



# 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

The thought in this discourse moves from that of Jesus' unity with the Father to that of the Father's witness to Jesus. Joh. But they speak to different issues. In 5:31, Jesus' point was that if He bore witness to Himself, this witness would not be accepted by the Jewish authorities. They would see it as an arrogant claim of self-exaltation. Yet in another setting (8:14), self-authentication is perfectly valid because an individual is the only one who knows his own full experience. Jesus affirmed that He did not seek an independent self-authentication. He was content to submit to the Father's will and to let the Father authenticate Him.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 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), 291.



5:35. **John was only a lamp**, not the true Light (1:9). The Jewish nation **for a short time** was stirred by and rejoiced in his ministry. For a moment they thought the Messianic Age was dawning. Even though his preaching had some stinging rebukes, there was a great popular excitement about his message. The people thought that though Israel might be disciplined, their enemies would be destroyed.

5:36. Though **John** the Baptist was a great voice for God, he did not do any miracles (10:41). The “signs” were specific works which God had assigned for the Son to do. These miracles were predicted in the Old Testament (Isa. 35:5–6). Jesus’ **work** was a clear manifestation that God was with Him and that He worked through Him (cf. Nicodemus’ words [John 3:2]; Jesus’ logic [Mark 3:23–29]; and the lesson from an ex-blind man [John 9:30–33]).

The Jewish religious leaders studied the Old Testament with great diligence. They believed that anyone who could understand the words of the text would gain a share in the world to come. They regarded those who were ignorant of the Law as being under a curse (7:49). Similarly, many people today think of Bible study as an end in itself, rather than a means to gaining knowledge of God and developing godliness. It seems that a veil covered the minds of these Jewish scholars (2 Cor. 3:15), preventing them from recognizing that Jesus is the Promised One.

## ***This week in "Walking With the Savior"***

Thus far, John the Apostle has demonstrated how various individuals, like the Baptist and his disciples, the villagers of Cana (water to wine), the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a Pharisee, and the Samaritans, are beginning to understand Jesus' identity and teachings. However, as highlighted in 2:12–25, Jesus' profound words and actions were destined to attract opposition. In 5:1–12:50, the Apostle John elaborates on the escalating resistance Jesus encountered as His increasingly provocative ministry reached the Jewish populace.

The Jewish religious leaders studied the Old Testament with great diligence. They believed that anyone who could understand the words of the text would gain a share in the world to come. They regarded those who were ignorant of the Law as being under a curse (7:49). Similarly, many people today think of Bible study as an end in itself, rather than a means to gaining knowledge of God and developing godliness. It seems that a veil covered the minds of these Jewish scholars (2 Cor. 3:15), preventing them from recognizing that Jesus is the Promised One. We want our study of God’s word to serve as a catalyst for godliness and spiritual growth, not just an end in itself.

### ***Opposition arises naturally when you are moving in different directions.***

Let us consider a hypothetical scenario involving a driver from the United Kingdom who operates a vehicle in the United States without adapting to the local driving conventions. Such a situation would likely result in a collision, as American drivers navigate in a single direction while UK drivers adhere to an opposing flow, culminating in a crash.



Similarly, Jesus traversed the world while remaining true to his righteous path; however, the prevailing societal norms often move counter to this direction, leading to conflicts. It is important to recognize that walking with God invariably presents challenges along one's journey. Nevertheless, one may find encouragement in the knowledge that your Lord faced and overcame these challenges prior to your experiences.

## **Study Guide 16**

*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.*

### **The Opposition Begins**

Testimonies About Jesus

**John 5:31–47**

Topics:

Assurance, Authority, Believe, Bible, Church, Eternal Life, God, Jesus Christ, Legalism, Life, Light, Popularity, Praise

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

1. How can the details sometimes prevent us from seeing the big picture?

---

---

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

2. \*Whose testimony did Jesus say was valid? (5:31–32)

---

---



3. What did Jesus say John did? (5:33)

---

---

4. Why did Jesus mention John's testimony? (5:34)

---

---

5. What did Jesus say John was? (5:35)

---

---

6. \*What did Jesus say testified to the fact that the Father had sent Him? (5:36)

---

---

7. Who else did Jesus say testified about Him? (5:37)

---

---

8. \*Why did the Jews study the Scriptures? (5:39)

---

---

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

9. What was the result of all the Jews' study of the Scriptures? (5:40)

---

---

10. What did Jesus' audience not have in their hearts? (5:42)

---

---

11. Whose praise did the Jews neglect to seek? (5:43–44)

---

---



12. Who was the Jews' accuser? (5:45)

---

---

13. About whom did Moses write? (5:46)

---

---

14. What effect should Moses' writings have had on the Jews? (5:46–47)

---

---

15. \*How is your life like a lamp pointing others to Jesus?

---

---

16. Why do you believe in Jesus?

---

---

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

17. On what authority can we rest our belief in Jesus?

---

---

18. \*How could someone study the Scriptures and still not believe in Jesus?

---

---

19. From whom do you seek praise and recognition?

---

---

20. In what do you find your significance and security in life?

---

---



21. In what way might the church sometimes prevent people from seeing and believing in Jesus?

---

---

22. What should we do to gain the praise of God?

---

---

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

23. \*Starting today, how can you seek greater recognition for God's ways?

---

---

24. How can you make your study of Scripture more Christ-centered this week?

---

---

25. What step can you take to become a brighter lamp pointing to Jesus?

---

---

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

Download your study guide at: [Unlockingthetruth.us](http://Unlockingthetruth.us)