WELCOME TO A STUDY THROUGH JOHN

The goal of this study is simple: develop a habit of reading the Bible, understand what it says, and respond to God by applying His Word in your everyday life.

Included are 5 questions to help process what you read. You don't need to know all the answers or write long responses. Whether you are exploring Christianity or have followed Jesus for years, come ready to read carefully, ask honest questions, share, and learn.

John is the disciple who walked with Jesus and he explains his purpose in John 20:30–31: he records these things so that readers will believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and have life in His name.

This study encourages you to read 1 chapter per week between monthly meetings. Reading each chapter more than once per week is fine. Take your time and pray for God to help you gain insight.

OUR PATH THROUGH JOHN (November 2026-April 2027)

Meeting 1: John 1–3
Meeting 2: John 4–7
Meeting 3: John 8–11
Meeting 4: John 12–15
Meeting 5: John 16–19
Meeting 6: John 20–21

SUGGESTED DAILY RHYTHM

PRAY: About 1 minute. Ask God to help you understand His Word and respond honestly.
READ: About 3–5 minutes. Read a passage in your Bible before reading the "insight" notes. Use the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) if possible. www.CSBible.com or YouVersion free App.
REFLECT: About 3-5 minutes. Think about what you just read and what God is saying through His Word. Read the chapter insights, looking back at the verses they explain.
RESPOND: About 7–9 minutes. Work through the five questions. A sentence or two for each is enough.

If a passage addresses something you do not understand, write it down. Bring it to the monthly gathering. If you miss a day, don't give up. Pick up where you left off and keep working through it. You are building a habit of spending time with God in His Word.

FIVE DAILY QUESTIONS

1. REVELATION: What are some key things I see in this passage? What stands out and why?

2. REVERENCE: What does this passage reveal about God—the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit? What do I learn about the majesty, magnificence, and magnitude of God?

3. RESPONSE: In light of this passage, what should I believe, think, or do? What in my life needs to change to better align with what is in this passage?

4. READINESS: How does this passage prepare me to face daily life, turn from temptation, and share my faith with others where I live, learn, work, and play?

5. REQUEST: What can I thank God for, confess, or ask Him to help me with based on this passage?

GOAL: Begin with what the passage says. Then consider how its truth should shape your life.

PREPARING FOR OUR MONTHLY GATHERING

Look back over your notes. You do not need to prepare a presentation. Bring these three things:

• One passage that helped you understand Jesus more clearly.
• One truth that encouraged, challenged, or changed something in your daily life.
• One question or short passage you would like the group to explore together.

If you did not finish every chapter, come anyway. We will read together and discuss. Bring your Bible and join the conversation.

DISCUSSION ETIQUET
We want everyone to contribute to the discussion. Please keep your responses focused on the passage and topic at hand. Allow room for others to share and ask questions. Be respectful of each other and do not use anything shared in the group for gossip. We are learning and growing together.

FACILITATOR NOTES — YOUR ROLE — (Facilitators should rotate from month to month)
Help people return to Scripture, understand it together, and respond faithfully. You do not need to deliver a lecture or answer every question immediately.

BEFORE THE MEETING
Read the specific chapters of John and review the discussion questions. Choose a few passages to cover with your group. You do not need to cover every verse or chapter during the gathering.

A SIMPLE 90-MINUTE GATHERING (Example only. Some things may take more/less time.)
Welcome, mingle, and opening prayer: 5 minutes.
Personal discoveries from the month: 35 minutes.
Discussion around selected passages: 35 minutes.
Remaining questions and personal responses: 10 minutes.
Prayer together and dismiss: 5 minutes.

KEEP THE CONVERSATION ROOTED IN THE TEXT - Stay on point and don't drift off topic.
Helpful follow-up questions include:
• Which verse helped you see that?
• What happens immediately before or after this?
• What does the passage clearly state?
• How does that truth shape our response to God?

Welcome participation without requiring everyone to speak. Make room for people who are exploring Christianity to express uncertainty honestly.

HANDLE QUESTIONS WITH HUMILITY
When an answer is unclear, say, "Let's look at the passage together." If further study is needed, record the question and follow up with the pastor. ***Distinguish what Scripture states from what someone thinks might have happened.*** For example, John tells us Nicodemus came at night, but does not state his reason.

KEEP THE GOSPEL CLEAR
John presents Jesus as the eternal Son who became human, came to deal with sin, and gives eternal life to those who believe in Him. Explain that Jesus died for our sins and rose again. Salvation is God's gracious gift, received through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

KEEP APPLICATION CONNECTED TO GRACE
Help people consider what faithfulness looks like in daily life. Our responses flow from what God has revealed and provided through Jesus.

God's Word will shape our faith to direct how we think, live, love, and pray.

CHAPTER 1 INSIGHTS:

• Jesus did not begin to exist at His birth. John introduces Him as the Word who already existed when creation began. Everything created came into being through Him, placing Him on the Creator's side of the distinction between Creator and creation (vv. 1–3).

• John says the Word was both with God and was God. These statements hold together Jesus' distinction from the Father and His full deity. Jesus is more than a messenger who tells us about God (vv. 1–2).

• The John introduced here is John the Baptist. He is a person within the Gospel's story, distinct from the John traditionally identified as its author. God sent him to testify about Jesus so that people would believe (vv. 6–7).

• John was important, but he was not the light. His assignment was to direct attention to Jesus. Verse 9 describes Jesus as the true light; the following verses show that people can still reject Him. His coming does not mean everyone is automatically saved (vv. 8–9).

• The world's Creator entered the world, yet people failed to recognize Him. Even among His own people, He experienced rejection. John introduces a response to Jesus that we will see repeatedly throughout the Gospel (vv. 10–11).

• Receiving Jesus is explained in terms of believing in His name—trusting Him for who He truly is. Becoming God's child does not come through ancestry or someone else's decision for us. This new life has its source in God (vv. 12–13).

• The eternal Word became truly human. Jesus did not stop being God when He became human. John presents the Son living among people and revealing divine glory in a real human life (v. 14).

• Jesus makes the Father known. The law given through Moses was God's good gift; John now points to the fullness of grace and truth revealed in Jesus. We should not read this as though the Old Testament God lacked grace or the coming of Jesus made truth unimportant (vv. 16–18).

• John the Baptist (not the disciple/author of the book) identifies his role through Isaiah 40:3: he is a voice preparing the Lord's way. His importance comes from the assignment God gave him, and that assignment points beyond himself to Jesus (vv. 19–23).

• John's statement about being unworthy to untie Jesus' sandal expresses deep humility before Him. Although people are questioning John's authority, John emphasizes the greatness of the One coming after him (vv. 24–27).

• Calling Jesus God's Lamb introduces His mission to deal with sin. The title fits the Bible's larger picture of sacrifice and anticipates Jesus' death. John presents sin as a problem requiring God's provision (v. 29).

• John distinguishes his water baptism from Jesus' work of baptizing with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's descent and remaining on Jesus was the identifying sign God had given John. His testimony rests on God's revelation (vv. 31–34).

• John's testimony leads two of his disciples to follow Jesus. Directing them to Jesus fulfills the purpose of his witness, even as their attention moves from John to the One he announced (vv. 35–39).

• Andrew finds his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus. John explains that Messiah and Christ refer to the same title: God's Anointed One. Andrew shares whom he has found, even though his understanding of Jesus will continue to grow (vv. 40–42).

• Nathanael initially dismisses the possibility that someone significant could come from Nazareth. Philip invites him to meet Jesus. The encounter moves Nathanael from a dismissive assumption to a striking confession of faith (vv. 45–49).

• Jesus' description of angels ascending and descending recalls Jacob's experience in Genesis 28:12. Here the angels are associated with the Son of Man—Jesus Himself. The image directs attention to Jesus as the meeting point between heaven and earth (v. 51).

CHAPTER 2 INSIGHTS:

• Mary brings the shortage of wine to Jesus. His reply makes clear that His mission operates according to a timetable she does not control. The reference to His hour begins a theme that develops toward His death and glorification (vv. 3–4).

• Mary directs the servants to follow Jesus' instructions. Her words turn their attention to Him. This account invites confidence in Jesus while giving us no promise that He will resolve every practical difficulty in the way we request (v. 5).

• The water jars were used for Jewish purification. John includes this detail as part of the setting. We can notice that religious background without assigning a hidden meaning to every jar, number, or action in the story (v. 6).

• John explains the miracle's significance: this first sign reveals Jesus' glory, and His disciples believe in Him. A sign points beyond the astonishing event to the identity of the One who performed it (v. 11).

• Jesus identifies the temple as His Father's house and confronts its use as a marketplace. His actions express zeal for His Father's honor. The account calls us to take His authority and the worship of God seriously (vv. 13–17).

• John explains that Jesus' statement about destroying and raising the temple refers to His body. His resurrection will provide the decisive answer to the demand for a sign of His authority. The disciples understand this more fully after He rises (vv. 18–22).

• John places the crowd's belief alongside Jesus' refusal to entrust Himself to them. The contrast warns us against assuming that enthusiasm over miracles tells the whole story of someone's response to Jesus (vv. 23–24).

• Jesus needs no outside report to understand people. He knows what is within them. This prepares us for His conversation with Nicodemus, where He addresses the need beneath a religious leader's respectful opening words (vv. 24–25).

CHAPTER 3 INSIGHTS:

• Nicodemus is a religious leader who recognizes that God is at work through Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus tells him he needs new birth to enter God's kingdom. Religious knowledge and standing cannot produce the spiritual life he needs (vv. 1–3).

• Being born of water and the Spirit is best understood against God's promise of cleansing and renewal in Ezekiel 36:25–27. Jesus describes the new life the Spirit gives. Water baptism does not produce this life. The wind illustration emphasizes that the Spirit's work is real even though people cannot control it (vv. 5–8).

• Jesus speaks with authority about heavenly things because He is the Son of Man who came from heaven. Nicodemus is encountering someone whose knowledge of God exceeds that of any merely human teacher (vv. 9–13).

• Jesus recalls Numbers 21:4–9, when God provided rescue for Israelites suffering judgment through snakebites. The bronze snake was lifted up, and those who looked at God's provision lived. Jesus points ahead to His own lifting up on the cross and the eternal life received through faith in Him (vv. 14–15).

• God's love takes action through the giving of His one and only Son. Eternal life rests on God's gracious provision and is received through believing in Jesus. The Son's coming expresses God's saving love toward a world that needs rescue (vv. 16–17).

• The passage holds together the offer of salvation and the reality of judgment. Believing in Jesus brings freedom from condemnation; unbelief leaves a person under condemnation. God's love does not make our response to His Son unimportant (v. 18).

• These verses explain a moral reason people reject the light: they love darkness because their deeds are evil. Resistance to Jesus can involve a desire to avoid exposure, rather than simply a lack of information (vv. 19–20).

• The person who lives by the truth comes into the light, and God receives credit for the work evident in that person's life. This describes a response shaped by God's work; it does not teach that good behavior earns the salvation offered in verses 16–18 (v. 21).

• John describes a period when John the Baptist's ministry and Jesus' ministry overlap. His note that John had not yet been imprisoned helps locate these events within the unfolding story (vv. 22–24).

• John's disciples bring him a concerned report that people are going to Jesus. Their wording frames Jesus' growing ministry as a problem. Notice their concern before reading John's answer tomorrow: they need help understanding what success in John's assignment actually means (vv. 25–26).

• John understands his assignment as something received from heaven. He reminds his disciples that he has consistently identified himself as the one sent ahead of the Messiah. Jesus' growing prominence fulfills the purpose of John's ministry (vv. 27–28).

• John compares himself to the groom's friend, who rejoices in the groom's arrival. His desire for Jesus to increase expresses joy in Jesus receiving His rightful place. Humility here grows from knowing who Jesus is and accepting the role God has given John (vv. 29–30).

• Jesus' heavenly origin sets Him above every earthly witness. He testifies from direct knowledge of heavenly realities. His words carry an authority that comes from who He is and where He comes from (vv. 31–32).

• Verse 32 describes the widespread rejection of Jesus' testimony, while verse 33 explicitly recognizes that some receive it. Read together, the verses show that the rejection is extensive, but not without exception. Receiving Jesus' testimony acknowledges God's truthfulness (vv. 32–33).

• These verses bring Father, Son, and Spirit into view together. The One God sends speaks God's words; the Spirit is given without measure; the Father loves the Son and places all things in His hands. The passage emphasizes the fullness and authority of Jesus' mission (vv. 34–35).

• Eternal life is a present possession for the person who believes in the Son. Rejecting the Son leaves a person under God's righteous judgment. The contrast between belief and rejection shows that faith involves receiving Jesus for who He is, rather than merely agreeing that He exists (v. 36).