WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

A Picture of the Best of Us

Study Guide

Covenant Theology

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

Contents

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - A Picture of the Best of Us - Part One of Two . . . 3

Major Themes . . . 3
Key Arguments . . . 4
Scripture References . . . 6
Discussion Questions . . . 9
Applications . . . 12
Personal Application and Notes . . . 13

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - A Picture of the Best of Us - Part Two of Two . . 14

Major Themes . . . 14
Key Arguments . . . 15
Scripture References . . . 16
Discussion Questions . . . 18
Applications . . . 21
Personal Application and Notes . . . 22

Online Lecture Resources . . . 23

Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - A Picture of the Best of Us

Part One of Two

July 23, 2025

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-23 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

The Depravity of Man

The Bible presents an unflattering picture of human sinfulness, showing that there is nothing good in man, as Paul states in Romans 7.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'They present to us a wicked, depraved picture, and consequently, there's nothing good in man... That's why the Apostle Paul said in Romans 7, "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing."'

Betrayal and Treason Against Christ

The religious leaders and Judas both betray Jesus, with the leaders conspiring to murder Him and Judas selling Him for money, illustrating treason at both top and individual levels.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'betrayal and treason often begin at the top level and descend to the bottom where individuals are used... the high priests, the scribes, and the elders... in betraying the Lord Jesus Christ, also betrayed their own nation.'

The Lordship of Christ and Obedience

Confessing Jesus as Lord at baptism means acknowledging Him as owner and master, and sin is a practical denial of His lordship.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'the word "Lord," kurios in the Greek, literally means boss, owner, master, sovereign... when you are baptized, you are confessing that Jesus Christ is your Lord.'

Sin as Betrayal of Christ

Every sin is an act of betrayal against Christ, trading His will for our own lusts, and believers are often worse than Judas because they betray Him for fleeting pleasures.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we don't betray Christ for money, but we betray him for the lust of our flesh and the lust of our eyes and the pride of life... Every time we sin, we betray the Lord Jesus Christ.'

The Deceitfulness of Sin and Hidden Opportunities

Sinners, like Judas and the rulers, seek opportune times to sin without detection, as illustrated by the young man in Proverbs 7 who goes out at night.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'Judas now is conducting himself exactly as the ruling elite. He's seeking the best opportunity... When we sin, we try to get it where it can be hidden.'

Money as a Revealer of the Heart

Money is a touchstone that reveals love or greed; Mary's extravagant gift shows love, while Judas's theft and betrayal show covetousness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'money seems to be the touchstone in a lot of people's lives... Mary, like David, loved our Lord and was willing to sacrifice everything. Judas, who did not love him, was willing to betray him and sell him for anything.'

Key Arguments

The Bible's unflattering picture of man proves its divine origin

If man wrote the Bible without God, it would praise human goodness, but instead it reveals human depravity, confirming it is God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'if man wrote the Bible apart from God... then clearly everything is going to be praising man... but no, it doesn't do that at all. It doesn't present anything good in us because there's nothing good in us.'

The religious leaders' conspiracy was treason against both Christ and their nation

By plotting to kill Jesus, the leaders violated God's law and ultimately delivered their nation to the Romans, committing treason on multiple levels.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'in treating Christ with treason, they also committed treason against their own nation, because in doing this, they actually delivered their nation over into the hands of the Romans.'

Judas's betrayal was enabled by the existing conspiracy

Judas may have failed if there had not already been a top-level conspiracy to murder Christ; he went to those who already hated Jesus.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'have you ever considered that Judas may have failed in his attempt to betray Christ if there had not already been a conspiracy to murder Christ by those in power and authority?'

Failing to tithe is robbing God

Malachi 3 teaches that withholding tithes and offerings is robbing God, and tithing is a recognition of God's sovereignty and ownership of the earth.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Malachi 3:8-9 and explains, 'A tithe is God's tax for the use of his earth... it is a recognition of God's sovereignty, of God's ownership.'

Tithing is a confession of God's lordship and a means of blessing

In Deuteronomy 26, tithing is accompanied by a confession that avouches God as Lord, and God responds by avouching the tither as His people.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'when we are tithing in obedience to Him... we are authenticating, we are avouching that we're His people... And God says, when you do this, then I'm going to avouch you to be my people.'

The thirty pieces of silver showed contempt for Christ

The price was the value of a slave (Exodus 21:32), fulfilling Zechariah 11:12-13, and demonstrated the leaders' low estimate of Jesus.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'That was a demonstration of their absolute contempt for Jesus Christ. It revealed their hatred of Jesus Christ, their low estimate of Jesus Christ.'

Believers betray Christ through sin, not just money

While Judas betrayed for money, Christians betray Christ for lusts, trading His lordship for personal desires, making them worse than Judas.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'we don't betray Christ for money, but we betray him for the lust of our flesh and the lust of our eyes and the pride of life... we're worse than Judas.'

Sin is treason and should be seen as God sees it

God hates sin (Jeremiah 44:4), and believers must view their sins as acts of betrayal and treason against Christ, not merely mistakes.

Lecture support: Weaver urges, 'we need to see sin as treason. We need to see sin as betrayal... the way God sees them.'

Scripture References

Matthew 26:3-5

The chief priests, scribes, and elders conspire to take Jesus by subtlety and kill him, but not on a feast day to avoid uproar.

Proverbs 25:11

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver, illustrating the value of well-spoken words.

Romans 7:18

Paul says that in his flesh dwells no good thing, supporting the doctrine of human depravity.

John 11:47-48

The chief priests and Pharisees fear losing their place and nation if Jesus is not stopped, revealing their priority of power over nation.

Luke 6:16

Judas Iscariot is specifically called the traitor.

Matthew 26:6-13

The anointing at Bethany by a woman (Mary) with expensive ointment, and the disciples' indignation, which Jesus rebukes.

Mark 14:3-6

Some had indignation about the waste of ointment, showing that not all disciples were equally vocal, but some agreed with Judas.

John 12:3-6

Judas Iscariot objects to the anointing, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief and held the money bag.

Malachi 3:8-11

God accuses Israel of robbing Him in tithes and offerings, and promises blessing if they bring the full tithe.

Deuteronomy 26:12-19

The confession made when tithing, avouching the Lord as God, and God avouching Israel as His people.

1 Timothy 6:10

The love of money is the root of all evil, leading some to err from the faith.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

The Shema: Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; love Him with all heart, soul, and might.

1 Chronicles 29:1-5

David prepared with all his might (wealth) for the temple, giving from his own proper good out of affection for God's house.

Matthew 26:14-16

Judas goes to the chief priests, asks what they will give him, and they covenant for thirty pieces of silver; he then seeks opportunity to betray Jesus.

Exodus 21:32

If an ox kills a slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver, establishing the price of a slave.

Zechariah 11:12-13

Prophecy of the thirty pieces of silver, the price at which the Lord was valued, and casting it to the potter.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Believers are not their own; they were bought with a price, so they should glorify God in body and spirit.

Isaiah 43:24

God says Israel has made Him serve with their sins and wearied Him with iniquities, implying betrayal through sin.

Proverbs 7:5-9

A young man goes to the strange woman's house at twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night, seeking hidden opportunity for sin.

Malachi 2:13-14

God refuses offerings because men have dealt treacherously (betrayed) the wife of their youth, illustrating betrayal in marriage.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the Bible's unflattering picture of humanity confirm its divine origin, and how should that affect our view of ourselves?

Consider: Weaver argues that if man wrote the Bible, it would praise human goodness, but instead it reveals depravity.

2. In what ways do the religious leaders' actions in Matthew 26 mirror modern political or religious corruption?

Consider: Weaver notes that the leaders prioritized their position over the nation and conspired to violate God's law.

3. How does the contrast between Mary's extravagant love and Judas's greed challenge our own use of money and resources?

Consider: Weaver highlights Mary's sacrifice and Judas's theft, asking whether we would steal from Christ.

4. What does it mean to 'avouch' the Lord as our God through tithing, and how does this practice affirm His lordship in our lives?

Consider: Weaver explains the confession in Deuteronomy 26 and the mutual avouchment between God and the tither.

5. Why is the thirty pieces of silver significant, and what does it reveal about the world's valuation of Christ?

Consider: Weaver connects the price to the value of a slave in Exodus 21 and the prophecy in Zechariah.

6. How do we, like Judas, seek 'opportunity' to sin without being detected, and what steps can we take to resist this tendency?

Consider: Weaver uses Proverbs 7 to illustrate how sinners seek hidden times and places for sin.

7. In what practical ways do we betray Christ through our sins, and how can we begin to see sin as treason against our Lord?

Consider: Weaver argues that every sin is a betrayal, trading Christ's lordship for our lusts.

8. How does our baptismal confession 'Jesus is Lord' conflict with the ways we live, and what would it look like to fully submit to His lordship?

Consider: Weaver reminds believers that baptism is a declaration of war against the world's systems and a pledge of obedience.

Applications

Recognize sin as betrayal and treason against Christ

Believers must view their sins not as mere mistakes but as acts of betrayal that trade Christ's lordship for personal lusts, and repent accordingly.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we need to see sin as treason. We need to see sin as betrayal... Every time we sin, we betray the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Examine your use of money as a reflection of your love for God

Money is a touchstone; like Mary, believers should demonstrate love through generous giving, and like David, use their 'might' (wealth) for God's house.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Mary, like David, loved our Lord and was willing to sacrifice everything. Judas, who did not love him, was willing to betray him and sell him for anything.'

Faithfully tithe as an act of acknowledging God's sovereignty

Tithing is God's tax for the use of His earth and a confession that He is Lord; failing to tithe is robbing God and brings a curse.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'A tithe is God's tax for the use of his earth... it is a recognition of God's sovereignty, of God's ownership.'

Guard against seeking hidden opportunities for sin

Like the young man in Proverbs 7, believers often seek darkness to hide sin; they must instead walk in the light and avoid situations that tempt to secret sin.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'When we sin, we try to get it where it can be hidden. We look for an opportunity that will suit us.'

Live in light of your baptismal confession that Jesus is Lord

Baptism is a public declaration that Jesus is boss, owner, and master; believers must obey Him in all areas, rejecting the world's competing claims to lordship.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'when you are baptized, you are confessing that Jesus Christ is your Lord. He is your boss. He is your owner. He is your master.'

Be wary of following instigators without seeking God's Word

The disciples were swayed by Judas's plausible complaint; believers must test all things by Scripture and not be carried along by persuasive but ungodly voices.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Calvin: 'if light and foolish credulity induce the disciples of Christ to take part with... murmurers... we ought to draw from it another warning, not to pronounce rashly.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - A Picture of the Best of Us

Part Two of Two

July 23, 2025

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-41 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

The Flesh as Amalek

Amalek is a type of the flesh that attacks God's people in spiritual moments, hates God, and must be warred against continually.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Amalek is a type of our flesh... God says you're never, ever forget him... the reason God is gonna have war with Amalek from generation to generation is... that Amalek is a type of the flesh.'

The Weakness of the Flesh

The flesh is proud and boastful but utterly weak, as seen in the disciples who could not stay awake to pray or stand under pressure.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'They were so vehement... And they can't even stay awake and pray with him... Look how proud, arrogant, and haughty the flesh is. The flesh believes itself to be bold and brave and powerful, yet it's exceedingly and extremely weak and sorry.'

Trusting in the Flesh Brings a Curse

Scripture pronounces a curse on those who trust in man and make flesh their arm, contrasting it with the blessing of trusting in the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jeremiah 17:5, 'Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm,' and explains the consequences.

The Flesh Hates God

The flesh is enmity against God and cannot please Him; nothing done in the flesh is acceptable to God.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'your flesh hates God... there's not one thing that our flesh can do that will please God.' He cites Romans 8:7-8.

Reliance on the Spirit vs. Fleshly Methods

Believers must walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh; churches should rely on the Word and Spirit, not gimmicks.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh... We don't trust the Word of God. We don't trust the Holy Spirit.'

The Danger of Boasting in the Flesh

Boasting about what we will or will not do is fleshly and leads to failure; we should glory only in the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'we should never brag and we should never proclaim that which we will do and that which we will not do... Peter said, "I will never deny thee." And yet he did.'

Key Arguments

The flesh always attacks in spiritual moments

Just as Amalek attacked Israel after the Passover, manna, and water, the flesh attacks believers during solemn, serious, and spiritual occasions.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When you have the most solemn occasion, the most serious occasion, and the most spiritual occasion, the flesh always acts up.' He connects this to Exodus 17:8.

The disciples' failure proves the flesh's weakness

Despite their bold claims, the disciples could not stay awake to pray with Jesus for one hour, showing the flesh's inability to fulfill spiritual commitments.

Lecture support: Weaver points out, 'they could not even stay awake to guard him for one hour... They were so vehement... And they can't even stay awake and pray with him.'

Peter's denial under trivial pressure exposes the flesh

Peter, a tough fisherman, denied Christ when questioned by two servant girls, demonstrating that the flesh crumbles under even slight intimidation.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'Twice, this big, strong, rough, tough fisherman who said he would never deny Christ, troubled under two little girls.'

Trusting in the flesh is idolatry and brings a curse

Jeremiah 17:5 declares a curse on those who trust in man; the flesh cannot please God, and reliance on it leads to spiritual barrenness.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jeremiah 17:5-6 and explains, 'Anytime you trust in man, anytime you trust in yourself... you're departing from the Lord.'

God chooses the weak to eliminate fleshly glorying

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 shows that God uses the foolish and weak so that no flesh may glory in His presence; all glory belongs to the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 1 Corinthians 1:29, 'that no flesh should glory in his presence,' and emphasizes that God's method is to humble human pride.

Fleshly church methods produce false converts

Using gimmicks to attract people results in high turnover and unregenerate members, as seen in 1 John 2:19; only the Spirit can produce genuine conversion.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'if you get them with hot dogs, you're going to have to give hamburgers and steaks to keep them... the proof that you've ever genuinely been converted... is that you continue.'

Scripture References

Matthew 26:1-2

Introduction to the Last Passover and the betrayal of Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Genesis 22:1-8

Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac as a type of God providing Himself the Lamb.

John 1:14

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

1 Timothy 3:16

God was manifest in the flesh.

Luke 22:15

Jesus desired to eat the last supper with His disciples.

Matthew 26:21-25

Jesus announces His betrayal; Judas asks, 'Master, is it I?'

Exodus 17:8

Then came Amalek and fought with Israel.

Exodus 17:4-6

Moses smites the rock and water comes out.

John 6

Jesus is the bread of life.

John 7

Jesus is the water of life.

1 Corinthians 10:3-4

The spiritual rock that followed them was Christ.

Genesis 36:12

Amalek is the grandson of Esau.

Hebrews 12:16-17

Esau as a profane person who sold his birthright.

Exodus 17:14-16

God will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Numbers 24:20

Amalek shall perish forever.

Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Remember what Amalek did; blot out his remembrance.

Romans 8:6-8

The carnal mind is enmity against God; those in the flesh cannot please God.

Matthew 26:31

Jesus quotes Zechariah 13:7 about the smitten shepherd and scattered sheep.

Mark 14:50-52

All the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways have you experienced the 'flesh acting up' during times of prayer, Bible reading, or spiritual commitment?

Consider: Weaver says the flesh always acts up in the most solemn, serious, and spiritual occasions.

2. How does the story of Amalek in Exodus 17 help you understand the nature of your own flesh?

Consider: Weaver explains that Amalek is a type of the flesh that attacks when we are weak and weary.

3. Why do you think Peter and the disciples were so confident they would never deny Christ, yet failed so quickly?

Consider: Weaver contrasts their bold statements with their inability to stay awake and pray.

4. What are some modern examples of 'trusting in the flesh' in church ministry or personal spiritual life?

Consider: Weaver criticizes gimmicks and programs that replace reliance on the Word and Spirit.

5. How can we practically 'walk in the Spirit' so that we do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh?

Consider: Weaver cites Galatians 5:16 and emphasizes the need for daily dependence on God.

6. What does it mean to 'glory in the Lord' rather than in our own strength or accomplishments?

Consider: Weaver references Jeremiah 9:23-24 and 1 Corinthians 1:31.

7. How should the truth that 'in my flesh dwells no good thing' affect our prayer life and daily reliance on God?

Consider: Weaver concludes with Romans 7:18 and the need to cry out to God for preservation from ourselves.

Applications

Recognize the flesh's enmity against God

Believers must acknowledge that their flesh hates God and cannot please Him, leading to humility and dependence.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'your flesh hates God... there's not one thing that our flesh can do that will please God.'

Do not trust in personal strength or promises

Avoid boasting about what you will or will not do; instead, rely on the Lord's strength.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'we should never brag and we should never proclaim that which we will do and that which we will not do.'

Reject fleshly methods in ministry

Churches should not use gimmicks to attract people but trust the Word of God and the Holy Spirit for genuine conversion.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We don't trust the Word of God. We don't trust the Holy Spirit... if you get them with hot dogs, you're going to have to give hamburgers and steaks to keep them.'

Cry out to God for preservation from self

Daily ask God to protect you not just from enemies but from your own flesh.

Lecture support: Weaver prays, 'Lord, that you would help us to be holy... and not trust in ourselves... Help us, Father, to trust only in thee.'

Walk in the Spirit to overcome the flesh

The only way to not fulfill the lusts of the flesh is to walk in the Spirit, doing what is supernatural rather than natural.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh... When you do that which is contrary to the flesh and that which is supernatural, that's the Spirit.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - A Picture of the Best of Us - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01783

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01783&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - A Picture of the Best of Us - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01784

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01784&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

---

Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.