friday. He was in the tomb three full days and nights and rose Sunday morning at the same time the Honored Son first-- fruits offering was enacted in the temple.

#### **Christ washed the feet of His apostles (John 13:3 -- 14; John 15:3):**

Jesus washed the feet of His apostles to cleanse them from the blood of their generation. Had He not done it, they could have no part with Him eternally nor have the special spiritual gifts and protection the ordinance provides. For a thorough discussion of the [washing of feet](#), [click here](#).

#### **Jesus reveals His betrayer (John 13:18 -- 30):**

Jesus keeps reiterating that not all of the apostles are cleansed and redeemed. Then He says outright that one of them will betray Him.

When sharing a meal, the Jews of this time period did not use a table and chairs, but either reclined on rugs and pillows arrayed on the floor or gathered around what is called a *triclinium* table. Triclinium tables were U-- shaped and either stood some inches off the floor or were hung by ropes or chains. The guests reclined on their left sides with their feet pointing away from the table, and the server was able to enter from the open side to serve them. (The table in the picture below seems a bit high.)



John was reclining to the right of the Savior, so he could have easily leaned back upon His breast. Judas was seated at the Savior's left and dipped his food into the ceremonial dishes he shared with Jesus. Reclining is actually an important symbol in the Passover ritual, which celebrates the deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. Slaves crouch in the field to eat, but free men recline.

#### **Now is the Son of Man glorified (John 13:31):**

The person who officiated at a Passover feast was usually the eldest male in or patriarch of a family. This is probably the only Passover feast attended by Christ where He officiated. In this case, He was the offerer of the sacrificial lamb, but also the offering.

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ** our **passover** is sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7).

For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself (Hebrews 7:26, 27).

#### **If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15; John 15:10 -- 14):**

A growing trend today is to be "spiritual" but not "religious." Accepting this philosophy "frees" people from being obedient to any commandments from God. Ignoring the

commandments only makes us less free and limits our eternal growth while separating us from the Spirit.

In John 15, Christ calls Himself the vine and His disciples the branches. They cannot bear fruit without being connected to Him, and that connection is maintained by keeping His commandments.

### **The Gift of the Holy Ghost (John 14:16 -- 31; John 15:26, 27; John 16:7 -- 16):**

The Jews believe in many types of God's influence. The *Shekhinah* is the radiance of God, while the *Ruach HaKodesh* is the Holy Ghost. It is divine inspiration and prophetic power, and may also refer to the divine force, quality, and influence of God over the universe or over his creatures. But it is not a separate being in the Godhead, not a personage at all. So Christ's disciples, who would not receive the Holy Ghost until Christ departed from them, had to learn the Holy Ghost's true nature and role in their lives.

### **Sinning against knowledge (John 15:19 -- 24):**

Christ explains to His apostles that because of His ministry to the Jews, they have seen and witnessed His miracles. Now is their unbelief a sin because they have received a witness that Christ is, that He exists, that He does the will of His father.

### **Whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service (John 16:1, 2):**

We are witnessing this first-- hand today. Those who revile against us and our standards increasingly think that they have the truth and that our standards are hateful against them and informed by ignorance. Because of our beliefs, they consider us worse than worthless, something to be cleansed out of society.

### **Ye will not see me/ Ye will see me (John 16:15 -- 33):**

The apostles could not possibly understand what Christ was saying. They could comprehend that He could go unto the Father, but not that He could come back. Only after Christ's death, resurrection, and return to teach the apostles could they understand what He was saying.

### **The intercessory prayer (John 17):**

Jesus offered this wonderful, loving prayer to His Father to guide and protect the apostles after Christ's return to the full presence of God. A couple of interesting verses:

Verse 5: And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.












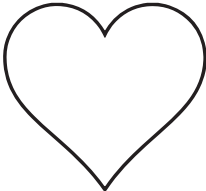
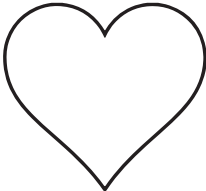
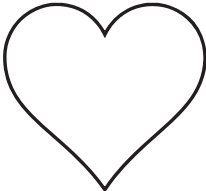
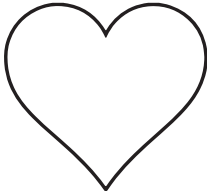
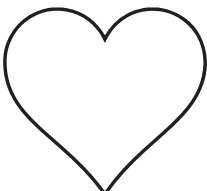
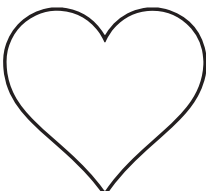
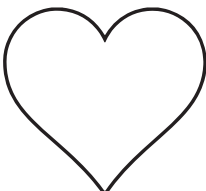
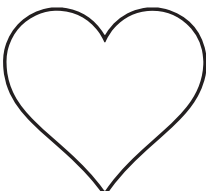
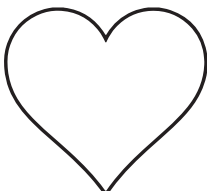





Christ was God before He came to earth to descend below all things. He enjoyed the full presence of God the Father and had been the enacter of all God's creations.

Verse 12: While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Prophecies that Jesus would be betrayed were fulfilled by Judas Iscariot, who willfully, with knowledge, betrayed Christ to His murderers. Judas is a son of perdition.

# Love One Another Challenge

Instructions: Each time you do an act of service, color in a heart. See how many acts of service you can do in one week.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. -John 13:34

# *Come, Follow Me*

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

## JESUS SAYS, "I AM"

Materials: "I AM" posters (free printables attached to this document), scriptures for each family member

Instructions: Tell the family that you will be studying the different ways that Jesus identified himself through "I AM" statements. These comparisons to everyday objects were like the parables, meant to help the people understand better Jesus' role in their lives.

Hand out one or two posters to each family member. Instruct them to look up the scriptures indicated and fill in the blank with the "I AM" statement that Jesus used in that particular case.

When all the posters have been filled in, have family members take turns sharing what they found in the scriptures and then explaining what Jesus' role means in their lives, especially as it relates to the "I AM" statement.

Example: Jesus said, "I am that bread of life" (John 6:48). Bread is what sustained people physically during ancient times, and was seen as the staff of life. Jesus can sustain us spiritually if we can come closer to him each day. We need to build our relationship with Jesus daily, just like we need to eat food daily.

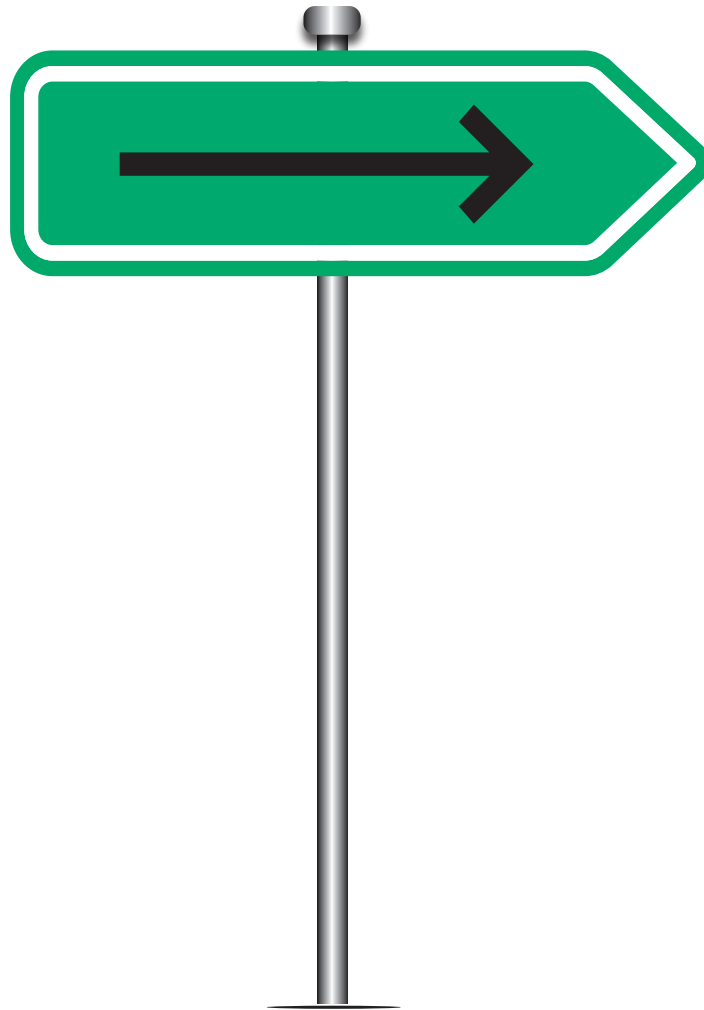
Additional Information:

I AM = JEHOVAH

We also believe that Jesus was the Jehovah of the Old Testament. Under the word "Jehovah," the Bible Dictionary states: "The covenant or proper name of the God of Israel. It denotes the 'Unchangeable One,' 'the eternal I AM' ([Ex. 6:3](#); [Ps. 83:18](#); [Isa. 12:2](#); [26:4](#)). The original pronunciation of this name has possibly been

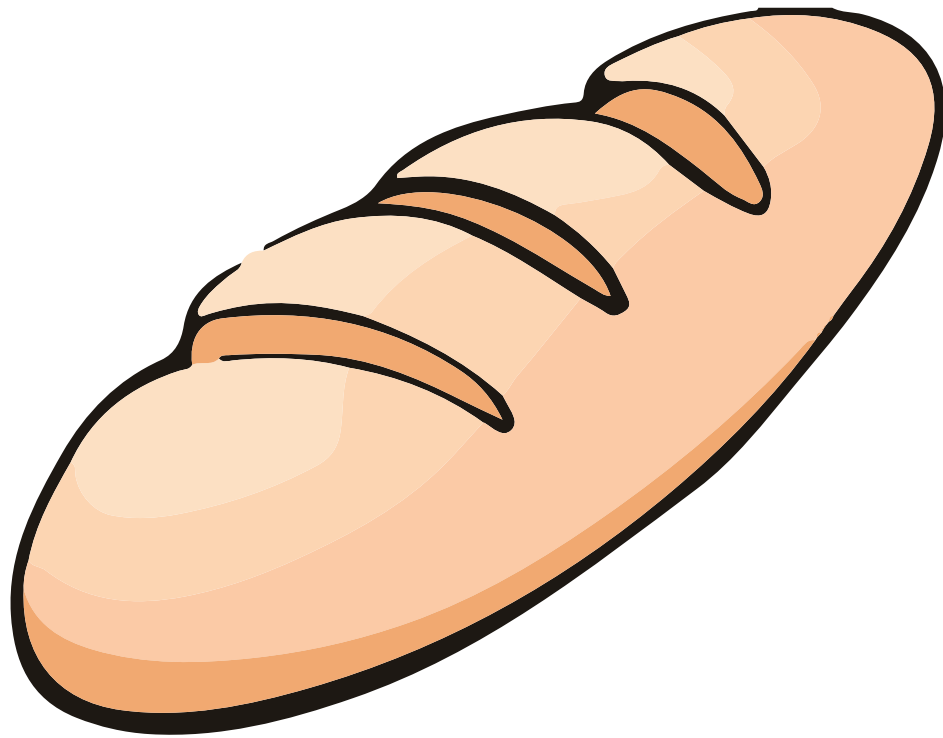
lost, as the Jews, in reading, never mentioned it but substituted one of the other names of God, usually Adonai. Probably it was pronounced Jahveh, or Yahveh. In the KJV, the Jewish custom has been followed, and the name is generally denoted by LORD or GOD, printed in small capitals.

Jehovah is the premortal Jesus Christ and came to earth being born of Mary (see [Mosiah 3:8](#); [15:1](#); [3 Ne. 15:1–5](#); [D&C 110:1–10](#)). Although [Ex. 6:3](#) states that the God of Israel was not known by the name Jehovah before Moses' time, latter-day revelation tells us otherwise; see [JST Ex. 6:3 \(Ex. 6:3 note c\)](#); [Abr. 1:16](#); [2:8](#); see also [Gen. 22:14](#).”



John 14:6

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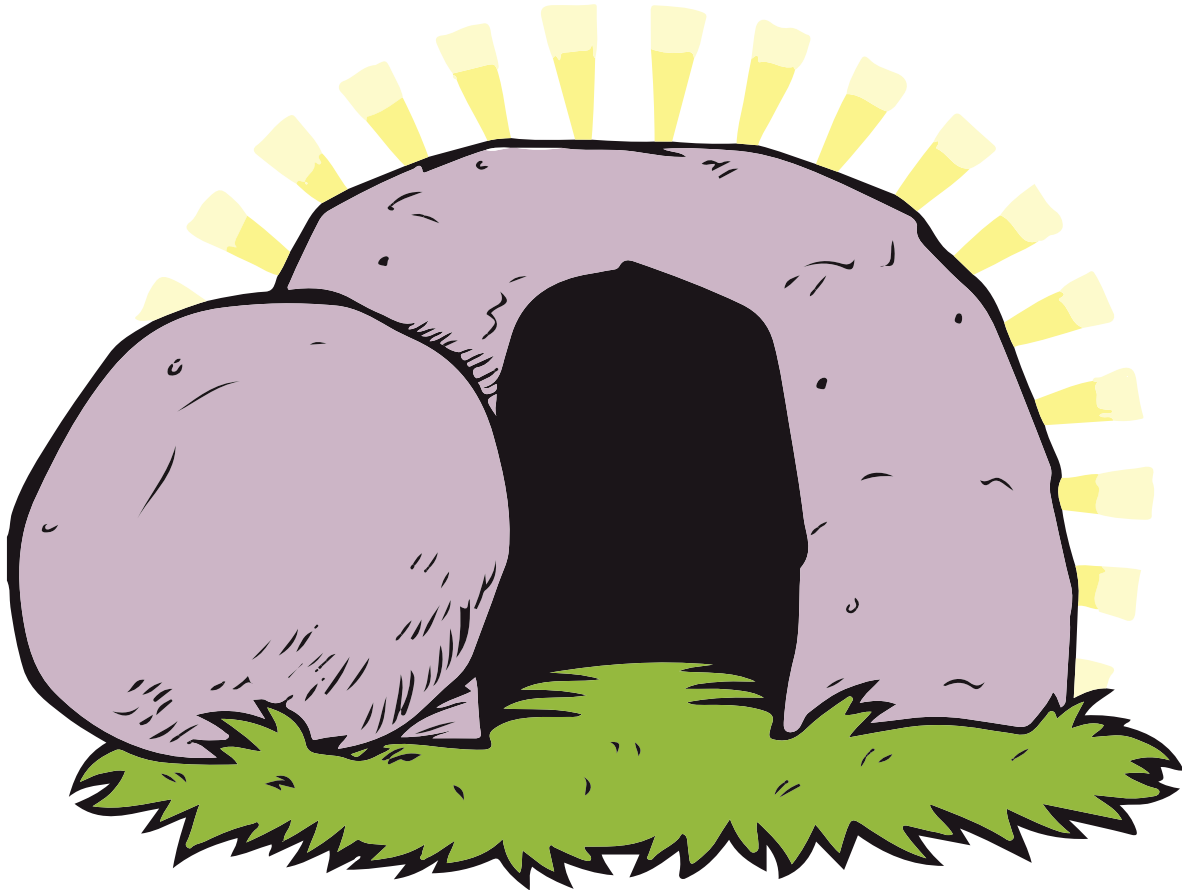
John 6:35-48

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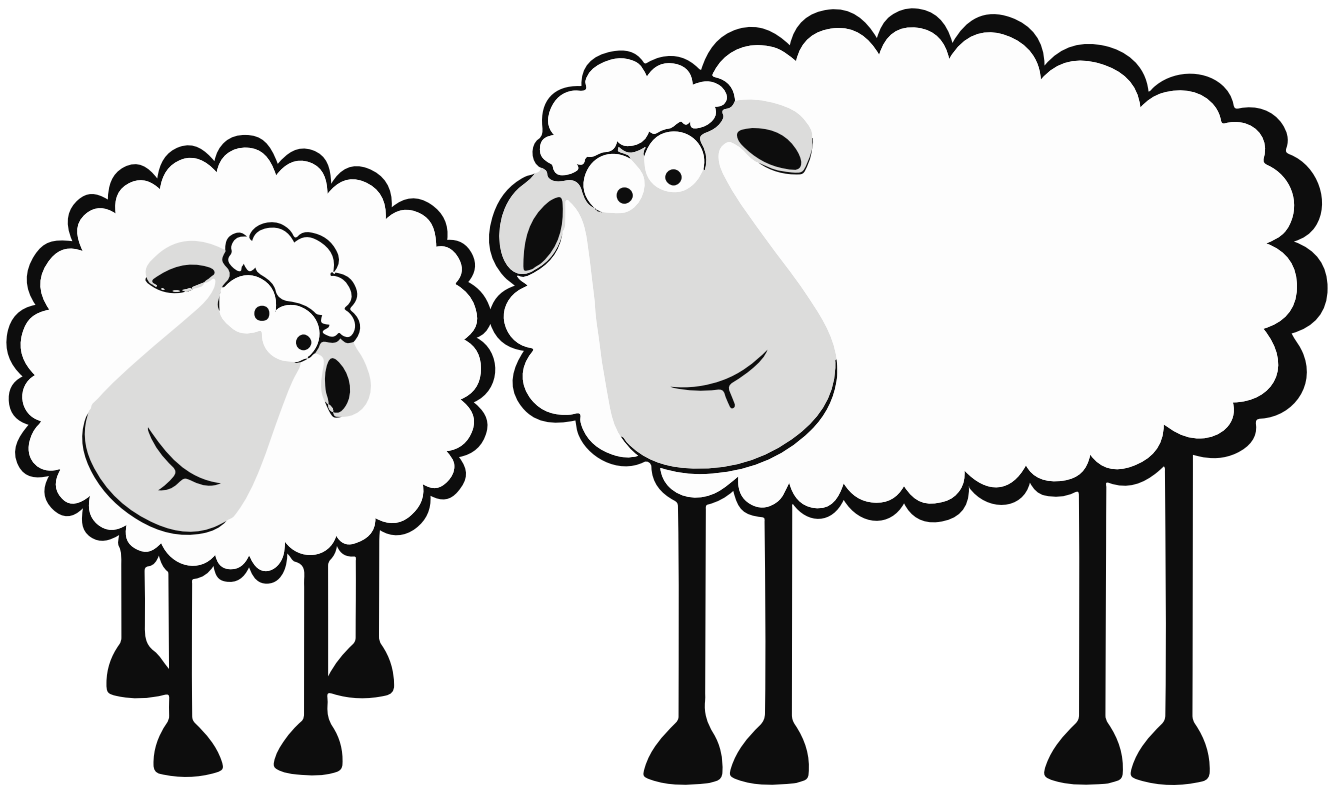
John 8:12; 9:5

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John 11:25

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John 10:11-14

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John 10:7

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John 15:1-5

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