

**JOHN  
HOME  
DEVOTIONALS**

# INTRODUCTION

These devotionals are designed to last for 14 weeks (98 days). Each devotional is intended to take less than 10 minutes, but can be expanded to take as much time as you are willing to spend.

## **Purpose of this study:**

The purpose of these devotionals is to allow families to apply the Bible Bowl material to their lives, grow together in Christ, and understand the events in the Gospel of John better. This was created to help all families and not just families preparing for Bible Bowl. It is our prayer that all families will be able to use this to grow closer to each other and closer to God.

## **Format of lessons:**

- **Read:** Families should read a specific passage which is generally 2 to 10 verses in length.
- **Ask:** Review 2 or 3 questions about what was just read. Many times, these questions lead into the next section. Suggested answers are in italics next to the question.
- **Discuss:** This section contains an open-ended question for your family to talk about based on the passage that was read.
- **Help:** Families can use this section to get ideas for the discussion. This section is purely meant to be an aid in the discussion time.

## Day 1

**Read:** John 1:1-11

**Ask:**

- Who is the Word? (*Jesus*)
- How was the world created? (*By the Word*)
- How did the world respond to its creator coming into the world? (*It did not recognize Him or receive Him*)

**Discuss:** Why did the world not receive Jesus? Why does it reject Him now?

**Help:** The main reason the world rejected Jesus is because He brought truth and light that the world did not want. The world likes to be in sin and darkness, but Jesus said that was wrong. Even today people reject Jesus for many reasons, including fear, misunderstandings, and a desire for control. When people reject Jesus, we should be patient and loving to them and continue to try to help them accept Jesus.

## Day 2

**Read:** John 1:12-18

**Ask:**

- What right was given to those who believed? (*To be called children of God*)
- Whose glory have we seen? (*The Word, the One and Only, who came from the Father*)
- What have we received from the fullness of Jesus' grace? (*One blessing after another*)

**Discuss:** What benefits do we gain by believing in Jesus?

**Help:** John lists several benefits in this passage, including: the right to be children of God, one blessing after another from His fullness and grace, knowledge of the Father. We also have the benefits of eternal life, an inheritance with God, a family of believers in the church, etc.

## Day 3

**Read:** John 1:19-28

**Ask:**

- Who was John? (*A forerunner to Jesus, a preacher, etc.*)
- Who wanted to know who Jesus was? (*The Jewish leaders who sent priests and Levites to Him*)
- What was John's job? (*To make straight the path for Jesus, prepare the way for Jesus*)

**Discuss:** John had a specific job to prepare the way for the Lord. What job has God given us?

**Help:** God gives us several different jobs in our lives. God has given different people different abilities and talents. In Romans 12:6-8, Paul tells people to use their gifts to do God's work. It is less important what your talents are or what job God has given you than it is that you use your abilities for God.

## Day 4

**Read:** John 1:29-34

**Ask:**

- What did John call Jesus? (*The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*)
- Why did John baptize Jesus? (*That Jesus might be revealed to Israel*)
- What happened when Jesus was baptized? (*The Spirit came down from heaven as a dove*)

**Discuss:** John baptized Jesus to reveal Him to Israel. How did this reveal Jesus to Israel? How can we reveal Jesus to those who do not know or understand that He is the Son of God?

**Help:** When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit descended on Him as a dove. This let those who saw see that God was with Jesus. We can reveal Jesus to others by talking about who He is and what He has done. We can also reveal Jesus by living in a way that copies how He lived.

## Day 5

**Read:** John 1:35-51

**Ask:**

- Why did two of John's disciples follow Jesus? (*They heard John call Him the Lamb of God*)
- What did Andrew do when he realized Jesus was the Messiah? (*Went and told his brother Simon*)
- What did Philip do when Jesus called him? (*Went and got Nathanael*)

**Discuss:** Andrew and Philip immediately told others about Jesus. Who can we tell about Jesus? How can we talk to people about Jesus and share who He is?

**Help:** There are always people in our life that we can talk to about Jesus. The more we know about Jesus the easier it is for us to share Him with others. Talking about Jesus should be a way of life.

## Day 6

**Read:** John 2:1-11

**Ask:**

- What went wrong at the wedding? (*They ran out of wine*)
- What did Jesus command the servants to do? (*Fill the water jars with water and take some to the master of the banquet*)
- What happened when the servants obeyed Jesus? (*The water became a very fine wine*)

**Discuss:** What would have happened if the servants had not done what Jesus said? Why is it important for us to follow all of Jesus' commands? What happens when we do?

**Help:** If they had not obeyed Jesus, the miracle may not have happened. Jesus gives us very specific instructions. We read later in the book that if we love Jesus we will obey Him, and if we love Jesus, then the Father will love us as well.

## Day 7

**Read:** John 2:12-17

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus find in the temple? (*Men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money*)
- What did Jesus do? (*He made a whip out of cords and drove all from the temple area; He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables*)
- What had the people done to the Father's house? (*Made it a market*)

**Discuss:** What is the temple of God now? How do we misuse it? How should we treat God's temple?

**Help:** In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul explains that our bodies are the temple of God. How we live and what we do determines if our body is being kept as holy for God or not. We need to take good care of our body in every way. We need to make sure we are filling ourselves with spiritual food and following God in all that we do.

## Day 8

**Read:** John 2:18-25

**Ask:**

- What did the Jews demand? (*A miraculous sign to prove Jesus' authority*)
- What evidence did Jesus provide as to His authority? (*Destroying the temple and rebuilding it in three days*)
- How did the people respond? (*The temple took 46 years to build and He was going to rebuild it in three days*)

**Discuss:** What authority does Jesus have? How do we know He has authority?

**Help:** According to Matthew 28, Jesus has all authority on earth and in heaven. Jesus is the Son of God and created the world. We know from this that Jesus truly does have all authority. Throughout the Bible, He demonstrates His authority to teach and act in the way that He does.

## Day 9

**Read:** John 3:1-9

**Ask:**

- What did Nicodemus say he knew? (*That Jesus was a teacher who came from God*)
- What question did Nicodemus have? (*How can a man be born when he is old?*)
- What did Jesus compare the Spirit to? (*The wind*)

**Discuss:** How are we born again? Why is it important for us to be born again?

**Help:** We are born again when we are baptized. When we are baptized, Romans 6 reminds us that our old self is killed, and we rise a new being. This means that our past life of sin is gone, and we must now strive to follow God with all our being. Without being born again, we will die in our sin.

## Day 10

**Read:** John 3:10-21

**Ask:**

- What must happen to the Son of Man? (*He must be lifted up like Moses lifted the snake in the desert*)
- How much does God love the world (and us)? (*He gave His one and only Son that all who believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life*)
- What happens to those who do not believe? (*The stand condemned already*)

**Discuss:** Did Jesus' prediction about Himself come true? If He knew He would die, why did He come into the world?

**Help:** Every prediction that Jesus made came true. We see in John 19 that Jesus is lifted up on the cross and killed. Jesus knew from the very beginning that He had to die so that we could live with Him in heaven. Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to go through the struggles of being a man, the pain of being beaten, and even the suffering of death.

## Day 11

**Read:** John 3:22-27

**Ask:**

- What were Jesus and John doing? (*Baptizing*)
- What argument arose? (*Over the matter of ceremonial washing*)
- What problem did John's disciples have? (*Jesus was baptizing, and everyone was going to Him.*)

**Discuss:** What role had God appointed for John? How do we react when we feel like the role God has in mind for us is different than we want?

**Help:** Isaiah 64:8 reminds us that God is the potter and we are the clay. God appointed John to prepare the way for Jesus. John knew that he was not the important one, but the one set to prepare the world for Jesus. This did not upset John, he was glad to take the role that God had given him. In the same way, we should be happy with whatever role God appoints for us.

## Day 12

**Read:** John 3:28-36

**Ask:**

- Who is the bridegroom? (*Jesus*)
- What joy was John's? (*To hear the voice of the bridegroom*)
- Who did John say is above all? (*The one who comes from heaven*)

**Discuss:** John said he must become less and Jesus greater. How do we let ourselves become less? How do we allow Jesus to be greater in our lives?

**Help:** It is important to remember that who we are and all that we can do is simply because of God. We are only as great as we are because God has made us that way. Patterning our lives off Jesus, putting His will and desires ahead of our own, and sharing about Him makes Him greater in our lives.

## Day 13

**Read:** John 4:1-9

**Ask:**

- Where did Jesus find a well? (*In Sychar in Samaria*)
- Who did He find at the well? (*A Samaritan woman*)
- Why was Jesus' request of her odd? (*Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans*)

**Discuss:** Are there people that others would tell us to avoid? How should we treat people that others may reject?

**Help:** There are always people that other's think we should avoid. In school, we see children that are picked on, children with few or no friends, etc. We should go out of our way to show love to these people and help them to have happier and better lives.

## Day 14

**Read:** John 4:10-18

**Ask:**

- What water did Jesus say He would have given the woman? (*Living water*)
- How did Jesus say His water differed from the water in the well? (*Those who drank of His water would thirst no more, while those who drank the water in the well would thirst again*)
- How did the woman respond? (*"Give me this water"*)

**Discuss:** What water does Jesus offer? How do we drink of His living water?

**Help:** Jesus offers us living water that springs up from us. This living water is the Holy Spirit which lives inside us and helps us to produce spiritual fruits.

## Day 15

**Read:** John 4:19-26

**Ask:**

- What religious question did the woman have? (*Where is the proper place to worship?*)
- Where did the Jews and Samaritans worship? (*The Samaritans on the mountain, and the Jews in Jerusalem*)
- Where did Jesus say true worshippers would worship? (*In spirit and in truth*)

**Discuss:** How do we worship in spirit and truth?

**Help:** No longer is the location of worship important. Instead it is about how we worship. We need to worship with our heart. The Israelites often were criticized because they would worship God with sacrifices by going through the action, but their heart was not in it. We need to do better. It is not only about having our heart into worship, we must be sure we are worshipping God in the way He desires us to.

## Day 16

**Read:** John 4:27-38

**Ask:**

- What did the disciples want Jesus to do? (*Eat*)
- What did Jesus say His food was? (*To do the will of Him who sent Jesus*)
- What did Jesus send the disciples to reap? (*A harvest they did not work for*)

**Discuss:** What harvest is Jesus referring to? How do we reap in the harvest?

**Help:** Jesus is referring to the harvest of souls to be saved. We can serve several different roles in bringing someone to Jesus. Sometimes, we place the seed in a person, but never see them come to Christ. Someone else comes along later and uses the seed we placed to bring that person to Christ. Sometimes, we find people who are searching, who have a seed already placed, and we can harvest them by bringing them to Christ. We simply show them that Christ is the answer to all their needs.

## Day 17

**Read:** John 4:39-45

**Ask:**

- Why did many Samaritans initially believe in Jesus? (*Because of the woman's testimony*)
- What reason did the Samaritans tell the woman they believed in Jesus? (*They had heard for themselves*)
- Why did the Galileans believe in Jesus? (*Because they had seen all He had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast*)

**Discuss:** Why do you believe in Jesus? What evidence have you seen?

**Help:** People in Jesus' day wanted sign and wonders to prove that Jesus was truly the Son of God. Today the amount of evidence for Jesus and God is overwhelming. Psalms 19:1-2, Romans 1:20-22 both explain that nature clearly demonstrates God's existence. There is also historical evidence as to the existence of Jesus in several ancient writings as well as numerous reasons to believe the teachings in the Bible regarding Jesus.

## Day 18

**Read:** John 4:46-54

**Ask:**

- What did the royal official ask Jesus to do? (*Come and heal his son*)
- How did Jesus heal his son? (*He told the man to go and that his son would live*)
- Why didn't the official insist in Jesus coming to his home? (*He took Jesus at His word*)

**Discuss:** What promises and guarantees do we have from Jesus? Can we take Him at His word?

**Help:** Throughout the Bible, we have many promises made to us. A promise of eternal life, salvation, and the Holy Spirit are just a few of the promises that God has made. We know we can take Him at His word because we can look to the Bible and see how God always keeps His promises.

## Day 19

**Read:** John 5:1-15

**Ask:**

- How long was the man an invalid? (*38 years*)
- What did Jesus tell him to do? ("*Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.*")
- Why were the Jews upset with the man? (*He was carrying his mat on the Sabbath*)

**Discuss:** How should we respond when people get upset with us for obeying Jesus? Should this change our obedience of Jesus?

**Help:** Following Jesus is not always a popular option. If people get upset with us for obeying Jesus, it should not change our obedience of Jesus. Instead, we should continue doing what Jesus commands, but speak to the person in love and show them that the way of Jesus is the best way.

## Day 20

**Read:** John 5:16-30

**Ask:**

- Why did the Jews try harder to kill Jesus? (*He was doing miracles on the Sabbath*)
- What can Jesus do by Himself? (*Nothing*)
- Who has authority to judge? (*The Son*)

**Discuss:** What are we able to do apart from God? What are we able to do with God?

**Help:** We are nothing apart from God. Without God, we would not even exist. With God, we know that we can do great things. From Philippians 4:13 and Ephesians 3:20, we know we can do all things through Christ, and that God is able to do immeasurably more than we can imagine according to His power working within us.

## Day 21

**Read:** John 5:31-47

**Ask:**

- Who testified about Jesus? (*John*)
- In whose name had Jesus come? (*The Father, God*)
- Who was the accuser of the Jews? (*Moses*)

**Discuss:** What would people say if they were asked to testify about you? Why? What can we do to make sure they have a good testimony about us?

**Help:** If we are living the life that Jesus called us to live, people should have positive things to say about us. However, we mess up and often people may not always talk well about us. We should strive to live lives of good repute that no one will have a negative thing to say about us.

## Day 22

**Read:** John 6:1-15

**Ask:**

- How much money would it have taken to feed the crowd? (*Eight months wages would not buy enough*)
- How much food did the disciples have? (*Five small barley loaves and two small fish*)
- How many people ate the food? (*5,000 men, not counting the women and children*)

**Discuss:** How do we get food? Who is the ultimate provider of all our needs? How do we trust God to supply all that we need?

**Help:** While parents may provide the food that is on our table by working, shopping, or cooking, it is God that ultimately provides all that we need. We can trust God because we can see the evidences in the Bible of how He will take care of us through everything.

## Day 23

**Read:** John 6:16-21

**Ask:**

- Why was the disciples' progress difficult? (*The wind was blowing, and the waters grew rough*)
- How did Jesus reach them? (*He walked on water*)
- What happened when Jesus got into the boat? (*The boat immediately reached the other shore*)

**Discuss:** What keeps us from reaching our goals in a Christian life? How does Jesus meet us in our struggles? How does Jesus help us reach our goals?

**Help:** Satan puts many obstacles in our way of following Christ. He uses peer pressure, temptation, and a myriad of other tools to slow us down. With Jesus, we can overcome everything that Satan throws at us, and be the followers of Jesus we want to be.

## Day 24

**Read:** John 6:22-27

**Ask:**

- What did the crowds realize? (*Only one boat had been there*)
- What reason did Jesus give for why the crowd was looking for Him? (*Because they ate and were filled*)
- What food should the crowds work for? (*Food that endures to eternal life*)

**Discuss:** How do we work for the food that endures to eternal life?

**Help:** Working for food that endures to eternal life means that we are striving to obey Jesus' commands and learn as much as we can about His will and His desires.

## Day 25

**Read:** John 6:28-40

**Ask:**

- What food did the crowd's forefathers eat in the desert? (*Manna*)
- What is the bread that came down from heaven? (*He who came down from heaven and gives life to the world*)
- What is the will of the Father who sent Jesus? (*That everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life*)

**Discuss:** What generally happens a few hours after we eat? Is Jesus talking about physical food? What hunger and thirst does Jesus take away?

**Help:** Shortly after we eat, we must eat again. Jesus does not promise that we will never need or want physical food and drink but offers us spiritual food. He offers to refresh our soul and provide us the spiritual nourishment we need.

## Day 26

**Read:** John 6:41-51

**Ask:**

- Who did the Jews say Jesus was? (*Jesus the son of Joseph*)
- What happened to their forefathers? (*They died*)
- What is the bread Jesus offers? (*His flesh*)

**Discuss:** How do we gain eternal life?

**Help:** Eternal life comes only through Jesus. To gain eternal life we must do all that Jesus commands, which includes believing in Him and the Father who sent Him, being baptized, loving everyone we meet, and sharing His love with the world.

## Day 27

**Read:** John 6:52-59

**Ask:**

- What did the Jews argue about? (*How Jesus could give them His flesh to eat*)
- What did Jesus say we must eat and drink? (*Eat His flesh and drink His blood*)
- What is the result of eating Jesus' flesh and drinking His blood? (*Eternal life*)

**Discuss:** How do we eat the bread that Jesus offers?

**Help:** Spiritual food is the type of food that strengthens our spiritual body, rather than our physical one. Things such as prayer, studying the scriptures, doing good deeds, etc. are ways that we can get spiritual food.

## Day 28

**Read:** John 6:60-71

**Ask:**

- What did many disciples say about Jesus' teaching? (*"This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"*)
- What did many disciples do because of His teaching? (*Turned back and no longer followed Him*)
- Why didn't the Twelve leave Jesus? (*Because He had the words of eternal life*)

**Discuss:** What teachings of Jesus do people find difficult today? Why should we still accept and follow Jesus' teachings even if they are hard?

**Help:** There are many difficult teachings that people do not like for different reasons. One of the hardest to apply is to love our enemy.

## Day 29

**Read:** John 7:1-9

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus' brothers think Jesus should do? (*Leave and go to Judea*)
- Why did the world hate Jesus? (*Because Jesus testifies that what the world does is evil*)
- Why was Jesus not going to the Feast? (*It was not the right time*)

**Discuss:** What intention did Jesus' brothers think Jesus had? Has anyone ever misunderstood your intentions? How should we handle times when people misunderstand our intentions?

**Help:** Jesus' brothers did not understand that Jesus was not seeking fame or popularity. Jesus was seeking to serve His Father in heaven, which would ultimately mean dying. Sometimes we say something and mean it to sound different than others understood it. When this happens, we should be patient and explain what we really meant, or what our intention was.

## Day 30

**Read:** John 7:10-17

**Ask:**

- What was the crowd saying about Jesus? (*Some said that He was a good man and others said that He deceives the people*)
- What amazed the Jews? (*Jesus' great learning without having studied*)
- How would they know if Jesus' teachings were from God? (*By choosing to do God's will*)

**Discuss:** How do we know if someone's teachings are from God? What do we do when we believe that a person is not teaching what is right?

**Help:** We should always check what we are taught to make sure it is consistent with God's word. If we find someone teaching error, we should try to teach them truth, but if they won't listen, we should talk to those they are teaching to help them stay in the truth.

## Day 31

**Read:** John 7:18-24

**Ask:**

- What had astonished the crowd? (*One miracle*)
- What did the Jews do on the Sabbath? (*Circumcise children*)
- What did Jesus say He had done on the Sabbath? (*Healing the whole man*)

**Discuss:** When is it wrong to do good? When should we do good for others?

**Help:** This is tricky. We should always do good, but we should also be aware that we need to communicate with our parents and be very careful and mindful. We should also consider the importance and time sensitivity. If it is bed time but you want to send an encouraging note to someone, that might be something you can do the next day. If you are expected to be home at a certain time, but a child is injured and needs to be helped, then it is important to let your parents know, but it is still right to help the child.

## Day 32

**Read:** John 7:25-31

**Ask:**

- What did some wonder if the authorities had concluded? (*That Jesus was the Christ*)
- Why did some doubt? (*They knew where Jesus was from*)
- Why did many put their faith in Jesus? (*He did miraculous signs.*)

**Discuss:** What does “Christ” mean? Why were the Jews looking for a Christ? How is Jesus our Christ?

**Help:** Christ means “Anointed one.” The Christ the Jews were looking for would retake the throne of David, kick out the Romans, and restore their nation. Jesus did not come for earthly reasons, but for spiritual ones. He is the anointed one of God who came to free us from sin and to be the king of our lives.

## Day 33

**Read:** John 7:32-36

**Ask:**

- Where did Jesus say He was going? (*To the One who sent Him*)
- What did Jesus say the Jews would do when He was gone? (*They will look for Him*)
- Where did the Jews wonder if Jesus would go? (*To the Greeks*)

**Discuss:** Where is Jesus now? How do we know?

**Help:** Jesus has gone to heaven to be with His Father as He said He was going to. We read in Acts 1 of Jesus ascending into heaven and see in Acts 7 that Stephen sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Several passages in the Bible remind us that Jesus is in heaven, but one day He will return for us.

## Day 34

**Read:** John 7:37-52

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus mean when He spoke of living water? (*The Spirit*)
- Why did the temple guards not arrest Jesus? (*No one ever spoke the way Jesus did*)
- What question did Nicodemus have? (*“Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?”*)

**Discuss:** Why is Jesus’ origin so important? What is Jesus’ origin?

**Help:** The question of Jesus’ origin followed Him throughout His ministry. To those looking for an earthly Messiah, they saw Him as a carpenter’s son from Nazareth. They knew the Scriptures that spoke about the Christ being a descendant of David from Bethlehem. They did not realize that Jesus did meet these qualifications. More importantly, Jesus was from heaven and existed since before the beginning of the world.

## Day 35

**Read:** John 7:52-8:11

**Ask:**

- Who was brought to Jesus? (*A woman caught in adultery*)
- Why did they bring her to Him? (*To trap Him*)
- Who did Jesus say should throw the first stone? (*Whoever was without sin*)

**Discuss:** Why is it dangerous to accuse someone of doing something wrong? What should we do if we see someone doing something wrong?

**Help:** If we accuse someone of doing wrong, we risk them pointing out what we are doing wrong as well. Therefore, in Matthew 7, Jesus instructs us to take care of the plank in our own eyes before the sawdust in someone else’s eyes. A popular modern proverb is “Don’t throw stones if you live in a glass house.” If we see someone doing wrong, we should always talk to them about what they are doing. If they don’t change, we should talk to a responsible adult about it. It is not our place to tell everyone of the wrong that was done.

## Day 36

**Read:** John 8:12-20

**Ask:**

- Why did the Pharisees say Jesus’ testimony was invalid? (*He testified about Himself.*)
- How did the Pharisees judge? (*By human standards*)
- Why are the decisions of Jesus correct? (*Because He is not alone*)

**Discuss:** How can we be sure that we are not judging by human standards? What standard should we use if we must judge?

**Help:** Judging is always dangerous. We tend to look at the outward appearance and not at the heart. A person can strive to do the best they can to follow Jesus, but we might see the clothes they wear, the way they smell, etc. that does not make us think well of them. Instead, we should judge only by a godly standard.

## Day 37

**Read:** John 8:21-30

**Ask:**

- Why would the Jews die in their sins? (*Because they did not believe Jesus was who He claimed to be*)
- When would they know that Jesus is the one He claims to be? (*When they had lifted up the Son of Man*)
- What did Jesus say He always does? (*What pleases the Father*)

**Discuss:** What pleases God? How do we always do what pleases God?

**Help:** Following Jesus' example pleases God. Showing love to others, obeying Jesus' commands, etc. are great ways to please God. If we strive every day to be like Jesus, we will be well on our way to always pleasing God.

## Day 38

**Read:** John 8:31-40

**Ask:**

- Whose descendants did the Jews claim to be? (*Abraham's*)
- What were they slaves to? (*Sin*)
- If they were Abraham's children, what would they do? (*What Abraham did*)

**Discuss:** What does Jesus mean that people are slaves to sin? How are we freed from being slaves to sin?

**Help:** When we are lost in sin and away from Jesus, we find ourselves trapped in a vicious cycle of sin. For example, you tell a lie, but then to maintain that lie, you must tell another lie. When we turn to Jesus, we leave the life of sin. If we do sin, instead of sinning further, we apologize and try not to do it in the future.

## Day 39

**Read:** John 8:41-51

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus say the Jews want to do? (*Their father, the devil's, desires*)
- How would they behave if they were children of God? (*They would love Jesus*)
- Who did they act like the children of? (*The devil*)

**Discuss:** How do we behave as children of God? How do children of the devil behave?

**Help:** Children of God imitate the way that God is. They show love, compassion and mercy to everyone they meet. Children of the devil behave like the devil. They lie, cheat, and treat other people very badly. We should make sure that we always behave like God.

## Day 40

**Read:** John 8:52-59

**Ask:**

- Why did the Jews say Jesus was demon-possessed? (*Because Jesus said that if anyone keeps His word, He would never taste death*)
- What did Abraham rejoice at? (*The thought of seeing Jesus' day*)
- Why did they pick up stones to stone Jesus? (*Because He said that He was before Abraham*)

**Discuss:** How was Jesus before Abraham? Why is it important that Jesus was before Abraham?

**Help:** Jesus was the creator of the universe. Jesus is God and therefore when God promised Abraham many descendants, Jesus was there. The fundamental idea that Jesus is God is very important and cannot be overemphasized.

## Day 41

**Read:** John 9:1-7

**Ask:**

- What question did the disciples have? (*Who sinned? The blind man or his parents?*)
- Why was the man blind? (*So that the work of God might be displayed*)
- What did Jesus do to heal the man? (*Spit on the ground, made mud, put it on the man's eyes, and told him to wash in the Pool of Siloam*)

**Discuss:** Do people suffer simply because they sinned? Why do people suffer?

**Help:** Jesus makes it very clear that people do not suffer just because of sin. Some people may face consequences of their sins (a thief goes to prison). Sometimes, however, we suffer when we have done nothing wrong. One reason the Bible teaches us that we suffer is so that we can be made more complete and stronger (see Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4).

## Day 42

**Read:** John 9:8-17

**Ask:**

- What did people think when they saw the man was healed? (*Some claimed he was once blind, but others thought he just looked like the blind man*)
- What did the man formerly blind say had happened? (*Jesus put mud on his eyes and told him to go to Siloam and wash*)
- What reason did the Pharisees give for why Jesus was not a man of God? (*He opened the man's eyes on the Sabbath*)

**Discuss:** Do people ignore evidence that is clearly in front of them? Why do they resist the truth?

**Help:** People often will believe what they want to believe is true even if all evidence indicates otherwise. There are times when people are not rational. Sometimes accepting the truth means that they must make a change that they do not want to make.

## Day 43

**Read:** John 9:18-25

**Ask:**

- Who did the Jews send for? (*The man's parents*)
- What did the parents say they knew? (*He was their son, and he was born blind*)
- Why didn't the parents say more to support their son? (*They were afraid of being put out of the synagogue*)

**Discuss:** Why do people not stand up for the truth? Have you ever avoided the truth? Why?

**Help:** People are often afraid to stand up for the truth. It could be that the truth is unpopular, or it could be that the truth will bring about something negative (such as punishment for admitting they did something wrong).

## Day 44

**Read:** John 9:26-34

**Ask:**

- Who were the Pharisees disciples of? (*Moses*)
- Why were they disciples of Moses? (*They knew that God had spoken to Moses*)
- What was done to the man who was formerly blind? (*He was put out of the synagogue*)

**Discuss:** What could happen if we say the truth when it is unpopular or unwelcome? Should that stop us from saying the truth?

**Help:** People could get mad at us if we say a truth that is unpopular or unwelcome. There are many that view teachings of Jesus as vile, contemptible things. Regardless of what people may think, we know that Jesus' teachings bring light, so we should continue to stand up for the truth even when it is unpopular or unwelcome.

## Day 45

**Read:** John 9:35-41

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus ask of the man? (*"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*)
- What reason did Jesus give for coming into the world? (*For judgment, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind*)
- What did the Pharisees want to know? (*If they too were blind*)

**Discuss:** What does it mean to be spiritually blind? How can we tell if we are spiritually blind? How can we help someone who is spiritually blind?

**Help:** In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul explains that unbelievers have been blinded by the god of this world, in other words, Satan. To be spiritually blind is to not see or know Jesus. Knowing Jesus and seeking Him means that we are not spiritually blind. To help those who are spiritually blind, we must help them learn of Jesus and see who He is.

## Day 46

**Read:** John 10:1-10

**Ask:**

- How does the thief enter the sheep pen? (*Climbs in some way other than the gate*)
- What did Jesus say He was? (*The gate for the sheep*)
- What does the thief come to do? (*Steal, kill, and destroy*)

**Discuss:** How does Jesus represent a gate? How do people try to take us away from Jesus? How do we know if they are a “thief?”

**Help:** Jesus is the one true way to reach heaven. His teachings are also directly from God. Anyone who comes to us bringing a different message than Jesus is a thief trying to take us away from God. Anyone who seeks to shepherd us and guide us will come through Jesus with Jesus’ teachings on their lips.

## Day 47

**Read:** John 10:11-21

**Ask:**

- What does the good shepherd do? (*Lays down His life for the sheep*)
- What does the hired hand do? (*He abandons the sheep and runs away*)
- Who did Jesus say He lays down His life for? (*The sheep*)

**Discuss:** What is Jesus talking about when He refers to “this sheep pen?” What is the other sheep pen He is talking about?

**Help:** The sheep pen that Jesus is referring to is the Jews. The Jews were God’s chosen people and they believed the Christ would come to help them. However, Jesus is going to bring sheep from another sheep pen into the fold because they also belong to Him, the Gentiles. The Gentiles make up most of the people who are Christians today. Christ is not just for the Jews but for all people.

## Day 48

**Read:** John 10:22-30

**Ask:**

- What did the Jews want to know? (*If Jesus was the Christ*)
- What did Jesus tell them? (*He had told them already*)
- Why did they not believe? (*They are not His sheep*)

**Discuss:** What does it mean to be one of Jesus’ sheep?

**Help:** Being one of Jesus’ sheep means that Jesus will be our shepherd that will take care of us, guide us, protect us, and give His life to help us. It also means that we need to listen to His voice and follow Him.

## Day 49

**Read:** John 10:31-42

**Ask:**

- What did the Jews accuse Jesus of? (*Blasphemy because He was a mere man claiming to be God*)
- When should the Jews believe Jesus? (*Only if He does what the Father does*)
- What did the Jews try to do to Jesus? (*Seize Him*)

**Discuss:** How are Jesus and the Father related? Why is this important?

**Help:** Jesus and the Father are both God. Jesus represents the Son of God, God in the flesh. He is still God, even though He was on this earth in human form. It is important to remember that everything Jesus said and did was directly from God.

## Day 50

**Read:** John 11:1-6

**Ask:**

- Who was sick? (*Lazarus*)
- How did Jesus feel about Martha, Mary, and Lazarus? (*He loved them*)
- What did Jesus do upon learning that Lazarus was sick? (*He waited for two more days*)

**Discuss:** Why didn't Jesus go to Bethany as soon as He heard that Lazarus was sick? Does God ever do things on a different schedule than we would like?

**Help:** When we pray, we often want an immediate answer to our prayer. However, God does not operate on our time schedule. Sometimes, God tells us to wait for the answer to our prayer. There can be many reasons for this including that He has something bigger in mind, or He is using an event to help us grow.

## Day 51

**Read:** John 11:7-16

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus plan to do? (*Go back to Judea*)
- What were the disciples concerned about? (*The Jews there had recently tried to stone Jesus*)
- What did the disciples decide to do? (*Go with Jesus so they may die with Him*)

**Discuss:** Is following Jesus ever dangerous? Why/why not? What should we do if there is a time where we find that following Jesus is dangerous?

**Help:** In the United States, it is rare for us to be in serious danger for following Jesus. There are some people who will go to dangerous parts of cities to spread the good news about Jesus and will willingly risk their lives for Him. In other parts of the world, it is much more common to be jailed, tortured, or killed simply for following Jesus. Even in such times, we should not turn back from following Jesus.

## Day 52

**Read:** John 11:17-26

**Ask:**

- Where was Lazarus when Jesus arrived? (*In the tomb*)
- What did Martha do when she heard that Jesus was coming? (*Came out to meet Him*)
- What did Martha think Jesus was able to do? (*Heal the sick*)

**Discuss:** What is Jesus able to do for us? Does He have the ability to do more than we could ask?

**Help:** Jesus is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine. Sometimes we put God and Jesus into a box and set low expectations for what they can or will do to help us. We forget that He is the God who created the universe, who knows the number of hairs on our head. We should be careful to not allow ourselves to limit what we believe God can do.

## Day 53

**Read:** John 11:27-36

**Ask:**

- What did Mary do when she heard Jesus had come? (*She got up quickly and came to Jesus*)
- What did Jesus ask? (*“Where have you laid him?”*)
- What did Jesus do when they showed Him where Lazarus was laid? (*He wept*)

**Discuss:** Why did Jesus weep?

**Help:** There are many reasons Jesus may have wept. It could be because He hurt for Mary and Martha for all they went through. It could be because He knew that Lazarus was leaving a place of rest to enter back into a world of trouble. Regardless of the reason, it is amazing to consider that Jesus was human to the point that He wept when showed the place where they had laid Lazarus.

## Day 54

**Read:** John 11:37-44

**Ask:**

- How long had Lazarus been dead? (*Four days*)
- What did Jesus pray? (*“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.”*)
- How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? (*He called for him to come out*)

**Discuss:** Does God hear our prayers? How do we know?

**Help:** God always hears our prayers. We may wonder sometimes when we don't get the answer we wanted or hoped for. God responds to prayers in a few different ways. He could grant the prayer or deny the prayer. He could also answer by saying, “Wait” or expecting us to do our part (such as if we are praying to get healthy, God may give us a path to health where we must exercise or take medicine).

## Day 55

**Read:** John 11:45-48

**Ask:**

- Who did some Jews tell about Lazarus? (*The Pharisees*)
- What did the chief priests and the Pharisees do? (*They called a meeting of the Sanhedrin*)
- What was their concern? (*If Jesus continued like this, the Romans would come and take away their place and their nation*)

**Discuss:** Do we ever have wrong priorities and focuses? How do we fix our focus?

**Help:** Sometimes it can feel like we are juggling dozens of different activities that all require our attention. There is school, sports, family, friends, church, etc. that all want our time and attention. Sometimes we put the emphasis on the wrong things though. God should always be our focus, even at school, during sports, with our family or friends, etc. We need to spend time with God by reading His Word and praying so that we can keep our focus.

## Day 56

**Read:** John 11:49-57

**Ask:**

- What role did Caiaphas have? (*High priest for that year*)
- What did Caiaphas say it would be better to have happen? (*One man die for the people rather than the whole nation perish*)
- Why did Caiaphas say this? (*He prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation*)

**Discuss:** Can people predict the future today? Why do people claim to? How should we respond to people who claim to be prophesying?

**Help:** People no longer have the ability to predict the future. People want others to think that they can see the future so people will think higher of them, or so they can deceive people. If someone claims to know the future, we should not trust what they have to say. However, in Jesus' day, people could receive prophecies directly from God. These often served the purpose of showing Jesus was truly the Son of God.

## Day 57

**Read:** John 12:1-11

**Ask:**

- What did Mary do to Jesus? (*Took about a pint of pure nard and poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair*)
- What did Judas say should have been done with the perfume? (*It should have been sold and the money given to the poor*)
- What did Jesus have to say about the anointing? (*To leave Mary alone, because it was intended that she should save the perfume for the day of His burial*)

**Discuss:** Does Jesus mean we should not give to the poor? What did Jesus mean?

**Help:** Jesus is not condemning giving to the poor. In fact, elsewhere, Jesus tells the rich young ruler to sell all he had and give it to the poor. Instead, Jesus is saying that this was a onetime opportunity to serve Him. We should always look to give to help the poor but remember there are other things we can give money to serve God as well.

## Day 58

**Read:** John 12:12-19

**Ask:**

- What did the crowd say as Jesus entered Jerusalem? (*“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!”*)
- What did Jesus enter Jerusalem on? (*A donkey*)
- What did the Pharisees say to one another? (*“See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!”*)

**Discuss:** Is Jesus a king? What is He king of? How do we make Him king of our life?

**Help:** Jesus is a king, but His kingdom is not a physical kingdom on earth. Instead, Jesus is the king of the heavenly realm. Jesus wants us in His kingdom, and to be the king of our life. We must let Him have power over our life and to truly follow Him and obey all that He commands.

## Day 59

**Read:** John 12:20-26

**Ask:**

- What hour did Jesus say had come? (*The hour for the Son of Man to be glorified*)
- What happens when a kernel falls to the ground? (*It produces many seeds*)
- Who will the Father honor? (*The one who serves Jesus*)

**Discuss:** How did Jesus’ death produce many seeds?

**Help:** Jesus’ death and resurrection created what we now know as Christianity. The news of Jesus being killed and raised from the dead spread throughout the world and led many to believe in Him as the Son of God. His death influenced more of history than almost any other event.

## Day 60

**Read:** John 12:27-33

**Ask:**

- Why did Jesus not ask to be saved from this hour? (*It was for this very reason He came to this hour*)
- What did Jesus ask to be glorified? (*The Father’s name*)
- Why did the voice speak from heaven? (*For the benefit of those who heard*)

**Discuss:** How do we glorify the name of God?

**Help:** We glorify God in how we talk and act. If we show love to others, we will glorify God. If we remain positive in difficult times, we glorify God. Every day presents many opportunities and many ways that we can glorify God.

## Day 61

**Read:** John 12:34-43

**Ask:**

- How did the Jews react to all the miraculous signs of Jesus? (*They still would not believe in Him*)
- Who prophesied about their unbelief? (*Isaiah*)
- Why didn't the leaders admit that they believed? (*For fear they would be put out of the synagogue, because they loved praise from men more than praise from God*)

**Discuss:** Why do people love the praise of men? How do we gain the praise of God?

**Help:** People like receiving attention and praise. It makes us feel better to hear someone say that we are doing a great job or they are proud of us. The praise of God is far more important. We can earn the praise of God by showing His love and doing His will in all things.

## Day 62

**Read:** John 12:44-50

**Ask:**

- If we believe in Jesus, who else do we believe in? (*The Father*)
- What did Jesus come to the world to do? (*To save the world*)
- What judges those who reject Jesus? (*The very word which Jesus spoke*)

**Discuss:** How do Jesus' words judge those who reject Him?

**Help:** If people do not know what is right and what is wrong, then it is harder to hold them accountable when they have done something wrong. Jesus came to teach what is right and wrong, and to teach the importance of love in our lives. If people have heard what He has to say and decide not to obey or believe in Him, they no longer have an excuse. They will be judged by the very words that they have heard and rejected.

## Day 63

**Read:** John 13:1-11

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus do during the evening meal? (*Washed His disciples' feet*)
- Who objected? (*Peter*)
- Why did Peter need his feet washed? (*He would have no part in Jesus otherwise*)

**Discuss:** What cleaning do we need to have a part in Jesus?

**Help:** To have a part in Jesus, we do not need our feet washed as Jesus' disciples did. Instead we need to be cleansed of our sin through baptism.

## Day 64

**Read:** John 13:12-20

**Ask:**

- What example did Jesus set? (*That His disciples should wash each other's feet*)
- What should we do? (*As Jesus did*)
- Did Jesus wash the feet of Judas Iscariot? (*It seems as though He did*)

**Discuss:** How do we serve? What can we do in the house to be a servant? In the church?

**Help:** Jesus makes it very clear that we are called to be servants. We serve by not only doing what is required of us but going above and beyond. Serving is identifying a need and fulfilling it, such as noticing the garbage is overflowing and taking it out even if it isn't our job to do it.

## Day 65

**Read:** John 13:21-30

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus say one of His disciples would do? (*Lift up his heel against Jesus*)
- How did the disciples react? (*They stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them He meant*)
- How did Jesus indicate who would betray Him? (*The one He gave bread to when He dipped it into the dish*)

**Discuss:** How did Jesus know who would betray Him? Does Jesus know our hearts and thoughts?

**Help:** In I Samuel 16, the Lord reminds Samuel that man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. It is not enough to go through the motions doing good things, we must make sure our heart is right as well.

## Day 66

**Read:** John 13:31-38

**Ask:**

- What new command did Jesus give? (*Love one another*)
- What would all know if they did this? (*That they were Jesus' disciples*)
- What did Peter want to know? (*"Why can't I follow you now?"*)

**Discuss:** Who are we to love? How do we show love? How is this different from what the world does?

**Help:** Jesus commands us to love one another in this passage, but elsewhere He makes it clear that we are to love everyone, even those who mistreat us. The world loves those who love them and often only while it is beneficial to them. Followers of Jesus should love all people all the time.

## Day 67

**Read:** John 14:1-7

**Ask:**

- What is in the Father's house? (*Many rooms*)
- What is Jesus going to prepare? (*A place for us*)
- How do we get to the Father's house? (*Through Jesus*)

**Discuss:** What is Jesus' Father's house? Is there room for us in heaven?

**Help:** When Jesus talks about His Father's house, He is referring to heaven. Jesus makes it very clear that there is plenty of room in heaven for all who choose to follow Him.

## Day 68

**Read:** John 14:8-14

**Ask:**

- What did Philip want Jesus to show them? (*The Father*)
- How had the disciples seen the Father? (*By seeing Jesus*)
- Where did Jesus' words come from? (*The Father*)

**Discuss:** How do we know the Father? What do we know about the Father?

**Help:** Everything we know about the Father is revealed through His Son, Jesus, and through His Word, the Bible. We know of His love, mercy, power, and greatness.

## Day 69

**Read:** John 14:15-24

**Ask:**

- What will those that love Jesus do? (*Obey what Jesus commands*)
- Who will see Jesus? (*Whoever has Jesus' commands and obeys them*)
- What will the Father do to those who love Jesus? (*They will be loved by the Father*)

**Discuss:** How do we show we love Jesus?

**Help:** Our love of Jesus is demonstrated by how we live. If we truly love Jesus, we try to do all Jesus commanded at all times.

## Day 70

**Read:** John 14:25-31

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus say He was leaving the disciples? (*The Counselor, the Spirit*)
- Why did Jesus tell them all this before He left? (*So when it happened, they would believe*)
- What was about to happen? (*The Prince of this world was coming*)

**Discuss:** Why should we not be afraid? What comfort do we have?

**Help:** As Franklin Roosevelt once said, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.” Fear is one of the biggest reasons why people decide not to obey God. God through His Spirit is with us in everything. When God is for us, we have nothing to fear.

## Day 71

**Read:** John 15:1-10

**Ask:**

- What branches does the Father cut off? (*Every branch that bears no fruit*)
- What happens to branches that stay in Jesus? (*They bear fruit*)
- What happens to those who do not remain in Jesus? (*They are thrown away and wither*)

**Discuss:** What fruit do we produce? How do we produce fruit?

**Help:** We bear fruit by what we do and how we act. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul lays out the fruit of the Spirit that should be seen in our lives if we are following God. By encouraging these qualities and doing God’s will, we can bear the good fruit we are called to. Failing to bear good fruit means that we are not following God.

## Day 72

**Read:** John 15:11-17

**Ask:**

- What is the greatest love man can have? (*To lay down his life for a friend*)
- Why did Jesus call His disciples friends? (*Everything He had learned from the Father He had made known to them*)
- What command did Jesus give? (*To love one another*)

**Discuss:** Who are friends of Jesus? How do we become friends of Jesus?

**Help:** Jesus calls His disciples friends because they have learned from Him and they believe in Him. If we want to be a friend of Jesus, we need to do the same. We need to study the Bible to understand who He is and what He wants. We also must trust Him and believe in Him.

## Day 73

**Read:** John 15:18-25

**Ask:**

- What should we remember if the world hates us? (*It hated Jesus first*)
- Why does the world hate followers of Jesus? (*They have been chosen out of the world*)
- What prophecy was fulfilled by the world hating Jesus? (*“They hated Me without reason.”*)

**Discuss:** Who do we belong to? What does it mean to belong to the world?

**Help:** The Jews, and those that opposed Jesus, belonged to the world because their focus was on achieving worldly things. Those that belong to Jesus instead fix their focus on Jesus and heavenly things.

## Day 74

**Read:** John 15:26-16:5

**Ask:**

- Why did Jesus tell His disciples all that was going to happen? (*So they would not go astray*)
- What would people do and think they were offering a service to God? (*Kill the disciples*)
- Why? (*They have not known the Father or Jesus*)

**Discuss:** Do people do things for God that God does not want? What type of things do people do?

**Help:** Throughout history, people have done evil things in the name of God. Wars were fought, innocents killed, and lands stolen all in the name of God, Now, people teach hate and rejection saying that is what God wants. God, however, never wanted any of these things. He desires His followers to show love instead.

## Day 75

**Read:** John 16:6-15

**Ask:**

- Who did Jesus say He was sending? (*The Counselor*)
- What would the Counselor convict the world of guilt regarding? (*Sin, righteousness, and judgment*)
- What would the Spirit do for the disciples? (*Guide them into all truth*)

**Discuss:** What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

**Help:** The Holy Spirit works in many ways. He can give us understanding or inspiration. He is a translator between us and God when we don't know what to say.

## Day 76

**Read:** John 16:16-24

**Ask:**

- What would the disciples do while the world rejoices? (*Weep and mourn*)
- What example did Jesus give of pain turning to joy? (*A woman giving birth*)
- Who would take away their joy? (*No one*)

**Discuss:** Does the result of pain bring good? When does pain bring joy?

**Help:** Going through hard times is never easy, but we do know that we can often find good result from the negative time. It can be hard to go through physical pain and suffering, or watch someone else, but we need to understand that Jesus sees the full picture and has a reason for allowing this.

## Day 77

**Read:** John 16:25-33

**Ask:**

- How had Jesus been speaking? (*Figuratively*)
- How did Jesus say He would speak? (*Plainly*)
- Why did the disciples believe? (*Because they could see that He knew all things*)

**Discuss:** Why did Jesus speak figuratively and not plainly? Why do we understand what Jesus meant better than the disciples or the Jews did?

**Help:** Much of Jesus' teachings were meant to give knowledge to those who sought to understand. We see in the other Gospels that Jesus often spoke in parables. After Jesus' death, much of what Jesus taught became clear. We understand better than those in Jesus' time because we can see the full picture.

## Day 78

**Read:** John 17:1-8

**Ask:**

- Who did the Son have authority to give life to? (*All those the Father had given Him*)
- Who gave the disciples to Jesus out of the world? (*The Father*)
- What did the disciples believe? (*That the Father had sent Jesus*)

**Discuss:** What does it mean that we belong to God? How does this impact our lives?

**Help:** God formed us and made us who we are. God has all power and authority over our lives. He wants us to choose Him though. God knew the disciples would follow Jesus and learn from Him, and so He gave them to Jesus. God is still in control of us and is still our maker. We should be like the disciples and follow Jesus.

## Day 79

**Read:** John 17:9-19

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus want the Father to do? (*Protect the disciples by the power of His name*)
- Who protected the disciples while Jesus was on earth? (*Jesus*)
- What did Jesus want the disciples protected from? (*The evil one*)

**Discuss:** How does God protect us?

**Help:** God continues to protect us. He helps keep us out of danger and helps prevent worse injuries when we get hurt. God is constantly watching out for us. He also prevents the devil from tempting us beyond what we can handle.

## Day 80

**Read:** John 17:20-26

**Ask:**

- Who did Jesus pray for besides His disciples? (*Those who would believe in Him through the message of the disciples*)
- Why did Jesus want future believers to be unified? (*So the world would believe that the Father sent Jesus*)
- What did Jesus want for those that the Father had given Him? (*To be with Jesus where He is and to see His glory*)

**Discuss:** Why does unity let the world see Jesus? What makes unity difficult? How can we encourage unity?

**Help:** Unity is a rare thing in the world today. A group of people working together for a common goal is a powerful thing. The sky is the limit when people work together. When people start allowing disagreements and trouble get in between them and being able to work with others, families, and congregations can crumble. When relationships crumble, Satan does his best work.

## Day 81

**Read:** John 18:1-11

**Ask:**

- Who brought the soldiers to the olive grove? (*Judas Iscariot*)
- What did the crowd do when Jesus admitted He was Jesus of Nazareth? (*They drew back and fell to the ground*)
- What did Simon do when Jesus was arrested? (*Drew a sword and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear*)

**Discuss:** Have you ever been betrayed by one of your friends? What would you have done if you had known they would betray you?

**Help:** Often, people will feel betrayed when a friend does something that is hurtful. One of the most common betrayals is when a friend tells everyone a secret that we told them. If we knew that a friend would share a secret, we would probably never tell them the secret. It is interesting that Jesus knew who

would betray Him, and yet kept Him close and treated Him as a friend.

## **Day 82**

**Read:** John 18:12-23

**Ask:**

- Who was Jesus brought to first? (*Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas the high priest*)
- Where did Jesus say He had taught? (*In synagogues or at the temple where all the Jews come together*)
- Who did Jesus suggest the high priest talk to? (*Those who heard Jesus*)

**Discuss:** What crime was Jesus on trial for? What was He guilty of?

**Help:** John never specifies a crime that they are accusing Jesus of. In Matthew, we learn that they are accusing Him of blasphemy, which is claiming to be God. Jesus had done nothing wrong. The high priest and the Sanhedrin could find no evidence against Jesus, but still wanted Him to be killed.

## **Day 83**

**Read:** John 18:24-27

**Ask:**

- Who asked Peter if he was a disciple of Jesus? (*One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off, and someone by the fire where Peter stood warming himself*)
- How did Peter respond? (*He denied it*)
- What happened after Peter denied Jesus the third time? (*A rooster crowed*)

**Discuss:** Why did Peter deny Jesus? How do we deny Jesus?

**Help:** It appears Peter was afraid, and this is why he did not stand up for Jesus. When we do not stand up for Jesus when people speak badly about Him, we deny Jesus. We should be willing to stand up for Jesus and declare that we are His followers no matter what others may say or do.

## Day 84

**Read:** John 18:28-37

**Ask:**

- What charges did the Jews bring against Jesus? (*They did not specify any charges, just that He was guilty*)
- What did Pilate ask of Jesus? (“*Are you the king of the Jews?*”)
- How did Jesus describe His kingdom? (*Not of this world*)

**Discuss:** What kingdom is Jesus talking about? Who is in that kingdom?

**Help:** Jesus may have been talking about the church which He came to establish. Jesus is the head of the church and rules over it. All those who believe in Him, are baptized, and live faithfully are in the kingdom.

## Day 85

**Read:** John 18:38-19:7

**Ask:**

- Who did the crowd ask to be released? (*Barabbas*)
- What did the soldiers do to Jesus? (*Made a crown of thorns, put it on His head, clothed Him in a purple robe, mocked Him, and struck Him*)
- What did the crowd want done with Jesus? (*For Him to be crucified*)

**Discuss:** Was Jesus treated fairly? How do we react when our life does not feel fair?

**Help:** Life is very rarely what we would consider fair. Bad things happen to good people, and bad people have good things happen. Jesus was not treated fairly, but He bore it and even went to the cross when He was guilty of no crime. We should not complain or get upset when life is not fair but accept what happens and do our best to make it as positive as we can.

## Day 86

**Read:** John 19:8-16

**Ask:**

- What power did Pilate have over Jesus? (*Only the power given to him from above*)
- What did Pilate want to do? (*Release Jesus*)
- What did he end up doing? (*Handing Him over to be crucified*)

**Discuss:** Why is peer pressure hard to overcome?

**Help:** When everyone around you wants you to do something, it is very difficult to say no. Peer pressure is one of Satan’s most powerful tools against us. We have heard people ask, “If everyone jumped off a bridge, would you?” They make it sound like it is easy to ignore the pressure from everyone. When we feel pressure to do something wrong, we should remove ourselves from the situation or talk to an adult about what is going on.

## Day 87

**Read:** John 19:17-27

**Ask:**

- Who was crucified with Jesus? (*Two thieves*)
- What was done with Jesus' clothes? (*They were divided up and lots were cast for His undergarment*)
- Who stood near the cross? (*The disciple Jesus loved, Jesus' mother, Jesus' mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene*)

**Discuss:** What does it mean to be crucified? What would Jesus have experienced?

**Help:** To truly understand the depth of the love that Jesus showed, it is important to understand what Jesus went through. Before His crucifixion He was beaten terribly. Many people died from this beating before they could even be crucified. The nails in His hands and feet were not meant to kill Jesus, but suffocation would lead to the death of most who were crucified. It would be a constant struggle to breathe on the cross. This is just a small image of what Jesus went through on the cross for us.

## Day 88

**Read:** John 19:28-37

**Ask:**

- Why did Jesus say He was thirsty? (*So Scripture would be fulfilled*)
- Who decided when Jesus would die? (*Jesus did by giving up His spirit*)
- Why did the soldiers pierce Jesus' side? (*To make sure He was dead and to fulfill Scripture*)

**Discuss:** Why is it important that Jesus fulfilled prophecies such as the ones mentioned in this passage? How does this help us verify that He is the Son of God?

**Help:** It is vital that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies to demonstrate that He was the Christ who was to come. The fact that so many prophecies exist in the Old Testament and that Jesus fulfilled each helps us to be certain that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

## Day 89

**Read:** John 19:38-42

**Ask:**

- Who asked for the body of Jesus? (*Joseph of Arimathea*)
- Who accompanied him? (*Nicodemus*)
- Where did they lay the body of Jesus? (*A new tomb in the garden where Jesus was crucified*)

**Discuss:** How do we know Jesus was dead?

**Help:** There is a teaching that has become popular that Jesus was not dead, and so did not actually rise from the dead. It is important to know that Jesus really was dead. We know that He was dead by the actions of the soldiers in piercing His side, but we also know because of the preparations Joseph and Nicodemus made to His body. They took 75 pounds of spices and wrapped Jesus with it. There is no way a person could live when wrapped as Jewish customs dictated. Jesus was very clearly dead.

## Day 90

**Read:** John 20:1-10

**Ask:**

- Who found that the stone was removed? (*Mary Magdalene*)
- Who was the first to enter the tomb? (*Peter*)
- What did he find inside? (*No body, but the strips of linen lying there as well as the burial cloth*)

**Discuss:** Where was Jesus? How can we be sure He had risen?

**Help:** Jesus had risen! One of the powerful proofs that Jesus rose from the dead is the number of people He appeared to and testified that He had risen. He appeared to Peter, two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the ten disciples (without Thomas), the eleven disciples, Paul, 500 people at one time, James, and others. Each of these testified that they saw Jesus, so people could know for certain that Jesus was no longer dead.

## Day 91

**Read:** John 20:11-18

**Ask:**

- Why was Mary crying? (*She thought someone had stolen Jesus' body*)
- Who did she think Jesus was at first? (*The gardener*)
- What did she think had happened to the body of Jesus? (*Someone had taken it and hidden it*)

**Discuss:** Why was the empty tomb a problem for Mary? What does the empty tomb mean for us?

**Help:** Mary did not realize that Jesus was going to rise from the dead. The empty tomb meant that someone had stolen the body of the one who had healed her and meant so much to her. The empty tomb is hope for us, because we know that since Jesus rose, one day we will rise as well.

## Day 92

**Read:** John 20:19-23

**Ask:**

- Where did Jesus appear to the disciples? (*In a place with the door locked*)
- Why were the disciples there? (*Fear of the Jews*)
- How did the disciples react when they realized it was Jesus? (*They were overjoyed*)

**Discuss:** If the disciples believed Jesus would rise from the dead, why were they hiding? Why do people sometimes doubt Jesus?

**Help:** Almost everybody has doubts at times. It would have been hard to keep believing if we were in the disciples' place. Having doubts or looking for evidence is not inherently wrong, but we should make sure that we talk to our parents or adults at church whenever we have doubts.

## Day 93

**Read:** John 20:24-29

**Ask:**

- Which disciple was absent when Jesus appeared to the other disciples? (*Thomas*)
- How did Thomas react when he realized Jesus had truly risen? (*He said, "My Lord and my God!"*)
- Why are we blessed? (*Because we believe without having seen*)

**Discuss:** Why is it harder for us to believe than it was for Thomas?

**Help:** There is a saying, "Seeing is believing." There are many times in our lives where we would not accept something as true without seeing that it is true. We don't get to see Jesus physically in front of us showing us His hands and feet. Instead we believe through faith based on the evidences laid out in the Bible.

## Day 94

**Read:** John 20:30-31

**Ask:**

- Did John record all of Jesus' miracles? (*No*)
- Why did John record the miracles that he did? (*That we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*)
- What do we gain from believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? (*Life in His name*)

**Discuss:** Why did John write this gospel? What evidences did John give for us to believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God?

**Help:** Jesus performed many miracles while He was on earth. Matthew, Mark, and Luke each record more miracles than John mentions. John's purpose is simply to show that Jesus is the Son of God. We can see the miracles throughout the book which culminated with Jesus rising from the dead.

## Day 95

**Read:** John 21:1-6

**Ask:**

- What did Peter decide he was going to do? (*Go fishing*)
- How many fish did they catch that night? (*None*)
- What happened when they cast their nets on the other side? (*They caught a large number of fish*)

**Discuss:** After seeing Jesus and knowing He was risen from the dead, Peter went back to his former profession, fishing. Why is it dangerous to go back to our former life after we have seen that Jesus is the Son of God?

**Help:** If we leave the life of following Jesus and return to the way we used to live, we are giving up the eternal life that Jesus promises. Hebrews 10 reminds us of the danger of returning to our old life after having come to know Jesus.

## Day 96

**Read:** John 21:7-14

**Ask:**

- What did Peter do when he was told it was the Lord? (*He jumped into the water*)
- What did they find when they reached shore? (*A fire with fish on it and some bread*)
- How many fish had the disciples caught? (*153*)

**Discuss:** How did Peter react when he realized that the Lord was there? Do we have excitement at the idea of being with the Lord? What should we do if we are excited to be with Jesus?

**Help:** Peter was so excited to get to Jesus that he dove into the water and swam 100 yards. We should be full of excitement at the thought of seeing Jesus and do everything we can to ensure that we will one day see Him. That means obeying everything He said, showing His love, and spreading His teachings to everyone we meet.

## Day 97

**Read:** John 21:15-19

**Ask:**

- How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved Jesus? (*Three times*)
- What did Jesus tell Peter to do when Peter said that he did love Jesus? (*Feed my lambs, take care of my sheep, and feed my sheep*)
- What did Jesus tell Peter to do after telling Peter how he would die? (*“Follow Me!”*)

**Discuss:** What terrible thing had Peter done? What should we do if we do something bad? Will Jesus accept us back?

**Help:** Peter had denied being one of Jesus’ disciples three times while Jesus was being tried and eventually crucified. Peter had denied having a part in Jesus. Now, Jesus tells Peter if he loves Jesus that he should take care of Jesus’ sheep. The idea for us is that we need to apologize and try even harder to follow Jesus in the future if we ever do something bad. Jesus will always accept us back if we truly repent.

## Day 98

**Read:** John 21:20-25

**Ask:**

- Who did Peter ask about? (*The disciple whom Jesus loved*)
- What did Jesus tell Peter? (*“If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you”*)
- What rumor spread about the disciple whom Jesus loved? (*He would not die.*)

**Discuss:** What is the danger of spreading rumors?

**Help:** Have you ever played a game like telephone or Telestrations? No matter how clear the original message was, it gets distorted and changed until it is something that does not even resemble the original message. This is what happens with rumors. If we hear something from a secondary source, we should always go back to the original source to get the real information.