



Walking With the Savior

Through An Eyewitness Account of John

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come. **Let's embark on an inspiring journey with John as we walk alongside Jesus.**

Background Matters

5:16. **Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath.** In addition to the case of the invalid's healing (5:1–15), John later recorded the cure of a blind man on the Sabbath (chap. 9). The grain-picking (Mark 2:23–28), the healing of a shriveled hand (Mark 3:1–5), curing a woman who had been crippled for 18 years (Luke 13:10–17), and healing a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1–6)—all these took place on the Sabbath. As seen in these passages, Jesus' theology or philosophy of the Sabbath differed from that of His opponents. His opponents in the controversy were progressively humiliated while the crowds favored Him. The opponents' response was to persecute Jesus by opposing Him and trying to kill Him (John 5:16, 18; 7:19, 25).



5:17. God rested on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2–3) from His work of Creation. But Jesus pointed to the continuous **work** of God as a justification for His Sabbath activity. God sustains the universe, begets life, and visits judgments. It is not wrong for His Son to do works of grace and mercy on the Sabbath. The words **My Father** should be noted. Jesus did not say “your Father” or even “our Father.” His opponents did not miss His claim to Deity.

5:18. **The Sabbath** controversy was enough to cause them to hate Jesus, but the implication of His claim that God is **His own Father** was impossible for them to accept. To them, God has no equals. Jesus’ claim, in their thinking, was a monstrous blasphemy. To be **equal with God** suggested, they thought, two gods and therefore polytheism. To make oneself “equal with God” was a claim of arrogant independence. In the Talmud four persons were branded as haughty because they made themselves equal to God: pagan rulers Hiram, Nebuchadnezzar, Pharaoh, and the Jewish King Joash.

5:19. **Jesus** explained that He is not independent of or in opposition to **the Father**. His activity is not self-initiated. The **Father** directs and has sent **the Son**. The Son’s activity imitates the Father, and the Two always work together. (See comments on 1:51 for the clause **I tell you the truth**.)

5:20. **The Son** is in no way independent of or in rebellion against **the Father**. Their relationship is one of continuous love. The Son is not doing simply a part of God’s will; He has a full disclosure of all the Father’s works. By the Father, the Son will do even more amazing works **than** physical healings.

5:21. One of the prerogatives of Deity is the right over **life** and death. (A king of Israel asked Naaman, “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life?” [2 Kings 5:7]) One of Jesus’ “greater” works (John 5:20) is the giving of life. **The Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it**, just as He chose to heal one man out of a crowd of disabled people. The giving of life includes spiritual (eternal) life and a resurrected body. The resuscitation of Lazarus (chap. 11) would illustrate both.¹

This week in "Walking With the Savior"

The controversy surrounding the Sabbath was enough to provoke hatred toward Jesus, but the implication of His claim that God is His own Father was even more difficult for them to accept. For the religious leaders, God had no equals. In their view, Jesus’ claim amounted to blasphemy.

Jesus’ ministry burst onto the scene with a clear message. People faced a choice: to follow the words of Jesus or the words of man. The leaders misunderstood the law and created new regulations that strayed from God’s original intention. This is where "Embracing Life Through the Son" begins. Those in hopeless situations would start to look toward life in the Son of God.

¹ Edwin A. Blum, “John.” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 290–292.



Study Guide 15

This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

"Embracing Life Through the Son"

John 5:16–30

Topics:

Assurance, Believe, Enemies, Eternal Life, Faith, God, Jesus Christ, Judgment, New Life, Parents, Persecution, Salvation, Security

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. *What are some of the positive aspects of your relationship with your parents?

Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. Why did the Jews persecute Jesus? (5:16)

3. Whose work did Jesus do? (5:17)

4. Why did certain Jews want to kill Jesus? (5:18)



5. *What did Jesus say that the Son could do? (5:19)

6. What did Jesus tell the Jews that He would show them? (5:20)

7. What did Jesus say He was able to do? (5:21)

8. To whom did God entrust all judgment? (5:22)

9. *Why did God entrust judgment to Christ? (5:23)

Push on Wednesday, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

10. How did Jesus say a person can gain eternal life? (5:24)

11. What time did Jesus say had already come? (5:25)

12. *What did Jesus say the Father has in Himself that He has granted to the Son? (5:26)

13. What time did Jesus say was coming? (5:28–29)

14. Whom did Jesus say He desires to please? (5:30)

15. In what way does the world persecute Christians today?



16. How have you been persecuted as a believer?

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. When have you experienced pressure not to practice or share your faith in Christ?

18. Why does the world persecute Christians?

19. *How can we honor the Son and the Father with our lives?

20. How can we know for sure that we have eternal life?

21. *Why should we feel secure in our relationship with God?

22. How should we prepare ourselves for Jesus' judgment?

Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

23. In what way are we like Jesus with respect to our relationship with God the Father?

24. In what way is Jesus an example for us to follow?



25. *What steps can you take this week to enjoy more fully your relationship with your Heavenly Father?

A Journey Through The Gospel of John **2026**

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