



An Intimate Look At the Gospel of John



# Investing in One Another

Thank you for taking the time to intentionally invest in one another. In my twenty years of ministry, the most rewarding moments have come out of the time that I have spent intentionally investing in others and being intentionally invested in. There is something about the way that the Lord created us that just resonates with pouring into one another for the purpose of edifying and building up each other. It seems like the best of our lives is designed to be experienced in community together.

The desire of this devotional is that it will serve as a guide for engaging with God and one another in an intentional time of accountability, growth and edification. This is not meant to be a rigid step by step guide but rather a tool that will aid with accountability and focus for both the time that you spend together and apart.

Each week takes one chapter from the gospel of John and divides it into smaller thoughts. You can choose to read these smaller divisions on different days or you can choose to read the chapter as a whole and just think about your responses in smaller divisions. I would encourage you to try both ways and see which one fits with your style of engagement. Along with each smaller thought division, questions have been provided to help encourage engagement with the text. The gospel of John is intended to reveal a fuller picture of who our Savior is. Our hope and aim with the questions is to help flesh out that picture and specifically to look at the way that Jesus interacted with those that He entered into relationship with. Our hope is to better understand how Jesus invested in others and how He invests in us so that we can engage in the same way in the lives of those that God places in our life.

Please know that you are being prayed for as you embark on this journey. May the Lord be ever faithful to pour into you as you sit with Him and with one another.

- Paul Allen

# Week 1 • John 1

*The Word Became Flesh*

## **Reading: John 1:1-18**

*This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'*

What truth or detail resonated with your heart as you read?

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How might the truth that you read impact your life or perspective today?

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## **Reading: John 1:19-34**

*I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One*

What truth from the declaration of John the Baptist gives you a clearer understanding of who Jesus is?

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How would you describe Jesus to someone who knew nothing about Jesus or Christianity?

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## **Reading: John 1:35-51**

*Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man.*

What part of the manner in which Jesus called his disciples made the greatest impact on you?

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What do you think it was about Jesus' interaction with Nathaniel that led to Nathaniel's faith in Christ?

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Thinking over the whole of the first chapter of John's gospel, what truth has stuck with you this week?

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Who in your life would benefit from hearing this truth for the first time or would be encouraged by being reminded of this truth?

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**Come and You Will See**

*John 1:39a*

# Week 2 • John 2

## Water Into Wine

### Reading: John 2:1-12

*But you have saved the best till now*

What does this miracle reveal to you about who Jesus is?

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Why do you think that this miracle is included in John's gospel?

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What does this miracle tell you about how Jesus invests in others?

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The conclusion of this miracle leaves a lasting impression on my heart. The master of the banquet was given the duty of making sure that the festivities progressed without any issues. He was charged with knowing every detail and how each detail would meet the desired outcome of the ones who were hosting the festivities. On this momentous occasion that would only come once in this couple's life together, the master of the banquet stood in amazement as the wine that would accompany the next phase of the event's progression was brought out for him to taste. This wine far surpassed the choice used to make the first impression. The very taste of this wine left a lasting impression. "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." I believe that this is true about our relationship with God. The moment that Jesus met me and transformed my heart is nothing short of the miraculous, but I praise Him for every moment because each taste of Christ is better than the moment earlier. His love is more precious as I have experienced its unconditional pursuit. The more maturity that is experienced in my relationship with Christ, the more that I experience the best that He is still waiting to serve.

### Reading: John 2:13-25

*Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.*

What do you learn about Jesus and His heart as you read about His response to the peddlers in the temple?

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Jesus displayed righteous anger in the temple as He drove out the merchants. Are there moments in life where you have seen another or have personally shown righteous anger?

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The Scriptures say that we are the temple, the dwelling place of God. Is there aspects about our life that would cause Jesus to respond with righteous anger at how we have treated the newfound House of the Lord?

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The Jews responded to Jesus' cleansing of the temple by questioning the authority by which He can do this. Jesus responds by telling them that if they destroyed the temple He would raise it again in three days. What does this tell you about the authority of Christ in regards to His House?

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# Week 3 • John 3

To Be Born Again

## Reading: John 3:1-21

*Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.*

How would you explain what Jesus means when He says, “No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again?”

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What truth about Jesus resonates with your heart the most?

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What impact on your life does John’s emphasis on the absence of condemnation in the hope of the gospel have?

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What does John mean when he states, “whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God”?

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## Reading: John 3:22-36

*He must become greater; I must become less.*

What truth or attitude resonated with your heart as you read this passage?

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John the Baptizer sees that Christ must become greater and he must become less. What does John mean by this?

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What might it look like in your life for Jesus to be made greater and you to be made less?

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John states that as he becomes less and Christ becomes more, this becomes his joy and in doing so, his joy is made complete. What do you think John meant by this? How is this true for believers today?

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***That Joy is Mine and It is Now Complete.***

*John 3:29b*

# Week 4 • John 4

*In Spirit and in Truth*

## **Reading: John 4:1-26**

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth.*

What sticks out to you about Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well?

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What led the Samaritan woman to place her faith in Christ?

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How would you respond if Jesus confronted you with your sin?

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## **Reading: John 4:27-42**

*One sows and another reaps*

Jesus states that the harvest is now. When you look at your neighbors and friends, do you see them as seeds that the Lord has planted and desires to bring in with the harvest?

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Jesus says, "One sows and another reaps." In this, both the sower and the reaper may be glad together. How do you see this partnership between the sower and the reaper in your life?

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The testimony of the Samaritan women leads her town to believe in the Messiah. How did the Holy Spirit transform this woman who hid from her townspeople into being the voice that led them to truth?

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## **Reading: John 4:43-54**

*Your son will live*

Even though the official questioned Jesus' proclamation of his son's healing and asked Jesus to come with him, what does it say about Jesus that He fulfilled the official's plea?

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Is there a time in your life or even right now where you have second guessed the faithfulness of the Lord to hold to His Word?

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What does Jesus reveal about Himself as He is able to heal the official's son from death?

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# Week 5 • John 5

## Jesus' Testimony

### Reading: John 5:1-15

*Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.*

How would you describe the lame man's response to Jesus' question, "Do you want to get well?"

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What sticks out to you about the interactions between the lame man and Jesus?

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### Reading: John 5:16-30

*By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgement is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me*

What do you see in the relationship between the Son and the Father?

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What aspects of their relationship do you see in our relationship with Jesus and the Father?

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What does Jesus mean when He says that by Himself, He can do nothing?

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### Reading: John 5:31-47

*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me.*

What does Jesus mean when He says, "John was a lamp that burned and gave light and you chose for a time to enjoy his light?"

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What was Jesus saying when He said that the Scriptures testify of Him?

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Jesus states that the people did not listen to the words of Moses that spoke about Him so why would they believe His words as He speaks. Are there times in your life where you have heard the truth of God but struggled to believe it or follow His Words in faith?

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# Week 6 • John 6

*Abundantly More*

## **Reading: John 6:1-24**

*It is I; do not be afraid.*

What resonates with your heart as you read about the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand with a little boy's lunch?

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What does this miracle teach you about what the Lord desires to do with what you have and offer up to Him?

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Describe a time in your life where you were overwhelmed by the waves of circumstance and the presence of God brought peace.

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## **Reading: John 6:25-59**

*I am the bread of life*

Jesus rebukes the crowd for seeking Him based on what He could do for them. Have you found yourself in this same place with Christ before?

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What does Jesus mean when He said, "I am the bread of life"?

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What was it about what Jesus said that turned the crowd's hearts away from believing what He was saying?

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## **Reading: John 6:60-71**

*Does this offend you?*

Why does Jesus question His disciples concerning if His words offended them?

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Jesus states that the words of the Spirit are life. Describe a moment in your life where the truth of God has given you life.

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Was Jesus failing in His work when it says that many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed Him? Why did you respond as you did?

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# Week 7 • John 7

## Not My Own

### Reading: John 7:1-24

*My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.*

Why did Jesus' brothers tell Him to go to Judea and perform His miracles? What did they hope would change as a result?

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How should you respond when following Christ does not match with the popular opinion and views of the world?

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Where does your confidence come from to be able to be steadfast in your faith in the face of opposition and persecution?

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### Reading: John 7:25-44

*He is the Messiah*

How do you know that Jesus is the Messiah? What from your relationship with Him cements this truth in your heart?

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What did Jesus mean when He told the Pharisees that they would look for Him but they would not find Him and where He was going, they could not come?

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How does the varying responses of others to the truth of who Jesus is effect your heart? How does it effect your relationship with others?

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### Reading: John 7:45-53

*No one ever spoke the way this man does*

What is your response to the teachings of Jesus found in this chapter?

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How does your heart react to the preconceived notions of other people in regards to who Jesus is and their need for Jesus?

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Nicodemus makes a stand by questioning the reasoning of his fellow teachers of the law in regards to how they should treat Jesus. What sticks out to you about how Nicodemus view of Jesus has changed since the start of John's gospel?

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# Week 8 • John 8

## Not My Own

### Reading: John 8:1-20

*I am the light of the world*

Why does Jesus mean when He says that He is the light of the world?

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How does Jesus' interaction on behalf of the woman caught in adultery impact your perspective of your relationship with Him?

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What is Jesus saying when He says, "If you knew me, you would know my Father also"?

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### Reading: John 8:21-47

*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*

What does Jesus provide as evidence for the claims of who He is?

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What did Jesus mean when He said that everyone who sins is a slave to sin?

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What was Jesus implying when He questioned whether those in the crowd were Abraham's children?

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### Reading: John 8:48-58

*Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I am!*

Why was it so difficult for the people to believe that Jesus was who He said He was and that He could offer life everlasting?

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Why does Jesus refuse to receive any of the glory for Himself?

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Jesus closes out this chapter by referring to Himself as "I am." This is the same name used by the Lord in the book of Exodus when Moses asks who should he say sent him. What is Jesus saying when He uses this holy name?

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# Week 9 • John 9

## Spiritual Blindness

### Reading: John 9:1-12

*This happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

The common belief of the day was that a child born with any physical or mental difficulty, it was a direct result of sin. Do you find similar errors that have permeated your worldview?

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How were the works of God displayed in the blind man's life?

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Many who meet the blind man after he is healed are in disbelief that he is the same man. Why do you think that is?

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### Reading: John 9:13-34

*One thing I do know, I was blind but now I see!*

Why were the Pharisees so consumed with the fact that the healing took place on the Sabbath?

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Why did the man's parents respond as they did when they were questioned by the Pharisees?

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How does the man's resolve to trust the miracle that has been done and not question the intent of the man who performed the miracle?

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### Reading: John 9:35-41

*You have now seen Him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.*

What is Jesus saying when He says that He came to give sight to the blind and to blind those who see?

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How is someone who is able to see called blind?

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How does one keep themselves from being spiritually blind to the truth of God?

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**Do You Believe in the Son of Man?**

John 9:35b

# Week 10 • John 10

## *The Good Shepherd*

### **Reading: John 10:1-21**

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me*

Who might Jesus be referring to as He mentions those who do not enter by the gate but rather climb over the fence?

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Why does Jesus refer to Himself as the good shepherd? What sets Him apart from other shepherds?

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Jesus describes the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep as one in which the sheep know the shepherd's voice and they follow him. Is this the kind of relationship that you share with Christ? How do you know His voice?

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What impact does it have on your relationship with Christ when you hear Him say that He has the authority to lay down His life and to take it back up again?

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### **Reading: John 10:22-42**

*No one can snatch them from my Father's hand*

Why was it so hard for the Pharisees to believe what Jesus said and did?

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What does it mean when Jesus says, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand"?

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How do you know that the works and the words of Christ are not blasphemy?

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Why were many able to believe and see the true person of Jesus even without the signs and miracles?

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# Week 11 • John 11

*Arise Lazarus*

## **Reading: John 11:1-37**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

*Why did Jesus delay going to Bethany? What does His delay tell us about how God works in our circumstances?*

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*How would you describe Jesus' attitude toward death?*

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*What does Jesus mean when He calls Himself the resurrection and the life? What impact does this have on our lives and our relationship with Him?*

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*Why does Jesus weep if He knew that Lazarus would raise from the dead?*

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## **Reading: John 11:38-57**

*Lazarus, Come out*

*How does Jesus raising Lazarus from the grave bring glory to God?*

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*Why are the Pharisees so consumed with getting rid of Jesus if He is doing the miraculous and even raising the dead to life?*

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*Why do we struggle with and fear that which is unknown or foreign to our current perspective or way of thinking?*

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*Why does Jesus withdraw from being in the public eye?*

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# Week 12 • John 12

*Th Anointed One*

## **Reading: John 12:1-19**

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*

What resonated with your heart as you read about the extravagant gift that Mary poured out on Jesus' feet?

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How was the Lord glorified through Mary's sacrificial gift?

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What do you think led to the celebration that came as Jesus entered into Jerusalem?

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## **Reading: John 12:20-36**

*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified*

What did Jesus mean when He said that the hour had come for the Son of Man to be glorified?

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How does the statement that anyone who loves their life will lose it impact your perspective on the things of the world?

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How would you respond if you heard a voice from heaven?

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## **Reading: John 12:37-50**

*The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me*

What do you know about God the Father by looking at Jesus?

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Why are some afraid to stand up and proclaim their faith in Christ as the Messiah?

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How does Jesus' statement that He did not come to judge the world but rather to save it resonate with your heart?

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***I know that His command leads to eternal life.***

*John 12:50a*

# Week 13 • John 13

*No Part with Me*

## **Reading: John 13:1-17**

*Unless I wash you, you have no part with me*

What sticks out to you the most in the account of Jesus washing His disciples' feet?

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Why did Peter respond as he did to Jesus washing his feet?

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What does it look like for you to follow in Jesus' example in the lives of others?

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## **Reading: John 13:18-30**

*Whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me*

What is the purpose of the foretelling of coming events that is given throughout Scripture?

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How did Jesus walk with some one for three years who He knew was going to betray Him?

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How does Judas' betrayal impact the other disciples and their faith?

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## **Reading: John 13:31-38**

*Will you really lay down your life for me?*

How is the Lord and Jesus glorified through the betrayal of Judas?

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Jesus gives us the command to love one another. What does this mean to your heart and what does this look like in your relationships?

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Would you consider Judas' betrayal or Peter's denial as worse? How does Jesus view each of these men's choices?

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# Week 14 • John 14

Our Advocate

## Reading: John 14:1-14

*Do not let your hearts be troubled*

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life?

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How does the truth of who Jesus is bring you comfort in times of distress?

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Phillip poses a perplexing idea in his response to Jesus. He states that if he could be shown the Father that would be enough for them to believe. What does your heart desire to see or experience that would be enough to ground your faith in Christ?

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How would Jesus respond to your request?

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## Reading: John 14:15-31

*If you love me, keep my commands*

How does keeping the commands of Christ show our love for Him?

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Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit. How does this promise bring you comfort?

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How does the prince of this world fit in the plan of the Lord to show the world the depth of the Messiah's love for God and His faithfulness to keep the Lord's commands?

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*If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*

John 14:28b

# Week 15 • John 15

## *The Vine and the Branches*

### **Reading: John 15:1-17**

*I am the vine; you are the branches*

Have you ever been through a season of pruning at the hand of God? How did you grow stronger and more resilient as a result?

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What does it mean practically in your life to remain in Christ?

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Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for a friend. How does this statement shape your view of Christ's crucifixion?

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What does Jesus mean when He says that He chose and appointed us that we might bear much fruit?

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### **Reading: John 15:18-27**

*As it is, you do not belong to the world*

What does Jesus mean when He says that if you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own?

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How have you seen/experienced the world hating you because of Christ?

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What is Jesus saying when He states that His words and deeds were done to fulfill their Law that they hated me without reason?

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Does Jesus explanation of the animosity between the world and His followers change your perspective of conflicts in your life?

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# Week 16 • John 16

## *The Work of the Holy Spirit*

### **Reading: John 16:1-15**

*All this I have told you so that you will not fall away*

How does the knowledge of Jesus' suffering and God's plan for His suffering keep you from falling away in the distresses of life?

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Do the truths of God sometimes bring you to grief and being downcast? Why do you think that is?

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Jesus promises to send the Spirit of Truth in His stead. How does the Holy Spirit convey truth to your heart?

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How does the knowledge that the Holy Spirit only conveys the truth that He has been told impact the means by which you listen and follow the words of the Spirit?

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### **Reading: John 16:16-33**

*But take heart! I have overcome the world.*

Imagine you are one of the disciples with Jesus. How would you respond to His words about leaving and laying down His life?

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How does the analogy of pain followed by joy experienced in childbirth compare to the anguish followed by joy of knowing Christ will return?

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"Do you now believe" is the question poised by Jesus to His disciples. How would you respond to this question if Jesus asked you today?

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How does the promise that Jesus has already overcome the world help you find peace in the midst of troubles?

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# Week 17 • John 17

## Jesus' Prayer

### Reading: John 17:1-19

*Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son that your Son may glorify You.*

Jesus places great emphasis on the cyclical pattern of glorification between the Father and the Son. What place does glorifying God have in your everyday life?

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How would you flesh out Jesus' perspective that all He has belongs to the Father and all the Father has belongs to Him?

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How does your heart respond to the truth that Jesus prayed for our protection as He was preparing to leave?

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How are we sanctified by the truth? How is that meant to impact our joy?

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### Reading: John 17:20-26

*May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you sent me.*

How does our faith in Christ point the world toward faith in the Father?

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How does your heart respond to the words of Jesus that you belong to the Father and that Jesus desires to be with you?

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How has Jesus made the Father known to your heart?

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How do you follow in Christ's footsteps and make the Father known in the world today and in the relationships that you share with others?

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# Week 18 • John 18

*Who is It You Want*

## **Reading: John 18:1-14**

*I told you that I am He.*

Why does Jesus respond with such boldness as the guards come to arrest Him?

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What is your response as you read that at the mere words of Christ, the guards drew back and fell to the ground?

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Why does Jesus rebuke Peter for drawing his sword against the guards?

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## **Reading: John 18:15-27**

*I have spoken openly to the world*

Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus when the servant girl asked?

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What was different between the disciple who went into the high priest's home with Jesus and Peter who stayed outside?

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How would you respond if you were Peter and heard the rooster crow after your third denial of knowing Jesus?

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## **Reading: John 18:28-40**

*My kingdom is not of this world*

What sticks out to you about the exchange between Pilate and Jesus?

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Why do you think Pilate left Jesus' fate in the hands of the crowd instead of making a proclamation in accordance with the innocence that he found?

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Why did the crowd turn on Jesus when they had welcomed Him as King earlier in the week when Jesus entered into Jerusalem?

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# Week 19 • John 19

*Jesus Pays It All*

## **Reading: John 19:1-16**

*You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above*

How does Jesus view the authority of Pilate?

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How did Pilate view his authority?

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What was Pilate hoping to gain by having Jesus flogged, dressed up and brought out before the crowds?

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## **Reading: John 19:17-27**

*Woman, Here is your son. Here is your mother.*

What resonates the most with your heart as you read this account of the crucifixion?

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What do you take away from the interaction between Pilate and the chief priests in regards to the sign placed above Jesus' cross?

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What does the giving over of Mary into the care of the disciple show you about Jesus and His priorities?

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## **Reading: John 19:38-42**

*He came and took the body away*

What is your take away from the statement that Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders?

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What can be learned from the testimony of Nicodemus, a chief priest who becomes reborn after many interactions with Jesus?

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Where is your heart as you read about Jesus being laid in the tomb? How does that coincide with the heart of the disciples as they watched Jesus placed in the tomb?

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# Week 20 • John 20

*He is Risen Indeed!*

## **Reading: John 20:1-18**

*They have taken my Lord away and I do not know where they have put Him.*

Can you imagine the emotional rollercoaster that the women must have gone through that morning as they arrived at the tomb? Describe how you would picture the scene and what sticks out to you the most in this account.

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John records that when the disciple who had arrived at the tomb first went inside, he saw the linen wrap and he believed. Have you ever had a moment where the truth of Scripture came alive and you believed?

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What sticks out to you in the interaction between Jesus and Mary Magdalene outside of the tomb?

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What does it mean to you when Jesus tells Mary that He is going to His Father and her Father?

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## **Reading: John 20:19-31**

*Peace be with you*

How does the presence of the risen Christ bring with it peace?

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What does it mean to you when Jesus says that anyone whose sins you forgive, their sins are forgiven?

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What is Jesus saying when He tells Thomas that blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed?

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Why did John write his gospel and how does it fulfill his intended purpose today?

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***These are written that you might believe.***

*John 20:31a*

# Week 21 · John 21

*Restored*

## **Reading: John 21:1-14**

*Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.*

How would you respond if you made the catch of fish that the disciples did?

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How does Peter know that the man on shore is the Lord just by following His instructions?

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Jesus offers Peter and the other disciples the simple invitation of “Come and have breakfast.” What does this teach you about the relationship that Jesus desires to have with His disciples?

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Why did Jesus reveal Himself to His disciples multiple times before He ascended into heaven?

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## **Reading: John 21:15-25**

*Feed my sheep*

What is Jesus intent with this three fold iteration with Simon Peter?

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Why does Jesus correlate Peter's love for Him with the command to feed His sheep and lambs?

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What do you think is the significance of Jesus' remarks concerning John the disciple whom He loved?

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**Follow Me!**

*John 21:19b*



