



# 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

6:60. As the people began to understand His teaching, they found it to be totally unacceptable. Besides the hostile Jewish leaders, **many of the Galilean disciples** turned away from Him. The popular enthusiasm for Jesus as a political Messiah (v. 15) was then over. They saw that He was not going to deliver them from Rome. He might be a great Healer, but His words were **a hard** (i.e., harsh) **teaching. Who could accept it**, that is, obey it? How could they personally appropriate Him?

6:61–62. **Jesus** knew **His** audience (cf. 1:47; 2:24–25; 6:15). **Aware that they were grumbling** (cf. v. 41), He asked what was so offensive to **them**. (**Offend** in Gr. is *skandalizei*.) Paul wrote that the crucified Messiah was a “stumbling block” (*skandalon*) to the Jews (1 Cor. 1:23). The Ascension of **the Son of Man** is also an offense. But His glorification is His heavenly vindication. He was crucified in weakness but He was raised in power (1 Cor. 15:43).

6:63. After His Ascension Jesus gave the Holy Spirit (7:38–39; Acts 1:8–9). **The Holy Spirit**, poured out in the world, **gives life** (salvation) to those who believe. Without the Holy Spirit, man (**flesh**) is utterly unable to understand Jesus' person and His works (John 3:6; 1 Cor. 2:14). Though the crowds



assessed Jesus' words as "hard" (John 6:60), actually His **words ... are spirit and ... life**. That is, by the work of the Holy Spirit in an individual, Jesus' words provide spiritual life.

6:64. The life **Jesus** gives must be received by faith. The words do not work automatically. From the start Jesus knew **which** followers were believers and which ones were unbelievers. This is another evidence of His supernatural knowledge (cf. 1:47; 2:24–25; 6:15).

6:65. Jesus had taught that divine enablement was necessary for people to **come to faith** (v. 44). The apostasy here (v. 66) should not be surprising. Believers who remain with Jesus evidence the Father's secret work. The unbelieving crowds are evidence that "the flesh counts for nothing" (v. 63).

6:66. His rejecting their desire to make Him their political king; His demand for personal faith; His teaching on atonement; His stress on total human inability and on salvation as a work of God—all these proved to be unpalatable for **many** people. They gave up being **His disciples** ("disciples" here refers to followers in general, not to the 12 Apostles; this is evident in v. 67).

6:67. **You do not want to leave too, do you?** He framed this question to encourage their weak faith. **The Twelve** were affected by the apostasy of the many, and **Jesus** used that occasion to refine their faith. They did not fully understand His words either and would not until after the Resurrection (20:9).

6:68–69. **Peter**, as a spokesman, gave his confession of faith. The path may be difficult, but he was convinced that Jesus' **words** lead to life. No one else has the gift of **eternal life**. "We have believed and have known" is a better translation of the Greek perfect tenses (NIV: **We believe and know**). Peter was confident of the apostles' commitment to Jesus as **the Holy One of God**. This title is unusual (a demon addressed Jesus that way; Mark 1:24). It suggests Jesus' transcendence ("the Holy One") and His representation of the Father ("of God"); thus it is another way of confessing Him as Messiah. Peter knew this by a special work of the Father (cf. Matt. 16:17).

6:70–71. Jesus then asked, **Have I not chosen you, the Twelve?** John's Gospel does not record Jesus' choice of the Twelve. He assumed his readers knew the Synoptics or common church tradition (cf. Mark 3:13–19). This choice was not election to salvation, but was Jesus' call to them to serve Him. **Yet**, He said, **one of you is a devil!** In the light of John 13:2, 27, Satan's working in Judas was tantamount to Judas being the devil. In 6:70 the Greek does not have the indefinite article "a," so it could be translated "one of you is Satan (devil)." Jesus' knowledge of **Judas** (who was called Judas Iscariot because his father was **Simon Iscariot**) was still another example of His omniscience (cf. 1:47; 2:24–25; 6:15, 61).<sup>1</sup>

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<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), 297–298.



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

*We observe a growing understanding among individuals regarding the fundamental teachings of Jesus. While His ministry encompassed uplifting experiences, shared meals, and remarkable miracles, its core principles frequently contrasted with the motivations of those who followed Him. It is pertinent to consider how contemporary expectations of Jesus' ministry align with the enduring biblical mission of our Savior. This week, we invite reflection on the question of who ultimately directs our lives—ourselves or the Spirit of God? The individual in the driver's seat determines the destination, whereas the passenger benefits from the journey. Are you genuinely engaging in a walk with Him and appreciating the journey?*

## **Study Guide 20**

***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.***

## **Are You Enjoying the Journey?**

**Many Disciples Desert Jesus**

**John 6:60–71**

Topics:

Abandon, Believe, Confusion, Decisions, Doubt, Eternal Life, Hardheartedness, Jesus Christ, People, Questions, Rejection, Satan, Security, Understanding

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

1. \*What is something that you enthusiastically started but were later tempted to quit?

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2. For what causes have people willingly suffered and even died?

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

3. \*How did many of Jesus' disciples respond to His teaching? (6:60)

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4. What did Jesus ask the grumbling disciples? (6:31)

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5. What kind of words did Jesus speak to His audience? (6:63)

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6. \*What did Jesus know? (6:64)

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7. Who did Jesus say could come to Him? (6:65)

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8. What did many of Jesus' disciples do after Jesus spoke these words? (6:66)

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9. What question did Jesus ask His twelve disciples? (6:67)

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

10. \*What was Peter's reply to Jesus' question? (6:68–69)

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11. What did Jesus say about His disciples? (6:70)

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12. Whom did Jesus call a devil? (6:71)

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13. \*What teachings of Jesus have you found difficult to understand or accept?

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14. What makes some of Jesus' teachings difficult to understand and follow?

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15. What might cause someone to stop following Jesus?

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16. When have you ever felt like turning away from following Jesus?

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

17. \*What has kept you from turning away from Christ?

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18. What makes you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

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

19. \*What difficult teaching of Jesus will you ask God to help you understand and apply to your life?



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20. What struggling Christian could use your encouragement this week as he or she continues to follow Jesus?

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

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