

Introduction to the Gospel of John Bible Study

We are thankful to welcome you to a 17-week inductive Bible study through the Gospel according to John. The goal of this Bible study is for students (and anyone else who wants to work through it) to spend an intentional time studying the Bible on a daily basis.

To use an analogy for clarification, this Bible study is like a drive through the mountains. As we've studied the book of John and sat down to write it, we have discovered it to be a treasure chest with an infinite amount of wealth. It would be possible to spend several years working through the Gospel of John alone, but like a drive through the mountains this study will move fairly quickly over the course of seventeen weeks.

And unlike a seminary class, covering the book of John, we will not be spending much time getting out of the car on our drive to examine every rock and leaf that we encounter on the way. We will be traveling at a speed that will allow us to notice the details of each mountain peak and valley of the Gospel of John and value them for a certain time.

The first week of the Bible Study is an overview of the Bible as a whole and includes some specifics that will help the reader as he or she works through the book of John specifically. Also throughout the study are "In Depth" looks at specific topics and themes that come up in the book of John. These were written in hopes to give more context to the reader and help him or her understand more fully what is taking place in the Gospel of John.

Also, each study everyday ends with the same question asking the reader to list the attributes of God that they saw in the passage for that day. We have provided at the back of this study guide a list of "The Attributes of God," provided by Kids Village at The Village Church. Some days it will be easy to list two or three attributes that you saw in the passage, but other days will be more difficult. Don't give up easily on the Attributes of God question.

We pray that this will be a fruitful and insightful journey for you over the next seventeen weeks, that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will enlighten the eyes of your heart to the immeasurable riches that are found in life through faith in him.

Week 1, Day 1

Week 1 Memory Verse: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Psalm 119:105

What is the Bible and why is it important?

If you were allowed to only have and read one book for the rest of your life, what book would it be?

If you were to ask this question of the entire world, the book that came out on top of that list would likely be the Bible. No book has had more influence and effect on the history of the world than the Bible. More copies of the Bible have been printed and sold than any other book in the history of mankind.

To put it in perspective, if you were to stack every copy sold of *The Hunger Games* (30 million), one on top of the other, the stack would reach 800 miles high. If you were to do the same thing with every copy of the Bible ever printed (6 billion), the stack of Bibles would reach 142,045 miles high, halfway the distance to the moon. No book in the history of mankind has been printed, sold, passed out, distributed, shared, and read as much as the Bible. There is no arguing that it has been and will always be the most influential, controversial, and celebrated book of all time.

Did you know? About 50 Bibles are sold every minute!

So, what exactly is the Bible? Who wrote it? And why was it written?

These questions are very important questions to answer if we ever want to understand why this book is so important and why we should spend our time reading it.

What is the Bible?

First, it's helpful to know that the Bible is actually a collection of many books and writings that have been collected together to form one big story. The word "Bible" actually comes from the Latin word *biblia*, which means books. So right there in the name we learn that the book we have called the Bible is made up of many books that all contribute to one epic story.

And what is that story? Simply put, the Bible is a story of salvation. It's the story of a hero who rescues His people. To quote a famous theologian (a person who studies God), "God himself is the Savior (hero) of His people; it is He who confirms His covenant-mercy with them. The bringer of salvation, the mediator of the covenant, is Jesus Christ, the Son of God." ¹

Think of another famous story or fairy tale. Does that story have a hero? Who is he/she? Like the hero in your fairy tale, God is the main character in the Bible. It's primarily about Him. In fact it starts with Him. Check out Genesis 1:1—"In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth."

The Bible opens with God because He is the star, the hero, the main character and person in the story.

Now flip to the end of the Bible and read the last couple of sentences. “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come Lord **Jesus!** The grace of the Lord **Jesus** be with you all. Amen” (Revelation 22:21).

The beginning of the Bible starts with God as the star and the end of the Bible finishes with God (Jesus) as the star. And all the books, chapters and verses in between point to God as the hero of history, the Savior of story.

Did you know? Dogs are mentioned in the Bible 14 times! But cats are never mentioned at all.

Who do we get to thank for writing the greatest of stories? What author should get credit for writing the most popular book of all time?

Who wrote the Bible?

If you look on the cover of a Bible (go ahead and take a look), do you notice anything missing? Most, if not all books, have two things on the cover: the title of the book and the author of the book. But look at the cover of as many Bibles as you can find and one thing you won't see on the cover is the author. Does that seem strange? The most popular book of all time, and the author doesn't get credit, doesn't get his or her name on the cover. Why do you think that is so?

The answer to the question “Who wrote the Bible?” can be answered in two different ways. If you mean, “Who is the person or persons who sat down and first wrote out the words that we now have on paper in the Bible?” then the answer is **the Bible has many authors who tell us which parts of the Bible they wrote.**

To give an example, read this verse in Nehemiah chapter 1. “The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachabiah” (Nehemiah 1:1). Nehemiah is a book in the Old Testament that tells the story of how God used a man named Nehemiah to rebuild a city wall in Jerusalem. Nehemiah is the author of this book in the Bible and begins his story by telling us that he wrote down all of the words we are about to read.

Here is another example: read this verse from the book of Revelation chapter 1, the last book in the Bible. “John, to the seven churches that are in Asia” (Revelation 1:4). Revelation is a book written by John, one of Jesus' apostles. He was writing to the seven churches that are in Asia, and we now have his messages to them because what he wrote to them is important to us, too.

In all, the Bible is made up of 66 different books split up into two parts that we call the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books written by a total of more than 30 different people. The New Testament has 27 books written by a total of more than 10 different people. Imagine trying to fit more than 40 different names on the cover of a book underneath the title!

But as wild as that is, what really makes the Bible special and more unique than any book ever written is the answer to this question: “Who inspired the words we read in the Bible?” To inspire means to influence or to bring about. To help us understand and answer this question, let’s read this verse from 2 Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

When this verse says Scripture, it is talking about all of the words written out in the Bible. Scripture is another word for the Bible. And this verse says that all of the Bible is “breathed out by God.” This is a strange phrase and paints a picture in your mind of God blowing the words of the Bible from out of his mouth—a pretty odd picture but actually a pretty good way to describe where the words and ideas in the Bible come from. They all come from God. God breathed them out. He inspired them.

To quote another theologian, “in other words, Scripture has a double authorship, and man is only the secondary author; the primary (main) author...under whose superintendence (direction or guidance) each human writer did his work, is **God** the Holy Spirit.”ⁱⁱ

So basically, the Bible came to be as people led, guided, and directed by God, wrote down his words, thoughts, and message to the world. This idea is the reason why you may have heard of the Bible called God’s Word. The words, sentences, and stories you find in the Bible are from God himself. Reading those pages are the same as listening to God speak directly to you.

Did you know? The longest word in the Bible is Mahershalalhashbaz. Try saying that three times fast!

This amazing truth answers our last question: **Why was the Bible written?**

The Bible was written so that men and women, boys and girls could hear from God, know what He is like and learn how He is the Savior, the hero, the rescuer of all mankind. The Bible answers all of life’s big questions: How did we get here? Why are we here? How are we supposed to live? And what happens after we die?

More importantly, it teaches us about God:

- Who He is
- What He is like
- Why He is great
- And how He is the Savior of all men

This first week of study and reading will help you understand more about the Bible that you hold in your hands, how to read it and how to study it. And it's important that you do read and study His Word because the book you hold in your hand is the most valuable thing you can possess on this earth. King David wrote about how valuable the Word of God is in one of the many Psalms he wrote, Psalm 119:14: "In the way of your testimonies (another way to say God's Word) I delight **as much as in all riches.**"

Main points to remember from today:

- The Bible is a collection of many books and writings that have been collected together to form one big story.
- The Bible is a story of salvation. It's the story of a hero who rescues his people.
- The Bible came to be as people led, guided, and directed by God, wrote down His words, thoughts, and message to the world.
- The Bible was written so that men and women, boys and girls could hear from God, know what He is like and learn how He is the Savior, the hero, the rescuer of all mankind.

Pray: End your time with the Lord today by thanking him for giving us the Bible. Thank Him for giving us the Bible, so we can know more about Him and what He is like. These verses from Psalm 119 can help you know what to pray.

Forever, O LORD, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
By your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are your servants.
If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.
I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.
The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider your testimonies.

Psalm 119:89-95

Week 1, Day 2

Week 1 Memory Verse: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Psalm 119:105

What is the Old Testament? What is the main point of the Old Testament?

Yesterday you learned answers to the big questions about the Bible: What is it? Who wrote it? And why is it important? Today, you are going to learn about the two halves of the Bible.

The books that make up the Bible are divided into two parts: The Old and New Testaments. The word “testament” is another way of saying “covenant” which means a solemn agreement or contract. The closest thing that describes what this word “testament” or “covenant” means is a marriage. When a man and woman get married they “covenant” with each other. They make a promise to relate and interact together in a special, certain way.

So the Old Testament or Old Covenant talks about how God relates to His people before Jesus and the New Testament or New Covenant talks about how God relates to His people after Jesus. Jesus makes all the difference. But before we get ahead of ourselves, let’s take a closer look at the Old Testament.

Did you know? The shortest book in the Old Testament is Obadiah. It only has 21 verses. The shortest book in the New Testament is 3 John.

What is the Old Testament?

The first part, the Old Testament has 39 books and makes up more than ¾ of the Bible. Starting with Genesis, the books in the Old Testament are as follows:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel

Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The reason the books are grouped like they are is because within the Old Testament there are different sections or types of books. The first five books, Genesis through Deuteronomy were written by Moses and are called the books of the Law, or the Pentateuch which means five books.

These five books tell the story of creation and contain many people you might have heard of before—people like Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Moses.

The second section of books, Joshua through Esther, are called the historical books because these books tell us the history of the nations of Israel and Judah. Similar to your Texas or American History textbook, the historical books tell us the stories and people who existed in these nations and the promises God made to them. Back in Genesis, God promises Abraham that he will make a nation out of his descendants and that nation will be special among the nations of the earth. The people of that nation will be God's chosen people and he will have a special relationship with them. The historical books of the Old Testament tell us what happened to that nation and its people as they related to God.

Did you know? You'll never find the word "God" in two books of the Bible: Esther and Song of Solomon.

The third section of books, Job through Song of Solomon, are called the books of wisdom. These books contain stories, poems, songs and wise sayings. The wisdom books tell God's people how to live rightly and wisely on the earth and to love God above all else.

The fourth section of books, Isaiah through Malachi, are called the prophetic books. The prophets were men who God hand-picked to speak to His people for Him. When God had a message to deliver about any number of things, He would give that message to one of His prophets, and they would deliver it to the people by saying, "Thus says the LORD...." Thankfully, either the prophet himself or someone close to him, wrote down these words from God, so now we can hear them too, thousands of years later.

Did you know? The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. And the chapter in the very middle of the Bible is Psalm 118. Pretty crazy, huh?

What is the main point of the Old Testament?

Yesterday you learned that the Bible is a story about salvation, about a rescuer who comes to save his people. The Old Testament begins this story by introducing us to God and the people group (nation of Israel) out of which the Savior would come.

Only three chapters into the first book of Genesis, man's great enemy, sin and Satan, destroy the perfect relationship man had with God. A gap, a huge, vast separation now exists between

man and God, but the good news is, God promises that one day, that gap will be bridged. That separation will be closed and once again God and man will be together.

But that day won't come without a price, without some payment. And the Old Testament prepares us for what that payment must be and will look like.

This is the main story line of the Old Testament, but there are hundreds of smaller, shorter stories that make up the bigger story. God has given us these stories to teach us about Himself, what He is like and His character. We can also learn a lot about ourselves as read about the people in the Old Testament. We learn about their flaws, their strengths and how they sometimes obey God and how sometimes they don't.

Have you ever been watching a show and right before an important part, the show cuts to a commercial and leaves you hanging? This is what people in the TV business call a cliff-hanger. Before the important scene plays out and the show finishes, you are left wondering what will happen.

Well, the Old Testament kind of ends this same way, with a cliff-hanger. Take a look at the last chapter in the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi.

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

In the last chapter of the Old Testament, the prophet Malachi delivers a message from God to his people about a day that's coming. A day when God will come and make everything right that is wrong and take those who are arrogant and do evil and make them answer for what they've done. And for those who love God and fear his name, they will celebrate because hope has come because God has answered their prayers.

But that day has not come yet. It's ahead, sometime in the future and when you finish the Old Testament, you think to yourself, “That can't be the end! There's got to be more to the story. When and how will this happen? How does rescue come and God fix everything that is

wrong?" The New Testament contains the answers to those questions. And we will look at it more closely tomorrow.

Points to Remember from Today:

- The books that make up the Bible are divided into two parts: The Old and New Testaments.
- The Old Testament or Old Covenant talks about how God and his people relate before Jesus and the New Testament or New Covenant talks about how God and his people relate after Jesus.
- The Old Testament has 39 books
- The Old Testament begins the story of salvation by introducing us to God and the people group (nation of Israel) out of which the Savior would come.

Pray: End your time with the Lord today by thanking him for giving us the Old Testament. For the people, stories and truths we learn about as we read and study it. And remember that just like these people, God is active and involved in your life as well. Thank him for that.

Read Psalm 23 and make it your prayer to God today.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

Week 1, Day 3

Week 1 Memory Verse: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Psalm 119:105

What is the New Testament? What is the main point of the New Testament? The second main section of the Bible is called the New Testament. And starting with the book of Matthew, the New Testament has 27 books. The books of the New Testament are:

<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Galatians</i>	<i>Hebrews</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Ephesians</i>	<i>James</i>
<i>Luke</i>	<i>Philippians</i>	<i>1 Peter</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>Colossians</i>	<i>2 Peter</i>
	<i>1 Thessalonians</i>	<i>1 John</i>
<i>Acts</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians</i>	<i>2 John</i>
	<i>1 Timothy</i>	<i>3 John</i>
<i>Romans</i>	<i>2 Timothy</i>	<i>Jude</i>
<i>1 Corinthians</i>	<i>Titus</i>	
<i>2 Corinthians</i>	<i>Philemon</i>	<i>Revelation</i>

The reason the books are grouped like this is because within the New Testament there are different types of books, just like in the Old Testament.

The first section is made up of the books that we call The Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. These four books tell us the story of Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection. They are called the Gospels because they contain the story and “good news” about Jesus. Gospel comes from the Greek word that means “good news”.

Did you know? The shortest verse and sentence in the whole Bible is Luke 11:35. It’s two words: “Jesus wept.”

The second section is made up of the book of Acts. Acts is a lot like the Gospels in that it tells us the history of something. Only instead of telling us the history of Jesus life, it tells us the history of what happened right after Jesus left the earth and ascended (went up) to heaven. Acts tells us how the first disciples (followers) of Jesus told other people about Jesus and how the first Christian churches were started and spread around the world.

The third section of books in the New Testament, beginning with 1 Corinthians and ending with Jude are called “The Letters” or “The Epistles” (another word for letter). These books are all letters written from early Christians to other Christians or groups of Christians (churches). They contain instructions about how to follow Jesus and what it looks like to be a disciple (Christian).

The fourth section in the New Testament contains one book. It's called Revelation. Revelation is the last book in the entire Bible and it talks about what is going to happen during the End Times. Revelation tells the end of God's great story of salvation and how one day all of God's enemies (namely Satan) will be defeated and God's people will live with him in heaven forever and ever.

Did you know? The last word in the Bible is "AMEN."

What is the main point of the New Testament?

The main point of the New Testament is that the Savior of the story has come and His name is Jesus.

The Old Testament points us to Jesus, and the New Testament tells us about Him. The Old Testament makes promises and predictions about Jesus and the New Testament tells us how Jesus fulfills them.

By reading the New Testament we learn how to become a disciple of Jesus (Christian) and what it looks to live like one.

Did you know? The word "Christian" is only used in the Bible three times: twice in Acts and once in 1 Peter.

Main points to remember from today:

- The New Testament has 27 books.
- The main point of the New Testament is that the Savior of the story has come and His name is Jesus.
- By reading the New Testament we learn how to become a disciple of Jesus (Christian) and what it looks to live like one.

Pray: End your time with the Lord today by thanking Him for sending Jesus as our great Savior. Read the following verse from 1 Timothy and think about what Jesus has done: "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Week 1, Day 4

Week 1 Memory Verse: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Psalm 119:105

How do I read and study the Bible?

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible but had no idea how or where to even start? Don't worry—you're not alone. Because the Bible is so thick and divided into books and not numbered chapters all the way through, many people get confused on how to even begin reading it. Do you start at the very beginning in Genesis? Can you start in the New Testament? What if you read Revelation first? How much should I read?

Did you know? The Bible has 31,173 verses. If you read one verse a day it would take you 85 years to finish the entire Bible.

These are very good questions, and today we hope to help you learn how to read and study the Bible in a way that is going to help you.

When and Where

First, it helps to decide when and where you are going to spend time reading your Bible. If you stick to the same time and the same place every day, you will find that it becomes a habit and part of your daily routine—just like brushing your teeth or eating breakfast.

Find a time that works for you. I recommend the morning if you can. And find a nice, quiet place, somewhere free from distractions and interruptions. If you decide to read at home, let your family know what you are doing and politely ask them if you can be left alone for a few minutes. I'm sure if you tell your parents to give you some alone time because you're reading your Bible, they will be so excited you won't have to worry about being interrupted.

When and where are you going to read?

What to Bring

Now that you've picked a time and place, you need to know what to bring or have with you. Like an athlete showing up at his or her game, you've got to have the right equipment. Here's what I recommend:

- Your Bible (of course). I recommend the ESV or NASB translation. NIV is okay, too.
- A pen or pencil
- A highlighter
- Some sort of journal or notebook. Something you can write and take notes in
- Your Gospel of John Study Guide (this book)

What to Read

There is no wrong way to start reading the Bible. The important thing is that you start. But there are ways to organize your reading plan so that you get the most out of your time. That is what this study guide is for. We have given this guide to you to help you understand and get into the habit of studying whole books of the Bible.

Have you noticed at Middle School Bible Study or in main worship services that we usually study an entire book of the Bible (from beginning to end) and then start another book when we finish that one? In the last three years at Middle School Bible Study we have studied:

- John
- Hebrews
- Genesis
- Galatians
- Parts of Matthew
- Nehemiah

Reading and studying a book at a time is the best way to get the most out of your time in the Bible. Beginning with chapter 1, this study guide will help you read and study the Gospel of John for an entire semester.

Each day is designed to take anywhere from 10-20 minutes, so make sure you allow enough time to finish. If you miss a day during the week, that's okay. You can make up for it on Saturday or Sunday and still stay on track with the study. Just be careful not to miss more than two days in one week because you might get behind. One tip we recommend is to find a friend or family member who can help keep you accountable and on track. Just like having a workout buddy makes going to the gym easier, having a friend go through the study along with you can be a big encouragement.

Now that you know when, where, what you need and how to start, you're almost ready to dive into the Gospel of John.

Main points to remember from today:

- Choose a time and place to read and study the Bible.
- Make sure you have everything you need when you sit down to read.
- Reading and studying a book at a time is the best way to get the most out of your time in the Bible.

Pray: End your time by asking God to help you understand and study His Word. Read this verse from Psalm 119:18 and make it your prayer every time you sit down to study the Bible: "Open my eyes that I might behold (see) wondrous things out of your law (the Bible)."

Week 1, Day 5

Week 1 Memory Verse: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Psalm 119:105

Who wrote the Gospel of John and why?

Think of the last time you got a letter in the mail. What's the first thing you asked yourself when you saw it? "Who is it from?!"

Knowing who wrote a letter or message tells you a lot about it. The same is true with the different books of the Bible. We learned this week that God is the primary (main) author of all the books of the Bible, but we also learned that He used men to actually record and write down His words. And it's important that we know who these men were and what they were like because God chose them for a reason.

Did you know? Moses wrote more of the Bible than any other person. He wrote the first 5 books of the Old Testament. Paul wrote the most in the New Testament.

Who was John?

The book of the Bible we call the Gospel of John never says by name who wrote it. There's no signature at the end, no introduction with a name at the beginning. So how do we know exactly who wrote it? Great question.

Using some real Sherlock-Holmes-like studying and investigating, we know some details about the author of this book from clues he left in his writing:

- He was an apostle.
- He was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. (Can you name all twelve?)
- He was the disciple "whom Jesus loved" (a special title that refers to only one person).

Based on these details and based on early Christians who said John the disciple wrote this book, we know that the author of the Gospel of John, was John, son of Zebedee.

Now if you've read parts of the Bible already, you may know that there are other characters in the Bible with the name John, John the Baptist being one of them. So, let's make sure we don't get them mixed up by learning more about John the Apostle who wrote this book.

Name: John, son of Zebedee

Occupation: Fishermen

Family members: James (another of Jesus' 12 disciples was his brother)

Home town: John lived and worked around the Sea of Galilee in Israel.

Fun facts about John:

- John was probably the youngest of Jesus' 12 disciples.
- John lived longer than the rest of the 12 disciples and apostles.
- Jesus gave John and his brother James a nickname. He called them Boanerges which means "Sons of Thunder"
- Simon Peter, another of Jesus' 12 disciples was John's fishing partner
- John died at a very old age on an island called Patmos. He was around 90 years old.

Why did John write this book?

The answer to this question takes less investigative work because John tells us exactly why he wrote this book towards the end of it. Read what he says in John 20:30-31—*"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*

John wrote these stories and memories of his time with Jesus as a disciple because he wants you to know that Jesus is the Christ (Savior), the Son of God and that by believing this you may have life in Jesus' name.

Every page in this book points to Jesus as the star, the main character. All of the stories, miracles and signs were put in this book by John to show you who Jesus is and why He came.

So as you read and study this book, remember this reason: John wants you to meet and learn about Jesus. And who better to tell us than John, who spent years traveling around Israel with Him, eating meals with Him, teaching and ministering to crowds with Him. And it was John who was with Jesus in His last moments on the cross.

Main points to remember from today:

- John, son of Zebedee wrote the Gospel of John.
- John was one of Jesus' close disciples and spent 3 years by his side learning from him.
- John wrote this book so that whoever read it would believe that Jesus is the Savior and would believe in Him.

Pray: End your time by asking God to help you to understand and learn more about Jesus as you read the Gospel of John. Read John 20:30-31 again and make this your prayer to God: *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*

Week 2, Day 6

Week 2 Memory Verse: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:1

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 1:1-5

What three things does verse 1 say about the “Word?”

1)

2)

3)

In verses 2 and 3, the Word is referred to as a “He” and a “Him.” Who do you think John is referring to in those two verses?

According to verse 2, when was “He” with God?

What does John tell us about how “all things” were created in verse 3?

Where was life to be found according to the beginning of verse 4?

What does John say about the life found in Jesus?

“and the life (Jesus) was the _____ of men.”

What two things does John say about light and darkness in verse 5?

1)

2)

Read Genesis 1:1-3 below and circle all of the same words that you see in Genesis that you saw in John 1:1-5.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

What does God actually do to create light in Genesis 1:3?

What is the connection between God speaking light into creation in Genesis 1:3 and John referring to Jesus as the Word and light in John 1:1-5?

Knowing that John wrote his Gospel about Jesus being the Messiah and Son of God, what are some things that he is saying about Jesus in verses 1-5?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 2, Day 7

Week 2 Memory Verse: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 1:6-18

Note: The John who is written about in verses 6-18 is not the same John who wrote the Gospel According to John but rather is John the Baptist who we'll see more of later in the chapter and in book.

What was the name of the man sent from God?

What was John's mission? What was he sent to witness about and to?

What does verse 8 make very clear about John?

The writer John is pointing out the fact, in verse 9-11, that Christ, being God, has absolute right and authority over all of His creation because He created it for Himself. How does John describe some of the people's responses to God stepping into His creation in verses 9-11?

Read Colossians 1:15-17 and see what it says about Jesus. What are some similarities to this passage and John 1:9-11?

How were people receiving Jesus in verse 12 of John 1?

And what is the right that God gives to those who believe in Jesus?

Those who believe are given new life, not a product of flesh and blood or of the will of man, but rather they are new creations by the power of _____.

List some things that John 1:14 says about the Word (Jesus).

What does verse 17 say was given through Moses and what was given through Jesus Christ?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 2, Day 8

Week 2 Memory Verse: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:1

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 1:19-28

What do the priests and Levites (Jewish leaders) ask John the Baptist?

Looking at verses 20-21 what three things does John the Baptist say about himself?

What does John the Baptist tell the Jews about himself and his job in verse 23?

Note: To answer the Jews' question, John the Baptist points to an Old Testament prophesy by Isaiah that foretells that someone will be sent right before the Messiah to tell the Jews that the Christ has come from God.

What does John the Baptist say about the Messiah who is coming after him in verses 26-27?

How do you think John the Baptist views and values the Messiah?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 2, Day 9

Week 2 Memory Verse: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:1

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name & encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 1:29-34

John the Baptist is speaking in verse 29. What does he say about Jesus?

In verse 31, what does John the Baptist state as his purpose for “baptizing with water”?

In verses 32-34, John the Baptist is describing what happened when he baptized Jesus. Read the account of Jesus’ baptism in Matthew.

READ Matthew 3:13-17

In Matthew 3:16-17, why do you think John the Baptist was reluctant to baptize Jesus?

In Matthew 3:13-17, what two things happen immediately after Jesus is baptized?

Who does the Bible say that Jesus is?

Looking at John 3:34, how does John fulfill the purpose he was sent described in John 1:6-8.

If you had to summarize the mission of John the Baptist in one sentence, in your own words, what would you say?

What did John the Baptist know and believe about Jesus?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 2, Day 10

Week 2 Memory Verse: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:1

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 1:35-42

Looking at verse 35-36, what does John the Baptist say about Jesus when he sees Jesus walk by?

Note: In Exodus chapter 12 of the Old Testament, we are given the account of the last of the 10 plagues that God uses against Pharaoh to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt. The tenth and final plague is to kill all of the first-born males of the Egyptians. God told Moses that all of the Israelites shall take a lamb without blemish and slaughter it, then paint its blood over the door posts of their houses. By doing this, the Israelites would protect their firstborn males from being killed. This was known as the Passover and is still remembered by the Jews to this day. (Exodus 11-12)

What is John the Baptist foreshadowing by calling Jesus the Lamb of God?

What do John the Baptist's disciples do after they hear what he says about Jesus?

What does Jesus ask John the Baptist's disciples when they go up to Him?

What do the disciples ask Jesus at the end of verse 38? Then what do they do in verse 39?

Verse 40 tells us that one of the disciples who went and stayed with Jesus was named Andrew; then who does it say is his brother?

Looking at 41-42, what does Andrew do? And who does he say that Jesus is after he stays with Jesus?

Who else is now testifying about Jesus being the Messiah?

What does Jesus do when he meets Simon Peter in verse 42?

Why do you think it's important that Jesus gave Simon Peter a new name? How is this a picture of what Jesus does for sinners who put their faith in Him? How does the gospel give us a new identity?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 3, Day 11

Week 3 Memory Verse: *When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:22*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 1:43-51

Where does it say that Jesus decided to go in verse 43?

Who does it say Jesus found and what does He tell that person to do?

Who does it say Philip found and what does Philip tell him?

Who does Philip believe that Jesus is?

What is Nathaniel's response to Philip in verse 46?

Note: The town of Nazareth was a small agricultural town of about 2000 people. It would have been strange for such an important figure such as the Son of God to be from that town. This might help explain some of Nathaniel's initial doubts about Jesus being the Messiah.

Looking at verse 47, what does Jesus say about Nathaniel when He sees him coming?

What is Nathaniel's response to Jesus in verse 48? How do you think Nathaniel felt?

How does Jesus say that He knows Nathaniel in verse 48? How is this a glimpse of Jesus being the Son of God?

Then what does Nathaniel say that shows us he believes who Jesus is in verse 49?

How does Jesus respond to Nathaniel's proclamation of him being the Son of God and King of Israel?

In verse 51, what are the things that Jesus tells Nathaniel he will see?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 3, Day 12

In Depth: What is a Disciple?

Week 3 Memory Verse: *When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:22*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Historically, a disciple was one who followed his master or teacher (Rabbi). They followed him everywhere in order to learn from him, mimic him, pattern their lives after him and share their teachings with others. Their ultimate goal was to be like their master. As you read and study these following verses, keep that in mind. A disciple of Jesus is one who follows Jesus, at any cost, so that his life looks like His. They want to be like Him. A disciple of Jesus is called to exclusively love, serve, obey and praise Jesus above any and everything else.

READ John 13:34-35

Based on this passage, what is the chief characteristic of a disciple of Jesus?

How are we commanded to love others?

How does the world know we are disciples of Jesus?

READ Luke 14:25-33

What is the main thing Jesus is saying in this passage?

In this passage, Jesus gives two examples of thinking through, or counting the cost, before a certain action. What are those examples?

In your own words, what does it mean to “count the cost” before following Jesus? Is it worth it to you? Why or why not?

Is the cost of discipleship a great one or a small one? Why?

READ Matthew 28:18-20

What three commands are given in these verses?

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

What promise is given to a disciple of Jesus?

As followers of Jesus, we proclaim to believe that it’s through Christ alone that we have salvation, hope and life. In light of this, why is it important for a disciple of Jesus to teach what he has learned?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 3, Day 13

Week 3 Memory Verse: *When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:22*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 2:1-12

Where is Jesus at in John 2:1-12? What is the setting?

Who are some of the people Jesus is with?

What is the problem that arises?

What does Jesus' mom do when she finds out that the host of the wedding has run out of wine?

What is Jesus' response to his mother in verse 4?

Note: All throughout Jesus' ministry, as He does miracles, He often tells the person whom He just healed to not tell anyone about what has happened. Some scholars believe that this was to avoid too much attention being brought to Jesus and threatening His ultimate mission of going to the cross. This could be the same reason why He argues with His mother about helping the wedding hosts when they run out of wine. He was trying to avoid bringing attention to Himself before the right time.

What does Jesus' mother tell the servant at the end of verse 5?

Explain in your own words what happens during verses 6-10.

What does verse 11 say that Jesus manifested by doing this sign?

What does the end of verse 11 say about Jesus' disciples?

What does it mean in verse 11 that "His disciples believed in him?" What did they believe? (Think back to John chapter 1 and John's purpose in writing this gospel.)

Overall, Jesus being able to turn water into wine tells us what about Him?

Looking at verse 12, who was traveling with Jesus?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 3, Day 14

Week 3 Memory Verse: *When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:22*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 2:13

In seeking a deeper understanding of Scripture we must always be diligent in seeking out definitions for words. Sometimes words and phrases appear in the Bible, and especially as we are going through the Gospel of John, that we might not have a clue of what they mean. Or we might have a clue, but we miss the full meaning of what is being communicated because we don't have a good grasp of its importance.

In Day 10 of Week 2 of this bible study we explained a little bit about the Passover feast and why the Jews celebrate it. Today we are going to take a more in depth look at the Passover in the Old Testament because of how many times it's mentioned in the Gospel of John and how important it was to the Jews.

Skim through Exodus chapters 7-11, and list all ten plagues that God brought on Pharaoh and Egypt.

READ Exodus 11:4-9

What will happen in the final plague on Egypt?

READ Exodus 12:1-6

What is the animal that each household is supposed to take in for 14 days?

Verse 5: Your _____ shall be without _____ or _____.

Looking at verse 6, what time of the day are the Israelites supposed to sacrifice their lamb?

READ Exodus 12:7-13

According to verse 7 what are they to do with the blood of the lamb after they kill it?

What does verse 13 say about the blood of the lamb on the doorposts?

What does the LORD say He will do when he sees the blood on the doorposts?

READ Exodus 12:14

What does God command the Israelites to do in verse 14, according to the Passover?

READ Exodus 12:21-40

What happened after the Passover?

How important was it for the Jews to celebrate the Passover feast in John 2:13? And why?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 3, Day 15

Week 3 Memory Verse: *When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:22*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 2:13-22

Where does it say that Jesus went and what memorial day is at hand in verse 13?

What does verse 14 say is happening in the temple in Jerusalem?

What does Jesus do when He sees the money-changers?

What does Jesus tell those who were selling pigeons in the temple according to verse 16?

Note: The Temple was a place of worship for all people to come and worship the one true God of the Israelites.

What does verse 17 say about what Jesus' disciples thought when they saw Jesus run the money-changers out of the temple? (Psalm 69:9)

What do the Jews ask Jesus in verse 18 after they saw Him disrupt all of the trade and business in the temple?

What does Jesus tell them that His sign will be in verse 19?

How do verses 20-22 explain the misunderstanding between Jesus and the Jews? What temple is Jesus talking about? What temple do the Jews think Jesus is talking about?

What does verse 22 say about the disciples and what they believed about Jesus when He was raised from the dead?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 4, Day 16

Week 4 Memory Verse: *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* John 3:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 2:23-25

Where is Jesus?

What feast is being celebrated in verse 23?

Review: What are the Jews remembering during this feast? What happened in Exodus chapters 11-12 that God would command them to hold this feast each year?

According to the end of verse 23, what happened when people saw the signs that Jesus was doing?

What does it mean that "they believed in his name?" What did they believe about Jesus? (Look at John 1:48-51 and see what Nathaniel believed to help answer this question.)

Looking at verse 24, what is Jesus' response to the people believing in Him?

Look up Jeremiah 17:9. What does this verse say about the heart of man?

Read verses 24 and 25 of John chapter 2. What are the two reasons that Jesus did not entrust Himself to people?

Note: Many of the Jews in Jesus' day thought the Messiah promised in the Old Testament was to be an earthly king who would establish his throne by defeating Rome who was the current dominating empire of that day. They thought that the Messiah would start a revolution among the Jews to overthrow Rome. It's likely that Jesus did not entrust himself to the Jews because they would have tried to appoint him as King and not allowed him to fulfill his main purpose of coming, which was to go to the cross and die as the sacrifice for sin. God's plan for Jesus was much bigger than just defeating Rome. His plan in Jesus was to defeat sin and establish the Kingdom of Heaven that would stand for all of eternity.

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 4, Day 17

In Depth: What is in Man?

Week 4 Memory Verse: *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* John 3:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Turn on the television and watch the news, check the local newspaper, or simply sit back and watch how your fellow students interact with each other at school. It won't take long at all to see the depth of sin and depravity of mankind. Humanity is inherently evil. What this means is that not only do we *do* bad things, but we ourselves *are* bad. We are born entirely sinful and in desperate need of a Savior. We cannot save ourselves. Our sin deserves death because our sin is in direct violation to God's holy law. When we sin, we are personally transgressing against our King and Judge. God hates sin, and He cannot let it go unpunished. Sin is so great that Scripture says we are dead in our sins, with nothing good in us.

In Ezekiel, the Lord compares the Israelites to dry bones, spiritually dead and unable to make themselves alive. We see the power of God as He breathes life into the bones as they get up, grow flesh and skin, and begin to walk around as living, heart-pulsating, human beings. He uses this as an analogy to show the death that sin brings and the life that God brings.

READ Genesis 3

What happens in this chapter that changes the trajectory of the human race?

We see God's chief enemy make an appearance in this chapter. How does Genesis 3:1 describe Satan? What does that mean?

In verse 8, we see Adam and Eve hide from God. Why did they do that?

Genesis 1-2 are the only chapters in all of Scripture where there is no sin, and the world, and all that is in it, is in perfect unity with their Creator God. With the fall of man and coming of sin in Genesis 3, that all changed. Does this hurt your heart and cause you to grieve to think of how drastically sin changed everything? Think about it, and write your response here.

READ Romans 5:12-21

The title of this passage is called "Death in Adam, Life in Christ." Look at Adam and Christ next to each other. What did Adam's sin bring to the world and what did Christ's sacrifice bring to the world? How are these two men different?

Because of Adam's sin, all men are born sinful. Our sin merits death. In light of this, where do we find hope?

We are told in this passage that the Christ's free gift of salvation (meaning we do nothing to earn it) brings *justification* to us. This word simply means "to be made right." For those of us who are followers of God, how does Christ's sacrifice make us right, pure, and blameless before God?

What attributes of God do you see in these passages? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 4, Day 18

Week 4 Memory Verse: *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* John 3:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 3:1-15

According to verses 1 and 2, who visits Jesus and when does he visit?

What was the occupation of the man who visited Jesus?

What does Nicodemus say that he knows about Jesus according to verse 2?

Looking at verse 3, what does Jesus say is the way for a man to see the kingdom of God?

How does Nicodemus respond to what Jesus says about being born again? Put in your own words what Nicodemus asks in verse 4.

Read verses 5 -8. Explain how Nicodemus misunderstood what Jesus said about being born again.

How does Jesus say that man is to be born again according to verses 6 and 7?

Read verses 24 and 25 of John chapter 2. What are the two reasons that Jesus did not entrust himself to people?

What does Jesus describe the Spirit as in verse 8?

What is Nicodemus' response in verse 9 to all that Jesus just told him?

Looking at verses 11-12, what kind of "things" does Jesus tell Nicodemus?

Who is the one who has ascended into heaven and descended from heaven in verse 13?

Note: In verse 14 Jesus references back to a story in the Old Testament (Numbers 21:4-9). The Israelites had been delivered from Egypt and were in the wilderness, but instead of being thankful for being delivered from slavery, they had begun to grumble and complain about being in the wilderness. So God sent fiery serpents to attack the Israelites, and then after Moses asked God to deliver them from the serpent, God told Moses to make a serpent and put it on a staff so that anyone who looked at Moses' staff would be delivered from death after being bit by the serpents. Jesus' point to Nicodemus is the He is like the serpent on the staff and anyone who believes in Him will be delivered from death.

Looking at verses 14 and 15, what will a person receive if they believe in the Son of Man (Jesus)?

What must a person be born of to receive eternal life?

Who will a person born of the Spirit believe in, according to verse 15?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 4, Day 19

Week 4 Memory Verse: *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." John 3:5*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 3:16-21

According to verse 16, what did God give the world because He loves it so much?

What happens to whoever believes in Jesus, God's only son?

God did not send his son into the world to _____ the world. (verse 17)

God sent his son so the world might be _____ through him. (verse 17)

According to verse 18, who are the people not condemned?

Looking at the rest of verse 18, why are people condemned?

Why do people not love the light of Jesus according to verse 19?

What two things does verse 20 say about people who do wicked things?

What are the works that will be exposed if people come to the light, according to the end of verse 20?

Looking at verse 21, what does it say about whoever does what is true?

In your own words, summarize what happens when people believe in Jesus and therefore walk in the light.

What is the manner people who believe in Jesus should walk in?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 4, Day 20

Week 4 Memory Verse: *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." John 3:5*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 3:22-36

According to verse 22, where is Jesus, who is He with, and what is He doing there?

According to verse 23, where is John the Baptist and what is he doing there?

What was the topic that John the Baptist's disciples and a Jew were discussing in verse 23?

Note: During this time in the story, some people were confused about why Jesus was baptizing people at the same time John the Baptist was baptizing people. In general, people were being baptized to represent their turning away from sin and putting their faith in God. Baptism was and is a physical representation of the spiritual act of being cleansed from one's sins. They were being made pure.

Some of their confusion about being baptized could have been in the question of who should they be baptized by to be made pure—Jesus or John the Baptist. And the answer is both! Baptisms from either John the Baptist or Jesus were good in representing a person's desire to walk away from darkness and come to the light. John the Baptist explains this more in verses 27-36.

Looking at verses 27 and 28, what does John the Baptist make clear about heaven and himself?

What does John the Baptist say about He who comes from above in verse 31?

What is the Father's attitude toward the Son according to verse 35?

Still looking at verse 35, what has the Father given the Son?

According to verse 36, what happens to those who do not obey the Son by believing in Him?

Who does verse 36 say has eternal life?

Note: It is important for us to constantly check our hearts on what we know about Jesus and what we actually believe about Jesus. It's possible for a person to know a lot about Jesus but not believe those things and not have their lives be shaped by those beliefs and not receive the Spirit.

Take some time and write down five things that you believe about Jesus.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 5, Day 21

In Depth: What is the Bridegroom?

Week 5 Memory Verse: *He must increase, but I must decrease.* John 3:30

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Marriage is so much greater than a man and a woman merely signing a paper. Our culture has warped it to be that, but in the sight of God, it's so much more meaningful. We read in Scripture that marriage is a symbol, a picture, of what our relationship with Christ is. Just as a man pursues a woman, so does Christ pursue us, His "beloved," His "bride." In God's great wisdom and plan, He chose to use marriage as an analogy of this great love He has for us. When we think about covenant and love, our first inclination isn't to think of a mother and son, or a sister and brother, but we think of marriage and a wedding.

In the following texts, we'll read that we, as believers, are awaiting the great marriage feast with Jesus. It is then that we will finally (and forever) be united with Him. He is our husband, our head. In Him is our security, our comfort, our dependability, our love. An earthly husband fails his wife; he has the ability to hurt her, lead her astray, abandon her, break the covenant, betray her. But Christ? In His perfect, sacrificial love, He not only is all those things perfectly for us, but He is also our Savior. He willingly chose to lay down His life for His bride, us. His love and adoration for us far surpasses any earthly love we might attain here. As you read the following passages, dwell on those things.

Read Isaiah 54:5-10

When you read this text, what thoughts go through your head? Does it invoke (bring about) a sense of joy and gratitude in your heart? Why or why not?

In verse 5, how many different names of God are given? What are they?

Read verse 10 again. What type of care does God show His people, His bride? Why is this important for us to understand?

READ Revelation 19:6-9

The Book of Revelation is the account of John's prophecy of the end times. Revelation 19 is specifically explaining heaven and the bride (the chosen people) of Christ.

What type of celebration is going on in this text?

Verse 7 says that this celebration is between the Lamb and His bride. Who is the Lamb and who is the bride?

Can you tell that this is a joyful celebration? Find at least four words in this text that prove that it is.

READ the following lyrics. What praises and prayers to the Lord come to your mind as you think about them? Speak those to Him.

**When we arrive at eternity's shore
Where death is just a memory and tears are no more
We'll enter in as the wedding bells ring
Your bride will come together and we'll sing
You're beautiful, You're beautiful, You're beautiful
(Phil Wickham, "Beautiful")**

What attributes of God do you see in these passages? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 5, Day 22

Week 5 Memory Verse: *He must increase, but I must decrease.* John 3:30

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 4:1-45

What had Jesus and His disciples been doing that Jesus would be “weariest” (tired) in verse 6?

What is Jesus’ current location in the story according to verse 5?

What does Jesus ask of the woman from Samaria in verse 7?

What is the woman’s response in verse 9?

Note: Jews and Samaritans did not like one another during this time in history. In fact, Jesus absolutely despised the Samaritans and thought of them as half-breeds because they were in some way in the lineage of a Jew but were not faithful to the law and worshiped other pagan gods. This is why verse 9 has parentheses in it that says “For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.” This is also why the Samaritan woman is surprised that Jesus would even talk to her and then go as far as to demand a drink from her.

What does Jesus say in verse 10 that the woman would have asked Him for if she had known who He was?

According to verse 11, why does the Samaritan woman have a problem with Jesus giving anyone a drink of water?

What does Jesus say in verse 13 is the difference between the water He is offering and the water in the well?

What is the Samaritan woman's response in verse 15 to what Jesus just told her? And why does she want that water?

What does Jesus reveal about this woman's marriage or lack thereof in verses 16-18?

What does the Samaritan woman say to Jesus in verse 24 about the messiah and who does Jesus reveal Himself to be in verse 25?

What does the Samaritan woman do in verse 28 after Jesus tells her who He is, and what does she tell people in her town in verse 29?

What does verse 39 say the result was of the woman's testimony to her town about Jesus?

According to verse 40, how long does Jesus end up staying with the Samaritans?

What do the Samaritans say about Jesus at the end of verse 42?

What attribute of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 5, Day 23

In Depth: Who Were the Samaritans?

Week 5 Memory Verse: *He must increase, but I must decrease.* John 3:30

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

When studying Scripture, it is so important to know the context (what's going on in and around that text) and the history of the people, cities and events taking place. Yesterday you read about the Samaritan woman at the well and how Christ interacted and spoke with her. Today we're going to look more in depth as to who the Samaritans were and why that was such a big deal.

We read in 1 Kings 12 that the Israelites became discontent and angry, which resulted in their kingdom being divided. From that division, Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and Israel, the Northern Kingdom were created. A couple hundred years later the Assyrians attacked and conquered the Northern Kingdom. The Jews who stayed behind ended up marrying Assyrians. The mixed race that came from these marriages became known as the Samaritans. These children were neither fully Hebrew nor fully Gentile; therefore, they were oftentimes rejected. The Jews and Samaritans did not speak to each other. The Samaritans had their own places of worship and had nothing to do with Jews. As you read and study the following text, consider these things.

READ Luke 9:51-53

Where are Jesus and His disciples heading in this passage? Where did they have to stop by on their way there?

Why was Jesus rejected here at this stop-through city?

Who lived in Jerusalem during this time? Why did that matter?

Note: Oftentimes in Scripture we see Jesus break cultural boundaries and bring about a centrality and unity of the gospel. Read the following texts and see how He did that with the Samaritans.

READ Luke 17:11-19

Where is Jesus in this passage?

What miracle is taking place here?

Of the ten lepers, who is the one who stayed behind to thank Jesus? What was Jesus' response to him in verse 19?

Review yesterday's study on the Samaritan woman.

READ John 4:39-42

What do we see happening here?

Did Jesus show any partiality or treat the Samaritans differently?

READ Romans 1:16 & Acts 1:8

Because of the Gentiles' blatant disbelief and disobedience, Jesus had every right to treat them differently, but He chose not to. Instead, He made it possible for them to know Him. Do you believe He has the power to save all sorts of people? Why or why not?

What attributes of God do you see in these passages? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 5, Day 24

Week 5 Memory Verse: *He must increase, but I must decrease.* John 3:30

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 4:16-26

What does Jesus tell the Samaritan woman to do in verse 16?

How does she reply to Jesus in verse 17?

What else does Jesus reveal about the Samaritan woman in verses 17 and 18?

What does the Samaritan woman change the subject to in verse 20?

Why do you think the Samaritan woman changed the subject of their conversation off of her and on to something that doesn't seem relevant to what they were talking about?

In verse 23, what does Jesus say about worship and the future?

What does the Samaritan woman say in verse 25?

What does Jesus reveal about Himself in verse 26 to the Samaritan woman?

How does Jesus interact with this Samaritan woman that was different than the way other Jews would have interacted with her?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 5, Day 25

Week 5 Memory Verse: *He must increase, but I must decrease.* John 3:30

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 4:27-29

Looking back at John 4:1-26, describe in your own words the scene that Jesus' disciples find Jesus in verse 27?

Why is it that the disciples marveled according to verse 27?

What does verse 27 say that the disciples did not dare to ask?

According to verse 28, what did the woman leave and where did she go?

What does verse 29 say that the woman said to the people in her town?

According to verse 30, how did the people respond to what the Samaritan woman told them?

How should our response be like the Samaritan woman's response when she found out who Jesus was?

Do you think one of Jesus' disciples would have stopped and talked with the Samaritan woman? Why or why not?

What might be some things in your life that would be viewed as unacceptable, uncool, dumb, or weird because you are a follower of Jesus?

Why is Jesus still worth following?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 6, Day 26

Week 6 Memory Verse: *So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. John 4:40-41*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 4:31-38

What do the disciples call Jesus in verse 31?

What are the disciples telling Jesus to do in verse 31?

What does Jesus say in verse 32 to His disciple after they tell him to eat?

What does verse 33 say the disciples start to wonder?

What does Jesus say His food is in verse 34?

What does Jesus start talking about in verse 35?

What does Jesus want His disciples to lift up their eyes to see according to the end of verse 35?

What is the saying in verse 37 that Jesus says holds true?

What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 38?

Note: Jesus is building an illustration for His disciples that is happening right in front of them. He is talking about the harvest of people who will come to believe in Him and also the harvest of people who will come to believe in Jesus through the disciples. Jesus just spoke with one Samaritan woman, and now He and His disciples are about to reap a harvest of believers from this woman's town that they did not work for.

What do you think Jesus wants His disciples to always be aware of?

Who is someone in your life you are "sowing" into? How are you planting seeds of the gospel in the people in your life?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 6, Day 27

Week 6 Memory Verse: *So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. John 4:40-41*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 4:39-45

According to verse 39, why did many Samaritans believe in Jesus?

What did the Samaritan woman say specifically according to the end of verse 39?

What did the Samaritans ask Jesus to do when they get to Him in verse 40?

How long does verse 40 say that Jesus stayed with the Samaritans?

And what happened during those two days, according to verse 41?

According to verse 41, what is the cause for many more of the Samaritans to believe in Jesus?

What do the Samaritans say to the woman in verse 42?

Who do the Samaritans believe Jesus is according to the end of verse 42?

According to verse 43, where did Jesus go after He left the Samaritans?

What is the reason that verse 45 gives for why the Galileans welcomed Jesus into their land?

What do you think the problem is with only asking for the miracles that Jesus can do without being willing to follow Him and be obedient to Him? What does it reveal about our hearts if we are always only asking Jesus to do things for us instead of spending more time in worship of Him and thinking about how to be more like Him?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 6, Day 28

Week 6 Memory Verse: *So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. John 4:40-41*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 4:1-45

Review

In 3 to 5 sentences, describe in your own words Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman.

Why was it a big deal that Jesus was talking to a Samaritan woman?

Explain the big effect of Jesus ministering to one Samaritan woman.

What does it look like in your life to follow the example that Jesus set by talking and ministering to the Samaritan woman?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 6, Day 29

Week 6 Memory Verse: *So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. John 4:40-41*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 4:46-54

Where is Jesus in verse 46? And what is the other miracle that this verse references?

In no less than three sentences, explain what happened when Jesus turned water into wine. (Look at day 13 to help you remember.)

What does the man in verse 47 ask Jesus to do for him?

How severe was the condition of the official's son?

What does Jesus say that this man has to see for him to believe in Jesus?

The man thinks that Jesus has to come and see his son to heal him, but what does Jesus do instead?

What two things does verse 50 say the man did?

Looking at verse 51, who met the official on his way home, and what did he tell him?

In verse 52, what does the official ask of his servant and why?

What happened with the official at the end of verse 52 after he found out when his son was healed?

What is the pattern that seems to be appearing in the book of John every time people see Jesus do a sign or miracle?

What should our response be when we read about the life of Jesus? What does the writer of the Gospel of John want us to believe about Jesus?

Take a minute and write down the first three things that come your mind when you think of Jesus.

1)

2)

3)

How does your answer to the above question reflect what you believe about Jesus?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 6, Day 30

Week 6 Memory Verse: *So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. John 4:40-41*

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 5:1-9

Where is Jesus in verses 1 and 2? Describe the setting in your own words using the details in those two verses.

What kind of people does verse 3 say are at this pool?

Note: The pool of Bethesda supposedly had special healing power for those who could dip themselves in it. The legend was that an angel would come down and visit the pool, and when the angel visited, the pool would be filled with bubbles. If a person who was paralyzed or hurt in any way could get into the pool while it was bubbling, they would immediately be healed.

In verse 5, how is the man who Jesus talks to described?

What does Jesus ask the man in verse 6?

How does the man respond to Jesus in verse 7?

What does Jesus tell the man to do in verse 8?

What happens next in verse 9?

What does this passage tell us about the power of Jesus?

How is this a picture of the gospel? How does Jesus forgive us of our sins and heal us to walk in faithfulness to Him?

What did the invalid man have his hope in to get healed?

Who actually saved and healed the invalid man?

What is our only hope of salvation from sin and darkness?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 7, Day 31

Week 7 Memory Verse: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”* John 5:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 5:1-18

Summarize in one sentence what happened in verses 1-9.

Looking at verses 9 and 10, what is the problem that the Jews have with the invalid man who was just healed.

Note: The Sabbath was a day of rest commanded to the Jews in the Old Testament. God commands the Jews in Deuteronomy 5:2 to keep the Sabbath holy, every other day they could work and be productive, but on one day of the week they were to not work at all and spend the day resting in the Lord. The Jews held the Sabbath strictly, but by the time of Jesus they had made up other rules for the Sabbath that they falsely believed would get them favor with God. The Jews in this passage cared much more about the rule than the heart behind the rule, which was to drive people to be intentional about finding rest in the Lord and worshipping Him.

What is the conversation that happens between the man who was healed and the Jews in verses 10-12?

Looking at verse 14, where does Jesus run into the man whom He healed?

What does Jesus say to the man in verse 14?

What should Jesus' healing and forgiveness lead people away from?

What did the man do in verse 15?

According to verse 16, why were the Jews persecuting Jesus?

How does Jesus answer the Jews in verse 17?

Was Jesus more concerned about the will of God or if healing someone on the Sabbath would offend people?

In three sentences, explain how Jesus' response to the Jews should apply to us. Should we be more concerned about God's work or what other people want?

According to verse 18, the Jews hated Jesus so much that they were seeking to _____ Him.

Who does Jesus refer to as His Father and what does that mean?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 7, Day 32

Week 7 Memory Verse: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”* John 5:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 5:19-29

Looking at verse 19, why does Jesus do the things He does?

In verse 20, what is the relationship between the Father and the Son? What does the Father do towards the Son?

“The Father raises the _____ and gives them _____.”

“Also the Son gives _____ to whom he _____.”

According to verse 22, whom has He given all judgment to?

What does verse 23 say about the person who does not honor the Son?

What does a person receive if they hear the words of Jesus and believe according to verse 24?

The person who believes in Jesus does not pass into judgment, “but passes from _____ to _____.” (Verse 24)

What does verse 25 say about those who are dead and hear the voice of the Son of God?

According to verse 26, where is life to be found?

According to verse 27, to whom does the Father give authority to execute judgment?

According verse 29, what will happen to those who have done good and to those who have done evil?

Note: The reality is that sin has corrupted all people to the point that they cannot do good in anything in the sight of God. This is why Jesus constantly tells his followers to believe in Him, because He is the only good person who ever lived and loved God with all of his heart, soul, mind, and strength. When Jesus died on the cross He took on the punishment that we all deserve for our evilness.

The only way we can be viewed as good is by putting our faith in Jesus and believing that what He did on the cross was sufficient in paying for our sins. Only after putting our faith in Jesus can we walk in the good deeds that God has laid out before us as lights in a dark world.

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 7, Day 33

In Depth: Why Jesus is Our Only Salvation

Week 7 Memory Verse: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”* John 5:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

If you could write down all the world religions you could think of, how many could you count? A lot, right? We are created for worship, and because of the fall of man and the dark depravity of our hearts, we oftentimes look everywhere *but* to God for worship. People will tell you that there are many different outlets and ways to know salvation. As Christians and followers of God, we believe there is only *one way* for salvation, *one way* to God, and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is very important that you not only know this and believe this, but that you are also able to defend this and share this truth with others. If you knew the cure for cancer, would you keep that knowledge a secret? Likewise, if Jesus is the only way to experience life and harmony with God and be freed from the death of sin, how can you keep that hope to yourself? Read the following texts and study why Jesus is our salvation and what that means for humanity.

READ John 5:24

Jesus says here, “whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me...” Who is the “Him” referring to?

Why did God send Jesus?

What does this text say happens for those who believe?

Based on this text, what or who is the way to salvation? What hope and joy do you experience knowing this?

READ Romans 6:23

What is this verse saying?

What all does this “free gift” entail? Refer to Ephesians 2:1-10 for explanation.

Based on this text what or who is the way to salvation? What hope and joy do you experience knowing this?

READ John 14:6

According to this text, how do we get to God?

What does it mean when Jesus says He is the “way, the truth, and the life?”

Based on this text, what or who is the way to salvation? What hope and joy do you experience knowing this?

What attributes of God do you see in these passages? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 7, Day 34

Week 7 Memory Verse: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”* John 5:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 5:30-47

Note: In this passage of Scripture Jesus is still talking to the Jews who don't believe that He is the Son of God. Even more, the Jews He is talking to are trying to find a way to kill Jesus. It is always important when reading Scripture to ask what audience is being addressed. In this passage the audience that Jesus is addressing are Jews who don't believe He is the Son of God and want to kill Him.

Looking at verse 30, whose will is Jesus seeking to accomplish?

According to verses 31-34, who is the person Jesus says also testified about the truth of Jesus' identity being the Son of God?

How does Jesus describe John the Baptist in verse 35?

In verse 36, what does Jesus say about His testimony compared to the testimony of John the Baptist?

Still in verse 36, what does Jesus say that bears witness that He is sent from the Father?

According to verses 37 and 38, what four things does Jesus say about the Jews He is talking to?

1)

2)

3)

4)

According to verse 39, where does Jesus say that the Jews search for their eternal life?

But where do the Scriptures lead a person according to verse 39?

Looking at verse 41, if not from people, who does Jesus receive glory from?

Glory: High honor or renown won by notable achievements

Because the Jews do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God and do not believe what Moses wrote about who the messiah was going to be, who stands in judgment of the Jews according to verse 45?

When we read the Old Testament of the Bible, what should we keep in mind? Moses had a message for the Israelite people, but his ultimate message was pointing people to look towards a messiah, an ultimate deliverer.

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 7, Day 35

In Depth: What Does the Old Testament Say about Jesus?

Week 7 Memory Verse: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”* John 5:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

In studying the Bible, you will seek a stark contrast between the Old Testament and New Testament. Left to our own thinking, we oftentimes assume or believe they are two separate parts, not a unified whole. In all actuality, there is one story being told in the entirety of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, and that is the story of Jesus Christ and the redemption of the world.

The Old Testament is full of prophecies and promises, all pointing to the coming Messiah and the salvation that He would bring. Read through and study the following passages. As your eyes open and your mind enters into to this salvation story, pray God would enlarge your heart to love and know Him.

READ Micah 5:2-5a

Who is this passage referring to? How do you know this? (Reference Luke 2:1-7.)

In verse 2 it says that His “coming forth is from old, from ancient days.” What do you think this means?

What specific characteristics and roles of Jesus does this passage show?

READ Isaiah 53

(The Book of Isaiah is full of prophecies of Jesus and promises of God for redemption.)

This chapter is the most well known, and most of you will recognize it. Read it prayerfully and decipher the different truths of Jesus given.)

What important event is being thoroughly described in this passage?

The Israelites had been waiting for hundreds of years for their Messiah, and He still had yet to come. Put yourself in their shoes as you read this passage. How hard is it to believe something so detailed and heart-wrenching like this when you haven't even seen Jesus? Did they put hope, joy, and belief in their own hearts or did God awaken their heart to believe and hope for their Messiah?

Take a moment to think about these important figures in the Old Testament and how they compare to Jesus.

***Noah:* He was a righteous man who loved God; God chose to use him, to save him and his family from the flood and begin a new legacy in and through them. He was loved in a covenant with God and promised great generations after him. How is he a shadow of Jesus? How is Jesus better?**

***Abraham:* He was a faithful man who loved and obeyed God at all costs. He was promised great generations after him, yet his wife was barren. Abraham doubted and failed to believe God's promise, yet God's promise rang true and Isaac was born. Hundreds of years down the road Jesus would be born from the lineage of Abraham. How is Abraham a shadow of Jesus? How is Jesus better?**

Moses: He was handpicked by God to have the important mission of leading the Israelites out of slavery under the hand of Pharaoh. Moses believed God and entered into this great adventure. Moses did lead the people out of captivity. How is Moses a shadow of Jesus? How is Jesus better?

What attributes of God do you see in these passages? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 8, Day 36

Week 8 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."* John 6:35

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 5:39-47

Who does Jesus say the Scriptures bear witness about?

Note: Moses is believed by most scholars to be the author of the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. In these first five books of the Bible, also called the Torah, we get the account of God creating everything—God making a promise to Abraham that he will be the father of many nations, the deliverance of Israel from the captivity of Egypt; Moses leading the Israelites through the wilderness for forty years; and the God giving the Israelite people that law to separate them from every other surrounding nation or people group. Moses is a picture of God's ultimate promise of freedom from sin and death for humanity fulfilled in the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is why in John 5:46 Jesus, speaking to the Jews, says that if they believed Moses, they would believe in Him.

Where does Jesus tell the Jews that life is in verse 40?

Who do you think Jesus wants the Jews to believe in?

Where does Jesus say, in verse 45, that they Jews have falsely put their hope?

Without looking in your Bible, what are 5 things that you remember about Moses? Why is he important to the Jews? What did he do?

- 1)**
- 2)**
- 3)**
- 4)**
- 5)**

In verse 46, who does Jesus say that Moses wrote about in the Old Testament?

Would you be able to explain to a person how the Old Testament points to Jesus? How would you do it?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage. (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.

Week 8, Day 37

Week 8 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."* John 6:35

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 6:1-15

In 1-3 sentences, describe the setting that is given to us in verses 1-4?

According to verse 2, why was there a large crowd following Jesus?

Looking at verses 5-6, what does Jesus ask Philip, and what is Jesus doing by asking Philip the question?

What is Philip's response in verse 7?

What does one of the other disciples say in verse 9?

Summarize in your own words the problem that Jesus and His disciples are confronted with?

What does Jesus tell everyone to do in verse 10 and about how many people are there?

What happens next in verses 11 and 12?

What does Jesus tell His disciples to do in verse 12 after everyone had eaten their fill?

What do the people say about Jesus once they realized the sign that He had just done?

What does Jesus perceive about the people in verse 15?

Why do you think they want to make Him their king?

Why do you think Jesus being made King by His disciples wasn't a part of God's plan right now for Jesus? What do you think must happen first before He is crowned the King of kings?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 8, Day 38

Week 8 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."* John 6:35

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name & encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 6:16-21

According to verse 16 and 17, what did the disciples do when it was evening?

Was it light or dark outside?

Was Jesus with them? Looking back at John 6:15, where is Jesus and what do you think He is doing?

What does verse 18 say about the condition of the sea?

What happened in verse 19 after the disciples had been rowing for three or four miles?

What was the disciples' first reaction to seeing Jesus walking on water?

What is supernatural about this situation?

What does this passage tell us about the power over nature that Jesus has?

According to verse 20, what does Jesus tell His disciples while they were still frightened?

How does it say that the disciples responded to finding out that the person walking on water was Jesus?

Take a few minutes to look back at the chapter we have already covered and list at least five signs or miracles that Jesus has done.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 8, Day 39

Week 8 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."* John 6:35

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 6:22-34

What is the reason that the crowds get in boats and go to Capernaum according to verse 24?

In verse 25 the crowd asked Jesus when He went across the sea. Why do you think they were confused about how Jesus got across the water? Look at verses 22-23 for help.

Looking at verse 26, what does Jesus say the people are looking for and why they came to find Him?

What does Jesus tell the people to labor for in verse 27?

Where does the bread that endures to eternal life come from?

What does the crowd ask Jesus in verse 28?

What does Jesus say is the "work of God" in verse 29?

According to verse 30, what does the crowd demand Jesus to do for them to prove He is from God?

Why does this seem strange? What did Jesus just finish doing in John 6:1-15 before He crossed the sea? After all, how did Jesus just feed five thousand people?

Looking at verse 31, what does the crowd say about their fathers in the wilderness?

Who does Jesus say really gave their fathers the manna in the book of Exodus?

What does Jesus say that that the bread of God is in verse 33?

Who is Jesus talking about in verse 33?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 8, Day 40

Week 8 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."* John 6:35

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 6:35-59

Who does Jesus say is the bread of life in verse 35?

According to verse 35, what two things does Jesus say that a person who believes in Him will never experience?

What does Jesus say about all of those who the Father gives Him in verse 37? What will they do and what will never be done to them?

Whose will did Jesus come to do and fulfill according to verse 38?

What does Jesus in verse 40 say that the will of the Father is?

Why did the Jews grumble in verses 40-41?

Who is Jesus talking about when He refers to His Father?

Looking at verse 44, what is the only way that people can come to Jesus?

Looking at verses 47-51, what is the only way that a person can have eternal life?

How does the end of verse 51 point to Jesus' death on the cross?

What is the problem the Jews in verse 53 have with what Jesus is saying to them?

Note: Jesus is not literally telling the people around Him to cook Him over a fire and eat Him. But Jesus is making a point using a very offensive word picture for the Jews. Jesus' whole point is that if you really believe in Him, if you really go to Him for life, then you will make Him your source of life.

We have to eat food and drink water to survive. The human body cannot live long without either one of those. And Jesus tells the Jews and His disciples that if they are to believe in Him and follow Him, then they should make Him their source of life, which isn't a bad a trade off at all, because the life that Jesus gives is eternal.

After reading this passage, explain in 3 to 5 sentences what it means to believe in Jesus and go to Him for your source of life.

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 9, Day 41

In Depth: Why Jews Take Offense to Jesus' Teaching

Week 9 Memory Verse: *"The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood."* John 7:18

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

All throughout the gospels we see Jesus and His disciples calling the Jews to faith and belief in Jesus. The Jews did not believe Jesus was the promised Messiah. They acknowledged He was a good teacher, possibly a prophet, but they did not believe in His divinity (that He was God). Instead of resting and believing in Him, they were still in captivity to the law, awaiting their messiah, when He was right in front of them.

The Messiah they had waited for hundreds and hundreds of years was finally there, yet they were so blinded by their disbelief. Instead of following Him, they openly rejected Him and renounced His offer of grace and salvation. Imagine how offended they would be then at Jesus' teaching. He taught salvation by grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone, and the Jews were strictly bound by the law, believing their good works and sacrifices merited their salvation. Read the following passages and notice how Jesus calls them out of that and to salvation and what their responses are.

READ Mark 2:23-3:6

This passage talks about the Pharisees, who were a popular Jewish sect. They firmly obeyed the law, but aggressively disbelieved Christ's Messianic claim. What do they have against Jesus in this passage?

In verse 28 of chapter 2, who does Jesus say is Lord of the Sabbath?

What can you tell about the state of the Pharisees' hearts in Mark 3:5? What did they do after Jesus healed the man?

Note: In the book of Acts we see Jesus' disciples anointed and take on Jesus' ministry after His ascension. Stephen is mentioned in chapter 6 as a faithful man of God, "full of grace and power." In chapter 7, we see Stephen boldly and unashamedly call the Jews

to salvation and belief in Christ Jesus, the man they put to death. Keep that in mind as you read the following text.

READ Acts 7

Stephen goes into great detail in the history of redemption in verses 1-50. He speaks to the Jews of God's continual faithfulness, all leading up to His grand plan of salvation through Jesus. Why do you think it was important that Stephen gave such great detail?

In verse 51, Stephen calls the Jews "uncircumcised in heart and ears," just like their fathers before them. Uncircumcised in this passage means they were full of unbelief. In verse 52, what do we see was a result of that unbelief?

How did the Jews respond to this? What happens to Stephen as a result of his boldness and faithfulness to God?

In the midst of Stephen being killed, what can you see about his love for God?

What attributes of God do you see in these passages? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 9, Day 42

Week 9 Memory Verse: *“The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.”* John 7:18

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 6:60-70

How does the Bible describe the reaction of Jesus’ disciples in verse 60, after the disciples had just listened to Jesus say that to inherit eternal life a person must eat His flesh and drink His blood?

How does Jesus respond in verses 61-62 to His disciples who took offense at what He said?

Do you think they would have been less offended by what Jesus said if they had seen Him ascend (float) into the sky? Or do you think they would have been a lot quicker to believe everything Jesus had to say?

According to verse 63, who does Jesus say is the one who gives life?

What does Jesus say at the end of verse 63 about the words He has spoken to His disciples?

According to verse 64, what did Jesus know from the beginning?

What is the only way a person can come to Jesus according to verse 65?

What does it say in verse 66 about many of the disciples after they had heard Jesus say these things?

What does Jesus then ask His twelve closest disciples in verse 67?

Note: Jesus had many people following Him for His three years of ministry before He went to the cross. Sometimes these people are all referred to as His disciples, but other times just his twelve closest followers are called His disciples.

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we see that sometimes huge crowds of people follow Jesus and then other times Jesus is just followed by a few, but when John mentions the “twelve” here in verse 67, he is talking about the twelve disciples of Jesus who are with Him for all three years—they see Jesus die on the cross, and they also see Jesus resurrected from the grave.

What does Simon Peter say in response to Jesus’ question in verses 68-69?

Do you feel the same way about Jesus as Simon Peter does? Explain why or why not. What are some things that hold you back from believing in Jesus completely?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 9, Day 43

Week 9 Memory Verse: *“The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.”* John 7:18

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 7:1-24

According to verse 1, why would Jesus not go about Judea?

What feast is going on according to verse 2?

Note: The Feast of Booths was a Jewish Holiday commanded by God to celebrate each year. The Israelites would journey to Jerusalem and set up tent like dwellings to live in for the duration of the feast. The feast was celebrated by the Jews to remember the 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness in the book of Exodus after God freed them from slavery in Egypt. They set up booths (tents) to live in, much like the ones that their ancestors lived in during the 40 years that they were in the wilderness.

What did Jesus’ brothers say to Him in verses 3-4?

What does verse 5 say about Jesus’ brothers?

What is the reason in verse 6 that Jesus gives for why He is not going up to the Feast of Booths to show the mass crowd signs and miracles?

What does Jesus say is the reason the world hates Him in verse 7?

What does Jesus end up doing after His brothers leave in verse 10? How does He do it?

According to verse 11, who is looking for Jesus at the Feast of Booths? (The same people looking for Jesus in John 5:18)

What are the two different things that people were saying about Jesus at the Feast of Booths in verses 12 and 13?

1)

2)

According to verse 14, where did Jesus go and what does He begin to do in the middle of the feast?

On whose authority does Jesus teach from according to verses 16 and 17?

Read verses 19-23. Who is seeking to kill Jesus? And what is the reason that Jesus gives for why they want to kill Him?

Note: Jesus is referring back to the same Jews in John 5:1-16. The Jews were furious at Jesus for healing a paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. It was against their law, not the Law of Moses, for the man to carry his bed on the Sabbath. Jesus told the man to carry his bed after He had healed him. The Jews were threatened by this because Jesus was undermining their authority and corruption and therefore sought to kill Him.

How does Jesus tell the people to judge in verse 24? How is Jesus the right and true Judge?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 9, Day 44

Week 9 Memory Verse: *“The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.”* John 7:18

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 7:25-32

Looking back at verse 14 of the same chapter, what is the setting that Jesus is speaking to the crowd in? Where is he? What feast are they at?

Looking at verses 25-27, what are some of the things the crowd is wondering about Jesus? What questions are they asking?

What does Jesus say to the crowd at the beginning of verse 28?

Where did Jesus come from? Who sent Jesus? Who gave Jesus His mission on earth?

How does Jesus clarify in verse 28 that they don't actually know where He came from?

What does Jesus say about who He is and where He is from in verse 29?

What was the response from the people in verse 30 to what Jesus had just told them?

Why were the Jews unable to arrest Jesus?

Who do you think is really in control in this situation?

What did others do according to verse 31 in response to what Jesus had just told them?

What do the people ask about Jesus at the end of verse 31?

In all of this, what are five things that you've learned about Jesus and His life?

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 9, Day 45

Week 9 Memory Verse: *“The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.”* John 7:18

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 7:32-36

Looking at verse 32, what did the chief priests and Pharisees do in response to hearing the crowds talk about Jesus?

What were the crowds saying about Jesus and the Pharisees, looking back at verses 25-27 in chapter 7 of John?

What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 33?

What do you think Jesus is talking about? Where is he going to go?

What does Jesus say about where He is going in verse 34?

Looking at verse 35, what are the Jews confused about what Jesus just said?

Where do they think Jesus might go according to verse 35?

Note: Dispersion among the Greeks is referring to the other Israelites who are spread out among the Roman Empire. The Jews are wondering if Jesus is going to leave the area and go to the Israelites to show them more signs and miracles. This might explain why they wanted to arrest Him so quickly and put Him to death.

So far in our study of John, who are some enemies of Jesus?

What do Jesus' enemies want to do to Jesus?

Why do you think the Pharisees and Jews were so threatened by Jesus?

Look back through the chapters we have already covered in the book of John. How has Jesus so far fulfilled His mission from God?

List some things that you've learned about Jesus so far that you might have not already known.

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 10, Day 46

Week 10 Memory Verse: *And Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 7:37-39

What feast is it the last day of? (Look at John 7:2 for help.)

In your own words, explain why the Jews celebrated the Feast of Booths? (Look back at day 43 for help.)

What does Jesus stand up and say to the crowds in verses 37-38?

What does Jesus stand up and say to the crowds in verses 37-38?

Looking at what Jesus says in verses 37-38, what similar thing did Jesus tell the Samaritan women in John 4:13-14?

Where will this "living water" come out of according to Jesus said in verse 38?

Have you ever met a person that it was obvious that they believed in Jesus and had a spring of living water coming out of their heart? Have you ever met a person that was refreshing to be around?

What are some different things in our culture that people will try to satisfy themselves with? What do people find joy and refreshment in?

What can't those things save us from? Where is true life to be found?

According verse 39 when Jesus talks about living waters he said it about what?

Looking at verse 39, those who believe in Jesus will receive what?

According to verse 39, why has the Spirit not been sent to those who believe in Jesus yet?

What do you think some evidences of the Spirit in a believer's life are?

Look at Galatians 5:22-23 say about the fruit of the Spirit. What are the 9 things listed to help us understand what the fruit of the Spirit is?

What are the evidences of the Spirit in your life?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage. (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.

Week 10, Day 47

Week 10 Memory Verse: *And Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 7:40-52

What were some of the different beliefs about the identity of Jesus according to verses 40-42?

What does verse 43 say about the people and what they believed about Jesus?

According to verse 45, how do we know that the officers reporting back to the chief priests and Pharisees did not arrest Jesus?

How do the officers respond to the chief priests and Pharisees in verse 46?

What is the Pharisees' response to the officers in verses 47-49?

What do the Pharisees and chief priests say about the crowd in verse 49?

Who does verse 50 say is there with the chief priests and Pharisees?

Where have we seen Nicodemus before? Summarize his interaction with Jesus in John 3:1-15.

What does Nicodemus ask the chief priests and Pharisees in verse 51?

In verse 51, what do the chief priests and Pharisees say in response to Nicodemus' question?

Note: There are several important things to note in this passage. One is that there have been prophets in the past from Galilee; the most famous would be Jonah the prophet who was sent by God to the Ninevites to call them to repentance. And the second would be that the Pharisees did not think highly of Galilee in general, and to have a prophet undermining their authority from Galilee was extremely offensive to them.

Also, it might seem like Nicodemus isn't doing much in this passage, but for him to bring up the fact that Jesus was at least due a fair trial was very significant. The Jews had a very strong and fair way to trial people, and if Jesus was given a fair trial, (which He was not) He would have been found innocent. The chief priests and Pharisees have such a hard heart towards God and Jesus that they are willing to do anything to keep Jesus quiet.

How important is it that we have a right biblical view of who Jesus is?

What are some views of Jesus that you've heard from people that is different from what the Bible says about Jesus being the Messiah?

Who is Jesus really, according to the Bible?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 10, Day 48

Week 10 Memory Verse: *And Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 7:53-8:11

According to verse 2, where is Jesus and what is He doing?

What happens in verse 3?

Adultery: the sin of committing a sexual act outside of marriage with someone you are not married to.

What is the question the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus in verses 4-5?

What do the scribes and Pharisees say that the Law of Moses says about what they should do with this woman?

According to verse 6, what is the reason the scribes and Pharisees brought this woman in front of Jesus?

In your own words, explain what the motives are of the scribes and Pharisees towards Jesus.

What does Jesus say to the scribes and Pharisees in verse 7?

What do the scribes and Pharisees do next according to verse 9?

What does Jesus ask the woman in verse 10 after all of the scribes and Pharisees have left?

What does Jesus tell the woman in verse 11?

Why do you think the Pharisees and Jews were so threatened by Jesus?

How is this story a picture of God's grace and forgiveness towards us? Look at John 3:17 to help.

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 10, Day 49

Week 10 Memory Verse: *And Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 8:12-20

What does Jesus say about Himself in verse 12?

What happens for those who follow Jesus according to verse 12?

What do the Pharisees say to Jesus in verse 13?

How does Jesus respond in verse 14 to the Pharisees' accusation?

In verse 14, what does Jesus say about the Pharisees not knowing Him?

According to verse 15, how do the Pharisees judge people?

What is Jesus' mission in coming to the world? What does He mean in verse 15 when He says that He does not judge? Look at John 3:16-17 for help.

How does what Jesus say in verse 17 make sense of what the Pharisees say to Jesus in verse 13?

Who does Jesus say in verse 18 are the two persons who testify about Him?

What do the Pharisees ask Jesus in verse 19?

How does Jesus answer their question about His Father in verse 19?

What does this mean for us? If we know Jesus, who else do we know?

What is the only way to know the Father?

How are you growing in your relationship with Jesus? What are some things we can do to grow in our relationship with Him?

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 10, Day 50

Week 10 Memory Verse: *And Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 8:21-47

Where does Jesus say that He is from in verse 23?

What do the Jews ask Jesus in verse 25?

How does Jesus respond in verses 25 and 26?

What does verse 27 say about the people who had been listening to Jesus?

When does Jesus say they will understand in verses 28-29?

What does Jesus say about His relationship with His Father in verse 29?

What does verse 30 say about the many who were listening to Jesus that day?

According to verses 31-32, what does Jesus say will set a person free?

What is the truth? And what are we to set free from according verse 34?

What does Jesus say in verses 39 and 40 that the Pharisees would be doing if they really believed that Abraham was their father?

Who does Jesus say is really the father of the Pharisees in verse 44?

Note: Jesus is not saying that the Pharisees are literally the children of the devil, but what He is saying is that when the Pharisees oppose His mission that God sent Him on, they are lining their selves up against God. They are in direct opposition to God, just like the devil. As the Pharisees are not acknowledging what Jesus has to say and do as the truth, they reveal that they are followers of the “father of lies.”

What is the reason that Jesus gives in verse 45 for the Pharisees not believing Him?

Jesus says in verse 47 that whoever is of God _____ the words of God.

What does it mean to walk in the truth and light? What are some temptations to not walk in the truth over small things and big things?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 11, Day 51

Week 11 Memory Verse: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* John 10:10-11

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 8:48-59

What two things do the Jews accuse Jesus of in asking their question in verse 48?

How does Jesus respond in verse 49? Who does He say that He honors?

What does Jesus say about His own glory in verse 50?

What does Jesus say about anyone who keeps His word in verse 51?

What is the Jews’ response in verses 52-53 to what Jesus just said in verse 51?

Looking at verses 52-53, why do you think the Jews were offended by what Jesus said?

According to verse 55, who does Jesus know and whose word does He keep?

What does Jesus say about Abraham in verse 56?

Looking at verse 57, how do we know that the Jews were confused about what Jesus said about Abraham in verse 56?

What does Jesus say in verse 57 about Himself in relation to Abraham?

How do the Jews respond in verse 58 to what Jesus said about Himself?

Note: There are some theological truths being discussed in this passage. One is that Jesus is telling the Jews that whoever believes in Him will not experience death, meaning they will not be separated from God for all of eternity in hell.

Also Jesus makes a direct Old Testament reference about Himself in verse 58. When God appears to Moses in Exodus chapter 3, Moses asks God what His name is so that he can tell the Pharaoh of Egypt who sent him, and God responds by telling Moses to say that the “I Am” sent you. For the Jews this was a sacred name of God, pointing to His omnipotence and self-existence. So when Jesus refers to himself as “I Am,” He is identifying Himself as God. This is why the Jews immediately pick up stones to kill Jesus. For the Jews, it was punishable by death to claim that you were equal with God.

What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 11, Day 52

Week 11 Memory Verse: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* John 10:10-11

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 9:1-7

Who does Jesus see in verse 1?

What does it mean to be blind from birth?

What is the question the disciples ask Jesus in verse 2, as they passed by the blind man?

Who do the disciples think might be responsible for this man being born blind?

What is Jesus' answer to His disciples in verse 3? Why was this man born blind?

Whose works does Jesus say He and His disciples must be doing?

What does Jesus say in verse 4 is coming in the future?

What happens when night comes?

Note: When Jesus is talking about the “night” in verse 4, He is most likely talking about His future crucifixion and the importance of Him and His disciples accomplishing all that God has for them before Jesus is crucified.

Looking at verse 5, as long as Jesus is in the world he is the _____ of the world.

How does Jesus make mud in verse 6?

Then what does Jesus do with mud in verse 6?

What does Jesus tell the blind man to do in verse 7?

What happens next? What does the end of verse 7 tell us about the blind man?

How was what Jesus said in verse 3 fulfilled by Jesus healing this blind man?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 11, Day 53

Week 11 Memory Verse: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* John 10:10-11

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 9:8-33

What does the blind man, now seeing, tell his neighbors in verse 11 after being questioned by them about his vision being restored?

Who in verse 13 was brought to the blind man?

According to verse 14, what day did Jesus perform this miracle?

What is the problem that the Pharisees have with Jesus performing this miracle? What do they say about Jesus in verse 16?

In verses 18 and 19, what did the Pharisees do because they did not believe that this man was once blind and then given eyesight?

What do the parents say about their son and his new eyesight in verses 20-21?

What is the reason that verses 22-23 give for directing the Pharisees to ask their son about who healed his vision?

What does the formerly blind man say in verse 25 after being asked a second time about the identity of Jesus?

In verse 25, what does the formerly blind man tell the Pharisees the one thing he does know?

Looking verse 26, what do the Pharisees keep asking the formerly blind man?

How does the formerly blind man respond in verse 27 to their questions? What is the last question he asks the Pharisees in verse 27?

What is the Pharisees' response in verse 28 at even the thought of being a disciple of Jesus?

What does the formerly blind man say about the identity of Jesus in verse 33?

What do you think the blind man believed about Jesus?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 11, Day 54

Week 11 Memory Verse: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* John 10:10-11

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 9:35-41

What does Jesus do in verse 35 after hearing that the man he just gave vision to was cast out of the temple?

What does Jesus ask him in verse 35?

What is the man’s response in verse 36 to Jesus’ question?

What does Jesus reveal about Himself to the man in verse 37?

What does the man immediately do in verse 38 when he finds out that Jesus is the Son of Man?

What does Jesus say about those who can see and those who are blind in verse 39?

What do the Pharisees ask Jesus in verse 40 after they overheard what He said to the formerly blind man?

What is Jesus' response to the Pharisees in verse 41?

In verse 41, what does Jesus say in response to the Pharisees' question, "Are we also blind?"

What is the reason that the Pharisees are guilty according to the end of 41?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 11, Day 55

Week 11 Memory Verse: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* John 10:10-11

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 10:1-15

What does Jesus say in verses 1 and 2 is different about the Shepherd of the sheep from a robber or thief?

According to verse 3, how does the shepherd call his sheep?

How will the sheep react to a stranger according to verse 5?

Who do you think is the Shepherd in Jesus’ teaching? Who do you think are the sheep?

In verse 7 Jesus calls Himself the door. Looking now at verse 9, what happens to a person if they enter through Jesus?

Looking at verse 10, what does the thief come to do?

According to verse 10, what does Jesus say is the reason that He came?

Who does Jesus say that He is in verse 11?

What does a hired hand do according to verse 12 if he sees a wolf coming for one of the sheep that he is being paid to watch?

What is the reason in verse 13 that Jesus gives for a hired hand fleeing danger and leaving the sheep?

What do you think are some characteristics of a good shepherd? How does a good shepherd look after his sheep?

Looking at the end of verse 15, what does the good shepherd do for his sheep?

How is Jesus our Good Shepherd? How has He provided for you or kept you safe from danger?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 12, Day 56

Week 12 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11:25-26

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 10:16-21

What does Jesus say in verse 16 about other sheep?

What will be the result of Jesus gathering all of His sheep according to the last part of verse 16?

What is the reason that Jesus gives in verse 17 for the Father's love towards Him?

What does Jesus make very clear in verse 18 about His life and the way that He will die?

Who does Jesus say gave Him the charge at the end of verse 18 to lay down His life and take it back up again?

What does this mean for Jesus being crucified? Who was ultimately in control of Jesus dying on the cross and then resurrecting from the grave?

What is the response in verse 19 from the Jews over what Jesus just said?

What were some of the Jews saying about Jesus according to verse 20?

What were some of the other Jews saying about Jesus according to verse 21?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 12, Day 57

Week 12 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11:25-26

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 10:22-42

According to verse 22, what feast are the Jews celebrating and where? And what season is it?

Who gathers around Jesus in verse 24 and what do they ask Him?

What is Jesus' response in verse 25? What bears witness about Jesus being the Christ?

According to verse 26, what does Jesus say is the reason they don't believe in Him?

What does Jesus say about His sheep in verse 27?

What does Jesus give His sheep according to the first part of verse 28?

Looking at verse 28, how secure is Jesus' flock? Who can snatch them out of Jesus' hand?

Who does Jesus say in verse 29 gave Him his sheep?

What incredible claim does Jesus make at the end of verse 30?

What do the Jews do in verse 31 in response to Jesus' incredible claim of being one with the Father?

After seeing the Jews pick up stone to kill Him with, what does Jesus ask the Jews in verse 32?

What is the reason the Jews give in verse 33 for wanting to stone Jesus?

What is the defense Jesus gives in verse 37 for claiming to be the Son of God and one with God?

In 3 to 5 sentences, write down how you would explain to a person who doesn't believe in the gospel that Jesus is God.

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 12, Day 58

Week 12 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11:25-26

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 11:1-16

According to verse 1, what was the name of the man who was sick, and what town was he in?

Who are the ones who sent for Jesus to come and visit Lazarus while he was sick?

According to verse 4, what does Jesus say is the purpose of Lazarus being sick?

What do verses 5 and 6 tell us about Jesus' reaction to finding out that His friend Lazarus was sick? What does verse 5 say that Jesus did?

What do the disciples say to Jesus in verse 8, after Jesus tells them they should go to Judea?

What does Jesus say about His sheep in verse 27?

What is the quick lesson that Jesus teaches His disciples in verses 9 and 10? Who do you think the light represents? What do you think the darkness represents?

What is the confusion between Jesus and His disciples that takes place in verses 11-13?

What does Jesus clarify about Lazarus in verse 14?

Why does Jesus say in verse 15 that He was glad He wasn't there to heal Lazarus?

What do you think Jesus has in store for His disciples when He goes to find Lazarus?

How is Jesus a light for you? What has God been revealing to you about Jesus and the importance of knowing Him?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 12, Day 59

Week 12 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11:25-26

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrives in Bethany, how many days had Lazarus been dead and lying in a tomb according to verse 17?

Who came to console and comfort Martha and Mary, Lazarus' sisters, according to verse 19?

What did Martha do in verse 20 when she heard that Jesus had come to the town?

What does Martha say to Jesus in verse 21?

After reading verse 22, we see that Martha believes in Jesus so much that He could possibly do what?

What does Jesus say to Martha in verse 23?

Looking at verse 24, how does Martha interpret what Jesus told her about Lazarus rising again?

Who does Jesus say in verse 25 is the resurrection and the life?

What does verse 26 say about those who live and believe in Jesus?

What does Jesus ask Martha at the end of verse 26?

What is Martha's response in verse 27?

What does Martha believe specifically about the identity of Jesus according verse 26?

How should your life look if you truly believed those things about Jesus? Do you believe that Jesus was God? How does that change the way you live your life?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 12, Day 60

Week 12 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11:25-26

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 11:28-37

Who does Martha call to in verse 28, and what does she tell her?

What does Mary do in verse 29 after hearing about the arrival of Jesus to Bethany?

Where does verse 30 say that Jesus is when Mary runs out to meet Him?

In verse 31, what did the Jews who were with Martha do when they saw Mary rise quickly and run out of the house?

Where did the Jews think Mary was running to according to verse 31?

What does Mary do and say when she gets to Jesus in verse 32?

What does verse 33 tell us about what happened in Jesus' spirit when He saw Mary weeping and all of the Jews with her weeping?

What does Jesus ask the people in verse 34?

Jesus was moved so greatly by the funeral and people mourning the death of His friend Lazarus that verse 35 tells us what?

What did the Jews say about Jesus in verse 36 after seeing Him weep?

What did others say about Jesus while He was weeping according to verse 37?

In 3 to 5 sentences explain the atmosphere of Lazarus' funeral. Think about a funeral that you might have been to. What are some of the emotions you experienced? What are some of the emotions that Martha, Mary, and Jesus are experiencing?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage.?(Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 13, Day 61

In Depth: Pharisees and Sadducees

Week 13 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"* John 11:40

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

There were a few prevalent Jewish religious leaders in Jesus' day; two of them who are widely talked about in Scripture were the Pharisees and Sadducees. The Sadducees were typically wealthy, priestly families. They practiced sacrifices and held great esteem for Temple worship. They did not believe in resurrection of the dead or an afterlife. The high priest Caiaphas, who played a significant role in Christ's crucifixion, was a part of the Sadducees.

The Pharisees were average men and women, fitting in to the norm of the culture. They believed salvation was won by works (not grace) and were strict followers of the law. Although the Sadducees' and Pharisees' foundational beliefs differed, they agreed on one thing: the man who proclaimed to be Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, must die. They put aside their differences and came together out of a hatred for Jesus and a desire to see Him and His teachings put to death.

READ Matthew 16:1, 5-12

According to verse 1, why had the Pharisees and Sadducees come together?

In verse 5-12 Jesus is telling the disciples to beware of something in the Pharisees and Sadducees. What is He telling them to beware of?

Based on these religious leaders bringing false teaching and trying to test Jesus, do you think there would be aggression and anger rising up on them? Why?

Read Luke 14:25-33

What is the main thing Jesus is saying in this passage?

In this passage, Jesus gives two examples of thinking through, or counting the cost, before a certain action. What are those examples?

- 1)**
- 2)**

In your own words, what does it mean to “count the cost” before following Jesus? Is it worth it to you? Why or why not?

Is the cost of discipleship a great one or a small one? Why?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

What three commands are given in these verses?

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

What promise is given to a disciple of Jesus?

As followers of Jesus, we proclaim to believe that it’s through Christ alone that we have salvation, hope, and life. In light of this, why is it important for a disciple of Jesus to teach what he has learned?

What attributes of God do you see in these passages? (Look in the back of your book for a list and definitions of the attributes of God)

ESV Study Bible

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2012/10/24/give-up-your-weak-definition-of-disciple-2/>

Week 13, Day 62

Pray that God would open your heart as you open his Word. Ask Him to glorify His name & encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 11:38-44

Where is Jesus? And who did he just get done talking to? Who are the sisters that come see Jesus outside of the town? Look back at John 11:17-36 for a reference.

Describe in your own words what the tomb probably looked like based on the description given in verse 38?

What does Jesus tell the people to do in verse 39?

What does Martha say to Jesus in verse 39? What is she worried about?

How long has Lazarus been dead at this point? What happens when a person has been dead for that amount of time?

What does Jesus say in verse 40 in response to Martha's concern about the smell?

What does Jesus refocus Martha's attention on in verse 40?

What is the first thing that Jesus does in verse 41 when they roll away the stone?

According to verse 42, why does Jesus pray out loud to God?

What does Jesus want everyone to believe in according to the end of verse 41?

What does Jesus say in verse 42? How does he say it?

What happens next in verse 43?

What does Jesus tell the people to do to Lazarus in verse 44?

How is this story a picture of what Jesus does for us? What can Jesus do to a heart that is dead because of sin?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage. (Look in the back of your book for a definition of

Week 13, Day 63

Week 13 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"* John 11:40

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 11:45-57

What does verse 45 say about many of the Jews who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

In verse 46, what did some of the Jews who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead do?

Looking at verses 47 and 48, what do the Pharisees discuss about Jesus?

According to verse 48, what do the chief priests and Pharisees think will happen if they don't do something about Jesus?

Who was the high priest that year according to verse 49?

What does Caiaphas tell the other chief priests and Pharisees in verses 49 and 50?

Unknowingly Caiaphas makes a prophesy about Jesus. According to verses 51 and 52 what was his prophesy about?

What was the plan of the chief priests and Pharisees according to verse 53?

What does verse 54 say about what Jesus did in light of the chief priests' and Pharisees' plan to put Him to death?

What feast were the Jews gathering in Jerusalem for in verse 55?

What were the Jews asking one another in verse 56 about Jesus and the Passover Feast?

What were the orders that the chief priests and Pharisees gave everyone about Jesus?

What is the reputation that Jesus has among the people at this point? What are some of the different beliefs that people have had about Jesus so far?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 13, Day 64

Week 13 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"* John 11:40

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 12:1-8

Who are some of the people named in verses 1 and 2 who Jesus is eating dinner with?

What does Mary do in verse 3?

What does Mary use in verse 3 to wipe Jesus' feet with the ointment?

What does the end of verse 3 say that the house was filled with?

Who is Judas Iscariot according to verse 4? What is Judas about to do?

What does Judas say in verse 5 about what Mary had just done for Jesus?

What does verse 6 reveal about Judas' real motives?

As one of Jesus' disciples, what is Judas in charge of according to verse 6?

What does Jesus say to Judas in verse 7?

What does Jesus want Mary to hold the rest of the perfume for according to the end of verse 7?

What does Jesus say about the poor and Himself in verse 8?

What do you think Jesus is talking about in verse 8? What is about to happen that will prevent Him from being with His disciples always?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 13, Day 65

Week 13 Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"* John 11:40

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 12:9-19

What does verse 9 say about the large crowds when they learned that Jesus was in Jerusalem?

Who else does the large crowd want to see according to verse 9?

What does everybody know about Jesus and Lazarus at this point according to verse 9?

Looking at verse 10, who do the chief priests want to put to death as well?

Why do the chief priests want to put Lazarus to death according to verse 11?

Put yourself in Jerusalem at that time. What would you be thinking if you saw Lazarus with Jesus and knew that Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead? What would this cause you to believe about Jesus?

What do verses 12-13 say that people did when they found out Jesus was coming into Jerusalem?

What were the people crying out in verse 13?

What does Jesus ride into town on according to verse 14?

Verse 16 says that the disciples did not fully understand all the things that were going on, but when did they understand all of these things?

What does verse 17 say about the people who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

What does verse 18 say is the reason the crowd went out to see Jesus?

What did the Pharisees say to one another in verse 19?

Note: It's important to know the chief priests and Pharisees were extremely corrupt. They had been using the Scriptures to make money from people and force them to pay high prices for animals to make sacrifices to God in the temple for their sins. It was not uncommon for Jews to purchase animals to sacrifice in the temple when they arrived to Jerusalem, because it was an extremely difficult task, especially if they were traveling a long distance to journey with animals all the way to Jerusalem. But the Pharisees were charging painfully high prices for those animals so that they could make a large profit off of people obeying the Law of Moses.

The Pharisees were supposed to be priests to the people of God, representing God and His message, but instead they just lorded over the people, making ridiculous demands

that were not biblical for them to do. Jesus threatened everything they were about and the fact that He was performing miracles and signs that they could not explain apart from God, made Him dangerous to their whole scheme. They knew that if people started believing in Jesus, they would no longer have authority over people and be able to do whatever they wanted.

What do you think the Pharisees are hoping to accomplish by arresting Jesus and putting Him to death?

After all that we have read so far, what does Jesus represent to His followers and what does Jesus represent to the Pharisees?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

Week 14, Day 66

Week 14 Memory Verse: *"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness."* John 12:46

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 12:20-26

Who else does verse 20 say came up to worship at the Passover Feast?

According to verse 21, whom do the Greeks wish to see?

Note: The term "Greek" isn't necessarily referring to people from the country of Greece but more so to the fact that these people were not Jews. The Greeks who came to see Jesus were also God-fearers and had heard about all the things Jesus was doing. They came to the Passover Feast for the same reasons as the Jews, to worship God.

Who do the Greeks talk to in verse 21 about wanting to see Jesus?

Who then does Philip go and talk to in verse 22?

What does Jesus say to the Greeks in verse 24?

What does Jesus say in verse 25 about a person who loves his life?

What does Jesus say in verse 25 about the person who hates his life and this world?

What does Jesus say about those who serve Him in verse 26?

What will the Father do, according to verse 26, for those who serve Jesus?

Note: Jesus does not want His followers to hate themselves to the point that they take their own lives. He uses the word “hate” to make a point that He is so much better than the world that in comparison to His followers’ love for him, it’s as if they hate themselves and the world with all of its treasures. Jesus is telling His disciples this to prepare them for the persecution that is to come and the trials they will experience. Followers of Jesus should not be surprised when the world hates them or persecutes them because they did the same thing to Jesus.

What are some things you are tempted to love and treasure more than Jesus? What does the world tell us we need to have true meaning and true satisfaction?

What does Jesus offer that the world cannot give?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 14, Day 67

Week 14 Memory Verse: *"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness."* John 12:46

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 12:27-36a

What does Jesus say in verse 27?

What do you think Jesus is talking about in verse 27? What is the very reason that Jesus came? What would He need to be saved from by the Father?

Looking at the first part of verse 28, whose glory is Jesus concerned about most?

What happens in verse 28? Where does the voice come from and what does it say?

Who all heard the voice that spoke to Jesus and what did they say it sound like in verse 29?

According to verse 29, what did some of the people say the voice was?

For whose sake did the voice speak according to verse 30?

Who does Jesus say is about to be cast out in verse 31?

What does Jesus say will happen in verse 32 when He is lifted up?

What does verse 33 explain about what Jesus is talking about?

What are the people confused about in verse 34? What is their understanding of the Christ and His role?

Note: This exchange between Jesus and His followers is confusing. Jesus' followers are not quite sure what Jesus is talking about when He says that He will be lifted up. Jesus is intentionally not being very clear with them. At this point Jesus is becoming more and more focused on what's about to happen on the cross and doesn't take the time to bring everyone up to speed on how everything is going to work. But Jesus also knows that once He resurrects from the grave, all of this will make sense to His followers. So in the mean time, He directs His followers to continue to walk in the light and put their hope and faith in Him.

What does Jesus say about those who walk in the darkness at the end of verse 35?

Jesus tells His disciples in verse 36 to walk in light so they "may become _____ of light."

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 14, Day 68

Week 14 Memory Verse: *"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness."* John 12:46

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 12:36b-43

What does Jesus do at the end of verse 36?

What does verse 37 say about some of Jesus' followers?

What is the prophecy of Isaiah in verse 38 that is being fulfilled?

What is the second prophecy in Isaiah being fulfilled in verse 40?

According to verse 41, why did Isaiah say these things?

What does verse 42 say about the many who did believe in Jesus? Why did they not confess their belief?

According to verse 43, what did the people love the glory of more than the glory of God?

What are some things that you are afraid of missing out on if you were more open about your faith with your friends?

Why is it dangerous to love the glory of man more than you love the glory of God?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 14, Day 69

Week 14 Memory Verse: *"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness."* John 12:46

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 12:44-50

What does Jesus say in verse 44 about whoever believes in Him?

According to verse 45, if the disciples have seen Jesus they have also seen whom?

What does Jesus say in verse 46 that He came in the world as?

At the end of verse 46, what does Jesus say will happen for those who believe in Him?

What does Jesus say in verse 47 about those who hear His words but do not keep His words?

What does Jesus say in verse 48 about those who reject Him and do not receive His words?

What will be the judge of those people according to verse 48?

According to verse 49, on whose authority does Jesus speak?

Who gave Jesus the commandment of what to say and what to speak in verse 49?

What does Jesus say that the commandment is in verse 50?

Looking at what we've covered in the book of John, how has Jesus been obedient to fulfill the commandment that God gave Him?

What has Jesus taught us? What are His words that we are to be obedient to?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 14, Day 70

Week 14 Memory Verse: *"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness."* John 12:46

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 13:1-20

Up until when does verse 1 say that Jesus loved those who the Father has given to Him?

What does verse 2 say about Judas Iscariot?

What does Jesus begin to do in verses 4 and 5 while He is at supper with His disciples?

Why do you think Simon Peter doesn't want Jesus to wash his feet in verse 6?

What does Jesus tell Peter in verse 7?

Looking at verse 8, what does Jesus tell Peter after Peter tells Jesus that He shall never wash his feet?

Looking at verses 10 and 11, how does it make you feel that Jesus washed Judas Iscariot's feet even though Jesus knew that Judas was about to betray Him?

What does that mean for how we should treat our enemies?

What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 14 about how they should treat one another?

What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 17 about the things that they know?

Jesus, knowing He is about to be betrayed, tells His disciples what in verses 18 and 19? What must be fulfilled?

What does Jesus say in verse 20 about the one who receives the one He has sent?

Looking at verse 20, who also does that person receive by receiving the one whom Jesus sends?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 15, Day 71

Week 15 Memory Verse: *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:12-13

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 13:21-30

What does Jesus say to His disciples in verse 21 of what’s about to take place?

According to verse 21 what is Jesus experiencing? How does He feel?

How do the disciples to respond in verse 22 to what Jesus just told them?

Finally, what does one of the disciples ask Jesus in verse 25?

How does Jesus answer in verse 26?

What is the name of the disciple who is going to betray Jesus?

What have we already learned about Judas from John 12:1-8? List at least 3 things that this passage says about Judas.

What happened in verse 27 after Judas took the morsel of bread from Jesus?

What does Jesus say to Judas at the end of verse 27?

Looking at verses 27-29, explain the setting of the room (remember that they are celebrating a feast, and at least 13 people are in the room with Jesus) and why the disciples were confused about what was going on.

What does Judas do in verse 30 after he receives the morsel of bread from Jesus?

What is the time that all of this takes place according to the end of verse 30?

Who do you think is in control of this whole situation?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 15, Day 72

Week 15 Memory Verse: *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:12-13

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 13:31-38

According to verses 31 and 32, what is the relationship between Jesus receiving glory and God receiving glory?

What does Jesus refer to His disciples as in verse 33?

From what we’ve already read about Jesus and His disciples, do you think the term Jesus uses to address His disciples is endearing or degrading? Why?

What does Jesus say in verse 33 about the place that He is going?

What is the new commandment that Jesus gives His disciples in verse 34?

How has Jesus ultimately loved us? (Refer to John 3:16.)

According to verse 35, what is the result of Jesus’ disciples obeying what Jesus just commanded them?

What is the question that Peter asks Jesus in verse 36?

What does Jesus say in verse 36 in response to Peter's question?

How does Peter react in verse 37 to Jesus' answer? How far does Peter say that he is willing to go to follow Jesus?

What does Jesus say in verse 38 that Peter will do before the rooster crows?

In 3 to 5 sentences explain what you think it means to "love one another like Jesus has loved us" (verse 34).

How are you loving the people God has put in your life? List some ways that you could be more intentional in loving and serving the people around you.

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 15, Day 73

Week 15 Memory Verse: *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:12-13

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 14:1-13

What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 1 about their hearts?

What do you think it means to have a troubled heart?

What two things does Jesus tell His disciples to believe in at the end of verse 1?

According to verses 2-4, what does Jesus say about the place that He is going?

What is the question that Thomas asks Jesus in verse 5?

What does Jesus say is the “way” in verse 6 to His Father’s house?

What three things does Jesus identify Himself as in verse 6?

What does Jesus say in verse 7 is the result of knowing Him?

Jesus tells his disciples in verse 7:

“From now on you do _____ him and have _____ him.”

In your own words summarize what Jesus explained to His disciples in verses 8-11. If you believe in Jesus, who else do you believe in?

According to verse 12, what will a person do if they believe in Jesus?

And what does Jesus say in verse 12 about the works that those will do who believe in Him?

Note: The greater works that Jesus talks about is most likely referring to the ministry of disciples after Jesus completes His mission to the cross and resurrecting from the grave. When Jesus talks about “greater works” that the disciples will do, He is referring to the worldwide effect that His disciples, the church, will have. We see this come true in the book of Acts when God sends the Holy Spirit to empower His church and their ministry. These greater works are the reason that the church still exists today.

What does it look like for you to believe in Jesus and do the works that He does?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 15, Day 74

Week 15 Memory Verse: *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:12-13

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 14:14-30

In verse 15, what does Jesus say His followers will do if they love Him?

In verse 16, what does Jesus say He will ask the Father for?

Note: In this passage of Scripture Jesus is promising His disciples the presence of the Holy Spirit in them. The Holy Spirit is one of the three person-heads of God. Christians believe in the doctrine of the trinity. The trinity is one of the most mysterious doctrines of the God of the Bible. God is God in three equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They have all three eternally existed as one God in perfect fellowship with one another.

In short, God the Father is the one who chooses men and women for salvation; Jesus the Son is the one who paid the penalty for our sins on the cross and conquered death by resurrecting from the grave; and the Holy Spirit is the one who awakens the dead and sinful hearts of men and women to know, love, and worship God. When Jesus talks about the “Helper,” he is referring the Holy Spirit being sent to Jesus’ disciples to lead them in a life that is worshipful to God and will help them fulfill the mission of God as the church.

What does Jesus say in verse 21 is the result of those who love Him? And who will they be loved by?

What does Jesus say in verse 24 about those who do not love Him?

In verse 26, Jesus clarifies that the Helper is whom?

What does Jesus say in verse 26 that the Holy Spirit will do?

What does Jesus say in verse 27 that He is leaving with His disciples?

What is the reason that Jesus gives in verse 29 for all the things that He has said to His disciples?

Who does Jesus say is coming in verse 30 after He is no longer with them?

Who do you think Jesus is referring to when He said “the ruler of the world?”

What does Jesus say about the ruler of this world at the end of verse 30?

According to verse 31, whose commands is Jesus following?

What is the reason that Jesus gives in verse 31 for Him obeying the commands of His Father?

What motivates you? Why do you do the things that you do? Is it the love of God that motivates you?

What do think the love of God in Jesus motivates people to do?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 15, Day 75

Week 15 Memory Verse: *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:12-13

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 15:1-17

In verse 1, Jesus calls Himself the true _____ and the Father is the _____.

What does Jesus say in verse 2 about branches that bear fruit and branches that do not bear fruit?

What does Jesus say in verse 4 to His disciples if they want to bear fruit?

What does Jesus say at the end of verse 5 about those who do not abide in Him?

Abide: to abide in something means that you accept and act in acceptance with.

Again in verse 6, what does Jesus say about those who do not abide in Him?

According to verse 7, what does Jesus tell His disciples that they can ask for if they abide in Him?

In verse 8, how does Jesus say the Father is glorified?

What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 9 to abide in?

What is the reason that Jesus gives in verse 11 for why He has spoken these things to His disciples?

What is the commandment that Jesus gives His disciples in verse 12?

In verse 13, how does Jesus describe how the disciples should love one another?

What does Jesus say in verse 14 about His disciples if they obey what He has commanded them?

In verse 15, what is the reason Jesus gives His disciples for calling them His friends and not His servants?

According to Jesus, in verse 16, who chose whom?

According to verse 16, why did Jesus choose them and appoint them?

What is the reason that Jesus gives in verse 17 for commanding these things of His disciples?

How are you abiding in Christ? What does it look like for you to lay down your life for your friends?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 16, Day 76

Week 16 Memory Verse: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 15:18-16:4a

What does Jesus say in verse 18 to His disciples about the world hating them?

What is the reason in verse 19 that Jesus gives for why the world would love His disciples and the reason that they will hate them?

Jesus says in verse 20 that if the world _____ Him, then the world will also _____ His disciples.

According to verse 21, on account of whose name will the world persecute the disciples?

Looking at verses 22-24, what is the reason Jesus gives for why the world is guilty of sin?

Who does Jesus say in verse 23 the world hates also if they have hated Him?

According to verse 25, what is the word that is fulfilled in the Law by the world hating Jesus?

Who does Jesus say in verse 26 the "Helper" will bear witness about?

Who will also bear witness about Jesus according to verse 27?

What is the reason that Jesus gives in verse 27 for His disciples bearing witness about him?

According to verse 1 of chapter 16, Jesus has told His disciples all these things to keep them from doing what?

What does Jesus say in verse 2 of chapter 16 about the hour that is coming? What will people think they are doing when they kill His disciples?

What is the reason Jesus gives in verse 3 of chapter 16 for why the world will do these things to His disciples?

What does it look like in your life, if you are a follower of Jesus, to be hated by the world?

Why should we not be surprised when we are persecuted for following Jesus?

Why is following Jesus worth being hated by the world?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 16, Day 77

Week 16 Memory Verse: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 16:4b-15

What does Jesus say in verse 6 that has filled His disciples' hearts because He told them that He won't be with them much longer?

What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 7 about why He must go away?

What does Jesus say in verse 8 that the Helper will do when He comes?

According to verse 8, the Helper will convict the world concerning what?

List the specifics of the convictions found in verses 9-11.

- **Concerning Sin:**

- **Concerning Righteousness:**

- **Concerning Judgment:**

What does Jesus say to His disciples in verse 12?

What does Jesus say in verse 13 that the Spirit of truth (The Helper) will do when it comes?

According to verse 13, on whose authority will the Spirit of truth guide the disciples? (The same authority as Jesus)

Looking at the end of verse 13, what will the Spirit of truth declare to the disciples?

Who does Jesus say in verse 14 that the Spirit of truth will glorify?

According to verses 14 and 15, who is the Spirit of truth going to take from to declare to the disciples the things that are to come?

Looking back at what we just read in this passage, what can we depend on the Spirit of truth for?

What do you think it looks like in your life to be guided by the Spirit of truth?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 16, Day 78

Week 16 Memory Verse: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 16:16-24

What does Jesus say in verse 16 will happen in "a little while?"

Jesus then says what in verse 16 after He goes awhile?

What are the disciples confused about in verses 17-18?

What does verse 19 say that Jesus knew?

How does Jesus in verses 19-20 answer their question?

Using what you already know about Jesus' life, what is about to happen that would cause the disciples great sorrow?

The disciples will have their sorrow turned into joy because what happens?

What is the metaphor that Jesus uses in verse 21 for what the disciples are going to experience? Explain the analogy in your own words.

How does Jesus explain the metaphor to His disciples in verse 22?

What does Jesus say about the questions that His disciples have and who they will ask in verse 23?

What is the last thing that Jesus tells His disciples to do in verse 24?

What are some things that you are asking God for? Why do you ask for those things?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 16, Day 79

Week 16 Memory Verse: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 16:25-33

In verse 25, how does Jesus explain how is speaking to his disciple now and how he will speak to them in the future?

How does Jesus describe the relationship in verse 27 between the Father and the disciples? Why does the Father love the disciples?

What does Jesus say in verse 28 will happen next?

What is the disciples' response in verse 29 to everything Jesus just told them?

What does Jesus tell his disciples in verse 32 is going to happen?

What is Jesus pointing forward to when he tells the disciples that they won't be with him? (Refer to John 18:1-18)

Who does Jesus say is with him even when all the disciples have left according to verse 32?

According verse 33, what is the reason that Jesus gives his disciples for why he told them that they will be scattered and the Father will be with him?

What does Jesus tell the disciples in verse 33 that they will have in the world?

What does Jesus say in the last sentence of verse 33 to the disciples to do and why, when they encounter tribulations?

Explain in your own words what it means to “take heart.”

How do you take heart in your own life? How do you remind yourself of the truth of the Gospel and are encouraged by it?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of

Week 16, Day 80

Week 16 Memory Verse: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 17:1-26

Where does Jesus lift His eyes up to in verse 1?

Who does Jesus start talking to in verse 1?

In verse 2, what does Jesus say He has been given authority over and to do what?

According to verse 2, who does Jesus give eternal life to?

What does Jesus define in verse 3?

What does Jesus say that eternal life is?

What do you think Jesus means when He says, "to know God?" Do you think He is just talking about acquiring knowledge about God or to know God like a son would know his father, like a friend would know his best friend, and like a husband would know his wife?

How does Jesus say in verse 4 that He glorified the Father on earth?

What does Jesus tell the Father to do in verse 5?

Who does Jesus say in verse 9 He is praying for, and who He is not praying for? (Look at verses 6-8 for help.)

What does Jesus tell the Father to do in verses 11-13?

Who do you think Jesus is referring to as the “son of destruction” in verse 12?

What does Jesus ask God in verse 17 to sanctify His disciples in?

Who else is Jesus praying for according to verse 20?

What does Jesus say in verse 21 that he desires for His disciples to do and why?

What does Jesus say in verse 26 that He made known to His disciples and why?

In your own words explain what it means to “know God” and how believing in Jesus is connected to knowing God.

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 17, Day 81

Week 17 Memory Verse: *Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.* John 21:25

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Note: Today we will focus primarily on the reading part of this study. The reading portion is longer than all the other days, and we'll only ask a few questions about the reading. Carefully read through this passage of Scripture and take notes on the different people who Jesus meets and has conversations with (possibly underline those names in your Bible). As you're reading, try to imagine the situations and people and put yourself in the middle of them. Remember who Jesus is, all that He has done and everything that He has said to His disciples, as you read about His crucifixion.

READ John 18:1 - 19:42

According to verse 3 of chapter 18, who does Judas bring with him to arrest Jesus?

List the names of the people who question Jesus throughout chapter 18.

Who do the Jews want released instead of Jesus in verses 39-40?

Looking at John 19:1-16, what do the Jews want Pilate to do to Jesus?

According to verse 19 of chapter 19 what does the Aramaic word "Golgatha" mean?

According to verse 23 of chapter 19, what do the soldiers do with Jesus' garments?

According to verse 25 of chapter 19, who was standing next to Jesus' cross?

What does Jesus say in verse 30 of chapter 19?

What came out of Jesus' side after it was pierced according to verse 34 of chapter 19?

According to verse 38 of chapter 19, who does Pilate give permission to bury Jesus' body?

What do you think the disciples felt as they watched Jesus be put on trial then crucified?

How does reading this passage make you feel about Jesus?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 17, Day 82

In Depth: History of the Crucifixion and Jesus' Death

Week 17 Memory Verse: *Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.* John 21:25

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

In Rome, during the time of Jesus death, crucifixion was a way of death that was reserved for the despised, hated, and evil, the rebels, criminals, and enemies. It was an incredibly painful and humiliating way to die. The physical pain accompanied with such a death can be explained, but the severity of it is hard to comprehend. Not only did those crucified experience the immense pain of having nails driven through their hands and feet, but they would slowly die from asphyxiation, meaning their lungs would hyper-expand and they would gradually lose the ability to inhale and exhale, which would lessen blood flow and ultimately cause their heart to stop. Their feet were supported by a small wooden block that they would try to push themselves up on to help with the breathing process, but it is said that Roman executioners would oftentimes break their legs in order to hasten their death.

On top of the normative, Jesus was also severely whipped and beaten, spat upon, kicked and openly mocked. He had a crown made out of thorns that was shoved upon His head, causing blood to pour into His eyes as He carried the cross up the hill to Calvary, as He hung on the cross, suffering and dying. For six painful hours on the cross, Jesus bore an unspeakable pain and open shame and humiliation—not only physically but spiritually, as He bore the sins of humanity. It was for our redemption that Jesus was crucified, died, buried and raised.

READ these four separate accounts of the crucifixion and answers the following questions:

Matthew 27:27-28:10

Mark 15:16-16:8

Luke 23:18-24:12

John 19:16-20:10

While on the cross, Jesus said 7 things. Read the texts and list them below.

What do you notice about the two others who were being crucified next to Jesus?

What incredible thing happens in Luke 23:42-43?

What did Jesus mean when He said, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?”

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 and take a moment to write down your thoughts about this passage and what it means for you personally.

Read Isaiah 53 and take a moment to write down your thoughts about this passage and what it means for you personally.

http://www.thenazareneway.com/details_history_of_crucifixion.htm

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 17, Day 83

Week 17 Memory Verse: *Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.* John 21:25

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 20:1-31

What does Mary Magdalene see whenever she gets to the tomb of Jesus in verse 1?

According to verses 2-9, what do the disciples do after Mary Magdalene tells them what she saw at Jesus' tomb?

Explain in your own words what the disciples see when they get to Jesus' tomb and go inside?

What does verse 10 say that the disciples did after they saw the empty tomb?

What does Mary Magdalene do in verse 11 instead of going back to her home?

Who does Mary Magdalene see inside of the tomb of Jesus in verse 12, and what do they say to her in verse 13?

According to verse 14, who is standing behind Mary Magdalene?

**Who does Mary Magdalene suppose Jesus to be in verse 15?
Then what happens in verses 16-18?**

Where and who does Jesus appear to according to verse 19?

What does Jesus show His disciples according to verse 20?

What does Thomas say in verse 25 because he was not with the twelve disciples when Jesus appeared to them?

What does Jesus say in verse 27 to Thomas when He appears to him?

What does Thomas call Jesus in verse 28 after seeing Him?

What does verse 30 say about what Jesus did after He rose from the dead?

What is the reason that the writer of the Gospel of John gives for why he wrote about Jesus according to verse 31?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 17, Day 84

Week 17 Memory Verse: *Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.* John 21:25

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 21:1-14

Where does verse 1 say that Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples again?

What does Peter say to the other disciples in verse 3?

The end of verse 3 tells us that the disciples had been fishing all night, but how many fish did they catch?

What does Jesus ask His disciples in verse 5 from the shore?

What is the disciples' response at the end of verse 5?

Then what does Jesus tell them to do in verse 6?

Note: This story is almost exactly the same story recorded in Luke 5:1-11 where Jesus first met Simon Peter. Jesus told Simon Peter to cast his nets into the sea even though he had not caught anything all night. This is a good picture of the new life that we receive when we believe in Jesus.

Peter and the other disciples had just experienced a horrific tragedy watching their Savior be crucified. But now Jesus, raised from the dead, appears to His disciples much like he did when He first met them and commissioned them again for His ministry, to go and take the good news of forgiveness to all the nations (Matthew 28:16-20). And this

time the disciples can take with them the news of Jesus' resurrection from the grave and of Him conquering death.

What did Simon Peter do in verse 7 when they realize that it is Jesus on shore?

According to verse 9, what do the disciples find when they get to the shore with their nets full of fish?

How many more fish do they have in verse 11 than when they were fishing on their own in verse 3?

What does Jesus invite the disciples to come and do in verse 12?

What does verse 12 say the disciples knew about Jesus?

According to verse 13, how many times had Jesus appeared to His disciples at this point?

Putting yourself in the place of one of the disciples, what would you be thinking and feeling if you sat down to eat fish and bread with Jesus after just three days before seeing Him killed on a cross?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Week 17, Day 85

Week 17 Memory Verse: *Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.* John 21:25

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

READ John 21:15-25

What does Jesus ask Peter three times in verses 15-17?

What is Peter's response to Jesus' three questions in verses 15-17?

According to verse 17, how do we know that Jesus asking him the same question three times upset Peter?

What three things does Jesus tell Peter to do in verse 15-17 each time Peter responds to his question?

1) .

2)

3)

Look back at John 10:10-18, and explain what Jesus is telling Peter to do by telling him to "feed" and "tend" to His sheep.

What does Jesus say to Peter in verses 18-19 to explain how Peter is going to die?

What does Jesus tell Peter at the very end of verse 19?

Peter, not being pleased by what Jesus just told him about how Peter was going to die, looks to one of the other disciples and asks Jesus what in verse 21?

Note: The “disciple whom Jesus loved” is the writer of John referring to himself. He calls himself this several times throughout this gospel. Scholars believe that he called himself this not because he thought that Jesus loved him more than the other disciples, but because he was amazed that Jesus would love him in the first place. His identity was wholly and rightly wrapped up the in fact that Jesus loved him.

How does Jesus in verse 23 answer Peter’s question?

What fact does Jesus point to in verse 23 to get Peter’s focus back on what is most important?

What does John conclude his gospel with in verse 25?

What attributes of God or Jesus do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for definitions of the attributes of God.)

Attributes of God

- **Unchanging:** God never changes
- **Creator:** God made everything
- **Holy:** God is completely perfect and separate from sin
- **Just:** God is right to punish sin
- **Worthy:** Only God deserves all glory
- **Generous:** God gives what is best
- **Faithful:** God always does what He says He'll do
- **Provider:** God meets the needs of His children
- **Merciful:** God does not give His children the punishment they deserve
- **Refuge:** God is a place of safety and protection for His children
- **Loving:** God does what is best
- **Sovereign:** God has the right, wisdom, and power to do all that He pleases
- **Attentive:** God hears and responds to the prayers of His children
- **Deliverer:** God rescues His children
- **Compassionate:** God sees, cares, and acts when His children are in need
- **Glorious:** God shows His greatness and worth

ⁱ Bruce, F.F. The Origin of the Bible. Edited by Philip Wesley Comfort. Carol Stream: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 1992. Pg. 11.

ⁱⁱ Packer, J. I. The Origin of the Bible, Edited by Philip Wesley Comfort, Carol Stream: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 1992. Pg. 31.