

## Gospel of John Study Guide

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# GOSPEL OF JOHN

## STUDY GUIDE

### INTRODUCTION

An artist begins a portrait by making several sketches. He studies his subject from different perspectives and in different light. Each sketch captures some characteristic, some distinguishing feature that blends into the finished portrait. One artist was known to have spent hundreds of hours sketching his subject before picking up his brush to paint. Why such devotion? He was portraying the woman he loved.

It can be easy to view the people of the Bible as superhuman. However, the men and women that we read about were often ordinary people, just like us. John, who is the author of the Gospel of John, was no different. He was an ordinary fisherman by trade, but after he responded to the call to follow Jesus, he was used by God in an extraordinary way. In this Gospel, John relives events of Jesus' earthly ministry in vivid detail so that people will know his Lord and beloved Friend. Over and again, John invites us to "see" and "believe" in Jesus, which he states is the reason he wrote his Gospel.

After John met Jesus, he was transformed as he saw His example and heard His words. It is our prayer that the same would happen to you as you read the Gospel of John and see and hear from Jesus for yourself.

This study guide is designed to be a useful tool for you as an individual, but it can also be used in a group to start discussions. Each part of this study guide will have questions with references to help you find the answers. There are also a few verses to memorize that will be helpful to know as you continue to follow Christ. At the end of each section, there are questions that can be used in a group to discuss and explore the chapter more. As you read each chapter in the *Start! Bible Gospel of John*, feel free to underline, circle, and write inside. It has been said, "You make time for those things that are important to you." If knowing God and growing in your relationship with Him is important to you, be sure to make time for it. As you read God's Word, be encouraged and pray that God would again do extraordinary things with an ordinary person.

## AUTHOR

As a young man, John didn't seem destined to be known as the "Apostle of Love." In fact, Jesus' nickname for John and his brother James was "Sons of Thunder"! John had a strong and ambitious nature. He brashly rebuked a man for casting out demons in Jesus' name because the man didn't belong to their group (see Mark 9:38). He asked for a privileged place in Jesus' kingdom (see Mark 10:37) without considering the depth of suffering that lay ahead. And when a Samaritan village refused to show them hospitality, John's first reaction (see Luke 9:54) was to ask Jesus if they could call fire down to consume the whole population!

How could it be that such a competitive, hot-headed individual would later write with heartfelt conviction, "Beloved let us love one another" (1 John 4:7)? We can answer that question in one word: transformation. Compassion didn't come naturally to John, but he received it from Jesus and began to learn what true love is from our Lord's example. Surrendering his strong tendencies into the Holy Spirit's control, John became a passionate man mellowed by grace and knowledge. The harsh demeanor was gone, but the zeal for truth remained.

## BACKGROUND

Christianity was well established in the world by the end of the first century. All the documents that compile the New Testament had been written. John's Gospel and his letters were among the last writings, penned sometime around AD 90.

# ↑ CHAPTER 1

Who is given the right to become children of God? (See John 1:12.)

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Verse 6 describes John the Baptist as a man sent from God. According to verse 7, why was it that he came?

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John speaks of “the Light” in verse 7, which is a reference to \_\_\_\_\_ .

Look up verse 29 and fill in the blank. John the Baptist refers to Jesus as “the lamb of God who takes away the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world!”

Sin is the breaking of God’s law. The Bible teaches that God has written His law in our hearts. When a person sins, they are guilty of being a lawbreaker. Reread verse 29. What does this mean Jesus has done for you?

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There were men who encountered Jesus in different ways. After coming into contact with Him what did they do? (See verses 37 and 42–45.)

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To be a disciple of Jesus you must follow Him. Just as the men we read of in this chapter, we also are called to follow Jesus. That is what it means to be a Christian. The actual definition of the word *Christian* is: a follower of Jesus Christ. If you call yourself a Christian, then you are to be a person who believes that Jesus has taken away your sin, a person who follows the example of His life, and a person who seeks to introduce other people to Him.

*Try to memorize this verse to remind yourself that you are a child of God:*

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” —John 1:12



**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Who Jesus is, is a very important truth that makes the gospel message good news. Receiving Him and believing in Him is just as important as knowing who He is.

- a. In his opening statement, John declares the deity of Jesus. How does the world portray Jesus today?
- b. Based on John's prologue (John 1:1–5), how would you answer the person who says Jesus was just a good man or a wise teacher?

## ↑ CHAPTER 2

Many people have heard about the first miracle that Jesus did, when He turned water into wine, but not all of them understand the important principles that can be learned from it.

When they ran out of wine at the wedding, Mary looked to Jesus to help in this time of need. Pay attention to the result of Jesus performing this miracle.

Read verse 11 and fill in the blanks. “This beginning \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples \_\_\_\_\_” (John 2:11).

A “sign” is a significant display of power that points to a divine reality. From looking at verse 11, what was the result of Jesus performing this “beginning of signs”?

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What did Jesus use in the miracle of turning water into wine?

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Often in the Bible, we see that God uses things that are ordinary to do extraordinary things.

The Passover is a feast time when all Jews would make a trip to the temple in Jerusalem to worship God. As Jesus entered the temple what did He find? (See verse 14.)

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Jesus drives them all out of the temple. Why? (See verses 15–16.)

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Miracles are not difficult for God to perform. The miracles we read of in the Gospel of John were recorded so that we would believe in Him. Looking at this chapter, we see Jesus' compassion for the needs of people and His zeal for righteousness.

- a. What does the activity in the temple in this chapter tell you about the spiritual condition of the people?
- b. How has God met a need in your life? Do you think it is a miracle?

## ↑ CHAPTER 3

Jesus speaks with a man named Nicodemus about being “born again.” In verse 6, Jesus explains that what is born of the flesh (physical birth) is flesh (physical life), and that which is born of the Spirit (the Spirit of God) is spirit (spiritual life). Everyone has been born once. The second birth happens when people believe in Jesus as the One who forgives them of their sin and He then fills them with His Spirit.

What does it mean to be born again?

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Nicodemus asks, “How can these things be?” in verse 9. Jesus shares with Him the example in the Old Testament when people were dying and God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole so that whoever looked on it would not die. Then Jesus said He also would be lifted up and whoever would believe in Him would have \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 15).

“For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that \_\_\_\_\_ should not perish but have everlasting life.” —John 3:16

According to verse 16, why does God make a way for people to have eternal life?

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Referring to verse 20, why don't people come to the light?

John the Baptist understood that his role was to point people to Jesus, which is why he said, “He must \_\_\_\_\_, but I must \_\_\_\_\_” (verse 30).

How can you be like John and point people to Jesus?

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According to John the Baptist in verse 36, what is the consequence for not believing in Jesus?

*Try to memorize this verse as a reminder of how much God loves you.*

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”  
—John 3:16



**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Death is not always an easy topic of conversation. Fortunately, Jesus promises eternal life to all who believe in Him. This truth demonstrates the love of God for the world, who otherwise would rightly be condemned to hell apart from belief in Jesus.

- a. Jesus makes it clear that no one can enter heaven without being born again. What do you think it means to be “born again”?
- b. Do you know for certain that you will go to heaven? Why or why not?

## ↑ CHAPTER 4

Jesus and His disciples left Judea and were headed back to Galilee, but verse 4 tells us that Jesus needed to go through Samaria. Being tired from His travels, He sat next to a well at the sixth hour, which was about noon.

In verse 7, Jesus meets a woman at the well and asks her to give Him a drink. How does she respond? (See verse 9.)

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People often have barriers built up in their minds that cause them to be closed off to hearing from Jesus. Jesus is not concerned with social status, race, or gender. He offers eternal life freely to anyone who will hear and receive Him.

What does Jesus say He would have given to her if she would have known “the gift of God” and who He was, and if she had asked Him? (See verse 10.)

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It is interesting that Jesus uses something ordinary, like water in this situation, to address an extraordinary truth. Yes, it is true that we all need water in order to live, but drinking water from a well can’t fully sustain or satisfy a person forever. The water that Jesus offers is “living water,” which is able to satisfy a person’s deepest thirst: eternal life.

Read verse 14 and fill in the blanks. “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will \_\_\_\_\_. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of living water springing up into \_\_\_\_\_.”

Jesus brings up some things about this woman’s past and present which she responds honestly about, and Jesus says she “spoke truly” (verse 18). Jesus then describes those whom the Father is seeking to worship Him. How does He describe these “true worshipers” in verses 23–24?

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*Messiah* can also be translated “Savior.” What do verses 25–26 reveal about who Jesus is?

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After meeting Jesus and understanding who He was, what did the woman do? (See verses 28–29.)

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Again we see an ordinary person being used to tell others about Jesus. What do you learn from this woman’s example?

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What are the two reasons why other Samaritans believed in Jesus? (See verses 39 and 42.)

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When the nobleman came to Jesus in verses 46–49 and asked Him to heal his son, Jesus said, “Go your way; your son lives.” How did the nobleman respond (verse 50)?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Being tired and hungry from His travels didn’t prevent Jesus from talking with others about Himself and eternal life.

- a. What are some things that can get in the way of you sharing with others about God and eternal life?
- b. Belief and obedience are what the Lord desires from all those who come to Him. What are some ways or areas in your life that you need to believe and obey Him?

## ↑ CHAPTER 5

Jesus returns to Jerusalem again and He finds a certain man who has been sick for a long time and asks him, “Do you want to be made well?” The man gives an explanation rather than an answer. What does Jesus do to make the man well? (See verse 8.)

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The Sabbath was the day of the week Jews were to rest. The Jews made laws about what you could and could not do. What did the Jews accuse the formerly sick man of doing on the Sabbath?

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After Jesus found him in the temple, what did the man who was healed do (verse 15)?

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When we come to know that it is Jesus who has healed us spiritually, we should be willing to tell others.

Looking at verses 16 and 18, why did the Jews persecute Jesus and seek to kill Him?

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No one can be equal with God except God. Jesus claimed to be equal with God and had the power and authority to back up His claim. Jesus was (and is) God. This may seem impossible, but it is what the Bible teaches us. God the Father is equal in divine nature to God the Son (Jesus), but they have different roles. For example, look at verse 22 and fill in the blanks.

“For the Father \_\_\_\_\_, but has committed \_\_\_\_\_ to the Son . . .”

How does this verse show the difference in the roles of the Father and Son?

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And verse 23, “that all should \_\_\_\_\_ just as they \_\_\_\_\_.”

How does this verse show the equality of the Father and Son?

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According to verse 24, how is it that a person “has everlasting life”?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Jesus shows God’s love for people in His interactions with them because He is God. It may sound confusing, but both God the Father and God the Son are God. When we look at the Bible, we see that the Son has the same authority that the Father has. Jesus made that claim Himself, which is why the Jews condemned Him.

- a. How do you see Jesus’ authority and godly characteristics in this chapter?
- b. How and to whom can you show the love of God in your life?

## ↑ CHAPTER 6

Jesus is growing more and more popular among the people, and crowds begin to follow Him.

According to verse 2, why did the multitude follow Jesus?

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After reading verse 6, why do you think Jesus asked Philip the question in verse 5?

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After the “Feeding of the Five Thousand” in verse 14, what was said about Jesus?

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There are times when God can take a situation that looks impossible and use it to show His power at work in our lives.

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, how did they react (verse 19)?

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What is “the work of God” (verse 29)?

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Fill in the blank. “I am \_\_\_\_\_ . He who comes to Me \_\_\_\_\_ , and he who believes in Me \_\_\_\_\_ ” (John 6:35).

*Anything that this world has to offer will never fully satisfy. Only Jesus can satisfy our deepest need: eternal life.*

After some of Jesus' disciples went back and walked with Him no more, He asked the others, "Do you also want to go away?" How did Simon Peter answer Him?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Sometimes it can be hard to understand how or why things happen in life, which is why it is important to “know and believe” that Jesus is the only One we can go to for the words that lead to eternal life.

- a. As a Christian, have you experienced a situation that seemed impossible? If so, how does knowing and believing in Jesus help get you through it?
- b. Do you feel like you have ever been tested by the Lord? If so, how?

## ↑ CHAPTER 7

In verses 3–5, Jesus’ brothers tell him to go to Judea. Why?

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According to verse 7, why does the world hate Jesus?

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There were a lot of people talking about Jesus, but no one spoke of Him openly. Why? (See verse 13.)

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When Jesus was questioned about His teaching (doctrine), how did He answer (verse 16)?

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Where should we get our doctrine (teachings) about God from?

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Fill in the blanks. “Do not judge \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
but judge with \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
(John 7:24).

How does this verse affect your thinking and judgments?

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The people seem to be confused about what to believe about Jesus.  
Why (verses 25–27)?

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In verses 38–39, Jesus was referring to those who were to be given the Holy Spirit. Who were they?

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Looking at verses 40–44, how did the people respond to the things that Jesus said?

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When the guards didn't return with Jesus, how did the Pharisees react?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Doubt and confusion can come at any time to anyone. We must not be moved by popular opinion or what other people may say. We should believe the things we read in the Bible and believe Jesus to be who He is.

- a. What doubts or confusion have you experienced concerning the Word of God?
- b. How did/do you deal with them?

## ↑ CHAPTER 8

In verses 3–6, the scribes and Pharisees bring the woman caught in adultery to Jesus. Why did they do this?

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What did Jesus say that caused those who accused the woman to leave (verse 9)?

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After her accusers left, what did Jesus say to the woman? (See verses 10–11.)

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Fill in the blank. “I am the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
He who follows Me shall not walk in \_\_\_\_\_ but have the  
\_\_\_\_\_ ” (John 8:12).

According to Jesus, why would someone die in their sins (verse 24)?

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“Abide” can also be translated “continue in.” In verse 31, what does it mean to abide in His word?

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What is the result of abiding in His word (verse 32)?

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How does Jesus describe the devil (verse 44)?

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There is a promise that Jesus gives to those who keep His word. What is it? (See verse 51.)

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Jesus says something that causes the Jews to pick up stones to stone Him with. What was it that He said? (See verse 58.)

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The choice facing each person that day in the temple courts is the same choice you will face: fall down and worship Him or pick up those stones! There is no other choice—to be undecided is to decide against Him. Whether it's through gentle words or the megaphone of difficult circumstances, Jesus offers you the way to freedom and fulfillment. You must make the choice and respond. But realize that if you call Him Savior, you must also accept Him as Lord over your life—all of it: your plans, ambitions, desires, and goals.



**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

If you have believed in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, like the woman caught in adultery you are called to “go and sin no more.” You are no longer a slave to sin but a son or daughter of God. Now “abide” in His word and you will know truth “and the truth shall make you free.”

- a. Who is Jesus to you?
- b. How can you abide in His word in your daily life?

## ↑ CHAPTER 9

In verse 2, the disciples asked the question, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” We can assume from this question there was a common teaching that human suffering was the result of sin. Jesus gives an interesting answer that was very different from the popular belief. According to Jesus, why was the man born blind (verse 3)?

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What is something in your life that God has allowed that now you can use for His glory?

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There was a division among the Pharisees concerning Jesus. Why? (See verse 16.)

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Why did the parents of the formerly blind man fear the Jews (verse 22)?

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It seems that the blind man has more understanding of who Jesus is and where He has come from than the religious Pharisees do. How does He explain this to them? (See verses 30–33.)

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Who is the Son of God (verse 37)?

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What is the formerly blind man's response to Jesus in verse 38?

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*Worship is more than something that is done once or at certain times. Worship is a lifestyle. We should desire to have a life that glorifies the Lord in all we do once we come to know who Jesus is and what He has done for us.*



**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

We see in this chapter that the man who was once blind did not know much about Jesus, but what he did know he shared with others. He said, “One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see” (verse 25).

- a. What have you learned so far about Jesus that you can share with others?
- b. Have you ever been afraid to speak up about your beliefs out of fear of what people might think?

## ↑ CHAPTER 10

Jesus wanted people to understand who He was and why He came. So He used things that people were familiar with in order to teach them truths about Himself and the relationship that He desires to have with all people.

What familiar things does Jesus use in the beginning of this chapter to teach the people?

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As Jesus used this illustration to show the relationship between Himself and His followers, what was the response of those who heard Him?

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Jesus uses a second illustration to help His listeners better understand who He is and why He came. According to verse 10, what is the reason Jesus came?

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In verses 11–15, Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. What is the difference between the shepherd and a hireling?

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There was division among the people over the things that Jesus had said. What did the people say about Him (verses 19–21)?

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How does Jesus describe His sheep in verses 27–28?

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Again we see Jesus claim equality with God the Father. Fill in the blanks.

“I and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_” (John 10:30).

For what reason did the Jews want to stone and kill Jesus? (See verse 33.)

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Jesus' claim to be God was one that was worthy of death according to the Jewish law. Jesus was not just a man; He was the God-man—the only Man who could work the works of God. He declared Himself to be the Good Shepherd and promised abundant life, yet some still would not receive Him.

- a. What do you think it means to have abundant life?
- b. Jesus says that His sheep hear His voice. What do you think it means to hear the Good Shepherd's voice?

## ↑ CHAPTER 11

At this point in the Gospel of John, we see it is written with the miracles that Jesus did so that we would believe in Him. This chapter presents one of the most important events in the life of Christ: the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

We are introduced to a family who means a great deal to Jesus. Who are they and where do they live (verse 1)?

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How do the two sisters refer to their brother in their urgent message to Jesus? (See verses 3–4.)

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Rather than immediately returning to Jerusalem, what does Jesus do (verse 6)?

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Jesus says that He is glad that He was not there when Lazarus died. Why? (See verse 15.)

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When Jesus came, how long has Lazarus been in the tomb (verse 17)?

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Fill in the blank. “I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. He who \_\_\_\_\_, though he may die, he \_\_\_\_\_” (John 11:25).

After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how did people respond?  
(See verses 45–46.)

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After the chief priest and Pharisees heard about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, what did they make plans to do (verse 53)?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

There are some great statements and truths found in this chapter. We also see Jesus do what most people would think is impossible. Take a moment and reread verse 25 before answering the following questions.

- a. What does this verse reveal to you about the power and authority of Jesus?
- b. What is the promise He makes to believers? How does it affect you?

## ↑ CHAPTER 12

In this chapter, we see the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Some people seemed to understand who He is and what He came to do, but others still didn't. Jesus, knowing His time was short, continued to call people to follow Him.

Mary took an expensive bottle of perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet, wiping His feet with her hair in verse 3. Who was upset with this worship? Why (verses 4–5)?

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In the Old Testament it was predicted that the King, the One who brings salvation, would come to Jerusalem in a specific way. In verse 14, we see Jesus enters Jerusalem in that way and is welcomed as King in fulfillment of the Old Testament prediction. What was Jesus riding on (verses 14–15)?

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Jesus gives a promise to those who serve and follow Him. What are the promises found in verse 26?

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Knowing that His time to die was coming soon, Jesus had a right perspective of His purpose. His desire was to glorify the Father.

Fill in the blank. “And I, if I am \_\_\_\_\_ from the earth, will \_\_\_\_\_ peoples to Myself” (John 12:32).

This is very similar to the things that Jesus said in the beginning of His ministry. Look back at John 3:14–15.

Even though Jesus had done all these signs and wonders, there were still some who did not believe. There were some even among the rulers who did believe but they didn't confess Him. “Confess” means to declare openly.

According to verses 42–43 why didn't they confess Him?

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In verses 44 and 45, Jesus is identifying Himself as God. Fill in the blanks.

“He who believes in \_\_\_\_\_, believes not in Me but in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. And he who sees \_\_\_\_\_ sees  
\_\_\_\_\_.”



**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

There are times when it is uncomfortable and even costly to openly confess Jesus. But Jesus made some great promises to those who would follow Him. Unfortunately, some will reject Jesus no matter how many signs and wonders they witness, or predictions He fulfills.

- a. Have you ever faced a situation in which it was difficult to openly confess Jesus?
- b. Reread verses 32–33. What similarities do you see with these verses and John 3:14–15?

## ↑ CHAPTER 13

When you know the time you have is short, you want to make the most of it. Jesus wanted to give the disciples an example of love and servant leadership, for them to carry on His work.

To demonstrate Jesus' love for His disciples, what does He do after dinner (verses 4–5)?

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What is Peter's first response to Jesus? (See verses 6 and 8.)

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Jesus tells Peter something in verse 8 that changes his response. What did Jesus tell him?

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What was Jesus' main objective in doing this (verses 14–15)?

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Jesus was troubled in His spirit and then shared that one of the disciples would betray Him. He then identifies His betrayer. Who was that (verse 26)?

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Jesus gave a new commandment in verse 34. Fill in the blank. "A new

\_\_\_\_\_ I give you, that you \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; as I have \_\_\_\_\_  
that you also \_\_\_\_\_ .

According to Jesus, in verse 35, how will people know who His disciples are?

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Peter told Jesus that he was willing to lay down his life for Him. How did Jesus respond to Peter's statement in verse 38?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

A great leader will lead by example. That is exactly what Jesus did. He is the ultimate example of how we should live and interact with others. Humility is key for being able to both serve and be served.

- a. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the disciples by washing their feet?
- b. In what ways can you follow the example of serving that Jesus gave?

## ↑ CHAPTER 14

After Jesus tells His disciples about all the troubles ahead of them, the religious leaders wanting to kill Him, that one of them would betray Him, and that Peter would deny Him, they were stressed, and Jesus knew they needed to be comforted. In this chapter we find some of the most hopeful and comforting words in Scripture.

In order to calm the hearts of the disciples what did He tell them to do (verse 1)?

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The word *believe* means to place your faith and trust in something. Jesus says to put our faith and trust in Him. What promises and truths does He share in verses 2–4?

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The disciples are still confused; what does Thomas ask in verse 5?

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Fill in the blanks from verse 6. “I am \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ comes to the Father except through \_\_\_\_\_ ” (John 14:6).

Philip makes a request in verse 8. What is his request of Jesus?

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According to Jesus’ response in verse 9, who has seen the Father?

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Jesus again demonstrated that He is equal with the Father. He even says ~~that those who see Him have also seen the Father.~~ \_\_\_\_\_

How can you show that you love Jesus? (See verse 15.)

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In verses 16–17, Jesus introduces “another Helper.” Who is this? (See verses 17 and 26.)

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What will the Helper do (verse 26)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does Jesus promise He will leave with us (verse 27)? \_\_\_\_\_



**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

As Jesus walked and talked with the disciples, He recognized that they were human and would need assurance from time to time. He made promises to His followers that allow us to have hope for the future.

- a. Do you think Christians should be immune to fear or anxious thoughts? Why or why not?
- b. What promises have you read in this chapter that can help prevent your heart from being troubled?

## ↑ CHAPTER 15

Jesus now turned His steps toward the cross, knowing that He only had a few hours left. He wanted to use every minute to give truths to His disciples. As usual, He used ordinary things to illustrate what He wanted to teach the disciples.

In verse 1, who does Jesus say He is?

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What does Jesus say is the way to bear fruit (verse 4)?

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What promise is there for the branches that do abide in Him (verse 5)?

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According to verse 6, what happens to the branch that does not abide in Him?

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We can abide or remain in Jesus by staying in His Word, praying daily, worshipping Him, and obeying Him, to produce quality, godly fruit.

Jesus commands His followers to abide in His love. According to verse 10, how can someone abide in His love?

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Fill in the blanks. “Greater \_\_\_\_\_ has no one that this, than to \_\_\_\_\_ for his friends” (John 15:13).

Jesus said that the world would hate His followers. Why (verses 18–19)?

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What does Jesus remind His followers of in verse 20?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

After explaining to the disciples how they can bear fruit, Jesus reminds them of His love and joy that He offers them. He also reminds them that they can expect to get treated the same way He is treated because they are His servants.

- a. What do you think it means to bear fruit?
- b. What growth of “fruit” have you been most aware of lately? Are there ways you have experienced the Lord’s pruning?

## ↑ CHAPTER 16

In this chapter, Jesus teaches some final things to His disciples before being arrested and tried. He warns them of the persecution they are going to experience, He speaks of the Helper who is coming, and He tells them how He has overcome the world.

Why is Jesus talking to them about these things (verse 1)?

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Where does Jesus say He is going (verse 5)?

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In verse 7, Jesus tells them that it is to their advantage that He goes. Why?

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When the Helper comes what will He do, according to verse 8?

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In verse 13, Jesus confirms the Helper (Spirit of truth) is coming. What will He do?

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In verses 16–24, using the idea of pain in childbirth, Jesus tries to get across to His disciples that sorrow will turn to joy. The horror and agony of the cross would be replaced with salvation to everyone who believes.

What does Jesus predict will happen in verse 32?

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*There may be times in life when you feel like everyone has abandoned you, but remember: like Jesus, you are not alone, because the Father is with you.*

Fill in the blanks. “These things I have spoken to you, that \_\_\_\_\_ you may have \_\_\_\_\_. In the world you will have \_\_\_\_\_; but be of good cheer, I have \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:33).



**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Jesus continues to tell the disciples of His departure. Understanding that it would cause them sorrow, He also gives them the assurance of the promise of the Helper, who will come after He leaves. He also comforts them by reminding them that their sorrow will turn to joy because He has overcome the world.

- a. Have you ever experienced a time that was painful or a time of sorrow that the Lord allowed in order to show you something good?
- b. What do you think Jesus meant when He said He has overcome the world?

## ↑ CHAPTER 17

Chapter 17 is Jesus' prayer for Himself, His disciples, and all believers. It also is a beautiful picture of our relationship with the Father and one another, and of how God expects us to live.

In verse 1, what does Jesus pray for Himself?

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God the Father gives His Son \_\_\_\_\_ over all flesh (verse 2).

How does Jesus describe eternal life in verse 3?

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Jesus changes the subject of His prayer to His faithful followers. He was leaving them, and wanted them to share who He is with the whole world.

What did Jesus reveal to His disciples while here on earth? (See verses 6–10.)

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Jesus prays for protection from whom, in verse 15?

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While Jesus was with them He kept them together spiritually, asking for God's care. Now He gives them to the Father to keep them.

What critical resource was given to the disciples? (See verses 14–16.)

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He prays that we may be “sanctified,” which means to be set apart for God’s plans.

How are the disciples to be sanctified (verses 17–19)?

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In verses 20–26, Jesus prays for us. What is His ultimate goal (verse 21)?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Jesus prays for the Father to be glorified through what He has done and will do. He also prays for the disciples, that they would know Him, and for all those who will believe in Him in the future.

- a. Jesus prayed for unity. In what way does Christian unity provide safety for believers and bring glory to God?
- b. What is the difference between “sanctified” (set apart) and isolated?

## ↑ CHAPTER 18

When Judas came to the garden, who was with him (verse 3)?

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What happened when Jesus responded to the group that was with Judas (verse 6)?

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In verse 10, how did Simon Peter respond to the situation?

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After Simon Peter's action, what was Jesus' response (verse 11)?

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Jesus has been arrested and is led away to the courtyard of the high priest. When Peter is brought in, what happens (verse 17)?

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When Jesus answered the high priest's question, what happened (verse 22)?

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According to verses 29–32, what does Pilate tell the Jews to do with Jesus?

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When questioning Jesus, what does Pilate ask Him (verse 33)?

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Pilate asks Jesus, “Are you a king?” In verse 37, how does Jesus respond to Pilate’s question?

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When given the opportunity to have Jesus released, what did the people say? (See verse 40.)

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

In this chapter, Jesus was betrayed, denied, and condemned to death. Judas betrayed Him, Peter denied Him, and the people condemned Him. It seemed as if everyone was against Him, but He was not alone.

- a. Has there been a time in your life when you felt as if everyone had left you?
- b. What will help you get through a time like that in the future?

## ↑ CHAPTER 19

In this chapter, we see Jesus crucified and buried, just like He predicted would happen to Him. He faced cruel and harsh punishment that He did not deserve. After being condemned and beaten, He still showed love for the people who condemned Him.

In order to satisfy the crowd, what did Pilate do to Jesus to show that he had disciplined Him (verse 1)?

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What was the response of the crowd when Pilate brought Jesus out and said that he found no guilt in Him (verse 6)?

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According to the Jews in verse 7, why did they sentence Jesus to death?

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Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross (verse 19). What was it?

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Even as Jesus was in personal agony, He saw His mother at the foot of the cross and made provision for her. What was done for her (verse 27)?

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What happened when they came to break Jesus' legs? (See verses 33–37.)

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Who asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus for burial (verse 38)?

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In verse 41, where was Jesus' body lain?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Although Pilate found no guilt in Jesus, he still allowed for Him to be crucified. As a few of His followers watched and heard Him speak His last words, they watched helplessly, and He was killed. After it was known that He was dead, He was taken off the cross and buried.

- a. Pilate recognized that Jesus was innocent, yet still allowed Him to be put to death. Why is the death of Jesus so important?
- b. The author, John, points out that the things that happened to Jesus were a fulfillment of predictions from Scripture. Why do you think this is significant?

## ↑ CHAPTER 20

Who was the first one at the tomb, discovering that the stone had been rolled away (verse 1)?

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What did she believe had happened to Jesus (verse 2)?

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When they looked in the tomb, what did they see there (verses 5–7)?

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When Mary went into the tomb, who was sitting where Jesus' body had been (verse 12)?

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Mary didn't recognize the Lord until He called her name. What was Jesus' response to her after she recognized who He was? (See verse 17.)

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In verse 19, what happened when the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews?

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Who was not there when Jesus showed up (verse 24)?

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Fill in the blank. "Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet \_\_\_\_\_" (John 20:29).

In verse 31, what does the author, John, say is the reason that these things have been written?

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

In this chapter, we see the fulfillment of what Jesus had predicted would happen: that He would be raised from the dead. Some didn't understand it. Others didn't believe it. But He showed Himself to many, and to those who believe He promises a blessing. We who have not seen Him have these things written to us so that we would believe.

- a. Up until this point, what things have you read that have sparked belief or reinforced something that you already believed?
- b. In your reading so far, is there anything that you don't understand or believe?

## ↑ CHAPTER 21

Following the Resurrection, John offers the reader an in-depth look at just a few of the Lord's appearances. Here in chapter 21, we see an up-close look at the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples.

Where were the disciples when Jesus showed Himself to them for the third time (verse 1)?

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In verse 3, what were they were doing when Jesus showed up?

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What happened when the disciples obeyed the instruction of Jesus (verse 6)?

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What did the disciples find when they came to the shore (verse 9)?

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Why didn't any of the disciples ask the Lord who He was (verse 12)?

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In an attempt to restore Peter, Jesus asked him the same question three times. What did Jesus ask him? (See verses 15–17.)

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What was the instruction that Jesus gave specifically to Peter in verse 19?

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What was Peter's response to Jesus? (See verses 20–21.)

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**AS A GROUP, EXPLORE AND  
DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

Jesus gently corrects Peter by reminding him to not focus on what He has planned for others but to simply follow Jesus. This is a great reminder to us as well. We should not be concerned with other people but instead be focused on completely following Jesus.

- a. Is there anything that you are focused on that could be distracting you from simply following Jesus?
- b. After reading this firsthand record of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, what are some important things that you have learned?
- c. Seeing how Jesus lived His life through this book of the Bible, in what ways can you make changes in your life to be more like Him?

## CONCLUSION

Congratulations! You've completed your reading and study through the Gospel of John! By now, you've learned much about character of Jesus, His great love for you, and His transforming power—Jesus is able to do extraordinary things through ordinary people like us!

So now what? Now you keep studying! Continue reading your Bible each day to learn more about God and grow in your relationship with Him. We suggest that next you read the book of Acts to learn how the Holy Spirit empowered the early church to turn their world upside down. Or you can continue to study the life of Jesus from a different perspective, by reading one of the other Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke). Acts is the book that immediately follows the Gospel of John, and the other Gospels can be found right before it.

Remember the importance of reading the Bible daily, praying to the Lord constantly, connecting with other Christians at a Bible-teaching church, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. These spiritual disciplines will ensure that you continue to stay close with God and grow in His grace and knowledge.

God bless you as you seek to follow Him!

Harvest Ministries