





When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son. And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

**John 19:26-27**

**LAST WORDS.**

**Week 3**

Week 3, Day 1

# Monday

John 19:25-27; 7:1-9, Matthew 13:55-58, Luke 2:25-35,  
Isaiah 40:10-11

**“Dear woman, here is your son. And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”**

**John 19:26-27**

## PROVISION AND CARE FOR OTHERS

These instructions from Jesus on the cross given to His mother and His disciple John show His love and concern for His mother. As He was dying, Jesus knew that a sword was piercing through Mary’s soul as well, as Simeon had prophesied 33 years before in Luke 2.

*As Mary and Joseph brought their newborn son Jesus to the temple for dedication, a godly man named Simeon saw Jesus, took Him in his arms, and blessed the baby Jesus. Yet he also said this to Mary: Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also. Mary experienced this throughout the ministry of her Son as He was rejected, opposed, slandered, and plotted against. Yet this was the ultimate fulfillment of that solemn promise. Of all those who looked upon Jesus at the cross, none suffered as Mary did. Jesus consciously cared for His mother to the end, showing that even on the cross, His attention was directed to others and not upon Himself. If there was ever a moment when Jesus deserved to be self-focused, this was it, yet He remained others-centered to the end. Mary had other children born after Jesus, and there are references to both the half brothers and sisters of Jesus. Despite this, Jesus left the care of His mother, Mary, to John, the disciple and apostle. - David Guzik - Enduring Word Commentary*

We don’t fully know why Jesus chose to leave Mary in John’s care since scripture tells us He had various brothers and sisters. We know that during His earthly ministry, John 7:5 tells us that “even his brothers didn’t believe in him.” Whatever the reason, these words on the cross show that Jesus did ask John to treat Mary as his mother and told Mary to rely on John as she would her own son. We see evidence that Mary went to John’s home and continued to be a part of growing the Kingdom after Jesus’ resurrection. This moment on the cross shows Jesus’ loving provision and care for others, even amid His suffering. It was an honor for John to be chosen to care for Jesus’ mother, and it was a kindness for Mary to be cared for by a son who Jesus knew would continue His ministry after He was gone.



## REFLECTION

So often, amid our hard times and suffering, we forget to look around us to see the needs of others. What can we learn from Jesus’s example today of how to lift our eyes during our hard times and trials to continue to show care and concern for others?

Mark 3:31-35, Acts 1:12-14, Romans 8:16-25, Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 2:19-22, Hebrews 2:11-18

**“Dear woman, here is your son. And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”**

**John 19:26-27**

## THE START OF A NEW FAMILY

This statement from Jesus on the cross to His mother and beloved disciple might have a deeper meaning than just one of care and concern for His mother. Many scholars feel these words may also allude to the beginning of the family of believers, now connected specifically because of their devotion to Jesus.

Fleming Rutledge says in *The Seven Last Words of Christ*,

*It is about the new community that comes into being through the power of Jesus. We very often hear people say that they can be religious without coming to church. But the Christian community has a quality that the critiques do not take into consideration. When the Christian community is working the way it is supposed to, people are brought together who have absolutely nothing in common, who may have diametrically different views on things, who may even actively dislike each other. Personal likes and dislikes have nothing to do with the body of Christ. “There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” By rewriting the covenant in his own blood, Jesus has done something completely new. In giving his mother to the disciple, he is causing a new relationship to come into existence that did not exist before. They represent the way that family ties are transcended in the church by the ties of the Spirit. He is setting aside the blood relationship in order to create a much wider family. We see that Jesus is calling people into a new relationship with him and with one another. It is not that he has no room for his own family. What we see happening here, however, is that mothers and fathers and cousins and sisters are newly created by the Spirit of Christ where there is no blood relationship whatsoever, and sometimes no obvious similarity or even affection. It is the new covenant written in the blood of Jesus.*

Jesus alludes to this new kind of family earlier in His ministry in an interesting encounter in Mark 3 when He says, “Anyone who does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” Jesus is hinting here at a new kind of family that will be established after His death and resurrection, one connected by their beliefs rather than blood. Our final glimpse of Jesus’ mother, Mary, in scripture, is in Acts 1. Mary was gathered with all the disciples in the upper room after Jesus’ ascension. She is safe in the care of John, praying and sharing with this new community as they begin to carry on the mission Jesus started. Mary is likely beginning to see that her beloved son’s death had an eternal purpose that she and her new family could now carry forward that would later become known as the Church.



## REFLECTION

Reflect today on what it means to be a part of a family of believers, one where we might have nothing in common, one where there might be disagreements, yet one united under the blood of Christ. What does being a part of this new family called the Church mean to you?

*The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is his new creation by water and the Word: From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy Bride; With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died. - Samuel John Stone*

Romans 3:21-31; 5:20-21, Ephesians 2:1-10,  
Colossians 1:6-29; 3:10-17

**“Dear woman, here is your son. And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”**

**John 19:26-27**

## A FAMILY CONNECTED BY HIS GRACE

In this new family formed at the cross, Jesus establishes relationships and connections based on His saving grace. These connections of grace supersede all other connections, even close family connections. We see this upside-down kingdom of Jesus begin to flourish even at the foot of the cross, and it continues to grow after His resurrection and ascension. We don't know exactly who was present at the cross, but we do have accounts of a large crowd that included women, soldiers, chief priests, followers of Jesus, and members of the Sanhedrin, among many others. All types of people representing different ethnicities, beliefs, and convictions were gathered there to witness the death of Jesus. It's a beautiful picture of how Jesus draws people to Himself and offers Himself as a living sacrifice for all - no matter their past, ethnicity, or political affiliation. It was a blanket offer of grace, mercy, and redemption of sins for all who accepted Him as their Lord. At the foot of the cross, all who say yes to Jesus become connected by His grace. With this picture of our victorious Savior in his heart, Paul teaches the early church about these connections of grace. Grace is made available to all of us through the death and resurrection of Christ. We don't deserve this grace, and we did nothing to earn it; it is a free gift from the Father through His Son. As Romans 3 tells us, we have all fallen short of the glory of God, and yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins.

What does this connection by grace mean for us? Colossians 3 lays it out clearly. We are to put on a new, renewed nature to become more like Christ because if you believe in this new kingdom, Christ lives in you. We must clothe ourselves with mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. We are to make allowances for each other's faults and forgive as God forgave us. We are bound together to one another in love, and as members of one body, we are to live in peace and be thankful. In everything we do or say, we are to be a representative of Jesus.



### REFLECTION

What does grace mean to you? How can reflecting on this grace offered to us all on the cross make you feel more connected to others in the family of God? How can understanding the grace offered to you help you to extend grace to those around you?

Week 3, Day 4

# Thursday

Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:15-30; 16:5-15, Acts 1:6-11; 2:22-41,  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**“Dear woman, here is your son. And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”**

**John 19:26-27**

## A FAMILY FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT

Jesus connected Mary and John in a new family that would continue without Him, but they would never be alone. Not only had He promised to leave them a helper after His death, but they also had each other. Imagine what it must have been like for Jesus’ followers in the days after His death. They likely felt very alone and questioned their belief in the Messiah. They knew what Jesus had said about sending a helper, an advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with them after He was gone. He told them it was best for them if He went to be with the Father and for this advocate to come. We have to wonder what they thought during the days after Jesus’ death. They gathered together to pray, grieve, and support each other in a hard time. Their hope was likely fading as the days went on. News of His resurrection started to spread on the third day, and hope was restored as the resurrected Jesus gathered His disciples. Jesus commissioned them to work together to grow this family, making disciples of all nations. With this commissioning comes the promise that He would be with them always, even to the end of the age. Jesus again promises to send the Holy Spirit to fill them with power. Then we see in Acts 1 & 2 that the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, and over 3000 came to Jesus that day as Peter told them to repent and turn to the LORD. In the time Jesus was with His followers, He had been their source of strength and help, but now they would have a counselor, comforter, guide, companion, advocate, teacher, and intercessor dwelling in them to help and encourage them forever. This same promise is made to us if we put our faith in Him. We have access to this same Spirit to help, guide, comfort, and lead us daily. As a family of believers filled with His Spirit, we need each other to support one another in times of suffering and celebrate in rejoicing.

*Here, at the very end, we see Jesus still exercising love and care. In the course of his ministry, Jesus was forming a new community around himself, and in the farewell discourse, he described how that community is to share in his own relation with the Father and to participate in the divine life, which is characterized by love. Now, he has completed the formation of this community, at least for the stage prior to the sending of the Spirit and his own dwelling with them in a new way. - IVP New Testament Commentary*



## REFLECTION

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will teach us, remind us of the truth, and comfort us in our time of need. Can you think of a time when you could feel the presence of the Spirit with you when you should have been lonely? In what ways do you see evidence of the Spirit in your life?

Acts 2:42-47, Romans 12:9-18, Ephesians 4:1-4, Philipians 2:1-11,  
1 John 4:7-12, John 13:34-35

**“Dear woman, here is your son. And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”**

**John 19:26-27**

## A FAMILY FUELED BY HIS LOVE

*When Jesus commends his mother to the care of John the Beloved Disciple, he is, at one level, taking care of a bit of important housekeeping, arranging the world he is leaving as best he could. In a larger sense, he is leaving a model for his followers to love one another in the most profound and powerful of ways. This is a fundamental call to fix our eyes not inwardly but outwardly on one another and, ultimately, on the cross. The gospel injunction about how we are to conduct ourselves in this world is clear. We should, with John, who accepts the charge to become a son to Mary, take care of one another, remembering always that it is through love that we glimpse the divine and touch the cross of Christ. - Jon Meacham - The Hope of Glory*

The Church should be marked and fueled by His love. We see in Acts how the early Church devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, sharing meals, and prayer. As Paul addressed the Church throughout the New Testament, he told them things like:

- Take delight in honoring each other.
- Work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.
- When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.
- Be happy with those who are happy and weep with those who weep.
- Live in harmony with each other. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.
- Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.
- Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

One of Jesus’ last commands to His disciples was to “Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

This is the vision for this new family that Christ established on the cross, one connected by grace, filled with His Spirit, and fueled by His love. May we take the call to be an active, engaged part of this family called the Church seriously. This doesn’t happen by simply attending a church; it comes as we begin to make ourselves at home in our Church by connecting, engaging, giving, and serving together.



## REFLECTION

Reflect on all we’ve learned this week about the new family established by Jesus. Do you see the Church in this way, as a family? How can you be more actively engaged in the family of God here at Grace?

Week 3, Day 6

# Saturday

## Reflection Day

### REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS

This week, we looked at Jesus' last words from John 19:26-27 - *When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother."* As we wrap up this week's study, go back and read John 19:26-27. Reflect on these words that Jesus spoke. Reflect on what they mean about His character, His work on the cross, and how it should change how we see Him and how we live. Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?

Week 3, Day 7

# Sunday

## Rest Day

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.