



A 21-DAY  
*Journey to the*  
**TOMB**

DAYS 1-7

## **21-day Journey with John**

Over the next 21 days, I invite you to join me in an intentional journey in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. However, I am not your guide, but John the disciple will be our guide. Over the next 21 days, I pray that you will personally experience the living God and He will transform you.

This journey will culminate on Resurrection Sunday, where we will join together in celebrating the Risen King.

Why 21 days? Daniel 10:12-14 is the scriptural basis for a 21-day prayer and fasting focus. Daniel had not determined the length he would fast from certain foods, but it was after 21 days that he experienced a spiritual breakthrough.

What will each day look like? Each day will have a short passage focused on Jesus from John's gospel, followed by a few thoughts and questions. At the end of each day, I will have a suggested song to listen to as part of our daily worship.

## Day 1

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The Light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

As noted in the opening, The Word of God is a name and descriptor of Jesus. Jesus is God's message, and He is also God. He is eternal, existing before creation. Everything in creation was made through Him. Jesus is the source of life. There are two Greek words used for life: bio and zoe. Bio is, of course, where we get the word Biology. For the Greeks, bio was the physical life in a person or animal. Literally, the organs and systems of a body that work together for physical life. Zoe is not physical, but of quality. Sometimes the word abundant is added to help readers know which Greek word is in use. It is only by going to the source of abundant life that you can experience it. We may try to find that life in other things, people, or experiences, but it is only in Jesus. He is like the power, and we are the plug. The only way a lamp gives light is when it is plugged into the power source.

Prayer - Jesus, over the 21 days, may my dependence on you increase. You alone are the source of real living. Forgive me for the times I try to find life in other things. May you shine bright through my life.

Song – “In Christ Alone” by Passion.

<https://youtu.be/HaTMoaQayu8?si=12cqLAKo5cxN-EfJ>

## Day 2

John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

There is a famous phrase in the Declaration of Independence. “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” The Declaration of Independence describes these as unalienable rights, meaning they are rights given to every human by their creator. But there is a greater right given by the risen Christ to become children of God. To be brought into His family. And it is offered to any and all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Do you believe (trust) in Jesus? Has your heart been longing for a place to belong? To be known and loved? Jesus is who you are looking for? There is a God who loves you, who came to this Earth, died a sinners death so that you could be part of His family. It is Jesus who gives this right, not your will, nor good deeds, nor effort.

Prayer — Jesus, because of you, I am a child of God. I don’t deserve to be part of your family, but you paid the way. In you I am known and am loved. Today, help me to live as your child in this world, pointing people to you.

Song – “No longer slave” by Bethel Music

[https://youtu.be/f8TkUMJtK5k?si=u-Z1qh0tsc\\_YFTKb](https://youtu.be/f8TkUMJtK5k?si=u-Z1qh0tsc_YFTKb)

## Day 3

John 1:29 The next day he (John, the cousin of Jesus) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

One of the more interesting stories of the Old Testament involve Abraham and his young son Isaac. Isaac was the child God had promised to Abraham and Isaac. Genesis 22, God asks Abraham to take his son Isaac, whom Abraham loves and offer him as a sacrifice. Scripture tells us it was a test of trust. The events unfold and as the altar is ready, Isaac turns and asks his dad, “Where is the lamb for the burnt offering? And Abrahams response, “God will provide for himself a lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” And God did. A ram was caught in a bush by his horns. But this statement would have far greater meaning when approximately 2000 years later when Jesus was born, the lamb of God. How have you seen God provide in your life? Particularly in your spiritual life?

Prayer – Thank you, Father, for providing the ultimate sacrifice, your Son, Jesus. May my level of trust in you increase. Help my faith to be like that of Abraham, trusting you in every situation.

Song – “Holy Forever” by Chris Tomlin

<https://youtu.be/IkHgxKemCRk?si=IjbNj4MW4KYqgNJ7>

## Day 4

John 1:43-46 The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” And Philip said, “Come and see.”

Honest hesitation. Nathanael was skeptical at best. Scripture shows the disciples' honest and human moments—this is one of them. Nathanael knew Nazareth, and it didn't seem like the place the Messiah would be from. He knew of Joseph, and that too brought doubt. This is the common human error: putting expectations on how God will work. Nathanael believed the Messiah would come, just not from that place or from Joseph. Do you put limits on how, when, and where God can work? We ask God to act, but then try to dictate how, building false expectations. Let God be God—trust Him with outcomes and release your expectations.

Prayer - Father, I release my expectations of how you will work out situations I am dealing with. As Jesus prayed, so I pray; “Not my will, but Your will be done.” I trust you God with all that I am, with every situation, with every doubt and question. I trust you when life makes sense and when life doesn't make sense.

Song – “Trust in God” - Elevation Worship.

<https://youtu.be/iJE4yahElBQ?si=sMZZF7qgXIA8mFri>

## Day 5

John 2:1-5 On the third day, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus was also invited to the wedding with His disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” And His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.”

Shame. Embarrassed. We miss the cultural significance of the bride and groom, as well as the groom’s family. Everyone in the villages of the bride and groom was invited. Family and friends. It was the event of the year for the family and village. The groom’s family had been making preparations for this event. At the request of His mother, Jesus steps in and intervenes. Not wanting life-long shame for the couple, He performs His first miracle: water into good wine. This miracle reminds us that Jesus cares about all of the events and details in our lives. Social gatherings. My shopping and errands. May you be glorified in all.

He wants good for me. And He wants good for you.

Prayer – Jesus, I invite you into all aspects of my life. Have your way in my workplace. my family. My home. My friendships and and social gatherings. My shopping and errands. May you be glorified in all.

Song: ”The Blessing” – Kari Jobe

<https://youtu.be/jDMijhOUOqk?si=Jh0q6Es3YmJG1o66>

## Day 6

John 3:1-3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

This is one of the most famous conversations Jesus has in the New Testament. Nicodemus was curious about Jesus but had to keep his curiosity secret from the other Pharisees. So, under the cover of darkness, Nicodemus finds Jesus to get answers to his curiosities. 2 things jump out about Jesus’ interaction with Nicodemus. First, Jesus welcomes questions. He isn’t threatened or stumped by Nicodemus. He isn’t threatened, annoyed, upset, or stumped by our questions. Questions are ok. The second aspect of Jesus’ response that jumps out is that Jesus is perfectly fine with Nicodemus coming at night. He knows where Nicodemus is in his journey to trusting Him. Jesus always welcomes us when we are still wrestling with questions or battling fear. And His invitation to Nicodemus is clear: believe (active present trust) in me and have eternal life (Zoe).

Prayer – Father, thank you for allowing me to have questions. There are things in this life I don’t understand. But I know you are good and just. I rest in knowing you.

Song: “For God So Loved” by We the Kingdom.

[https://youtu.be/PK9pljv\\_s-A?si=4x9P9PEVB\\_3fOdzk](https://youtu.be/PK9pljv_s-A?si=4x9P9PEVB_3fOdzk)

## Day 7

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

Powerful words from John the Baptizer. John is the cousin of Jesus, the son of Elizabeth, whom Mary visited while pregnant with Jesus (Luke 1:39-45). His life's calling was to prepare the way for his younger cousin, Jesus, the Messiah. A few followers of John have just reported to John that many of his disciples are leaving to follow Jesus. They have left John and are now disciples of Jesus. But John didn't let pride or ego rule; instead, he declared the words "He must increase, but I must decrease." It's not about me.

It's all about Him. Both parts of the statement are true and must be held together. If Jesus increases but I don't decrease, then I have created competition over who is Lord. On the other hand, if I decrease but Jesus doesn't increase, then who is glorified?

Prayer - Father, help me to become more and more like Jesus and less and less of my old self. Lord, is there an area in my life I am holding onto? Where do I still look like my old self and not like Jesus? Today, wherever I go, when people see me, may they see Jesus. I am decreasing and He is increasing.

Song: "Holy Forever" – Chris Tomlin

<https://youtu.be/lkHgXKemCRk?si=j3Sd4QHBdrPoPKIR>