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17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

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SERMON GUIDE

"...LEST DARKNESS OVERTAKE YOU

John 12:20-36

Pastor I Jan van Amerongen

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Faith Community Church | fcchudson.com

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- S**cripture that stands out to you while you read
- O**bservations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you
- A**pplication that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- P**rayers that invite God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

Conversation Questions

Setting The Table: As Jesus' public ministry reaches its climax, some Greeks come seeking Him—a sign that His mission is moving beyond Israel to the nations. Jesus responds by announcing that His hour has come. This is the moment everything has been building toward: the cross. But Jesus doesn't just talk about death—He talks about glory, life, and light. He invites His listeners to follow Him by walking the same path He does: the path of sacrificial love and trust in the Father. This passage marks a turning point, both in the Gospel of John and in redemptive history.

Read John 12:20-36

- S** What do you love most about what you just read? What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read these scriptures? Is anything jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** Why do you think Jesus responds to the Greeks' request by talking about His hour and His death (vv. 23–26)? What does this teach us about how Jesus understands His mission?
- O** What do verses 27–28 reveal about Jesus' inner struggle? How is His prayer and the Father's response impacting you right now? How does it shape our view of the cross?
- O** What contrasts does Jesus draw between light and darkness in verses 35–36? What do you think it means to "walk while you have the light"? Why is this so urgent?
- A** If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?
- A** Jesus says, whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (v. 25–26). In what areas of your life are you being invited to "lose your life" in order to follow Jesus more fully? How might God be calling you to trust Him with sacrificial obedience this week?
- P** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.