



Intro Letter

John

Welcome to the INTRUTH Bible Study on the Gospel of John.

Studying the Word of God transforms lives!

The Bible is God's message of redemption. God speaks to us through His Word so we can understand the TRUTH of His character, our need for Him and His desire for us. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) have similar content, appealing to different people. Matthew was written primarily for the Jews and emphasizes Jesus is King. Mark presents Jesus as the Strong Servant, which appealed to Romans, people of action. Luke was written to the Greeks and depicts Jesus as the Perfect Man. The Gospel of John is quite different. In it we see that Jesus is the Divine Son of God- fully human, yet fully God. He was loving and personal, yet direct and powerful. He had the very nature of God and was with God in the very beginning. He was involved in creation and nothing has been created without Him. He did signs and miracles that proved He was God in the flesh. Jesus was both loved and hated, but loves and died on the cross to atone for our sins.

This 21 week study covers the entire book of John and is geared toward adults or young adults. It is written using the English Standard Version (ESV), but any translation will enhance your experience and enrich your group discussion. The language in the NIV and NLT translations of the Bible are especially helpful for understanding difficult passages. Each lesson has a memory verse and around 25 questions to help you learn what the Bible says, understand what it means, and see how it applies to your life and God's bigger picture. Included are encouragements to Learn, Love and Walk in Truth, as well as a short summary of the Scripture covered. To get the most out of this study, first do the lesson on your own, asking God to give you insight. Then you will gain further understanding by discussing the questions in a small group and learning from other people. Relationships are deep and rich when the Bible is the topic of discussion!

The Book of John is especially powerful because it proves that Jesus is the promised Messiah the Jews had long been awaiting, as well as the Son of God who also loved the Gentiles. Salvation is available to anyone who recognizes their sin and need for a Savior and believes in Jesus. The word, "believe" is used 98 times in this Gospel because belief impacts every area of our lives. May the Lord use this study to help you grasp God's love, embrace truth and grow in faith in the Son of God. And may you stand firm against evil by believing in the One who has conquered death.

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." John 5:24
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Enjoy!



John



THEME VERSE: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the 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 eternal life in His name.
John 20:21

Author

While not specifically named, the most likely author is the apostle John, also known as, “The disciple who Jesus loved.” In John 21:24, the author wrote, “This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that this testimony is true.” He is also believed to be the author of I,II, III John.

Date

John is the final of the four gospels to be written, completed around AD 90-100, having begun as early as AD 70.

Purpose

The Gospel of John presents Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God. Jesus is God incarnate, the Creator and Savior of any who would believe in Him because of His death on the cross as payment for sin and His resurrection in overcoming death. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Method

The gospel starts at the very beginning of time presenting Jesus as God and Creator. It then jumps to the ministry of Christ, omitting the details of His conception, birth, boyhood and the parables which are included in the previous gospels. Jesus openly presents Himself as God using several “I AM” statements all of which pertain to life in Him.

Outline

Chapter 1	Jesus is God, the Word became Flesh
Chapters 2-10	Miraculous Signs, Opposition
Chapters 11-12	Raising Lazarus, the Triumphal Entry
Chapters 13-17	Jesus’ Final Words to His Followers
Chapters 18-20	Christ’s Death and Resurrection
Chapter 21	Jesus Appears to Beloved Disciples

The Word Became Flesh– John 1:1–42



MEMORY VERSE: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12,13

DAY 1 JOHN 1:1-13 — Jesus Christ, the Word of God

1. What do verses 1-5 and 14 tell you about Jesus Christ?
2. Jesus is called “The Word” or “Logos” in Greek. Consider the meaning and synonyms of “word.” How do these apply to Jesus as “The Word?”
3. Why did God send John (the Baptist)? vv.6-8,15
4. What two opposite responses did people have toward Jesus? Why is this ironic? vv.9-13
5. What does it mean to be a child of God? v.13

John 3:3-6

6. What do you imagine living in the “light” looks like compared to living in “darkness?”

LEARN THE TRUTH

Welcome to the study of John! To get the most out of this study, ask God to open your eyes to what He has to teach you. Then read the whole passage for the lesson before answering the questions for each day. Using a dictionary or thesaurus will be very helpful in deepening your understanding.

DAY 2 JOHN 1:14-18 — Grace and Truth Through Christ

7. What reasons can you think of to explain why “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us?”
8. Define both “grace” and “truth.”
9. What is the “Law” that was given through Moses? Exodus 20
10. Do you think God’s Law is limited to the 10 Commandments? Why or why not?

Matthew 22:36-40

11. God’s law is good! Why then do you think we need grace and truth through Jesus Christ?
Romans 3:21-26

Romans 6:23

DAY 3 JOHN 1:19-28 — John the Baptist Testifies About Jesus

12. What did John say to the priests and Levites (religious leaders) about himself? vv.19-23
13. What do you notice about the tone of the religious leader’s questions?

14. Why did the religious leaders ask John if he was “Elijah” or the “prophet?”
Malachi 4:5-6 (Elijah)

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 (Prophet)

15. What happened when Jesus went to be baptized by John? Matthew 3:13-17

DAY 4 JOHN 1:29-34 — Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

16. When Jesus approached John the next day, how did John identify Him? vv.29-30

Hebrews 9:22

17. John the Baptist and Jesus were relatives (Luke 1:36). What then do you think John meant when he said he “did not know Him?” vv.31,33

18. About what did John personally experience and testify? vv.32-34

19. What differences do you see between the baptisms by John and by Christ?

Matthew 3:11-12

20. Define “witness” and “testify.” What do you think it means to be a witness for Christ?

DAY 5

JOHN 1:35-42 – The Power of Bearing Witness for Christ

21. What happened when John the Baptist was with two of his own disciples? vv.35-37

22. What does this tell you about John’s character and mission?

John 3:25-30

23. Why do you think Jesus asked John’s two disciples what they were seeking?

24. John’s two disciples first addressed Jesus as, “Rabbi.” A short time later Andrew called Jesus, the “Messiah.” Why do you think this is? vv.38-41

25. Peter (Cephas) means rock. Why might Jesus have changed Simon’s name when they had only just met?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Imagine being an eye-witness to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In truth, we can be eye-witnesses to Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as we experience His love, grace, mercy and power in our lives through faith in Him. Our personal testimony about Christ is powerful!

John 1:41-42

The Word Became Flesh

There are 4 Gospels, or accounts, of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Matthew, Mark and Luke, are known as the Synoptic Gospels because they are similar in format, and include many of the same events and parables. The Gospel of John is unique because it goes way back to the beginning of creation where Christ was, and then jumps to His actual ministry, omitting the account of His birth and the parables that are included in the Synoptic Gospels. John clearly presents Jesus as God in the flesh, the living Word. Jesus repeatedly said "I AM," meaning He is God Himself and the source and supply of everything pertaining to life-light, air, water, food, guidance, protection...

Our finite minds have difficulty grasping all that is in this first chapter of the Gospel of John. We will spend our entire lives learning to understand and appropriate the truths about Jesus Christ. He is the Word of God, the physical expression of the Father's thoughts, ways, words, character and plan. He is God because He has been with God the Father since the beginning, and all things were created through him. Yet He came to Earth in the flesh so that we, with our finite minds, could personally know Him.

In the Old Testament Scriptures, God spoke through prophets of the coming Messiah. God's people, Israel, knew this well and were waiting for Him. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Messiah so that all might believe in Him, but God's own people did not recognize the very One they were anticipating. Many had their own expectations of what the Messiah would be like and Jesus did not fit that picture. But others, including Gentiles (non-Jewish people) did receive Him and are now His children.

God gave His people the 10 commandments through Moses, which benefit any society in any time or place when followed. He also gave His people other laws pertaining to health, justice, peace and life. Because

sinful humans are incapable of actually keeping the law, Christ came to pay the penalty of our sin by dying on the cross in our place. Through Christ, we are not only forgiven of our sins, but we receive the gift of grace and truth.

John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ by preaching in the spirit of Elijah, but John was killed for the truth he spoke, as Christ would also be killed for the truth He spoke and the claims He made. (Matthew 17:11) Some believe John was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Elijah, while others believe the fulfillment is yet to come in the form of one of the two witnesses spoken of in Revelation 11.

WALK IN TRUTH



What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus Christ? It means sharing first hand experience as in the case of Andrew telling his brother, Simon he had found the Messiah. Andrew brought many people to Christ, but we know practically nothing of what he said. He just took them to the Savior. Anyone can take people to Jesus. You just have to know truth and love people enough to tell your story. When we personally know the grace and truth of Jesus Christ and the power of His Spirit, others will be drawn to what we have and our testimony will be honest and powerful.

The most important legacy a person can ever leave is that of causing others to thirst for and seek after Jesus Christ themselves. We want to leave people with a taste and memory of Jesus Christ, rather than of ourselves. It is not about us. We must have the mindset of John the Baptist, when he said, "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30

Notes

Jesus' Ministry Begins – John 1:43–2:25



MEMORY VERSE: “You will see greater things than these.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” John 1:50b-51

DAY 1 JOHN 1:43-51 — Philip and Nathaniel

1. Describe these two men from this initial introduction. vv.43-46
Philip

Nathaniel

2. Why did Nathaniel change his mind about Jesus? vv.47-49
3. What do you think Jesus meant by His response to Nathaniel? vv.50-51

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus Christ is the “Son of Man,” fully God and fully human. The deity of Christ began to be revealed through the humanity of Christ as He lived among people and participated in life with them. Thank God that He is with us today and not only cares, but is involved in the details of our personal lives.

4. Can you think of a time you missed out on an encounter with God because of some kind of prejudice?
5. When have you, like Nathaniel, been impacted by a surprising personal encounter with Jesus?

DAY 2 JOHN 1:14-18 — JOHN 2:1-11 — The Wedding at Cana

6. What do you learn about Jesus as a person from verses 1 and 2?

1 Thessalonians 2:8

7. What is your immediate impression about the exchange between Mary and Jesus? vv.3-5

8. What does Jesus' verbal response to His mother tell you about what is important to Him?

Luke 2:41-52

9. What did Jesus do about the wine running out at the wedding? vv.6-11

10. What did the master of the feast say about the wine Jesus had created?

DAY 3 JOHN 2:1-11 — The Wedding at Cana continued

11. Look at the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. What are the commands in verses 3-6 and 12? How did Jesus obey both these commandments at the wedding at Cana?
v.3-6

v.12

12. Think again about the way Mary approached Jesus and His response. What from this encounter can we apply to our own lives when we approach God, or even our own parents or offspring?

13. How do you imagine each of the people at the wedding were impacted by this miracle?
Mary

Servants

Master of the feast

Bridegroom

Disciples

14. What do you learn about the character of God from the wedding at Cana?

15. What is the purpose of this first miraculous sign by Jesus and all other miracles of God? v. 11

John 20:30-31

DAY 4 JOHN 2:12-17 — Passover in Jerusalem

16. Considering their experience at Cana, and what was to come, what do you suppose Jesus and His family and disciples talked about during their 3 days in Capernaum?

17. What is significant about the timing of Jesus' revelation of Himself publicly? Exodus 12:1-14

Matthew 3:11-12

18. What did Jesus find inside the temple that made Him so angry? Why was this evil and what did Jesus do about it?

19. How might each of the people in the temple have felt about Jesus' actions?
Money changers and sellers of sacrificial animals

Devout worshippers

Religious leaders

Disciples

20. How do you think we can protect God's "house" from becoming a "place of trade" today?

DAY 5

JOHN 2:18-25 – Signs From Jesus

21. The Jews did not approve of Jesus' behavior in the temple so they demanded a sign to prove that He had the right to reap such destruction. What "sign" did He give them?

22. How did the Jews respond to the "sign" He gave them? What did they think He meant?

23. Jesus' words did not make sense in the moment, but how did they affect the disciples later? v.22

24. What happened when Jesus performed "signs" in Jerusalem? vv. 23,24

25. Why did Jesus not entrust Himself to the people who believed in Him because of his signs?

1 Samuel 16:7

LOVE THE TRUTH

We love signs from God, and He graciously gives them to us. But our love for Him must not be based only on what we see, but on what we know to be true about who He is and what His Word says about Jesus and all things pertaining to life. God sees our hearts which are of the utmost importance to Him.

John 1:43–2:25

Jesus' Ministry Begins

Nazareth was an obscure town, not even mentioned in the Old Testament. It had no center of higher education and no great leaders came from this town. In Christ's day, Nazarenes were looked down on, rejected and even despised. And yet God saw fit to have the Savior of the world grow up in this crummy little town.

Jesus refers to Himself the "Son of Man," a name used 83 times in the New Testament, 13 of them in the book of John. Jesus, as the Son of Man, is both God and human. When Jesus told Nathaniel that he would see "heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (v.51) it is a reference to Jacob's ladder (Gen 28:12) when God gave Jacob the assurance that He was always accessible to him. Jesus now implies that He is the ladder and our means of communicating with God.

Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana was quite fitting. It not only revealed both His deity and humanity, but might be seen as a subtle picture of Christ as the Bridegroom. Running out of wine at a wedding would be disgraceful and humiliating. When Jesus said, "My hour has not yet come," the Greek word used was not "chronos," as in the way time is measured, but "kairos," meaning the appropriate time. Historically the Jews believed that the love between the bridegroom and bride was a picture of the relationship between God Jehovah and His people, Israel. Then Jesus Christ came and is called the Bridegroom who gave His life for His bride, the church, and will return for her one day in glory. (Ephesians 5:25,26; Matthew 25:1-13)

After the wedding at Cana, Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover and was furious when He found thievery inside the temple. Honest worshippers were being cheated by having to pay inflated prices for sacrificial animals. Each person also had to pay a temple tax of 1/2 shekel, but because of Roman rule there were

not many shekels in circulation so they had to buy them with Roman coins at an extremely high exchange rate. God loves honest seekers and it is vital that they find life-saving truth in His house and are not distracted or deceived by things going on that are not of Him. For this reason, Jesus cleansed the temple twice, once at the beginning and again at the end of His earthly ministry. We too must carefully guard the purity of our churches today. The gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached. Grace must abound and lives must be changed. Disciples of Christ must be made and God must be glorified. Beware of any plan, program or teaching that distracts from God's truth and purpose.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you grasp the significance of the fact that Jesus went from turning water into wine at a wedding to angrily cleansing the temple at Passover? Do you appreciate the connection between Christ being the bridegroom and the church being the bride of Christ? Paul gave this instruction to believers, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." Not only is the church the bride of Christ, but every Christian is also God's temple. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" Jesus Christ is Himself the Passover Lamb who has been sacrificed for us. Let these truths shape your very existence. (Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 5:7)

Notes

God's Great Love – John 3



MEMORY VERSE: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. John 3:16,17

DAY 1 JOHN 3:1-8 — You Must Be Born Again

1. Who was Nicodemus, and why might he have come to Jesus at Night?
v.1
2. What did Nicodemus say he recognized about Jesus? v.2
3. What did Jesus reply? How did Nicodemus interpret His words? vv.3,4
4. Jesus said we must be born of water and of the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God. What do you think each means in this context?
Water vv.5-7

Spirit v.8

5. Why do you think Jesus talked about “wind” in relation to being born again of the Spirit?

Acts 2:2

LEARN THE TRUTH

Many truths in the Bible are a mystery, but one thing is crystal clear~ God's love is greater than any love we can possibly imagine. If you ever feel condemnation remember how very much God loves you. His love is incomparable to any other love. He is for you and wants you to be His beloved child.

DAY 2 JOHN 3:9-15— Belief in the Son of Man

6. Nicodemus was mystified at Jesus' explanation of being born again. What did Jesus point out to him about his failure to understand? vv.9-12

1 Thessalonians 2:8

7. Why do you think Nicodemus found it so hard to believe Jesus' words? Why do people today struggle with unbelief?
8. What did Jesus claim about Himself and indicate about what lay ahead for Him? vv.13,14
9. Jesus refers to an event in the Old Testament which foreshadowed His atoning sacrifice. What happened in Numbers 21:4-9?

10. What does each represent in the Numbers passage?

The Israelites- Romans 3:23

The serpent's poison- Romans 3:23

The consequence of being bitten- Romans 6:23

The benefit of looking to the uplifted serpent- Romans 6:23

DAY 3 JOHN 3:16-21 — The Light Has Come Into the World

11. What did God do, and what was His purpose in this act? v.16
12. What does everyone deserve, but was specifically not God's purpose in sending His Son? v.17

13. What words describe those who are condemned and those who are not condemned? vv.18-21

Condemned

Not Condemned

14. Who is responsible for receiving spiritual judgment and condemnation? vv.18-20

15. Why do believers not need to fear the light of Christ? 1 John 1:5-10

DAY 4 JOHN 3:22-30 — Christ Must Increase

16. What was happening both in the Judean countryside and at Aenon near Salim? vv.22-24

17. What were John's disciples upset about? Why do you think it bothered them so much? vv.25-26

18. Why might a discussion about purification have led John's disciples to go and follow Jesus?

19. How did John respond to his disciples about their distress? vv.27,28

20. In John's analogy, Jesus is the bridegroom and the church is the bride. Who then is John, and how did he fulfill his role with excellence? vv.29-30

21. Why do you think we have a natural desire to increase rather than decrease?

22. How does understanding and embracing the following verses cause us to desire our own decrease and God's increase?

1 Corinthians 3:4-9

1 Peter 4:9-11

23. What facts about Jesus are proclaimed in this passage of Scripture?

v. 31

v. 32

v. 34

v. 35

24. What choice determines a person's standing with God, and what are the ramifications of their choice? vv.33, 36

25. What have been some of the most clear benefits or changes in your life since believing in Christ?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Christ must increase and we must decrease. There is great freedom in letting go of the need for self-promotion and instead living for the glory of God. It is a true pleasure to serve alongside other believers in furthering God's kingdom. Life is empty when we promote self and full when we promote Christ.

John 3

God's Great Love

Nicodemus was a Jewish leader, a pharisee and expert teacher of the law, yet he could not fathom what Jesus meant by being born again. Why would a Jew, one of the chosen people and a highly educated religious leader, need to be born again? And how could that be possible anyway? There were some godly pharisees in Christ's day, but many were legalistic hypocrites who heaped man-made laws on others while failing to keep the law themselves. These men were always in conflict with Jesus and envied His popularity. Nicodemus must have been mystified at how a Nazarene with no formal education and a carpenter from a low class family had the nerve to tell him there was something wrong with him. And yet he was curious. Perhaps he went to Jesus after dark because he was afraid of being seen. Or perhaps he was a sincere seeker and wanted to avoid the crowds and really talk with Jesus. At the end of this exchange with Jesus, there is no indication that he understood or had been born again, yet at the end of the gospel of John (19:38-42), he accompanied Joseph of Arimathea to get Christ's body for burial. He had gone from being hungry for truth yet spiritually blind, to seeing truth and having a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

There are different ways of interpreting what it means to be born of "water" and of "Spirit." Water could refer to the waters breaking in a human fleshly birth. Or it could refer to baptism, which symbolizes dying with Christ and being raised up with Him to a brand new life. Water certainly refers to the word of God and it's part in being born again. "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures." (James 1:18) "...you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God." (1 Peter 1:23) Being born of the Spirit is a mystery which we cannot yet fully understand. Like the wind, we cannot control the Spirit nor even see it, but we hear it and know when it is blowing because we see what it does.

What an example John the Baptist is to us. He knew his place in God's plan. He understood his calling and wanted nothing more than to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. His honest desire was that Christ increase and he decrease. It's so easy to follow earthly spiritual leaders in lieu of God Himself. When this happens, it is an indication that one believes the dynamic leader is the reason for the impact on lives rather than the Holy Spirit. It causes division and competition, and when that leader sins, it damages people's faith. We must not fall into this. One leader plants seeds and another waters the seeds, but God alone causes growth. It is a miracle only of God.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you find that you have a tendency to put spiritual leaders on a pedestal? Our leaders should be appreciated, but not glorified. Pray for your leaders, but give the glory to God. Do you know your place of service in furthering God's kingdom? If not, ask Him to show you how He can work through you to bring others to salvation or growth in Christ. If you know your gifts and calling, check your heart. Do you take credit or desire glory for success? Do you appreciate and celebrate when God uses other believers to impact His kingdom? It is not a competition, but rather cooperation between people who love God and His word, and desire to further His kingdom together. If we take credit when the Holy Spirit moves in a person's life, then we must also take the blame when a person rejects Jesus. Both are wrong and too much for us to bear. We plant or we water. God causes the growth. May the people who know us be left with an impression, not of how great we are, but of how great God is!

Notes

The Living Water – John 4:1-42



MEMORY VERSE: “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13,14

DAY 1 JOHN 4:1-12 — The Samaritan Woman

1. What situation compelled Jesus to leave Judea and depart for Galilee? vv.1-3
2. Jews intensely disliked Samaritans and avoided passing through Samaria by taking different routes. Why do you think Scripture says that Jesus, “had to pass through Samaria?”
3. Jesus was exhausted and sat by Jacob’s well. Why was the Samaritan woman surprised when Jesus asked her for water?
4. What does Jesus imply about the woman and claim about Himself? v.10
5. What does her response to Jesus reveal about her thinking and faith? vv.11-12

LEARN THE TRUTH

God had forbidden Jews to marry outside of their race in order to protect the purity of the Jewish faith. Yet some chose to marry non-Jews anyway and the result was the Samaritan race whom the Jews scorned. But Jesus came for all who would seek Him as we will see in this lesson, no matter their race.

DAY 2 JOHN 4:13-15 — Living Water

6. What truths does Jesus say about mankind and about Himself? vv.13,14
7. Why did the Samaritan woman want some of the water Jesus offered? v.15

8. Is she the only person who looks to Jesus for personal comfort rather than something greater?

9. List some qualities of water. How do these take on new meaning in terms of “living water?”

10. How do the following verses enhance your understanding of how living water works?
Jeremiah 17:7-8

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Titus 3:5

2 Peter 3:5

DAY 3 JOHN 4:16-26 — Worship in Spirit and Truth

11. Why do you think Jesus told the woman to go and get her husband? vv.16-18

12. How had her view of Jesus changed? What does her next question indicate about her faith? vv.19,20

13. What does Jesus’ response say about the Samaritans, Jews, and true worship? vv.21-24
Samaritans

Jews

True worship

14. Jesus had kept quiet about His identity. Why do you think He now clearly claims to be the Messiah?

15. When has God patiently revealed His glorious Self to your sinful and confused self?

DAY 4 JOHN 4:27-38 — The Fields Ripe for the Harvest

16. Considering where the disciples had just been and what they encountered when they returned, what might have been their frame of mind? v.27

17. Why do you think the people from the town followed the Samaritan woman to Jesus? vv.28-30

18. While the disciple's cared about physical food, what "food" did Jesus care about? v.34

Deuteronomy 8:3

19. What is the difference between an earthly harvest and a spiritual harvest? vv.35

20. The fields are ripe now for the harvest. What truths did Jesus say about His harvest? vv.36-38

21. What was the Samaritan woman's role or "labor" in this harvest? What was the result? vv.39-41
22. What blessing did she then reap from her labor in the harvest? v.42
23. What circumstances and attitudes could have prevented this harvest of Samaritans?
24. Can you think of a time when you got to reap a harvest because you overcame circumstances and attitudes and stepped out in faith?
25. What thoughts keep you from laboring for the harvest, and/or what empowers you to jump in?

LOVE THE TRUTH

The world is dying of thirst and we believers in Christ have the Living Water. The fields are ripe for the harvest and God will use each one of us if we are willing to jump in. We do not have to do it alone because we are only a small part of a larger field of workers and the Holy Spirit causes the growth.

John 4:1-42

The Living Water

The Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans and avoided them at all costs. And men, especially Rabbis, did not talk with women. And so the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman would never have happened by human means. But God has compassion on those who are a mess. Jesus went to the wedding in Cana, where the wine supply was messed up. He then met with a highly respected Pharisee, Nicodemus, who was messed up in his theology and thinking. Now Jesus has a divine appointment with a messed up adulterous Samaritan woman. The Samaritans were half Jewish and half Gentile. They embraced the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, and nothing more from Scripture. Thus the woman claimed allegiance to Jacob, knew about worship of God, and had an expectation of the coming Messiah, but was ignorant of many Scriptural truths. Her knowledge was limited and her lifestyle was shameful, yet Christ went out of His way to meet with her. He knew she was thirsty for so much more than plain water.

Jesus was always good, but generally unconventional. He always cared about the person in front of Him. He went out of His way to go through Samaria because He had a divine appointment with a sinful woman and then broke tradition by talking with her. His disciples had the uncomfortable job of going into a distasteful Samaritan town to get food. While they were gone, Jesus patiently conversed with the woman so she could see that He was the Messiah and it changed her life forever. He gave her the living water that she didn't know existed, didn't know she needed, and didn't know she could have. But when offered, she desperately wanted it. Because of His great compassion, she embraced Him as Messiah and went on to bring others to Christ.

God speaks to us according to the Spirit, but we often hear Him according to the flesh. He has a Spiritual plan that we can miss if we think only in terms of the

physical. The Samaritan woman was concerned with physical water from the well, and the disciples were concerned with physical food. When the woman grasped the meaning of living water, she became a laborer in the fields by sharing her testimony of what Jesus had done. Her people then saw for themselves that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Jesus told His disciples that His "food" was to do the will of God and to accomplish His work. It appears that the disciples may have been mere observers in the great harvest of Samaritans rather than active laborers, though their time for labor would come.

WALK IN TRUTH



The fields really are white, ready for harvest! It is easy to see messed up people and assume they are not open or ready to receive truth. It is also easy to think that we are a bit too messed up ourselves to adequately share the gospel. But God specializes messes! If He can use a woman with limited knowledge and a sinful past, He can use us! Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ...I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:12-13) As believers, we have the living water in us welling up to eternal life. We worship in Spirit and in truth. And His food for us is to share in His marvelous work. We are to labor in His fields, sharing our stories of transformation so others can see for themselves that He is the Messiah. If we delight in God and His law, we will each be like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. And we will prosper as we serve Him. (Psalm 1:1-3)

Notes

Healing and Opposition – John 4:43–5:18



MEMORY VERSE: And this is why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” John 5:16-17

DAY 1 JOHN 4:43-45 — The Plight of a Prophet

1. What was Jesus likely to face in Galilee? v.44
2. What happened to Jesus at another time in His home town? Mark 6:1-6
3. Why do you think people oppose or hesitate to embrace spiritual leaders they already know; or God with whom they have become too familiar?
4. Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus?
5. What might help us discern when to believe and when to be suspect of a person's credibility?

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus became more of a public figure when He healed on the Sabbath. Our Lord is true and good, but controversial. As you study this week, think about what He did because of His humanity, and how we must respond because of His deity. He was God in the flesh, and yet He faced terrible opposition.

DAY 2 JOHN 4:13-15 — Living Water

6. What truths does Jesus say about mankind and about Himself? vv.13,14

7. What opposite stances did Jesus and the official initially seem to have in this exchange? vv.48,49
What do you think was really going on in their hearts?
8. How did Jesus' response to him bring out true faith in the father? v.50
9. How did the circumstances of this healing impact the official and his household's faith? vv.51-53
10. Can you think of a time when God arranged circumstances to specifically impact your faith?

DAY 3 JOHN 5:1-9 — Jesus Heals an Invalid at the Pool of Bethesda

11. Why was Jesus in Jerusalem, and what does this tell you about Him? v.1

Exodus 23:14-17

12. What strikes you about the setting of the miracle Jesus was about to perform? vv.2-5
(Note: v.4 is not found in the earliest manuscripts, so most Bible translations do not include it.)
13. Once again we see an interesting conversation between Jesus and a person in need. What did Jesus ask the invalid, and why do you think He asked that question? v.6

14. What might you infer from the invalid's response to Jesus' question? v.7

15. What strikes you about the way the invalid was healed and his response to his healing?

DAY 4 JOHN 5:9-13 — Healing on the Sabbath

16. Of what did the Jews accuse the man who had been healed? vv.9,10

17. How did the healed man defend himself? What is your impression of his defense? vv.11-13

18. Do you think the Jew's rules about Sabbath lined up with God's intent for the Sabbath?

Genesis 2:2-3

Exodus 20:8-11

Exodus 23:12

19. Why was the healed man unable to identify Jesus? What do you think actually happened after Jesus healed him? v.13

20. What did Christ do and say that shows both His tender love and His firm Lordship? v.14
21. How did the healed man respond to his healing and Jesus' words? v.15
22. What did the Jews do when they heard that Jesus was the One who had healed him? v.16
23. Jesus was sinless, so what do you think He meant by His words in v.17? See also Mark 2:27
24. Why were the Jews then, not just persecuting, but seeking to kill Jesus? v.18
25. What possible reasons can you think of to explain why Jesus went to the pool at Bethesda?

LOVE THE TRUTH

The God of the universe came to earth in the flesh and the worldly experts on religion hated Him. What do we do with this? We must recognize truth and wholeheartedly embrace it, while steeling ourselves to the fact that, if we follow Christ, it will likely not make sense to some other people.

John 4:43–5:18

Healing and Opposition

Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, and Cana, are both in the region of Galilee. When Jesus' public ministry began, it appears He operated out of Capernaum, also in Galilee, which is why each of these places are referred to as His "home." People liked it when they saw Jesus change water into wine in Cana, but they knew Him well enough that it was difficult for them to see Him as God. In this current passage, John records two miraculous healings. The first was more private, but the second was public and caught the attention of the religious leaders and led to their persecution of Christ.

Jesus deals with each of us according to our deepest needs, as He did with the official in Capernaum and the invalid at Bethesda. When the official asked Jesus to heal his son, Jesus replied, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." When He saw the invalid at the pool of Bethesda, a place people went to for healing, Jesus asked, "Do you want to be healed?" What did the official really need? His desire was for his son to be healed, but his deepest need was for a loving and powerful Savior who was not limited by time and space. God gave him both. What did the invalid most need? His desire was to get into the supposed healing waters of the pool, but his deepest need was for true spiritual healing, which only Christ can give.

Three times a year Jewish males were required to offer sacrifices to the Lord "at the place the the Lord will choose, to make His name dwell there." This location was in Jerusalem during Christ's time because God's dwelling place was the temple. The first feast was Passover, celebrated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. It commemorated the hasty departure from slavery in Egypt. The second was the Feast of Weeks, which reminded them that they were once slaves and were now free to offer gifts to God as they had been blessed by Him. After Christ, it became known as Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given.

The third feast was the Ingathering or Tabernacles, which reminded them of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. (Deuteronomy 16:1-17) All the feasts point to Jesus Christ and He was faithful to honor those feasts, even as He is the fulfillment of them.

The pool of Bethesda is in the wall of Jerusalem, at the sheep gate, not a very glamorous place. The pool drew the downtrodden, the lame, the losers, so to speak. Yet the Lamb of God came to this place and healed one who could not help himself. The religious leaders did not recognize the Lamb of God, and set out to kill Him.

WALK IN TRUTH



We all face trials, sickness, pain and confusion in our lives. Our initial desire is often to escape from our trials. We naturally want God to solve our problems, to alleviate our pain, and heal our sickness. He is indeed the solution to all our problems and the healer of our souls and bodies, but His ways sometimes don't make sense to us because our focus is more on our desire than His will, on our own expectations rather than His wisdom. When we face a crisis, we would do well to ask Him what our actual deepest need is and ask Him to accomplish His will in our lives through the crisis. We must trust Him to do what is best for us, even as we lift our hearts in prayer asking specifically for what we think we need. It is true that Jesus came that we might have abundant life; and we often don't receive something because we fail to ask God; but even Jesus had to yield to God as He asked to avoid the cross, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (John 10:10; James 4:2; Luke 22:42)

Notes

The Deity of Jesus – John 5:19–6:15



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

DAY 1 JOHN 5:19-21 — The Son and the Sabbath

1. The Jews sought to kill Jesus for His behavior on the Sabbath as well as claiming equality with God. (v.18) What did Jesus say guides Him in all He does? v.19
2. What exactly is Jesus’ Father doing? vv.20-21, see also v.17
3. What does Mark 2:23-28 say about “work,” Jesus and the Sabbath?
4. What is blasphemy? What will the Jews later want to do to Jesus for His supposed “blasphemy?” John 10:33
5. Considering the Scripture about Sabbath from this and last weeks lesson, what kind of “work” seems right or wrong? Do you have any helpful insight about keeping the Sabbath in your own life?

LEARN THE TRUTH

The religious leaders in Christ’s day knew the Scriptures, but missed the point. Their diligent study and accumulated knowledge led them to legalism rather than life. When our goal in Bible study is not only to know the Word of God, but to know the God of the Word, we will have life and freedom in Him.

DAY 2 JOHN 5:22-29— The Authority of Jesus to Bring Life out of Death

6. Continuing in His defense of Himself, what authority does Christ claim God has given Him? vv. 22-23

7. What does it mean to “hear and believe” God’s word and to pass from death to life? v.24

8. Who are the “dead” in these verses and what happens when they “hear?” vv.24-26

Ephesians 2:1-10

9. What “resurrection” and judgment are verses 27-29 about?

Revelation 20:11-15

10. It seems absurd to us that the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. Yet, have you ever found yourself blaming God or accusing Him in your heart for something you are unhappy about in your life?

DAY 3 JOHN 5:30-38 — Witnesses to the Authority of Christ

11. What is Christ’s own witness about Himself? Why did He say His testimony alone is insufficient?
vv.30-31

Deuteronomy 19:15

12. Who else bore witness to Christ’s deity? vv.32-35

13. What even greater testimonies prove that Christ is the Son of God? v.36

14. God the Father testified about the authority of His Son. Why then did some of the Jews not see truth? vv.37-38
15. What is the difference between one who “hears” (vv.24-26) and one who has never “heard?” vv.37-38

DAY 4 JOHN 5:39-47 — The Witness of Scripture and Moses

16. Why did Christ’s accusers search the Scriptures? What was wrong with their searching? vv.39-44
17. What additional explanation did Jesus give for the religious leader’s failure to believe in Him? v.44
18. Why is Moses, rather than Jesus, the accuser of the defiant Jews?

John 1:17

John 3:16-17

19. List the reasons the Jews failed to hear, and the implied opposite posture of one who does hear.
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Reasons the Jews failed to hear vv. 38-47 | Posture of one who does hear |
|--|-------------------------------------|

20. How does James 1:22-25 enhance your understanding of what it means to “hear?”

21. As another Passover was at hand, what were the crowds still doing? vv.1-4

John 2:23

22. What did Jesus ask Philip, and what was His reason for the question? v.5

23. What impression do you have about Philip and Andrew's responses to the dilemma? Can you relate to their responses?

24. What did Jesus do for the hungry people? Can you think of a time God multiplied something in your own life? vv.10-13

25. Consider the outcome of this miracle. What do you suppose happened in some people's lives, and what clearly happened in other people's minds? vv.14-15

LOVE THE TRUTH

Imagine Jesus having to defend Himself to the very people who should have recognized Him. When you find yourself failing to recognize God's presence in your life, look for His hand for He is always working. Surrender your will and trust in His wisdom. Give Him what little you have and see what He does.

John 5:19–6:15

The Deity of Jesus

God's command to keep the Sabbath can easily be overlooked or misunderstood, but it is important. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work..." (Exodus 20:8-9) The Talmud was an extensive compilation of religious laws and prohibitions written by Jewish leaders. It had so many restrictions about the Sabbath that it became oppressive rather than restorative. What "work" should we refrain from in order to benefit from the Sabbath? John 6:29 says "the work of God is to believe in the One He sent." That is a good work for every minute of our lives. Perhaps it simply means taking a day off from our usual labor and trusting that God will continue to work on our behalf while we rest. He is our Provider and all good things come from Him. "All that we have accomplished, He has done for us." (Isaiah 26:12) Our bodies, minds and spirits need rest and refreshment. When we observe the Sabbath, our work is more productive and God is glorified. We must resist the pull of the world and ask God to show us how to best keep the Sabbath. If we do this, we will "call the Sabbath a delight." Isaiah 58:13

There was much talk of resurrection in this lesson. We know that Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead after His crucifixion, but other resurrections can seem confusing. We will fully understand this one day, but for now, we know that we ourselves were resurrected from the dead when we heard and believed in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We were actually dead in sin, but now we are alive in Christ. We also know that when Christ was raised from the dead He conquered death permanently. One day, all those who have died will be resurrected in order to face judgment. Believers will receive reward and eternal life with Christ, while rejectors of Christ receive eternal judgment. There is life in Christ and condemnation without Him. We all deserve eternal condemnation, but God sent His Son, not to

condemn but to save us. (John 3:16,17) When we receive salvation through belief in Jesus Christ, who died in our place, we will live for eternity with God.

There were many witnesses to the deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus claimed to be God's Son, equal with God Himself. John bore witness to Him; Christ's works testified to His deity; God spoke through the Spirit of Christ's deity; the Scriptures testify about Christ; and Moses, who led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt, wrote about the coming Christ. Yet people still rejected Him. Our lives must bear further witness to the goodness of God for those who want to hear.

WALK IN TRUTH



God is our provider, the giver of life and the giver of rest. Imagine the crowd of people who came to see Christ because of His signs and miracles. Some missed what He really offered, but some heard. They were physically hungry, and even more spiritually hungry. Jesus fed their bodies and their souls. He made a dinner for 5000 men and their families out of 5 barley loaves and 2 fishes. That is impossible, except by the power of God, who specializes in making something out of practically nothing. He is able to meet all of our needs and His leftover fragments are better than our very best.

What is your greatest need right now? What tiny, insignificant bit do you have? If you are willing to give Him your measly lunch, what do you think He might do with it? It is not easy to give up our meager pittance, but when we do, we see His magnificent power. We get to be part of feeding many! Your lack or your need is a test. Will you trust Him with what little you have so you can experience the lot He offers?

Notes

The Bread of Life – John 6:16–70



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... For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:35;40

DAY 1 JOHN 6:16-24 — Jesus Walks on Water

1. List the basics of what happened in this passage of Scripture. vv.16-21
2. Look at Matthew 14. What is the first heading in this chapter? Why do you think John did not mention this in his Gospel?
3. What additional details did Matthew include in his account of Jesus walking on the water? Matthew 14:22-33

LEARN THE TRUTH

As Jesus’ ministry becomes more public, people become more divided. The crowd who constantly follow after him looking for a show, become louder in their opposition and hatred of Him, while His true followers grow in faith and trust, recognizing that Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

4. What spiritual lessons do you see in the incident of Jesus walking on the water from both passages?
5. Meanwhile, what was happening on the other side of the Sea of Galilee? vv.22-24

DAY 2 JOHN 6:25-40 — I AM The Bread of Life

6. Given their question and Christ’s response, what was the crowd most interested in? vv.25-26

7. What did Jesus want them to understand? vv.27-29

8. The crowd wanted a sign from Jesus in order to believe. What did they fail to remember or understand about Moses, their ancestors and the manna they ate in the wilderness for 40 years? vv.30-34

Exodus 16:2-9

9. Do you think it is ok to ask God for signs? Why or why not?

10. What do verses 35-40 reveal or indicate about:
Jesus

Those who come to Jesus and believe in Him

The Crowd

God

DAY 3 JOHN 6:41-52 — Living Bread and Eternal Life

11. What were the Jews grumbling about? What did their human reasoning and logic conclude? vv. 41-42

12. Why is grumbling such a grievous sin? Matthew 12:33-37

13. How are free will (personal choice to believe) and predestination (chosen by God to believe) both included in Jesus' words? vv.43-47

2 Peter 3:9

14. Jesus talked about manna earlier (vv.30-34). Why did He bring it up again? v.48-52

15. What do you think "living" and "dying" means and does not mean in this context? Did the Jews get the point Jesus was making?

DAY 4 JOHN 6:53-59 — The Body and Blood of Christ

16. What did Jesus say to this unbelieving crowd about eternal life? vv.53-54

17. How did He describe His flesh and His blood? vv.55-59

18. How do the first few verses in John's Gospel help explain what Jesus means about His flesh and His blood? John 1:1-5,14

19. What do you think it means to "feed" on the Bread of Life?

20. Before His crucifixion, the last passover Jesus spent with His disciples became known as The Lord's Supper and instigated what we call "communion." What is God's intent for communion? What does it mean to you personally? Luke 22:14-23

21. What reaction did many disciples have to Jesus' teaching (vv.52-59) in the synagogue in Capernaum? Why do you think His teaching seemed "hard" and "offensive to them"? vv.60-61

22. What do you think Jesus meant in His response to the disgruntled disciples? vv. 61-64

23. What must happen for someone to come to Jesus? v.65 and any other verses that come to mind.

Ephesians 2:8-9

24. According to Simon Peter, why did the Twelve disciples remain with Jesus? vv.68-69

25. What do you make of Jesus' statement about the Twelve and Judas? vv.70-71

LOVE THE TRUTH

Have you come to a place where you can say with Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." Belief in the Holy One of God is the safest place to be and causes God to grant us access to Jesus.

John 6:16-70

The Bread of Life

During His time on earth in the flesh, Jesus clearly was not impressed with multitudes of people. Crowds caused division and generally opposed Christ. They did serve the purpose though of moving Him closer to the cross, His reason for coming to earth as Savior. Jesus left the crowd and went off by Himself in order to pray, while the disciples headed in a boat to Capernaum. Though things were heating up for Jesus, He still took great care of His Twelve disciples and miraculously appeared to them walking on the water in the midst of a storm. No matter how difficult life gets, God is always with us and His message is, "It is I; do not be afraid."

In the Bible, physical signs point to spiritual truths not just for the present, but for the future and for eternity. The woman at the well first wanted a steady supply of physical water, but then rejoiced in finding the eternal Living Water. Jesus then fed the 5000, and yet the crowd did not see Son of God as much as a hopeful supplier of free bread. (6:26) We must not limit our sight to the physical because it will not last. We must instead look for eternal truth. Jesus told the crowd who wanted free bread without work, that the true work of God is to believe in the one He has sent, the Bread of Life. (6:29) It used to be common in ski towns to see bumper stickers that read, "Think Snow," as people were living for skiing. A better bumper sticker might read, "Think Eternity," because life is meant to be lived in light of eternity. "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:10,11 NIV)

Jesus spoke life giving truth to the crowd, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I AM the bread of life." "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." (vv.47-48; 53-54) But the crowd grumbled and took offense at His words. Their sight was limited

to the physical so they missed the spiritual truth that Jesus would soon give His life by shedding His blood on the cross. It is written, "The life of flesh is in the blood." (Leviticus 17:11) When Christ was tempted by Satan to turn stones into bread (Luke 4:3,4), Jesus quoted Deut 8:3 "Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." The Lords Supper, or Communion as we know it, is to remember what He has done for us and is doing for us. When we eat the bread and drink the wine, we are feeding on Him, essentially taking all of Christ into our hearts- the Living Water, the Bread of Life and the Word of God.

WALK IN TRUTH



It's been said that "what's down in the well comes up in the bucket," and grumbling is a bad sign of what's in a person's heart. The Jews grumbled against Moses and against God during their exodus from Egypt. Then, when face to face with the Son of God, their descendents grumbled against Him too. Jesus said, "what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart and this defiles a person." (Matthew 15:18) When we grumble, we miss out on what is right in front of us- the Bread of Life.

We must choose to have grateful hearts and recognize, as the disciples did, that the key to life is in Christ Jesus. The more we feed on Him, abide in Him, soaking up truth and love, the more we experience true life. The best and only place for us ever to go is to Jesus for He is indeed the Holy One of God, and He chose us to believe and be His children. (John 6:69)

Notes

Threats, Division and Belief – John 7



MEMORY VERSE: “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”
John: 7:37-38

DAY 1 JOHN 7:1-13— Disbelief and Muttering

1. Why wouldn't Jesus go about in Judea as He did in Galilee? v.1
2. What does Jesus' brother's advice reveal about their understanding of God's plan and who Jesus is? vv.1-5
3. What do you think Jesus meant by His response to His brothers? vv.6-8
4. Jesus went to Jerusalem privately rather than publicly. What were the various conclusions of the people who were looking for Him and muttering about Him? vv.10-13
5. How does this passage speak to you about the importance of God's timing in your life; or about how to discern whether the advice people give you is worthy? vv.1-13

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus was surrounded by division, disbelief, misinformation, false accusations, suspicion, and threats on His life. Christ's time to die on the cross for all mankind was then just six months away. In spite of chaos and opposition, He taught truth, and some recognized who He was and believed in Him.

DAY 2 JOHN 7:14-24— Hypocrisy and False Accusations

6. Why did the Jews marvel at Jesus' teaching in the temple during the Feast of Booths? vv.14-15

7. What is unique about Jesus' teaching? vv.16-18
8. God gave laws to His people through Moses. Which of the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) do you think the crowd of Jews broke during their exchange with Jesus at the temple? vv.19-20
9. What hypocrisy did Jesus point out to them? vv.21-23
10. Why are Jesus' words in verse 24 so important? How might you apply them in your own life?

DAY 3 JOHN 7:25-31 — Curiosity and Belief

11. Thus far, the "crowd" has referred to Jewish leaders and Jews who had come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles). Now, some of the local Jews who lived in Jerusalem had their own thoughts and questions. What were they? vv.25-27
12. What answer did Jesus give those people about Himself? vv.28-29
13. What about Jesus' response do you think they found insulting?
14. What opposite reactions did people have? How had their reactions grown in intensity (compared to vv.10-13)? Why do you think they had such different responses to Jesus? vv.30-31

15. Considering all that was against Jesus, why was He still safe? v.30

DAY 4

JOHN 7:32-39 — “Seeking” Jesus

16. What did the chief priests and Pharisees do? v.32

17. Many years earlier, the ancestors of these Jews were exiled by God to Babylon for 70 years because of their constant rebellion against Him. What did God promise those Jews?
Jeremiah 29:10-14

18. What then do you think Jesus meant by His statement in verse 33?

19. On the last day of the feast, what promise did Jesus give anyone who is a true seeker? vv.37-39

20. What is still true today for the honest seeker and for the dishonest seeker?
Psalm 119:9-16

Matthew 7:7-8

Matthew 7:21-23

21. Jesus had just offered the Living Water of the Holy Spirit, an extremely hopeful and positive promise. What do you think predisposes a person to either recognize and believe truth, or to mock Jesus?
vv.40-44
22. What was faulty with the reasoning of those who said Jesus couldn't be the Christ? (vv.41-42)
Luke 2:1-7
23. Why did the officers not arrest Jesus? What tactics did the Pharisees use to intimidate the officers for failing to do as they had been ordered? vv.45-49
24. Remember that Nicodemus was the Pharisee who had met privately with Jesus (John 3). What strikes you about the exchange between him and his fellow Pharisees? vv.50-52
25. Can you think of a time when you, like the Pharisees, doubted God because you didn't have your facts straight; or a time when you were ridiculed by people who were hostile to God? What insight did you gain from those times?

LOVE THE TRUTH

People were divided about Jesus in His day and they still are today. We must be convinced in our own hearts that He is the Messiah, rather than just a great man. We must know His Word so we grow in trust and belief and are able to stand firm when people misunderstand God or belittle us for our faith.

John 7

Threats, Division, and Belief

Though Jesus' brothers had known Him His whole life, they did not yet recognize that He was the son of God. Psalm 22 and 69 are quoted extensively in the New Testament as they foreshadow the sufferings of Christ. "For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face; I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reprove you have fallen on me." (Psalm 69:7-9) His brothers did eventually come around! Jesus's brothers were James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. (Matthew 13:55) His brother James was not the apostle James, but is the most likely author of the letter, or epistle, that bears his name. His brother Judas is the most likely author of the book of Jude. We must be careful that we do not give people bad advice as His brothers did. God does not have to share His whole plan with us. We can be immature or uninformed and it would be wise to be quiet. We might also think twice about giving the God of the universe our sage advice.

The Feast of Tabernacles was one of the 3 feasts men were required to celebrate in Jerusalem. One day we will see just how every jot and tittle in the Bible points to spiritual truths that we might not yet grasp. In the mean time, it is fascinating to learn those that we can understand. At this feast, the Jews lived in booths, or tents, which reminded them of God's deliverance and guidance when they were freed from slavery in Egypt. It also reminds us today that this earthly tent, or body, is not our home, and that God is even now is preparing a heavenly home for us. (2 Corinthians 5:1-5) This feast was also a time to give thanks for the harvest and to ask God for continued blessing. Does this remind us today of the spiritual harvest where people are ripe for hearing the gospel? (John 4:35) The Feast of Booths included extensive pouring out of water, reminiscent of Moses striking the rock and God providing water for His people in the wilderness. At the last day of the feast, when the water was being poured out, Jesus cried

out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:37,38) This was a promise that the Holy Spirit would be given to God's children after Jesus was crucified, resurrected and ascended to heaven. God fulfilled this promise during the Feast of Pentecost. (Acts 1:8; 2:1-13) For years the Jews had celebrated these feasts, and they should have recognized Jesus right away when He spoke in the temple. The honest seekers did recognize Him as the Christ, but the dishonest ones were oblivious and opposed to the truth. We must always pray for eyes to see!

WALK IN TRUTH



One of the biggest problems the Jews had about Jesus was that He was from Nazareth, a town in Galilee because it was prophesied that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, a town in Judea, where King David was from. Jesus was indeed born in Bethlehem, but He grew up in Nazareth. Christ's critics wrongly assumed He was not from the very place in which He had actually been born. A worldly census commanded by Ceasar changed the course of history, and fulfilled the prophecy about the Savior of the world. (Luke 2:1-7)

Every one of us has times when the Bible does not make sense to us. We have limited understanding and perspective. But God will bless us if we believe in Him and keep on seeking, learning and trusting. When we trust Him and obey His commands, we actually grow in understanding. When something doesn't quite add up, take your doubts to God, asking for insight and understanding. Choose to believe what you can't yet see. You will be blessed!

Notes

The Light of the World – John 8



MEMORY VERSE: Again 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

DAY 1 JOHN 8:1-11 — An Adulterous Trap

1. What does the timing of the intrusion of the Scribes and Pharisees with the adulterous woman reveal?
2. What was their accusation against the woman, and what was their motive? vv.3-6a
3. How did these teachers of the law twist Scripture? Deuteronomy 22:22
4. How did Jesus respond to her accusers and what was the outcome?

Psalm 90:8

Matthew 7:1-5

5. How do you reconcile these verses about judging with 1 Corinthians 5:9-13?

DAY 2 JOHN 8:12-20 — I AM the Light of the World

6. What does Jesus offer those who follow Him as the Light of the World? v.12

LEARN THE TRUTH

God cannot not overlook sin because sin brings death. But He would rather cover our sins than count them against us. Anyone who claims to be righteous stands condemned, but Jesus offers forgiveness and freedom from bondage to sin for anyone who confesses their sin and believes in Him.

7. How did the Pharisees challenge Jesus? Why was this especially hypocritical considering what they had just done in the temple? v.13

Deuteronomy 17:6-7

8. How did Jesus refute their claim that His testimony was not true, and what do you think each means? v.14

vv.15-16

vv.17-18

9. When asked where His Father was, why do you think Jesus answered as He did? vv.19-20

10. Have you ever asked God something and received a completely unexpected answer?

DAY 3 JOHN 8:21-30 — Two Opposite Worlds

11. What bold declaration did Jesus make? How did the Pharisees interpret His words? vv.21-22

12. Why were the Pharisees not able to go where Jesus was going? vv.23-24

13. Describe the two different worlds, or kingdoms, that Jesus was talking about. v.23 and Scriptures

Luke 18:30

1 John 2:15-17

1 John 4:1-5

14. What did the Pharisees fail to understand? vv.25-27

15. What truths did Jesus express about Himself and His Father? vv.28-30

DAY 4 JOHN 8:30-47 — Freedom vs. Slavery

16. What did Jesus want the “Jews who had believed in Him” to understand? vv.30-32

17. Were the Jews correct in their response to Jesus about Abraham and slavery? Why or why not?
vv. 33-38

18. What evidence proves these particular Jews were not Abraham’s legitimate children? vv.39-43

19. How did Jesus describe their actual father and his impact on them? vv.44-47

20. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. Is there an area in your thinking where he has deceived you, causing you to be unable to hear, value or apply God’s Word to your life?

21. Read this whole section and note the ways the Jews upped their attack against Jesus. vv.48-59
22. What stands out to you in Jesus' words to the crowd who so vehemently opposed Him? vv.49-52
23. How did Jesus describe His relationship with God compared to His accuser's relationship with God? vv.54-55
24. Explain your understanding of what Jesus said about Himself and Abraham. vv.56-58
vv.56-57
- v.58
25. Why do you think the Jews kept their hope in Abraham instead of Jesus, the Light of the World?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus, the Light of the World, offers us the light of life, freedom from bondage to sin, the ability to know the truth that sets us free, and the promise that we will never see death if we believe in Him and abide in His word. May you fully experience these truths in your own life as you abide in Him.

John 8

The Light of the World

As Jesus continued to teach truth and offer life to any who would believe, the religious leaders continued to try to trap Him so they could find grounds to execute Him. The scribes and Pharisees, who should have been leading people to God, godliness and a deeper understanding of Scripture, were instead plotting and scheming against the very One God spoke through. They were envious of Him to the point of seeking His death. (Mark 15:10) The hypocritical teachers of the law conveniently forgot that the man and the woman caught in adultery were both to be stoned, not just the woman. (Leviticus 20:10) If Jesus concluded that the woman should not be stoned, the religious leaders would accuse Him of violating God's law. If He told them to stone her, He would be violating Roman law, which forbade Jews to perform executions. They put Jesus in a lose/lose situation. There is no record in Scripture of Jesus ever writing except in this moment when He wrote in the ground, as He waited for anyone who was "without sin" to cast the first stone. Perhaps He wrote names, or a convicting Scripture, "O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water." (Jeremiah 17:13) Whatever He wrote caused the crowd to leave one by one. Then Jesus said to the woman what He also says to us, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more." (v.11)

Jesus' response to questions did not always seem to line up with what had been asked. God cuts to the chase. He sees through our pretense, ignorance, worldly wisdom and selfish desires, and answers us according to our actual need. We are surrounded by worldly reasoning and philosophy. "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4) Our home is not in this world, but in His heavenly kingdom. Jesus said, "everyone who commits sin is a slave to

sin," (v.34) and the Jews insisted that, as Abraham's offspring, they had never been enslaved to anyone. But they were in fact enslaved in Egypt and Babylon and were currently under Roman rule. Do we really recognize when we are enslaved? We cannot be free if we do not have Christ, and we cannot be free if we hold onto the world and what it has to offer. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9:23-25)

WALK IN TRUTH



Some Jews believed Jesus was the Messiah, but the majority failed to recognize Him. Jesus said they, "could not bear to Hear His word," (v.43) and instead pinned their hope on their ancestral bloodline from Moses. When God told Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt, He said of Himself, "I AM WHO I AM," the omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, self-existent God. (Exodus 3:14) Jesus made the same claim when He said to the Jews, "Before Abraham was, I AM." (v.58)

Rather than standing in judgment of those who fail to recognize Jesus, we must search our own hearts, and not only believe in Him, but abide in Him as we can all be unable to "bear hearing" some aspect of His word. We must recognize our own sin and remove the log from our own eye. Only then can we help someone else get the nasty speck out of their eye. If you want to grow in the grace and truth of the Light of the World, start each day with a clean slate of forgiveness.

Notes

Sight for the Blind – John 9



MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world... For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” John 9:5 and 39

DAY 1 JOHN 9:1-5 — Revealing the Works of God

1. What assumption did the disciples make? v.1
2. The disciples false assumption was likely based on Exodus 20:5,6 in the 10 commandments. What do you think God meant in those verses?
3. What hope does Jesus offer for anyone born with a defect? v.2
4. What further hope is there for anyone with any kind of disadvantage or weakness? 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
5. How does Jesus’ statement, “This is the *work* of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent,” (6:29) tie in with His words about *work* in vv.3-5?

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus, the Light of the World, continues His message of bringing light into darkness by healing a man who was born blind. As you study this chapter, ask God to open your eyes and give you true sight so you can not only understand the deep spiritual truths that give life, but offer others that same hope.

DAY 2 JOHN 9:6-7 — Jesus Heals the Man who was Born Blind

6. How did Jesus heal the blind man? Do you see any significance to His method? vv.6-7

7. Jot down the unique details of how Jesus healed people in the 3 following passages:
Matthew 9:18-26

Luke 17:11-19

John 4:46-54

8. What do these, and other, various healings tell you about God's character and ways?
9. What insight does this give you into your own beliefs, practices or experiences?

DAY 3 JOHN 9:8-23 — Deliberation and Denial

10. What might account for the neighbor's different perceptions regarding the blind man's sight? vv.8-13
11. Do you see any significant differences between the accounts the man gave regarding his healing?
To his neighbors vv.11-12
- To the Pharisees v.15
12. What reasons might there be as to why Jesus performed so many healings on the Sabbath? vv.16-17

13. How does Mark 7:6-9 describe the Pharisees actions and way of thinking?

14. Why did the Pharisees interrogate the parents of the blind man who had been healed? vv.18,19

15. What impression do you get from the man's parents? vv.20-23

DAY 4

JOHN 9:24-34 — Deception and Disgust

16. What do you think the Pharisees expected when they told the healed man to “give glory to God?”
v.24

17. Did he give glory to God? If so, how? vv.25-27

18. Compare the actions of the Pharisees with those of the man who could now see. vv.28-34
Pharisees vv.28-29, 34 (and v.2)

Man with sight vv.30-33

19. Why would a man, blind his whole life, progress in understanding so quickly when healed?

20. What do you imagine life would be like for those who were forbidden to enter the Synagogue?

21. How was the healed blind man blessed for his honesty and bravery with the Pharisees? vv.35-38

22. What is your understanding of Jesus' statement in verse 39?

23. How does Jesus' statement (v.39) confirm what He said in John 3:16-17?

24. What did Jesus mean by His response when the Pharisees said, "Are we also blind?" vv.40-41

Proverbs 28:13

Matthew 9:12-13

25. How has God spoken to you personally through the Scriptures included in this lesson?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Without Jesus we are all blind, and so human opinions dictate our beliefs. It is a blessed relief when we realize we are sick and blind and recognize that God is ready and more than able to give us sight. Every day is rewarding when we allow the Light of the World to open our eyes to truth and life.

John 9

Sight for the Blind

When Jesus saw people unable to help themselves, He reacted with compassion and healing. His goal was to do the work of God, to open their eyes so they could see and believe in Him. We live in a fallen world. Sin came into the world through one man, Adam, and the result is condemnation and death. But then one man, Jesus Christ, brought grace into the world and the result is justification and life. (Romans 5:12;18) When Jesus saw the man who was born blind, the real question was not whose sin caused his blindness, but rather Who God is, and how He might display His works in that blind man. And God did indeed display His power through this healing. Jesus “spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. He anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means sent). So he went, washed and came back seeing.” (9:6-7) Can you relate to this miracle? Like the man born blind, our deficiencies and limitations are the very things God uses to show us our need for Him and to glorify Himself through us. In the midst of our struggles, He anoints our eyes, sends us to be washed, heals us and gives us sight so we can believe and be useful for service. He will display His works in us when we believe in Him.

The man born blind could not see Jesus, but Jesus saw him. God used his life of blindness to prepare him to meet Jesus. This man went from having no idea who Jesus was, to seeing Him as a prophet, to believing in Him as Lord. He did not seek after Jesus, but Jesus sought him out. The healed man shared only what he knew to be true, his simple story of how he went from blindness to sight. He did not pretend to know more than he did, but he grew in knowledge and conviction as he took one step at a time in faith, beginning with washing in the pool of Siloam when Jesus sent him.

There will always be opposition for the one sent out by God. Because of their hatred of Jesus, the Pharisees stepped up their game by agreeing that anyone who

confessed Jesus to be Christ, would be put out of the synagogue. They closed the doors to those who did not side with them, making them outcasts. Sadly, many would not risk such loss. “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.” (Proverbs 29:25) When we trust in Him, and stand firm one step at a time, we grow stronger. Likewise, those who are evil become even more so with each step they take. “The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.” (Proverbs 4:18-19)

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you have a physical problem or some weakness that cripples you emotionally? Do you feel defeated, useless, or forgotten? You may not see God in your circumstances, but He sees you. You are not forgotten. There is no formula for healing, but God heals. Our job is to focus on the character and power of God. He will display His mighty works through us when we surrender to Him and take Him at His word. He does His best work through weak people who trust Him as He did in the healed blind man who stood up to the Pharisees and said, “Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” (vv.32,33) The Bible does not say more about this man who was healed, but because he said, “Lord, I believe” and worshipped Him, to this day God is using his simple testimony to help others see the Light of the World. He will do this through you too as you look for Him and trust in Him.

Notes

The Door and the Good Shepherd – John 10



MEMORY VERSE: “I AM the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture... I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:9,11

DAY 1 JOHN 10:1-6 — The Door to the Sheepfold

1. What did Jesus say about the one who climbs over the wall to get into the sheepfold instead of entering the pen by way of the door? v.1,5
2. Why would one climb into the sheepfold by another way rather than entering through the door?
3. What is true of the one who enters the sheepfold by the door? vv.2-4

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus continues to address the Pharisees who cast the healed blind man out of the Synagogue. They closed the door, cutting him out of fellowship, because of his faith in Jesus. Beware of blind leaders who hide, pervert or steal away access to truth. Do not listen to or follow them.

4. Why do the sheep react so differently to their own shepherd than to the robber? Can you relate to this in your own life?
5. The focus of this Scripture is on the Door and the Shepherd, but in keeping with the allegory, what or who do you think the “gatekeeper” or “watchman” might be?

DAY 2 JOHN 10:7-10 — I AM the Door

6. What is the significance of Jesus being the Door for the sheep? vv.7-9

Acts 4:11,12

7. What are a few of the many reasons Jesus was able to legally claim, "I AM the Door?"
Micah 5:2

Isaiah 7:13-14

8. At this point in time, Jesus was in the last year of His earthly ministry. How would His upcoming death and resurrection offer further proof that He is indeed the Door? Hebrews 10:19-22

Matthew 27:51

9. What do you think it means for one who is saved to “go in and out and find pasture?” v.9

10. Considering the extreme opposite aims of Jesus and the thief, why were the Pharisees unable to understand the life-giving truth Jesus offered? (vv.5-6)
v.10

John 8:19; 43-44

John 9:41

DAY 3 JOHN 10:11-18 — I AM the Good Shepherd

- | 11. What do the Good Shepherd and hired hand have in common, yet drastically different? vv.11-15 | |
|---|-------------------|
| Jesus- The Good Shepherd | Hired Hand |
| <p>11. What do the Good Shepherd and hired hand have in common, yet drastically different? vv.11-15</p> <p>Jesus- The Good Shepherd</p> | <p>Hired Hand</p> |

12. What types of people can you think of today who are “hired hands,” or “thieves,” compared to those who really care about the people they shepherd?

1 Peter 5:1-3

13. What is the ultimate sacrifice of the Good Shepherd? How many times did Jesus repeat this and why do you think He repeated it so many times? vv.11-18
14. What is your understanding of Jesus' words about folds and flocks? v.16 See also v.9
15. Why are the claims Jesus made in verses 17 and 18 especially important?

DAY 4 JOHN 10:19-30 — I and the Father are One

16. Once again, there is division about Jesus. What were the conflicting opinions? vv.19-21
17. After all that Jesus had said and done, why do you think the Jews felt that He was “keeping them in suspense?” v.24
18. How did Jesus reply to their question? vv.25-27
19. What does it mean to you that you will not perish and no one can “snatch” you out of His hand? vv.28-30
20. What is your understanding of Jesus' statement, “I and the Father are one?” v. 30

Colossians 1:15-20

21. How did Jesus respond to the Jews who wanted to stone Him for blasphemy? vv.31-32
22. What does their answer to Jesus reveal? What do you think is behind this attitude? v.33
23. In Hebrew, the word, “elohim” refers to the one true God, but is also used for man, gods, judges... How does this help your understanding of what Jesus said in verses 34-42?
- Psalm 82
24. What did Jesus say about the works of the Father, or lack of those works? vv.37-39
25. Once again, what were the two opposite reactions to Jesus? What truths in this chapter inspire you to follow the Good Shepherd more closely? vv.39-42, John 10

LOVE THE TRUTH

It's hard to imagine why anyone would reject the love, protection, sacrifice and security Jesus offers through His death and resurrection. Think about how you can more deeply appreciate and follow Jesus Christ, the only Door to salvation and the Good Shepherd who offers you abundant life.

John 10

The Door and the Good Shepherd

So far in John's gospel, Jesus has said: "I AM the Bread of Life." "I AM the Light of the World." "Before Abraham was, I AM." He now further proclaims His deity by saying, "I am the Door" and "I AM the Good Shepherd."

Jesus used images that were familiar to the people of His day, sheep, shepherds, the sheepfold, wolves and watchmen. The sheepfold was a pen surrounded by walls, with only one entrance. A watchman would sleep at the entrance or doorway to keep the sheep from escaping and to protect them from intruders who would sneak in to harm or steal them. Different flocks were often kept in the same pen at night. In the morning the watchman or gatekeeper would let the shepherds in. The shepherds would call the sheep, who would hear the voice of their own shepherd and follow him out to pasture. Jesus is the Door to the sheepfold because He is the only legitimate way in and He is the Good shepherd because He loves His sheep and lays down His life for them.

Scripture does not say who the gatekeeper or watchman is. It could be Jesus Himself as He is the only way in or out. It might be God who sent Jesus, or the Holy Spirit who confirmed Jesus at His baptism. Prophets were considered watchmen, sent to warn people, or to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, as did John the Baptist. In a sense, the Bible is a gatekeeper, with prophecies, promises, life-giving truth and warnings against false teaching. Perhaps a watchman is one like the prophetess Anna, who recognized the infant Jesus at the temple as the awaited Messiah in Luke 2:36-38.

God Himself is referred to as the Shepherd of Israel. "Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who led Joseph like a flock. Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us that we may be saved." (Psalm 80:1,3) God's Leaders were also seen as "shepherds" of the people. Many of the religious rulers of Christ's day were evil,

seeking self promotion and glory at the expense of true seekers of God. The evil scribes and Pharisees were the robbers and thieves, convinced that they were God's instruments, but instead depriving the people of truth. They not only did not lead people to God, but actually drove them away from God. Jesus came to this sheepfold, which is Israel, but the sheep rejected Him because they didn't know Him. He has other sheep, which are not of this fold, the Gentiles. Jesus came to form one flock from 2 different folds including both Jews and non-Jews. Remember that Jesus was not a victim, rather He willingly gave His life in order to save His sheep.

WALK IN TRUTH



Who has your ear? Whose voice do you recognize and follow? Are you able to spot a stranger, the thief who wants only to steal and kill and destroy, or are you earnestly listening to the One who loves you? Are you in tune to the voice of the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for you? We must listen so we can then recognize His voice in order to experience the abundant life He has for us. When we follow Him, we cannot help but see His mighty hand in every area of our lives.

We too are called to be shepherds, serving others and giving sacrificially for them. God still works through people to take care of the ones He loves, as He did with Moses and Aaron. "You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron." (Ps 77:20) May we also be like David, of whom Scripture says, "With upright heart, he shepherded them and guided them with his skillfull hand. (Ps 78:72) Follow the Good Shepherd and be a good shepherd to those in your care.

Notes

The Resurrection and the Life– John 11



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

DAY 1 JOHN 11:1-16 — The Death of Lazarus

1. Describe Jesus’ relationship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus. vv.1-6
2. Considering all that Martha, Mary and the disciples had experienced with Jesus, what questions might they have had when Jesus stayed where He was for 2 more days after hearing about Lazarus’ illness? vv.5-10
3. Why did the disciples object to Jesus going to Judea? What do you think He meant by His response to them? vv. 7-10

John 8:12; 9:4-5

4. What were the disciples confused about? Why is “sleep” appropriate for describing death? vv.11-16

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

5. What was God’s plan and purpose through this incident with Lazarus? vv.4,11,14-15

LEARN THE TRUTH

When we believe in the power of Jesus we then get to experience it. We know that God can do the impossible, but can also have our own ideas of what, when and how He will do something. This can undermine our faith. Believing in Him means trusting Him to work out the details as He knows best.

DAY 2**JOHN 11:17-27 — Martha and Mary**

6. Why is verse 17 important?
7. How did Martha and Mary each react upon hearing that Jesus was coming? How might their differing personalities have influenced their reactions? vv.18-20

Luke 10:38-42

8. What do Martha's words to Jesus reveal about her frame of mind? vv.21-22
9. How did Jesus comfort Martha, and what important truth did she acknowledge? vv.23-27
10. "Resurrection" means bringing someone who was dead back to life. So why do you think Jesus said He was both the "resurrection" and the "life?"
John 10:10

Colossians 1:15,16

DAY 3**JOHN 11:28-37 — Jesus Wept**

11. What possible reasons might Jesus have had for remaining outside of the village rather than going to Mary? vv.28-31
12. How was Jesus' encounter with Mary similar, yet different, from His encounter with Martha? vv.32-33

13. Why do you think Jesus wept? vv.33-37

Hebrews 2:14-18

14. What did the Jews who were present conclude? vv.36-37

15. Is your personality more like Martha or Mary? Like these sisters, we all express grief differently, but what does it mean to grieve with hope rather than without hope?

Philippians 3:20-21

DAY 4 JOHN 11:38-44 — Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

16. It is clear from Scripture that Martha was a woman of strong faith. At this particular moment in time, how would you describe her faith or mindset? vv.38-40

17. Of what important truth did Jesus remind Martha? v.40

18. What about Jesus' prayer to His Father strikes you as interesting? vv.41-42

19. Think about the way Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Do the particulars of this miracle, and Jesus' words, paint a picture of other spiritual truths? vv.43-44

20. What truths especially stand out to you in this current reading of John 11:1-44?

DAY 5

JOHN 11:45-57 – The Plot to Kill Jesus

21. Once again, what opposite reactions resulted from the resurrection of Lazarus? vv.45-46

22. The council had used violating the Sabbath and committing blasphemy as excuses for persecuting Jesus. What was their current justification for seeking to put Jesus to death? vv.45-48, 53

23. Why were Caiaphas' words particularly significant? vv.49-53

24. Caiaphas, the chief priests and elders all plotted together to arrest and kill Jesus (Matthew 26:3-4), yet God prophesied through Caiaphas about Christ. What does this tell you about God's ways?

25. Raising Lazarus after he had been dead for 4 days was a turning point in the timeline leading up to Jesus' death on the cross. How had day to day life now changed because of this miracle? v.53-57

LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness would not end in death, and was for God's glory so that Jesus would be glorified through it. (v.4) Is there a crisis in your life that seems hopeless? Take your eyes off your crisis and turn them to God. Believe what you know to be true about God and you will see His glory.

John 11

The Resurrection and the Life

Every miracle Jesus performed was life-changing and virtually impossible for anyone but God. But raising Lazarus after he had been dead for 4 days was a whole new level of the miraculous. God brings life out of death and this miracle is only a hint of what is yet to come through Christ in the future.

Martha, Mary and Lazarus knew Jesus very well. They loved Him and believed in Him. His followers called Him, "Rabbi," meaning "teacher," and yet He allowed women to sit at His feet and learn from His teaching, something no other Rabbi would have done. Because of their deep friendship with Jesus we cannot help but see the irony in the way this miracle unfolded. "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was." (vv.5,6) This implies that Jesus remained where He was **because** He loved them, not **in spite of** His love for them. Something much bigger than their extreme grief was happening which would impact not only Martha, Mary and Lazarus, but the disciples, mourners, the Jewish council and Jesus Himself. When walking with God, there is always more happening than meets the eye!

Everyone had expectations about what Jesus would do when He got the news that Lazarus was ill, so their faith was threatened when he died before Jesus got to him. Our greatest disappointments most often result from unmet expectations. We know what God is capable of through Scripture, but we cannot know exactly what He is doing presently unless He reveals it to us, and He often does not. When we decide what God should do for us, we end up discouraged. Our job is to trust Him, and when we do, we gain peace, we end up amazed at His power and goodness, and we grow in our faith.

Jesus relates to each of us according to our need as He did with Martha and Mary. In her grief, each one said to Him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother

would not have died." (vv.21;32) Martha went straight to meet Him in her pain and He spoke life to her. He waited outside the city for Mary and wept with her. Jesus waits for us and weeps with us too.

Raising Lazarus from the dead was a turning point for Jesus as the bad shepherds of Israel set out to kill Him. They had first accused Jesus of healing on the Sabbath, then of falsely claiming to be God, but and now claimed He would turn Rome against the Jews resulting in Israel losing their place and nation. The religious leaders did not believe, so they could not possibly see the glory of God. (v.40)

WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life! By Him all things were created, including each one of us. He brings life out of the pain and death we face in this fallen world. It can be hard to understand why God allows or does not prevent tragedy when we know that "with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) When God delays or says, "no" it is because He has something better. "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9) Our faith should be like that of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who said, "our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." (Daniel 3:17-18) We can wholeheartedly live with the expectation that God will raise us from the dead, first when we believe in Jesus and then for all eternity when Jesus returns.



INTRUTH John

Notes

The Beginning of the Last Week – John 12



MEMORY VERSE: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” John 12:24-25

DAY 1 JOHN 12:1-11 — Mary Anoints Jesus

1. How did Martha, Lazarus and Mary each honor Jesus in Bethany?
vv.1-3
2. Why did Judas’ object to Mary’s actions? What was his true motive? vv.4-

John 6:70-71

3. Each gospel has an account of Jesus being anointed by a woman. What was the true significance of these anointings? vv.7-8

Mark 14:1-9 or Matthew 26:6-13 (they are quite similar)

Luke 7:36-50

4. Why do you think it is easy to criticize one who behaves as Mary did, yet approve of one who is false like Judas? What causes one to be like Mary rather than Judas?
5. How did Jesus’ raising Lazarus from the dead affect the crowd and the chief priests? vv.9-11

LEARN THE TRUTH

At this point in John’s Gospel, the cross is now only a week away and the reality of what lies ahead is heavy on the Lord Jesus’ heart. He was born to die and until that time He lives to love and prepare His followers for the difficult time they will face. His focus is on their belief and God’s glory.

DAY 2**JOHN 12:12-26 — The Triumphal Entry**

6. What happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem? vv.12-15

7. Why are the donkey and the palm branches so important in both this event and God's bigger picture?
Zechariah 9:9-10

Leviticus 23:39-43

Revelation 7:9-17

8. What were the different reactions of the people gathered at this time and what might their reactions indicate about their hearts or expectations of Jesus?
Disciples v.16

The Crowd vv.17-18

The Pharisees v.19

Some Greeks vv.20-22

9. What were the main points of Jesus' answer to Andrew, Philip and the Greeks?

10. What great promise did Jesus give to those who were willing to serve Him? How does this apply to your life?

DAY 3**JOHN 12:27-36 — The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up**

11. What stands out to you about Jesus' prayer to His Father? vv.27-28

12. How did God respond to Jesus' prayer, and what did the crowd experience? vv.28-30

13. What seems to be the main point of all of this? vv.31-33

14. What did the crowd know, and yet what were they confused about? vv.33-34

Isaiah 9:6-7

Daniel 7:13-14

15. How does Jesus' answer in response to their confusion (vv.33-34) apply to both the people who originally heard Him and also to us? vv.35-36

DAY 4 JOHN 12:36-43 — Belief vs Blindness

16. Why do you think many refuse to believe in Jesus, in spite of what is plain for all to see? vv.36-41

17. John quoted the prophet Isaiah in verses 38-40. How does Romans 1:18-23 clarify why people fail to believe?

18. How are we able to move from spiritual blindness and hard hearts to belief and trust in God?
Psalm 103:8-12

Psalm 111:10-112:2

Ezekiel 36:26-27

19. Why did many of the authorities who believed in Jesus fail to confess their belief? vv.42-43

20. We have all had moments when we failed to confess our faith out of fear or because we loved the glory that comes from man over the glory that comes from God. How can the 3 Scripture references in question 18 comfort us regarding past failures, and encourage us to speak up in the future?

DAY 5

JOHN 12:44-50 – Light of the World

21. What is true for the person who believes in Jesus and sees Him for who He is? vv.44-45

22. How and why did Jesus come into the world? v.46

23. Why does Jesus not judge those who hear His words but do not keep them? vv.47-48

John 3:16-18

24. What insight do verses 49-50 give you about Jesus' relationship with His Father?

25. Looking back over just this one chapter (12), how would you describe Jesus? i.e. Prophet, Friend...

LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus came to die for our sins so that we might have life. He explained that we too must die in order to bear fruit. Think about your own life. Is there any part of you that needs to die in order for you to truly live? Can you share a personal experience of dying to self and the life that resulted from this?

John 12

The Beginning of the Last Week

The first 11 chapters of John covered events from the beginning of creation, to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry through the culmination of His public ministry. The remaining 10 chapters all record events of the last week leading up to Christ's crucifixion on Passover. As He neared the cross, He spent time with His dedicated followers and disciples. Chapter 12 begins just six days before the Passover. Christ's public ministry is said to have lasted for about 3 years according to the record of the Passover feasts. The first was in the beginning of His ministry, there were two in the middle, and Jesus was crucified on the 4th Passover. (John 2:13; 5:1;6:4; 13:1;19:14)

The beauty of having 4 gospels is that they appeal to different audiences and emphasize different attributes of Jesus Christ. In Matthew, Jesus is the descendant of David, the fulfillment of messianic prophecies. In Mark Jesus is the faithful Servant Son of God. Luke depicts Jesus as the perfect man, full of wisdom, worthy to be our Savior. While the synoptic gospels present Jesus as the man who is God, John's emphasis is on the fact that God became man. The Divine became human. Each author wrote from a different perspective, some presented events in the last week before the crucifixion in chronological order, while others did not, but all 4 gospels spend a lot of time on this last week, beginning with the anointing of Jesus by Mary and the Triumphal Entry, known today as Palm Sunday.

All four of the gospels record an event where a woman anointed Jesus while onlookers criticized her actions. While some of the details between the accounts are not clear, what is clear is that Mary, and whoever else anointed Jesus, did so with great humility from a place of gratitude, insight, devotion, love, understanding and personal sacrifice. The act of anointing was all about Jesus- His life, His mission and His upcoming sacrifice. It was completely selfless. In contrast, the criticism

from men was selfish, all about themselves- their righteousness, prejudices, reasoning and judgment. Like Martha, Mary and Lazarus, we each express our love for Jesus differently and we can learn from each of them. We must do everything in humility, with gratitude, being careful not to judge others who celebrate or serve Jesus differently than ourselves. Jesus was heading to His death...and resurrection. He was born to die, and actually, so are we. The only way to bear fruit is to die as does a grain of wheat. "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." (v.25) The only way to truly live is to die to self.

WALK IN TRUTH



When we encounter truth in God's Word, we must believe it, whether we fully understand it or not. One day we will understand all that we don't now, but in the mean time, we must trust and believe because time is short. "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6,7 Many saw all Jesus had done but they would not, and so they could not, believe. God blesses those who believe Him, in spite of their limited understanding. We all have a choice- either to rejoice God's truth, or to harden our hearts and resist Him. When one chooses blindness, God gives them blind eyes and hard hearts, but He always forgives the one who believes and obeys. God honors the one who humbly serves Him, the one who loves the glory that comes from God rather than the glory that comes from man.

Notes

Love and Betrayal – John 13



MEMORY VERSE: If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:14-15

DAY 1 JOHN 13:1-11 — Jesus Washes Feet

1. What knowledge and understanding did Jesus have? vv.1-3,11 and 2:4
2. How did what Jesus **knew** impact what Jesus **did**? vv.1-5
3. How does your knowledge influence the way you treat others?
4. What reactions did Simon Peter have to Jesus washing his feet? Why do you think he reacted as he did? vv.6-10
5. How did Jesus answer Peter and what do you think He meant? vv.7-11

Titus 3:4-7

Proverbs 28:13

DAY 2 JOHN 13:12-20 — Christ's Example of Humble Service

6. What did Jesus want His disciples, and we followers of Him today, to understand? vv.12-15

LEARN THE TRUTH

The Divine became human, and rather than demanding reverence, Jesus knelt down and washed the feet of those He loved so dearly. The unworthy received the most humble act of service from the most worthy Divine Son of God, as He began to prepare them for what was about to happen.

7. Why are verses 15-17 especially important for us to take to heart?

Luke 9:23-25

Romans 12:1-2

8. Why do you think it can be hard for us to humbly serve others? What traits do you see in a person who serves well, and how does that impact you?
9. The fulfillment of Scripture is indeed faith-building! What do the following Scriptures prophecy?
vv.18-19

Genesis 3:14-15 (hint: Jesus will defeat Satan)

Psalms 41:9

Isaiah 53:5-6

10. What point is Jesus making in verse 20? see also 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

DAY 3 JOHN 13:21-30 — Betraying God

11. Jesus was “troubled in His spirit.” List all the things you can think of that would have been troubling at this time. v.21...
12. Why do you think the disciples couldn’t figure out who would betray Jesus? Why might they have failed to suspect Judas?

Matthew 26:20-22

13. What do you conclude about the exchange between Jesus and Judas? vv.26-27

14. What did the disciples think Jesus meant when He said to Judas, “What you are going to do, do quickly?” vv.26-29

15. Why was Satan able to enter into Judas, especially considering all that he had experienced with Jesus during His earthly ministry? vv.27-30

John 6:70-71, 12:5-6; 13:11

James 4:6-8

DAY 4 JOHN 13:31-35 — The Commandment to Love

16. Why was this particular moment a good time for Jesus to talk of glory? v.31

17. What did Jesus say about glory and what do you think He meant? vv.31-32

18. What do you think Jesus meant by His words in verse 33? Where was He going and why could they not come?

19. The disciples could not go where Jesus was about to go, but what could they do instead? v.34

20. Why is the commandment to love at the very heart of our faith? v.35

1 Corinthians 8:1-2

Colossians 3:14

1 Peter 4:8

1 John 4:7-12

DAY 5 JOHN 13:36-38 – A Painful Reality

21. What did Simon Peter want to know? What did Jesus tell him? v.36

22. What claim did Peter make and how did Jesus respond? vv.37-38

23. Why do you think Peter made such a bold claim, only to be told by Jesus that he would deny Christ 3 times before the rooster crowed?

Matthew 26:31-35

24. Peter and all the disciples except John actually did die for their faith. What is the difference between bold claims of faith and genuine faith?

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

25. How have you experienced the difference between boasting in your own strength vs. boasting in the Lord?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Have you ever denied Jesus, or been a bit of a secret Christian? God knew from the beginning that you would fail Him. We humans do that. But He is quick to forgive and ready to strengthen us. When we admit our failings and surrender to God, He gives us strong faith. Boast in the Lord, not in yourself!

John 13

Love and Betrayal

One of the most poignant evenings in history was this Passover meal which is recorded in all four Gospels. (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22) John did not include the institution of the Lord's Supper, (aka. Eucharist or Communion) but the other gospels did. John began this chapter with, "Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." (v.1) Jesus did indeed love His disciples well, especially on this night when He knelt down and washed their feet. It was unheard of for a Rabbi to do this for his students, and even harder to imagine the Son of God doing so. No wonder Peter was reluctant and couldn't understand what Jesus was doing. Because of his reverence for Jesus, Peter viewed this foot-washing as highly inappropriate. But when Jesus said one could have no share with Him if he refused to be washed by Him, Peter leapt to the other extreme and wanted Jesus to wash his hands and head too. We must appreciate Peter's devotion as it came from a sincere, though confused, place. The truth is that one is initially bathed in Christ by repenting of sin and being completely cleansed one time for eternal life, as is symbolized in baptism. Because we still sin, we must confess our sins as they occur, not to insure our salvation, but to stay in close communion with God. Part of how Jesus loved His own was to set this example of humble service and we are blessed if we serve others with the same humble love.

It is difficult to imagine how Judas could walk with Jesus and then so blatantly betray Him. Judas simply did not believe in Jesus, in spite of all he had seen and experienced with Him. Jesus washed Judas' feet, yet Judas did not know Him. Jesus said Peter and the other disciples were "clean" (saved), yet one was not (Judas). The disciples did not seem to grasp the exchange between Jesus and Judas, but when Jesus dipped the bread and Judas accepted it, it was as if the deal was sealed. Judas gave the devil a foothold

by not caring for the poor and helping himself to the ministry money, but he fully opened the door when he took the bread. Jesus quoted Psalm 41:9 which David wrote when he was betrayed by his trusted friend and counselor, Ahithophel, who joined David's son Absalom's rebellion. Sadly, both Ahithophel and Judas committed suicide because of their guilt and betrayal. (2 Samuel 17:23; Matthew 27:3-10) We all deserve death because of our sin (Romans 6:23), but suicide is never the answer because it cannot make up for sin. Repentance is the answer and Jesus is ready to forgive us as He proved when He died on the cross to atone for our sins.

WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus showed us how to love, and the hour has come for us to follow His example. Jesus reconciled us to God on the cross and He has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18) The most effective way for us to carry on Christ's ministry is through love. When we love one another, people see Christ by the love they see in us. But our confidence must be in the Lord alone. It is easy to think highly of ourselves, and our "strong" faith and good works. Peter sincerely loved Jesus, and meant well in claiming he would lay down his life for Jesus, but he did not recognize his own immaturity and weakness. Nor did the other disciples who had a lively discussion about who was the greatest among them while their Lord was preparing to die on the cross for them. (Luke 22:24-30) Peter needed to rely on God's strength and so do we. When we admit our weaknesses and trust in Him, He will be our strength. God said told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Notes

The Way, the Truth and the Life – John 14



MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

DAY 1 JOHN 14:1-7 — The Way, Truth, and Life

1. Why would the disciple’s hearts have been troubled? vv.1; 13:21,33,38

2. What solution did He offer their troubled hearts? vv.1-4

3. What is your impression of Thomas from verse five?

4. What have you found to be helpful to you when you are troubled, or have questions or doubts?

5. How did Jesus respond to Thomas? What does His answer mean to you? vv.6-8

LEARN THE TRUTH

As Jesus nears the cross, His main concern is that His disciples are prepared and have peace. He pours truth and promises into them so they can not only believe, but be strong in their faith. He is the only way to the Father, and He promises the Holy Spirit will help them in their faith and ministry.

DAY 2 JOHN 14:8-11 — The Father and Son

6. What did Philip request of Jesus? What does this reveal about his faith or current state of mind? v.8

7. What truths did Jesus' proclaim in His response to Philip? vv.9-11
8. Jesus said, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip?" v.8b Can you relate to Philip's lapse of faith in any way? See John 1:43-46 for more insight.
9. The word, "know" is used 141 times in John's gospel. What do you think the difference is between "knowing" and "believing, and where do you think "faith" fits into this?
10. What added proof of Jesus' deity is offered to one who has doubts? v.11

DAY 3 JOHN 14:12-14 —Greater Works

11. What amazing truth did Jesus state? v.12
12. Why do you think Jesus' "going to the Father" makes it possible for believers to do the same works as Jesus, and even greater works? v.12, see also 14:16
13. We know that no servant is greater than his master, nor messenger greater than the one who sent him (13:16). What works then could ever be the same or greater than those of Jesus?

Mark 16:15-20

Acts 5:12-16

14. What guideline did Jesus give His disciples for those greater works? vv.13-14

15. How can we know if what we are asking for in prayer is actually “in Jesus Name?”

John 3:16-17

Romans 12:1-2

1 John 5:14-15

DAY 4 JOHN 14:15-24 — The Promised Holy Spirit

16. What is the evidence of our love for Jesus? Why do you think this is valid proof of love? v.15

17. What will Jesus do on behalf of His followers? Why will it benefit them, but not others? vv.16-17

18. Think about what it means to be an orphan. What promises does Jesus make to His followers so they will know they are not orphans? vv.18-20

19. How are Christ’s followers living proof that they are God’s children and not orphans? v.21

20. Contrast the life of an orphan with the relationship between God and His children. vv.22-24

DAY 5 JOHN 14:25-31 – The Helper

21. What did Jesus promise His disciples? Where do you think we fit into this promise? vv.25-27

22. How is the peace Jesus gives us different from what the world has to offer? v.27

23. It makes human sense for the disciples to grieve and be troubled knowing that Jesus was going to leave them, but why should they rejoice instead? vv.28-29

Hebrews 7:22-25

24. What is about to happen, and what will be the result of that ordeal? vv.30-31

25. Think about times in your life when you were, or are now, troubled. What is God's message to you in the midst of your ordeal?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Is your heart troubled? Do you have peace in the midst of turmoil? Because Jesus lives, we can live. "The last enemy to be destroyed is death," and Christ destroyed death! The ruler of this world had no claim on Jesus and he has no claim on us when we put our faith in Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:26)

John 14

The Way, the Truth and the Life

God's love and provision is limitless. It is hard to fully grasp Christ's infinite love for us, yet we must spend our lives doing just that. At this point in John's gospel, Jesus is just a few days away from the horror of the cross and yet His concern is for His followers. They do not understand where He is going, nor the way to go where He is going. They do not understand that they have seen the Father because they know the Son. They don't see why Jesus manifests Himself to those who love Him, but not to the world that does not love Him. They cannot see that they will actually be better off when Jesus leaves them because the Holy Spirit will come to live permanently in their hearts. In the midst of their confusion, Jesus wants them to have peace. None of us have perfect understanding, but we can have peace. True peace is resting in the work of Jesus Christ. We are forgiven from the past and have hope for the future and this can only come through Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

In order to experience the fulness of life in Christ, we must know truth and believe the truth we know. Our knowledge might be limited, but that doesn't change what is true. It is quite possible to believe lies, but that doesn't make them true. The more we know about God and His ways, the more we believe. It is also quite possible to have an abundance of knowledge but fail to actually believe what we know is true. Knowledge and belief must go hand in hand. Faith is believing in the One we know and what He says, even when we don't fully understand. Jesus promises that if we believe in Him, we will do greater works than He. How can this be? Jesus was limited by His humanity. He could only be in one place at a time and had contact with a small group of people. Today He changes the world through those who know Him. All things are possible with God. He can do anything, yet it is truly incredible that He does great things through confused and sinful humans. Because He went to the Father, He not only sent the Holy Spirit to help us, but He is interceding for us as we serve Him here on earth. (Hebrews 7:25)

Jesus said, "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." (v.14) The third commandment states, "You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain, for the Lord shall not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (Deuteronomy 5:11) When we choose to follow Christ, we essentially take His name and are united with Him. We must not take His name in vain by our prayers or lifestyles. We honor His name by praying according to His word, seeking His will, desiring for God to be glorified rather than ourselves, and asking Him to meet people's eternal needs.

WALK IN TRUTH



Sometimes we feel like orphans, abandoned, alone and confused. The truth is, because Christ lives, we live. We are not only not alone, but we are loved and cherished by God. He does not hold our doubts and inclination to sin against us. When we believe in Him, He actually makes His home in us. The Holy Spirit resides in the one who loves God, and the one who loves God keeps His word and obeys His commandments. Are you confused, discouraged, feeling alone or afraid? Ask God if there is something in your life that needs to change. He will show you so you can better experience His power. God is with us and we must rely on Him for help. The ruler of the world is indeed active today, but he has no claim on Jesus, nor on the Father, nor on His Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches us, gives us understanding, and helps us remember the truths and promises God has given. The world cannot give us the peace we long for and need, but true peace is ours when we walk in love, obedience and forgiveness and lean on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Notes

The True Vine – John 15



MEMORY VERSE: I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
John 15:5

DAY 1 JOHN 15:1-5 —The Vineyard

1. Who is represented in the analogy of the vineyard and what is their role?
True Vine-

Vinedresser-

Branches-

2. The Father “takes away” (ESV) or “cuts off” (NIV) every branch that does not bear fruit. Look up the various meanings of the Greek word, “airo” on the internet, and try to explain what verse 2a means and does not mean.

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus’ seventh and final I AM statement in the Gospel of John is “I am the true vine.” Extremely difficult times awaited the disciples of Christ, and the key to thriving during those times is abiding in the vine. The word “abide” is used 11 times in 11 verses. The only way to bear fruit is to abide in Christ.

3. How does 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 apply to the one who is in Christ but does not bear fruit?
4. How do you think God prunes us? Why would He prune those who are already bearing fruit?
5. What does it mean to “abide” in Christ? Why is this of the utmost importance? vv.3-5

DAY 2 JOHN 15:6-11 — The Power of Abiding in Christ

6. What is the fate of a person who does not abide in Christ? v.6

Matthew 7:21-23

7. What other merits, instructions and results did Jesus offer those who abide in Him? vv.7-8

8. How would you describe the heart of an abiding relationship with Jesus? vv.9-11

9. What truths in verses 1-11 are convicting or challenging to you?

10. What truths in verses 1-11 are especially encouraging or motivating?

DAY 3 JOHN 15:12-17 — The Greatest Love

11. What commandment did Jesus give His followers? v.12

12. What is the greatest expression of love? What do you think that looks like in our lives? v.13

13. When we are in Christ, we live to serve Him. But Jesus calls His disciples “friends.” What is the difference between being His servant and being His friend? vv.14-15

14. What unique connection, purpose and privilege do believers have in Christ? v16.

15. Why would obeying God's commands result in loving one another? v.17

DAY 4 JOHN 15:18-25 — The Hatred of the World

16. What did Jesus say about the world and its treatment of His disciples? vv.18-21

17. What encouragement do the following Scriptures offer believers facing hostility for their faith?
1 Peter 4:14 and 19

1 John 4:1-6

18. What did Jesus say about the relationship between knowledge and responsibility? vv.22-25

Luke 12:47-48

Romans 1:18-20

19. What progression happens in the lives of those who perceive who God is, yet hate Him?
Romans 1:21-32

20. Why do you think people can see the works of God but still hate Jesus and His Father?

21. What provision did Jesus make for His disciples?

22. How does the Spirit of truth bear witness about Jesus?

1 Thessalonians 1:4-8

Jeremiah 23:29

23. How are Christ's disciples also able to bear witness about Jesus? v.27

Acts 1:8

2 Corinthians 3:3-6

24. What connection do you see between “abiding” in Christ and bearing witness for Christ?

25. How have you personally experienced the power of the Holy Spirit through abiding in Christ?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus is the True Vine-the source of life, power, peace, fruitfulness and joy, and He calls us “friends.” He is the perfect friend we all want and need. If you are not experiencing His power in your life, abide in Him! Allow God to prune away anything that needs to go so that you can bear MUCH fruit.

John 15

The True Vine

God said His name is “I AM WHO I AM,” because of His eternal nature, dominion and power. (Exodus 3:14) Jesus made seven I am statements in the gospel of John, each claiming deity with God- the “Bread of Life,” the “Light of the World,” the “Door,” the “Good Shepherd,” the “Resurrection and the Life,” and the “Way the Truth and the Life.” During the last few days before His crucifixion, He said, “I am the True Vine.” (ch.6,8,9,10,11,14,15) Each statement highlights an aspect of God’s divine nature, but this final claim is particularly powerful in our daily walk with God.

Jesus is the True Vine, the source of everything, and we are the branches. This analogy would have been understood by people before and during the time of Christ, as God referred to Israel as a vineyard. (Isaiah 5:4,7) God the Father is the Vinedresser who tends the grapevines, pruning and cultivating them in order to produce the highest quantity and quality of grapes. Many Bible translations say the Father “cuts away,” or “takes away” branches that do not bear any fruit, which could sound as if the one who does not bear fruit is not saved by the blood of Christ. Because the Scripture says “Every branch ‘in Me’ that does not bear fruit...” implies that that branch is indeed in Christ. The Greek word used is “airo,” and it has several definitions, all of which could apply. “Airo” can be translated, “to raise to a higher place or position, lift up, take up, pick up, take away, carry off, to take and apply to any use, to take from among the living by natural death or violence, to cause to cease.” In a vineyard, new branches tend to sink to the ground where they are covered in mud and get no sunlight, making it impossible to bear fruit. In order to facilitate growth, the vinedresser washes them off and lifts them up, tying them to the top of the trellis. What keeps a Christian from bearing fruit? Whether it is immaturity or sin, God will deal with it because our purpose is to bear fruit. We cannot manufacture fruit. We can only bear it, thus we must abide in the vine.

When we abide in Him and bear fruit, God will then prune us so that we can bear much fruit and have great joy because our lives are eternally productive. God prunes, not to punish, but to perfect us.

The key to an effective and fruit-bearing life is in abiding in Christ, remaining with Him, soaking up His character and power. He can do anything in and through us when we abide in Him because we are in on His plan. The world will see that we love one another, laying down our lives or living sacrificially for those He puts in our path. Sacrificial love cannot be overlooked by a world that is in need of a Savior.

WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus warned His disciples that they would be hated by the world as He is hated by the world. Because the world does not know Jesus it cannot understand true love and the need for salvation. The world hates light and revels in sin. They will die in of their unbelief. But God sent a “Helper,” the Holy Spirit, to His branches so we could bear witness to Him. We are not perfect. We sin, fail to grasp important truths, question His provision, doubt our own fruit-bearingness, and are dismayed by the way the world hates us on account of Jesus. But by abiding in Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit is like the sap flowing from the vine to the branches. It changes everything. Not only does the Helper cause us to remember, apply, live, and walk in truth, but we “worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.” (Philippians 3:3) We must not and cannot depend on our own flesh, but rather abide in the One who loves, empowers and makes our joy full so we can bear MUCH Fruit.

Notes

The Spirit of Truth – John 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

DAY 1 JOHN 16:1-6 — Heads Up, Be Prepared

1. After all that Jesus told His disciples during their past few days together, what did He then imply about them? v.1
2. To what lengths would the world go in persecuting His followers? v.2
3. Why is the world so depraved? v.3 How should knowing this affect your perspective on worldly people?
4. Why did Jesus wait until a few days before the cross to tell His disciples what was going to happen? vv.4-6
5. Look at verses 16:5 and 14:5. What do you think Jesus was trying to get the disciples to do?

Matthew 7:7-11

James 1:5-6

DAY 2 JOHN 16:7-15 — The Work of the Holy Spirit

6. How did Jesus comfort the disciples in their sorrow at hearing He was leaving? v.7

LEARN THE TRUTH

It doesn't take too long to realize that, alongside the beauty of this earth, there is much pain and suffering, too big for us to handle on our own. But Jesus promised that in the midst of tribulation we who are in Him can have peace because He has overcome the world. May this truth become a reality in your life!

7. Jesus told the disciples that after He departs, the Helper would come to them. Describe the 3 truths the Helper would convict, or convince, the world about through the witness of believers. vv.8-11

8. How do the following verses expand on the truths in verses 8-11?
2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Romans 3:21-26

Revelation 20:10 and 15

9. Why do you think the disciples could “not bear to hear” the additional things Jesus had to say to them?

10. What did Jesus say the Spirit of Truth (the Helper) would do for Christ’s followers?

DAY 3 JOHN 16:16-22 — From Sorrow to Joy

11. What did Jesus say would happen (in? or for?) “a little while?” What time do you think this refers to?
vv.16-17

12. What was happening among the disciples after Jesus talked about “a little while?” Why do you think they didn’t just ask Him what He meant? vv.17-19

13. What did Jesus say would happen, “a little while?” vv.19-20

14. Why is labor and childbirth a good metaphor for the suffering and joy of “a little while?” vv.21-22

15. How do you think Jesus’ explanation about suffering and rejoicing, should affect us?

DAY 4 JOHN 16:22-28 — Joy and Prayer

16. Jesus spoke of changes to expect in the coming days or times. What do you think He meant in each of the following verses?

v.22

v.23

v.24

17. What is the definition of a “figure of speech?” Why do you suppose Jesus spoke this way?” v.25

18. What other “figures of speech” can you think of that Jesus used throughout this gospel?

19. How did Jesus say prayer would soon change? Why would it change? vv.26-28

Romans 8:34

Hebrews 7:22-28

20. What is the big picture of Jesus' life? v.28, John 1:1

Hebrews 4:14-16

DAY 5 JOHN 16:29-33 – Peace in Tribulation

21. What is your impression of the disciples' by their response to Jesus' words in verse 28?
vv.29-30

22. What was true about the disciples in spite of their belief in Jesus? vv.31-32

23. Jesus chose 12 men to be His disciples and walked with them for 3 years, knowing that they would betray or abandon Him. How can we avoid falling away or running away during tribulation, and what should we do if, or when, we do?

24. What in this chapter offers you peace in the midst of tribulation? What does verse 33 mean to you?

25. What is true about each one of us that Jesus has chosen? 1 Corinthians 1:27-31

LOVE THE TRUTH

The disciples faced a extreme tribulation ahead, and they failed in their own strength. We too fail in our own strength. Our true strength and power is in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Nothing else. Admit you are weak! Then ask the Lord for strength and you will be amazed at what He does through you.

John 16

The Spirit of Truth

Persecution of God's people has been around since the days of Abraham. Even the most faithful follower of Christ can fall away when facing persecution for their faith, but Jesus provides what we need to stand strong. He warned us that the world hated Him and so it will hate us too. Enemies of Christ would go so far as killing Christians, thinking they are doing a service to God. Saul (Paul) did this very thing, approving of executing Christians and ravaging the church until he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. (Acts 8-9) People who don't know God will justify any form of evil, so it helps to know what to expect and remember what Jesus has said. He promised that the Helper, or Holy Spirit, would come and not only guide believers into all truth, but He would convict the world about the sin of unbelief in Jesus. He would bear witness through the church not only that Jesus is perfectly righteous, but that we sinners can only be righteous through Him. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1) Satan has lost the battle and will be thrown into the lake of fire. God wins and because He wins, we win if we are in Jesus Christ!

The disciples were distraught at the thought of Jesus leaving. They had questions that they might have been afraid to ask Jesus, perhaps thinking they should know better. They were not in a frame of mind to bear or understand certain truths, but Jesus assured them that they would remember later what He had said and then events would then make sense. The Bible is full of "figures of speech," which serve, not to confuse, but to clarify and illustrate truths. Jesus used the example of childbirth to help them understand that their sorrow would last for a limited time but it would be transformed into joy! The excruciating pain of childbirth results in a whole new person coming into the world. That pain brings great joy! One day the difficulties of life, the questions, confusion and hatred will be but a drop in the bucket compared with the joy of spending eternity with Jesus. Life will make sense! "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts

in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." (C.S.Lewis) Do you hear His whispers in good times? Does your conscience hear His voice as you read the Bible and listen to the Holy Spirit? Is God shouting to or through you in pain? The world desperately needs to know Jesus and times of pain and persecution are actually prime opportunities to bear witness to Christ. "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

WALK IN TRUTH



Imagine having a front row seat in the life of Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry! How could one experience this and not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah?! The disciples declared their belief, confirmed that Jesus knew all things and that He came from God, and yet Jesus said that they would soon abandon Him. Even as He told them this sad truth about themselves, He comforted them, "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." (v.33) He warned them that they would flake out, but in the same breath told them to have peace and take heart. After Christ's death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit did indeed transform their sorrow to joy and their weakness to strength. They "rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus, and every day they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. (Acts 5:41-42) He does the same with any of us who believe and abide in Him.

Notes

Prayer and Betrayal – John 17:1–18:11



MEMORY VERSE: “And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” John 17:3

DAY 1 JOHN 17 Overview— High Priestly Prayer

1. Who did Jesus first pray for and what was His main desire? vv.1-5
2. Who did He next pray for and what did He want for them? vv.6-19
 - v.13
 - v.15
 - v.17
3. Who else did Jesus pray for and what was His desire for them? vv.20-26
 - vv.21-23
 - v.24
 - v.26
4. Why do you think Jesus prayed to His Father within the hearing of His disciples? see also 16:33
5. What words or themes did Jesus repeat throughout this prayer?

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus routinely went off by to pray by Himself, but we now get to listen in as the Son of God prays to His Father on behalf of His faithful followers. May God give you insight into this prayer- to Christ's love for God, His desire for us, and to help us know how to pray for those we love, all to God's glory.

DAY 2 JOHN 17:1-5 — Jesus Prays for Himself

6. What various references to time did Jesus make in His prayer to His Father? vv.1-5

7. What does it mean to “glorify” someone? What do you think it looks like for God to glorify Jesus?
8. What reasons did Jesus give for praying that God glorify Him? vv.1-3
9. How had Jesus glorified God on earth? What effect on mankind do you see in this? vv.4-5
10. The “hour” that has come refers to Jesus’ crucifixion. How can “glory” apply to such a horrific event?

John 7:38-39

John 12:23-25

John 14:1-4

DAY 3 JOHN 17:6-19 — Jesus Prays for the Disciples

11. What happened between God, Jesus and his disciples during Christ’s earthly ministry? vv.6-10
12. How was life about to change for the disciples? What would the disciples need to face those changes?
vv.11-14
13. Rather than asking God to take His followers out of the world, what did He ask instead? vv.14-17
14. What was God’s plan for those who loved Jesus but were left here after His death? vv.18-19

15. What do you think it means to be “sanctified in truth?” How does this happen? vv.17-19

Acts 26:18

Romans 15:16

1 Corinthians 6:11

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Hebrews 10:10

Hebrews 13:12

DAY 4 JOHN 17:20-26 — Jesus Prays for All Believers

16. Who do you think is included in this part of Jesus’ prayer? v.20

17. What does this group of believers need, and why is this of vital importance? v.21

18. How is it possible for this group of people to impact the world they live in? vv.22-23

19. What does the future hold for these people? vv.24-26

20. What is key for followers of Christ make the name of Christ known to others.? v. 26

DAY 5 JOHN 18:1-11 – Betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane

21. The Garden of Gethsemane is on the Mount of Olives in the Kidron Valley. Why do you think Jesus went to this particular place at this particular time? vv.1-4a

22. What additional details are included in the other Gospels about the night before Jesus' arrest?
Matt 26:36-46

Mark 14:32-42

Luke 22:39-46

23. What important details did John include in his account of Judas' betrayal of Jesus? vv.3-11
vv.4-6

vv.7-9

vv.10-11

24. Do any of the details from the other gospel accounts of this time seem especially important to you?
Matt.26:47-56

Mark 14:43-50

Luke 22:47-53

25. What new insights, understanding or convictions have you gained from the Scripture in this lesson?

LOVE THE TRUTH

During this most difficult time in Jesus' life, He prayed. He poured out His heart to His Father, asking that His followers would be united, protected, joyful and sanctified, able to bring others to salvation. Upon His arrest, He then made sure His disciples scattered to safety. What a mighty God we serve!

John 17:1-18:11

Prayer and Betrayal

Imagine the heaviness of Jesus' heart during these last hours before His crucifixion. It is difficult to comprehend that Jesus gave up the glory He had known with God before the world even existed in order that we might be saved. When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus willingly accepted limitations humans face every day. One of those limitations is the concept of time. God is not bound by time because, "with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." And yet Jesus was bound by time and faithfully lived on a divine timeline on earth. Throughout John's gospel, He repeatedly made references to time. At the wedding of Cana, He said, "My hour has not yet come." Upon cleansing the temple, He said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He told the woman at the well, "The hour is coming and is now here when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth." He told His disciples to "lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest." The official's son was healed at the exact hour that Jesus said, "Go; your son will live." Another man had been an invalid for 38 years, yet Jesus healed him instantly. Jesus told his brothers, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here." God mixes eternity with every day minutes, the long term with the short term. But now His time has come. (2:4,18-22;4:23,35,50;5:8;7:6)

Jesus began this high priestly prayer saying, "Father, the hour has come." Everything that had happened not only over the past 3 years, but since the beginning of time, was leading up to the cross. He had been faithful to God, and done as His Father willed. He was able to go forward to the cross because He loved His Father and all mankind. He knew He would again be glorified for all eternity through His death and resurrection. He also knew His disciples would soon have to carry on in the world without Jesus' physical presence. They would face terrible tribulation (16:33), so He prayed to His Father so that they could hear His heart for them.

Jesus was betrayed by Judas, who had walked with Him and seen His power yet it did not penetrate his heart. When Jesus said, "I am He," the soldiers fell to the ground, and even that didn't penetrate their hearts. In the midst of this awful scene, Jesus made sure his disciples got away safely, including Peter who pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the soldier Malchus, which Jesus immediately healed. Peter had once before insisted that Jesus would not die, and Jesus answered, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." (Matthew 16:23) Jesus was utterly determined to go to the cross because of His love for us!

WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus prayed for all of His followers, not that God would take them out of the world, but that He would keep them from the evil one. He prayed that we would be "one," as Jesus is one with God. Jesus manifested God's name to those God gave Him "out of the world," and He has sent us into the world to make His name known to others. What does it mean to be "in" the world, but not "of" it? How is it possible for us to make His name known? Throughout His prayer, Jesus repeated the words, "in truth." We know "in truth" that Jesus came from God, we are "sanctified in truth" and His "Word is truth." The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1,14) and is in us when we believe in Him. When we pray to our Father in truth, we experience joy in the Lord, power against temptation, unity among believers, and are able to effectively manifest God to the world. Jesus willingly drank the cup God had for Him because He loved us. Our cup is that of the new covenant in His blood in remembrance of Him. (1 Cor 11:25)

Notes

Arrest, Denial and Trial – John 18:12–19:16



MEMORY VERSE: “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” John 18:36

DAY 1 JOHN 18:12-18 — Arrest and Peter’s 1st Denial

1. What details stand out to you about Jesus’ arrest? vv.12-14 (and v.6)
2. Since Caiaphas was the high priest that year, what reason might the soldiers have had for taking Jesus to the previous high priest, Annas, who was also Caiaphas’ father in law?
3. The disciple “known to the high priest” was most likely John (or possibly Joseph of Arimathea or Nicodemus). Why might that disciple have been comfortable in the high priest’s courtyard while Peter clearly was not?
4. What thoughts could have led Peter to lie to the servant girl about being a disciple of Jesus?
5. We have all denied Jesus in some way- failing to speak up about our devotion to Christ, or living in a way that denies our faith in Him. What do you think is at the root of our denials?

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus was treated more unfairly than any human ever has been or will be in the future. He had the power to stop His arrest and the illegal trials before Him, yet He willingly surrendered to arrest, denial, false accusations, beatings hatred and mockery... in order to pay for our sins on the cross.

DAY 2 JOHN 18:19-24 — The Jewish Trial

6. Caiaphas questioned Jesus about his disciples and his Teaching. What points did Jesus make to the high priest in His answer? vv.20-21

7. What true motives of the soldiers, and of the Jews, are evident in this illegal Jewish trial? vv.19-24

Matthew 26:59-61

8. Why did their false testimony and abusive tactics fail? Mark 14:55-61
9. What “proof of blasphemy” did the Jewish council finally get from Jesus? Mark 14:61-65
10. How might the Jews have justified their abusive treatment of Jesus? Do you see this same behavior and justification today?

John 16:2-3

DAY 3 JOHN 18:25-27 — Peter’s 2nd and 3rd Denials

11. What observations or questions do you have in John’s short account of Peter’s 2nd and 3rd denials?
12. Jesus had provided an escape for His disciples when He was arrested in the garden (18:8,9) which is why they “all left Him and fled” (Mark 14:50). Look at the other gospel accounts note the progression of Simon Peter’s **physical movements** leading up to his denials of Christ.
Mark 14:54

Luke 22:54-55

13. Now note the progression of Simon Peter’s **words** in his denials of Jesus from Matthew’s account.
Matthew 26:69-75

14. How do you see God's individual plan for Peter unfolding in the midst of His greater plan to bring salvation to the world? Luke 22:60-62
15. What insight does this give you about how to apply Gods promises, prophecies and admonitions to your own life, especially if you recognize that you have denied Him in some way?

Psalm 145:8-9

Proverbs 13:20

Isaiah 55:8-11

Philippians 1:6

DAY 4 JOHN 18:28-38 — Jesus Before Pilate

16. Who are "they" who led Jesus from the Jewish trial before Caiaphas to the Roman trial before Pilate, and why would "they" not enter the governor's headquarters? John 18:12 and 28-29
17. Can you think of any examples of similar religious hypocrisy today?
18. Why did the Jewish leaders need Pilate to deal with this situation with Jesus? vv.29-31
19. In contrast to death by stoning in the Jewish culture, how did the Jewish and Roman trials fulfill the prophesy about the kind of death Jesus would face? vv.31-32

John 12:32-34

20. What hope, or possibility, do you see in the exchange between Pilate and Jesus? vv.18:33-38

DAY 5 JOHN 18:38-19:16 – Jesus Delivered to Be Crucified

21. Why did Pilate not want to put Jesus to death? What alternative did he offer? vv.18:38-19:8

Matthew 27:15-23

Luke 23:21-22

22. Pilate again tried to reason with Jesus. What was wrong with Pilate's reasoning? vv.19:9-11

23. During the Roman trial, Jesus also went before Herod. How did these events with Jesus affect the relationship between Herod and Pilate? Luke 23:12-16

24. To what extreme lengths did the Jews go in their hatred of Jesus? vv.18:39-40; 19:12-16

Matthew 27:24-25

Luke 23:23-25

25. What truths or principles do you hope to apply to your life from the trials and denials of Jesus?

LOVE THE TRUTH

It's hard to imagine why anyone would reject the love, protection, sacrifice and security Jesus offers through His death and resurrection. Think about how you can more deeply appreciate and follow Jesus Christ, the only Door to salvation and the Good Shepherd who gives abundant life.

John 18:12–19:16

Arrest, Denial and Trial

The High Priest in the Old Testament was appointed by God to be the intermediary between God and the people. He offered gifts and sacrifices for sin to God on behalf of the people, handled finances, administration, collected taxes and was the political leader of nation. The High Priest was intended to hold his position for life, and the role was passed from father to son in line of Levi. Aaron was the first high priest mentioned in the Bible. Over time the system became corrupt. There were self appointed priests, bad shepherds. "The Shepherds are stupid and do not inquire of the Lord, therefore they have not prospered, and their flock has scattered." (Jeremiah 10:21) Ezekiel 34 describes their greed and carelessness. They fed themselves rather than their sheep, led harshly and injured rather than helped the sheep. They failed to protect them so the sheep became prey. It then goes on to present a picture of the Messiah, the Good Shepherd and High Priest for all time, who seeks out His sheep, rescues them, feeds them in good pasture. He seeks the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak, and feeds them justice. Years later, Annas was the High Priest but had been deposed by the Romans. He still held some power over his son in law, Caiaphas. Jesus said, "this is your hour, and the power of darkness." (Luke 22:53) Because of His astounding love, Christ surrendered temporarily to the evil powers of the various crooked authorities.

We know that Peter truly loved God, but he tripped all over himself goofing things up and then he denied Jesus. Yet, when Jesus had previously asked, "Who do you say that I am," Peter had replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on

earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt. 16:15-19) Yet Peter had to be broken in order to grow, as do we all. We might deny Christ in some way on one day, but when we run to Him in our sorrow, He is ready to forgive and empower us to be what He has always intended for us to be- a witness for Him. Jesus was in the middle of unjust trials and false accusations, and yet He looked at Peter in love, after having warned him that he was about to deny Him 3 times. May we each feel such compassion and forgiveness from God when we fail, and may we go on to witness for Him to this needy world.

WALK IN TRUTH



Beware of the mob mentality. It is easy to get caught up in the foolishness and emotion of a crowd. A speech, powerful song, video or even people can have a strong impact on unsuspecting observers. Any of us can behave in a way we never thought possible and commit sins we hate just by getting caught up in a moment. It often begins by thinking too highly of our own strength, being in a place we shouldn't, with people we would be better off without. Instead, we must be convinced of truth and listen to His leading. We must think like the Bereans, who "were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (Acts 17:11) We are all in process as God works on our individual hearts and minds, even as He works out His plans in the bigger picture of salvation in the world. If you have denied Him, repent. If you are weak, ask for His Spirit to empower and guide you. He is our strength and power. In our weakness, He is strong.

Notes

From Death to Life – John 19:16–20:23



MEMORY VERSE: When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished, and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. John 19:30

DAY 1 JOHN 19:17-24 — The King on the Cross

1. John’s account of the crucifixion is concise. Why do you think Pilate wrote the inscription he did and then refused to change it?
2. What details does Mark 15:17-18, 29-32 add about how Christ was treated?
3. In the midst of mocking and derision, what did Jesus ask of God? Luke 23:34
4. Compare the attitude and fate of the criminals on either side of Jesus. Luke 23:39-43
5. What specific fulfillment of prophecy did John record? vv.23-24

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:24-25) It was time for Jesus to prove this truth.

DAY 2 JOHN 19:25-30 — Sacrificial Love

6. The cross was the greatest ever act of sacrificial love. How else did Jesus show His love even while He was dying on the cross? vv.25-27

7. What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is finished?” vv.28-30

Hebrews 10:11-14

Isaiah 53:5

8. What extraordinary details did Matthew include about Jesus’ death on the cross? Matthew 27:45-56

9. King David wrote Psalm 22 about 1000 years before Christ was born. What prophetic words in this Psalm do you see?

10. What do these prophetic events tell you about God’s plan and man’s free will? Proverbs 16:9

DAY 3 JOHN 19:31-42 — Preparation and Burial

11. What strikes you as ironic about verse 31? See also 18:28

12. God instituted Passover when He brought the Jews out of 430 years of bondage in Egypt. How did the crucifixion prove that Jesus was the Passover Lamb? vv.31-37

Exodus 12:5-7,23-24,46

Zechariah 12:10-12

13. What do we learn about Joseph of Arimathea after Christ's death? v.38

Mark 15:42-43

Luke 23:50-56

14. What did Joseph and Nicodemus do for Jesus, and what does this reveal about their faith?
vv.38-42

15. What further action did the chief priests and Pharisees take against Jesus? What does this tell you about their understanding of what Jesus meant when He said "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up?" (John 2:19) Matthew 27:62-66. Look at Matthew 26:60-61 for help.

DAY 4 JOHN 20:1-18 — The Empty Tomb and the Risen Christ

16. Why is it not surprising that Mary was one of the first to discover the empty tomb? vv.1-2

Mark 15:40-41

17. "The disciple who Jesus loved" is John, the author of this gospel. Why do you think he described his foot race with Peter to the tomb as he did? vv.3-10

18. What happened when Mary was weeping outside the tomb? vv.11-18

19. Can you think of any reasons that might explain why Mary did not at first recognize Jesus and why He told her not to cling to Him?

20. Why do you think Jesus treated women so very well?

DAY 5

JOHN 20:19-23—Jesus Appears to the Disciples

21. Describe the circumstances of Jesus appearing to the disciples. vv.19-23

22. Why do you suppose Jesus showed them His hands and side?

23. Why do you think Jesus said “Peace be with you,” not once but twice, to His disciples?

24. What mission and provision did Jesus give His disciples?

25. We know that people do not have the power to cause one to not be forgiven by God as He offers forgiveness to all. What then does verse 23 mean in relation to their mission?

LOVE THE TRUTH

There is no greater love than Christ's death on the cross and there is no greater miracle than His rising from the dead. Our Christian faith rests on these facts. The ramifications of these truths affect our lives for all eternity, as well as every day we have here on earth. We live because He is risen!

John 19:16–20:23

From Death to Life

The crucifixion of Christ is painful and difficult to dwell on, but so important for us to remember and value. No person in history has gone to the lengths that God did for us through Jesus Christ. At least 18 laws were broken in His rigged trial, including conspiracy, bribery, false testimony, abuse, lack of charge or evidence, and even the time the trials were held. There is no more shameful, humiliating or disgraceful death than the crucifixion Christ willingly suffered for us.

It is fascinating to see how God worked His plan through the actions of people who did not know Him, all for the benefit of those who yearned to know Him. Pilate placed the inscription, “The King of the Jews,” on the cross in three languages Aramaic, Latin and Greek. Aramaic and Hebrew were quite similar but Hebrew was spoken by the religious leaders, government and upper class, while Aramaic was the language of the common people. Jesus and His disciples likely spoke Aramaic rather than Hebrew. At the time of Christ, Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire, though it was mostly used for legal purposes. The common people in Rome would likely have spoken Greek. These three translations of “The King of the Jews” would therefore have been understood by everyone—the Romans, the Jews, the Gentiles, soldiers and even travelers. More importantly, the inscribed truth would have been understood by the common people who were often the most needy and receptive to Christ.

When Jesus gave up His spirit on the cross, he said, “Telelestai,” meaning it is finished. It would have been common for servant to say Telelestai meaning, “I have completed the work you gave me” or “my work is finished.” Merchants would have used this word to say, “The debt is paid in full.” Jesus not only finished the work God gave Him of paying the debt for our sin, but He also took our guilt away. His selfless act was not just an example of love, but actually accomplished redemption. He suffered separation from His Father so we do not have to.

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus flew under the radar with their faith in Christ. Because of this, they were able to prepare His body for burial and place Him in Joseph’s own new tomb. It is important to confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, but it also takes wisdom to know when to stay quiet. These pharisees were courageous in what they did for Jesus, especially considering that the Pharisees paid the soldiers to lie about the empty tomb and say Christ’s body was stolen by the disciples. (Matthew 27:60, Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 28:11-15)

WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus placed uncommon value on women, who had no standing in society. They were at the mercy of men, considered unintelligent, barely worth more than slaves. Many women followed Jesus because they knew they were lost without Him. They felt His love and care. Because they were deemed insignificant, they were able to minister to Jesus, follow Him after His arrest and openly grieve at the cross without being arrested or abused. Jesus’ love and compassion, explains why so many were grieving and lamenting as Christ carried His cross to His death (Luke 23:26-29). One does not have to be a woman to see their need for Jesus and His forgiveness. It takes humility. Rather than feeling superior because of race, gender or position in the community, the one who understands his or her own weakness and inferiority is most likely to embrace Jesus Christ. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)

Notes

Belief in Christ – John 20:24–21:25



MEMORY VERSE: Now Jesus did many other signs... 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 20:30-31

DAY 1 JOHN 20:24-29 — Seeing and Believing

1. What did Thomas declare when the disciples told him they had seen the Lord? What do you think he meant by his declaration? vv.24-25
2. What had the other disciples recently experienced without Thomas? vv. 20:19-23
3. Does Thomas' disbelief seem reasonable or unreasonable to you?
4. What do you learn about Jesus and about Thomas in this exchange? vv.26-29
5. God wants us to be discerning about what we see or hear, but what point is Jesus making about belief and disbelief that is vital to our faith? vv.27,29

LEARN THE TRUTH

Some form of the word, "belief" is used over 100 times in the Gospel of John. What we believe determines our actions and attitudes. As we wrap up our study of the gospel of John, may you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, believe in everything He says in His Word, and truly live for Him and glorify Him.

DAY 2 JOHN 20:30-21:3 — The Reality of Believing in Christ

6. What did John say about his gospel? vv.30-31
7. The disciples had seen their risen Lord and had been given the Holy Spirit. What might they have expected compared to what actually happened as they fished all night? vv.1-3

8. Can you think of a time you had great hopes for effective work in ministry or relationships but basically “caught nothing,” in spite of your prayers and efforts and even what you saw as God’s promises?
9. Define these words and explain how you think they are inter-related.

Belief

Unbelief

Doubt

Faith

Trust

10. What does Hebrews 11, known as “the hall of faith,” tell you about the reality of belief in Christ?

DAY 3 JOHN 21:4-14 — The Blessing of Believing in Christ

11. What happened when morning finally arrived after a long night of unsuccessful fishing? vv.4-14
12. What did Peter and John each do that gives you a glimpse into their relationship with Jesus?
vv.7-8
13. How would you describe the interaction between God and the disciples that resulted in the the huge catch of fish?

14. Why do you think we sometimes have unfulfilled expectations while other times God wildly exceeds our greatest expectations?
15. How do these verses encourage you about what you can do and what you can expect God to do?
- Psalm 31:19-24
We do:
- God does:
- Psalm 33:18-22
We do:
- God does:
- Psalm 37:1-8
We do:
- God does:
- Proverbs 3:5-12
We do:
- God does:
- Proverbs 8:32-36
We do:
- God does:
- Proverbs 16:3,7
We do:
- God does:

DAY 4 JOHN 21:15-19 — The Mission of Belief in Christ

16. What might Jesus have meant when He asked Peter, “Do you love me more than these?”
- John 12:25-26
17. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter 3 times if he loved Him?
18. Do you see any distinctions between Jesus’ 3 exhortations: “feed my lambs,” “tend my sheep,” and “feed my sheep?”

19. Even as Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep, what lay ahead for Peter? vv.18-19

20. Peter went on to lead the church in Rome and wrote letters to suffering believers, the second from prison while awaiting his execution. What did he teach about what it means to be a shepherd?
1 Peter 5:1-3

2 Peter 1:12-15

DAY 5

JOHN 21:20-25 — The Cost of Belief in Christ

21. What important truth did Jesus impart to Peter when he asked about John's future? vv.20-23

22. How does Jesus' answer to Peter help you as you watch other believers in action?

Hebrews 12:1-2

23. Why do you think comparing ourselves with other believers is a dangerous trap?

24. What did John claim in verses 24-25?

25. Some of the "many other things that Jesus did," include His work in your own life. What truths from the Gospel of John have especially impacted you?

LOVE THE TRUTH

We are each running a race in this life, but not against one another. Ours is an endurance race run for God's glory, the prize being souls won to faith, and reward in Heaven. He has chosen us to be on His team, with His training and equipping. Throw off anything that hinders you so you can run a good race!

John 20:24–21:25

Belief in Christ

Thomas is to be admired for wanting to verify truth. He asked questions of Jesus while others remained silent. He wanted to see Jesus' wounds before he would believe, which is understandable, if not ideal. Jesus gave him the proof of His resurrection, while telling him not to disbelieve as those who believe without seeing are blessed. Obviously it's important to be discerning, alert to false teaching and deception, but Thomas' problem was that he put conditions on Jesus before he would believe what he should have known was true, as Jesus had said He would come back to life. Doubts and uncertainty can cross over into unbelief if we aren't careful, so we must take our doubts and questions to the Lord with our Bibles and our hearts open, seeking truth. Every follower of Christ will face times when we wish we had immediate hard core evidence, but if we believe what we KNOW is true, we will be blessed.

Life for those who believe in Christ will include times of wonder but also times of suffering. Jesus suffered and so will we. The disciples witnessed miracles, made mistakes, lacked understanding, forgot what Jesus said, but experienced His abundant mercy, provision and protection. The reality of our belief means that God loves us too much to let us remain as we are, so He will discipline us to re-direct us, or prune us so that we can bear even more fruit than we thought possible.

In the beginning of Jesus ministry, He first appeared to Simon after a long night of unsuccessful fishing. He told him to push his boat and cast his nets. Simon obeyed and caught so many fish that two boats nearly sank. Simon fell down at Jesus' feet and said, "Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Jesus replied, "Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men." Simon, Andrew, James and John all left and followed Jesus. (Luke 5:1-11) The Lord did the same again, after His resurrection and again the disciples would not have had such a remarkable catch if they

had relied on their fishing skills, and refused to cast their nets on the other side of the boat when Jesus told them to. Their obedience brought blessing.

Before the crucifixion, Peter failed miserably right after Jesus warned him that he would deny Him 3 times. But that glorious morning on the beach, after the big catch, Jesus restored Peter with mercy and grace. He asked him 3 times if he loved Jesus, and with each affirmation of love, Jesus gave Peter the charge to feed, teach or bring up the young and naive lambs; to tend or lead and guide His mature sheep; and to "feed" or protect, teach wisdom and guidance for His whole flock.

WALK IN TRUTH



If you are a believer in Jesus Christ the Son of God, our Father has a purpose and mission for you. He sends His children out to catch people for Him. It is by His power and for His glory, but our blessing to be part of His work. It is costly to believe in Christ. Jesus told Peter that he would die a similar death to His own crucifixion. We too will suffer, but our suffering is nothing compared to the reward that lies ahead. We can't afford not to believe in Him and in His power and promises. The blessings of believing in Him are too many to count, but the immediate blessing is that we can trust in God's goodness and provision. We may not understand the big picture of what He is doing, but we know he has the big picture and we are part of it. We must recall what He has said in His Word and remember what we know is true, and trust in the One who is truth. We believe God, no matter what we see. All the books in the world will not be able to contain all that Christ will do through those, including us, who trust and believe in Him.

Notes