

*Study Guide*



*ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
IN BASIC ENGLISH*

**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:  
SO THAT YOU MAY  
BELIEVE**

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**ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN BASIC ENGLISH**  
**STUDY GUIDE**  
**The Gospel of John: So That You May Believe**

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# The Gospel of John: So That You May Believe

John was a disciple of Jesus. John wrote the story of Jesus' life and work. It is a simple story, but it has deep meaning. For more than 19 centuries, people have read the story, and it has changed their lives. It has helped people to see and believe that Jesus is the Savior of all mankind. John tells his purpose for writing the story: "Jesus did many other powerful works in front of His followers. They are not written in this book. But these are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. When you put your trust in Him, you will have life that lasts forever through His name" (John 20:30-31).

As you read and study this simple story, there are some very deep truths that seem to be a mystery. The opening sentence of the story says: "The Word (Christ) was in the beginning. The Word was with God. The Word was God" (John 1:1). John tells how people followed after Jesus to hear Him teach and to see His works. All kinds of people came to hear and see Jesus, the rich and poor, the educated and the uneducated, the sick and the healthy, leaders and ordinary people. Jesus saw all people as important because He was God.

Jesus was also human like you. Some religious leaders became angry with what Jesus taught and did. They thought He was simply another human. John wants us to know that Jesus was unique, both God and man in the same person. This is a mystery. How can this be? Some things we cannot explain. Our human minds cannot understand everything about God.

The really important question for you and me is this: What does God in flesh mean to us? How will Jesus affect our lives? Jesus came so that we might know God and change our lives. It is not enough to simply know facts about Jesus. We must know Him personally. As you study John's story, you can come to know Jesus by faith. He will change your life.

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<u>Lesson 2:</u>	Listen to Whatever Jesus Tells You	John 2:1-22
<u>Lesson 3:</u>	For God So Loved	John 3:1-16
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## **Unit 4: Jesus' Glorious Triumph**

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<u>Lesson 11:</u>	Never Alone	John 14:15-27; 15:26-16:15; 17:11
<u>Lesson 12:</u>	"It Is Finished"	John 19:1-21,26-30
<u>Lesson 13:</u>	Seeing and Believing	John 20:1-2,11-29

# Vocabulary from Study Guide for “The Gospel of John: So That You May Believe”

## Lesson 1

**mystery:** something that cannot be explained or fully understood

**divine:** being God or coming from God

**approached:** to come near to or into the presence of someone

**immersed:** to put someone or something in a fluid. Baptism *immerses* a person under water briefly.

## Lesson 2

**inform:** to make something known

**Messiah:** one who saves or frees others

**miracle:** an event that cannot be explained by the laws of nature

## Lesson 3

**regulations:** rules that set limits

**natural:** something that is part of the physical world (nature)

**truths:** statements that are accurate

## Lesson 4

**infidels:** people who do not believe in religion

**quench:** to put out a fire or stop thirst

**prophet:** a person who is sent by God and speaks for God

**convinced:** to be sure something is true

## Lesson 5

**respond:** to reply to someone by word or action

**invalid:** a person unable to move because of sickness

**Sabbath:** the Jewish day of rest and worship

## Lesson 6

**popular:** liked by many people

**offensive:** rude, disrespectful

**risky:** dangerous

## Lesson 7

**afflict:** to cause pain

**opportunity:** a favorable time

**intimately:** very personally

## Lesson 8

**private:** alone; not with others

**cave:** a large hole in the side of a hill

**objected:** to not agree with someone

**shout:** to cry out in a loud voice

## Lesson 9

**judgment:** to decide the guilt or innocence of a person

**indicating:** pointing to something

**salvation:** being set free from the penalty of sin

## Lesson 10

**betray:** to give a friend over to an enemy

**demonstrated:** to show something clearly by doing

**humble:** showing oneself lower than others

## Lesson 11

**orphanage:** a home for children who have no parents or family to care for them

**cherished:** to value something greatly

**hostile:** feeling or showing anger toward others

**convict:** to prove someone guilty of a wrong

**witness:** one who tells what he or she knows to be true

## Lesson 12

**mocked:** to treat someone with disrespect and cruel humor

**crucified:** to be nailed to a cross to die

**humiliating:** an experience that brings great shame

**voluntarily:** to do something by your own decision; not forced to act

## Lesson 13

**astronaut:** a person trained for spaceflight

**appeared:** to be seen, to become visible

**wounded:** to be hurt so that the skin is torn open

**experience:** to know facts by seeing it for yourself

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# The Gospel of John: So That You May Believe

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Adult Bible Study in Basic English

## **UNIT 1: THE WORD AND HIS WORK**

**Lesson 1**  
**God in the Flesh**  
**John 1:1-18**

**Lesson 2**  
**Listen to Whatever**  
**Jesus Tells You**  
**John 2:1-22**

**Lesson 3**  
**For God So Loved**  
**John 3:1-16**

**Lesson 4**  
**If You Knew**  
**the Gift of God**  
**John 4:4-30, 39-42**

**Lesson 5**  
**Jesus Doing**  
**the Work of God**  
**John 5:1-24, 31-40**

## **UNIT 1**

### **The Word and His Work**

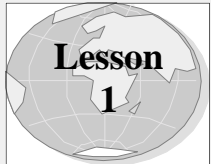
**W**ho is Jesus? People asked this question during His lifetime. People continue to ask this question generation after generation.

John wrote his gospel to answer this question. This first unit with five lessons focuses on who Jesus is and what He did.

Lesson 1 begins by telling that Jesus is God come to earth in human form. The next four lessons tell about things Jesus did and people He talked with. As you study these lessons, consider who Jesus is to you. He can change your life in a wonderful way.

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Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 1:1-18

### Memory Verse

“The much-loved Son is beside the Father. No man has ever seen God. But Christ has made God known to us.” (John 1:18)

### Word List

**Mystery/mysteries:** something that cannot be explained or fully understood  
**divine:** being God or coming from God  
**approached:** to come near to or into the presence of someone  
**immerse:** to put someone or something in a fluid. Baptism *immerses* a person under water briefly.

# God in the Flesh

Many **mysteries** are impossible to understand. What makes the wind blow? What happens when someone dies? **Mystery** is nothing new to us. Scientific study helps us understand some **mysteries**. We cannot understand some things, so we accept them by faith.

This lesson tells us of a **mystery** we can never understand in this life: God became man. It is *not* important to understand *how* this happened. But it is very important to understand *why* God became a human. We will study the **mystery** that Jesus came to earth as God in flesh. However, if we are to benefit from understanding this **mystery**, we must accept Jesus as God and let Him change our lives.

### **Who is Jesus? (John 1:1-5)**

“Who is Jesus?” is the most important question of the Christian faith. Is He simply a preacher or religious teacher with unusual power? Or is He really God in flesh, both human and **divine**? Consider carefully what John wrote about Jesus.

John presented Jesus (the Christ) as God, One Who is greater than all other beings. John said that Jesus is the Word of God in human form. Jesus, the Word of God, existed before all things. He has unlimited power over all things. He is both life and light to all who receive Him. We cannot fully understand Him. Some people believe in gods with limited power, idols they can hold in their hands. John wanted us to know the true and great God.

My wife and I were missionaries in Southeast Asia. When we first arrived, it was impossible to understand what people said because we did not know their language. We only understand when words are clear. John said that God communicates to us by His Word, Jesus Christ. He makes God’s truth clear to us. Notice

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Ask yourself this question: “Who is Jesus to me?”
2. How can you have a personal relationship with Jesus today?
3. What was the task of John the Baptist?
4. How can you tell others about Jesus?

several things that John said about the Word.

1. Before the world came into being the Word was. He was in the beginning.
2. The Word is divine in nature. He was with God and was God.
3. His power is without limit. He made all things and life began by Him.

His life was/is light for all mankind and darkness cannot put out His light. Without this light our minds are filled with darkness about God.

**Who is John? (John 1:6-8)**

The man named John mentioned in these verses is known as John the Baptist. He is not the same John as the writer of the Gospel of John. John the Baptist **immersed** people in the river as a sign that they had turned to God.

God gave John the Baptist a very important task. When a president or king is coming to meet people, someone comes in and announces the important person’s arrival. John the Baptist told who Jesus was so others would recognize Jesus. John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus as the Son of God Who takes away the sin of the world. (Read John 1:19-31.)

**Why did Jesus become flesh? (John 1:9-18)**

John wrote his Gospel to help us understand why Jesus became flesh. Jesus came to bring real life and clear light to all people. As He began His teaching and ministry, there were people who did not welcome Him. Some people did not believe Jesus was the Son of God. Not everyone received Him as the One Who came to take away the sin of the world. They were quick to find fault with Him. Jesus came to be light and life to everyone, but the Scripture says, “He came to His own” (that is, to the nation of Israel) “but His own did not

receive Him” (v. 11). Every person who receives Jesus as the light and life is given power to become a child of God. Becoming children of God is not something that is done by natural human birth. It is a special gift from God.

The Gospel of John states as a fact that Christ became human flesh and lived among us (v. 14). He did this so all humans could know what God is like. He came to show us loving-favor (grace) and truth. He came to let us know that God can be **approached** by us humans. Others, like John the Baptist and Moses, pointed people to God. However, Jesus, as God in flesh, came so that we could know God in a personal way.



**John 1:1-18**

**1** The Word (Christ) was in the beginning. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

**2** He was with God in the beginning.

**3** He made all things. Nothing was made without Him making it.

**4** Life began by Him. His Life was the Light for men.

**5** The Light shines in the darkness. The darkness has never been able to put out the Light.

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

**7** He came to tell what he knew about the Light so that all men might believe through him.

**8** John was not the Light, but he was sent to tell about the Light.

**9** This true Light, coming into the world, gives light to every man.

**10** He came into the world. The world was made by Him, but it did not know Him.

**11** He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him.

**12** He gave the right and the power to become children of God to those who received Him. He gave this to those who put their trust in His name.

**13** These children of God were not born of blood and of flesh and of man's desires, but they were born of God.

**14** Christ became human flesh and lived

among us. We saw His shining-greatness. This greatness is given only to a much-loved Son from His Father. He was full of loving-favor and truth.

**15** John told about Christ and said, "I have been telling you about this One. I said, 'He is coming after me. He is more important than I because He lived before me.' "

**16** From Him Who has so much we have all received loving-favor, one loving-favor after another.

**17** The Law was given through Moses, but loving-favor and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**18** The much-loved Son is beside the Father. No man has ever seen God. But Christ has made God known to us.



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# Listen to Whatever Jesus Tells You

Along the highways in our land are many signs. These signs point to places to eat or something to buy. Signs **inform** us about certain things. In his Gospel, John tells of things which Jesus said or did. Many of His works and teachings are signs to point to Jesus' authority and power. In this lesson, we will study two things that Jesus said and did. They point like signs to His authority and power as the Son of God. We should listen to what Jesus says and obey Him.

## Bible Text

John 2:1-22

## Memory Verse

"If you love Me, you will do what I say."  
(John 14:15)

## Word List

**inform:** to make something known  
**Messiah:** one who saves or frees others  
**miracle:** an event that cannot be explained by the laws of nature

## **Jesus Meets Needs (John 2:1-11)**

Jesus and His followers attended a wedding in the village of Cana in the province of Galilee. This was the area where Jesus grew up. Jesus' mother also attended. The custom was for weddings to last several days. The family of the groom provided food for all the guests every day of the celebration. They served wine to the guests to celebrate. But at this wedding, the wine was all used up before the celebration ended.

Mary, Jesus' mother, came to Him and told Him of the problem. She knew how embarrassed the family felt because the wine ran out. She also knew that Jesus could help. But she did not know what He would do. Jesus' reply to His mother is difficult to understand, but He spoke with respect and love. Jesus said His time had not yet come. He meant that it was not time for Him to let others know He was the **Messiah**.

Jesus told the servants to fill six large water jars with water. He then said, "Take some out and give it to the head man who is caring for the people." The head man tasted it and found that it was very good wine. This was a **miracle**. But only the servants knew Jesus had done it. Jesus simply gave instructions, and when the servants obeyed, something wonderful happened.

**Things To  
Think About**

1. How did Jesus' signs help Him in His ministry?
2. What do these signs mean to you?
3. Why do you think the religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority?

The celebration could continue without embarrassment to the family. There was enough wine for the remaining days of the celebration.

This sign shows Jesus is willing to meet the needs of others. He helps all who listen and obey what He tells them.

**Jesus Prepares for True Worship (John 2:12-22)**

John next tells about the time when Jesus and His followers traveled to the city of Jerusalem. Many people gathered there to celebrate a special religious holiday. They remembered how God led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. It was a special time of worship at the temple.

When Jesus arrived at the temple, He saw a large number of people selling cattle, sheep and doves to be used as sacrifices. Other people sat at tables exchanging money so people could buy the animals. People who came long distances to worship could not bring an animal from their home to sacrifice. The sellers and money changers took advantage of these people.

Jesus was angry that people were making the temple a marketplace. They did not care that it was a holy place to worship God. Jesus made a small whip out of leather strips and drove the animals and their sellers out. He turned over the money tables and scattered the coins everywhere. Jesus said to those people, "Take these things out of here! You must not make My Father's house a place for buying and selling!" (v. 16).

The temple was a holy place to worship God. But those people used it as a common market. At this time, His followers remembered a Scripture that said the coming **Messiah** would desire honor for God's house. This was a sign to them that Jesus was the Messiah.

The religious leaders were upset with Jesus. They

asked Him for a miraculous sign to prove His authority to do all this. He replied, “Destroy this temple, and I will build it again in three days.” The religious leaders were surprised at His reply because it took 46 years to build the temple. But Jesus was not talking about the actual building in which they worshiped. He was talking about His own physical body, the temple of God in the flesh.

Jesus knew that a short time later, He would be nailed on a wooden cross to die for the sins of the entire world. After three days, He would rise again. He was talking about His death and miraculous resurrection yet to come.

The resurrection is Jesus’ greatest sign. Many people believe Jesus is the Savior of the world because of the miraculous sign of His resurrection. We can truly worship God because Jesus’ signs point us to God.

### **John 2:1-22**

**1** Three days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in the country of Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there.

**2** Jesus and His followers were asked to come to the wedding.

**3** When the wine was all gone, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no more wine.”

**4** Jesus said to her, “Woman, what is that to you and to Me. It is not time for Me to work yet.”

**5** His mother said to the helpers, “Do whatever He says.”

**6** Six stone water jars were there. Each one held about one-half barrel of water. These water jars were used in the Jewish worship of washing.

**7** Jesus said to the helpers, “Fill the jars with water.” They filled them to the top.

**8** Then He said, “Take some out and give it to the head man who is caring for the people.” They took some to him.

**9** The head man tasted the water that had become wine. He did not know where it came from but the helpers who took it to him knew. He called the man who had just been married.

**10** The head man said to him, “Everyone puts out his best wine first. After people have had much to drink, he puts out the wine that is not so good. You have kept the good wine until now!”

**11** This was the first powerful work Jesus did. It was done in Cana of Galilee where He showed His power. His followers put their trust in Him.

**12** After this He went down to the city of Capernaum. His mother and brothers and followers went with Him. They stayed there a few days.

**13** It was time for the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

**14** He went into the house of God and found cattle and sheep and doves being sold. Men were sitting there changing money.

**15** Jesus made a whip of small ropes. He used it to make them all leave the house of God along with the sheep and cattle. He pushed their money off the tables and turned the tables over.

**16** He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things out of here! You must not make My Father's house a place for buying and selling!"

**17** Then His followers remembered that it was written in the Holy Writings, "I am jealous for the honor of Your house."  
(Psalm 69:9)

**18** Then the Jews asked Him, "What can You do to show us You have the right and the power to do these things?"

**19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this house of God and in three days I will build

it up again."

**20** Then the Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this house of God. Will You build it up in three days?"

**21** Jesus was speaking of His body as the house of God.

**22** After Jesus had been raised from the dead, His followers remembered He said this. They believed the Holy Writings and what He had said.



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 3:1-16

### Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

Whoever puts his trust in God’s Son will not be lost but will have life that lasts forever.”

(John 3:16)

### Word List

**regulations:** rules that set limits

**natural:** something that is part of the physical world (nature)

**truths:** statements that are accurate

# For God So Loved

Do you know that God loves you? People may think it is difficult to understand God’s love because we have so many different ideas of what love is. How can we as humans know God’s love? Where is God and how can we know Him? If we read carefully what Jesus said as He talked with a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, we will understand more clearly God’s love and how we can experience and enjoy His love.

### **Nicodemus Visits Jesus (John 3:1-3)**

I have a friend who read a book. He liked the book so much that he wanted to know the author. My friend called the author who lived far away and asked if he could visit. He flew out and met the author and spent the day asking him questions.

Nicodemus was like my friend. He had heard of Jesus and wanted to talk with Him. Nicodemus was a very good man. He was a Jewish religious leader. He followed all the religious laws and **regulations**. He visited Jesus one night when the crowds were gone. He could talk to Jesus alone. Nicodemus knew that Jesus taught with authority and did mighty works.

When Nicodemus met Jesus, he called Him *teacher*. It was a word used for an important teacher, like we call someone *professor*. Nicodemus said he knew Jesus was from God because of the miraculous signs He did and the way Jesus taught. Maybe he wanted to know how Jesus had become so wise.

### **Jesus Talks with Nicodemus (John 3:4-16)**

Jesus was happy to talk with Nicodemus. He knew Nicodemus really wanted to know about God. He wanted to help Nicodemus understand about God and His love. God’s love for all mankind was more important for Nicodemus to know than to

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. Why did Jesus talk to Nicodemus?

2. What spiritual **truths** did Jesus tell Nicodemus?

3. Here are five questions to answer from the memory verse, John 3:16:

—What did God do?

—For whom did God do it?

—Whom did He give?

—What should we do?

—What will we receive if we believe?

4. Have you believed and received life that lasts forever?

know how Jesus did the miraculous signs.

Jesus said, “Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the holy nation of God.” In the language which Jesus spoke, the word *again* had two meanings. It meant *to repeat* or it meant *from above*. So Jesus also meant a person must be born from above. Nicodemus was surprised and did not understand this. He only thought about being born again physically. Jesus was talking about a different kind of birth, a spiritual one. He said a person must be born of water and of the Spirit to enter the holy nation of God. Born of *water* meant being clean from sin. Born of *the Spirit* meant only the Spirit of God could work in a person’s life to make him (or her) a new kind of person. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to understand about a different kind of life, a spiritual life by spiritual birth. If a person is only born physically, he will only understand the physical world. But if a person is born spiritually, he can understand about God and His love.

Jesus used an illustration that Nicodemus should understand. He talked about the wind. The wind is mysterious. It blows where it will and no one can change it. In a similar way, the Spirit of God works in a mysterious way to bring about spiritual birth in a person who wants to know God and experience His love. Nicodemus still did not understand. Jesus said if he did not understand **natural** things, he could not understand spiritual things. Jesus was telling about spiritual truths. He had come down from heaven and would go back up to heaven. He was also talking about His death that would happen later.

Spiritual birth is the way to enter God’s holy nation. It is also the way to know God and experience His love. Jesus told a story from the past that Nicodemus knew. Poisonous snakes were biting the Jewish people. Many were dying.

They prayed to God for help. God told their leader,

Moses, to make a snake of bronze and put it on a high pole so all the people could see it. Those who believed what Moses said and looked at the bronze snake were healed and saved physically. Jesus said He was going to be lifted up. That meant He would be nailed on a cross and die. He would die for the sins of all people. Anyone who believed and looked to Jesus would be saved spiritually. He is the way to spiritual birth or birth from above. This spiritual birth leads to life that lasts forever.

John 3:16, the memory verse for this lesson, is the best known verse in the entire Bible. Many people have memorized it. It tells how we can be born again. We are spiritually born when we put our trust in Jesus as the Savior of the world. He came and died because God loves everyone and does not want any to be lost. When a person is spiritually born from above, or born again, he or she gets life that lasts forever. He or she can know God and enjoy His love now and forever.

Jesus told Nicodemus some very important spiritual **truths**. He told him how to see and enter God's holy nation, how to be born spiritually, how to have life that lasts forever and never be lost, and how to know God and enjoy His love.

You too can enjoy all these things

if you will believe in Jesus and receive Him as the Son of God and Savior of all people. God loves you and sent Jesus so you could know Him and enjoy His love forever.



**John 3:1-16**

**1** There was a man named Nicodemus. He was a proud religious law-keeper and a leader of the Jews.

**2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Teacher, we know You have come from God to teach us. No one can do these powerful works You do unless God is with Him.”

**3** Jesus said to him, “For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the holy nation of God.”

**4** Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? How can he get into his mother’s body and be born the second time?”

**5** Jesus answered, “For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit of God, he cannot get into the holy nation of God.

**6** Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**7** Do not be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

**8** The wind blows where it wants to and you hear its sound. You do not know where it comes from or where it goes. It is the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit of God.”

**9** Nicodemus said to Him, “How can this be?”

**10** Jesus said, “Are you a teacher among the

Jews and do not know these things?

**11** For sure, I tell you, We are talking about things We know. We tell of what We have seen. Yet you do not take Our words to be true.

**12** I tell you about things of the earth and you do not believe them. How will you believe if I tell you things about heaven?

**13** No one has gone up into heaven except the One Who came down from heaven. That One is the Son of Man Who is in heaven.

**14** As Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up.

**15** Then whoever puts his trust in Him will have life that lasts forever.

**16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Whoever puts his trust in God’s Son will not be lost but will have life that lasts forever.”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 4:4-30,39-42

### Memory Verse

“Now we believe! It is no longer because of what you said about Jesus but we have heard Him ourselves. We know, for sure, that He is the Christ, the One Who saves men of this world from the punishment of their sins.” (John 4:42)

### Word List

**infidels:** people who do not believe in religion

**quench:** to put out a fire or stop thirst

**prophet:** a person who is sent by God and speaks for God

**convinced:** to be sure something is true

# If You Knew the Gift of God

We often show love or appreciation by giving gifts.

Recently a friend gave me an unusual umbrella. He gave it to me to say thanks for being his friend and helping him. I will remember this friend each time I use it. God has given a gift to all people, His only Son Jesus. Many people do not know about God’s love gift to the world. They miss the joy of having Jesus as a friend. They cannot receive all that He wants to give them until they know Him.

### **Jesus and a Samaritan Woman (John 4:4-27)**

John tells of when Jesus went through the country of Samaria. Jewish people did not go through Samaria because they did not like the people. They often called Samaritans **infidels** and thought they were not clean or good. But Jesus went there because He knew that God loved the Samaritan people, too. It was noon when Jesus and His followers arrived at the town of Sychar. Jesus sat down by a well of water just outside the town. His followers went into town to buy food for lunch. A woman came to the well to get water. Jesus asked, “Give Me a drink.” They began to talk together.

The woman was surprised that Jesus, a Jew, would speak to her, a Samaritan woman. The Jews did not like Samaritans and men usually would not speak to women they did not know. She was not a good person. But Jesus did not despise her. He knew she did not know God. Her answer to Jesus’ request for water was unkind. “Why do you ask me for a drink?” She showed that she did not like Jews.

Jesus said something to her that she did not understand. He said God wanted to give her something. If she would ask Jesus, He would give her *living water*. Jesus again used a physical thing to teach spiritual truth. He said spiritual water would keep a

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Why did Jesus need to go through Samaria?
2. Should we talk with people who are sinful like the Samaritan woman?
3. What is the right way to worship God?
4. Do you ever get excited about something you hear and want to share it with a friend?
5. Have you met Jesus personally so that you know He is the Savior of the world?

person from ever being thirsty again. It would be like a well inside the person never going dry. She only thought about physical water from the well. She thought if she had living water, she would not need to return every day to get water from the well. Jesus was talking about what He gives to **quench** spiritual thirst and to make a person clean and pure before God.

Jesus told her to go call her husband and come back. She said she was not married. He told her she had been married five times and was now living with a man who was not her husband. She was very surprised when Jesus told her about her past.

The woman began to understand that Jesus was no ordinary man. She thought He must be a **prophet**. She asked about the right and true place to worship. The Samaritans believed the true place to worship was Mount Gerizim. The Jews believed Jerusalem was the true place to worship. Jesus said the place was not important. Since God is spirit, true worship should be spiritual, from the heart. The physical place was not so important.

The woman had a desire to know about spiritual things. She said she knew Christ was coming and when He arrived He would make everything clear. Jesus' reply must have surprised her because He said, "I, the One talking to you, am the Christ." At that time, the followers of Jesus returned. They were surprised and a little troubled to see Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman, but no one said anything to Jesus about this.

**Sharing God's Gift with Others (John 4:28-30)**

Although the woman did not understand everything about God's gift, she was excited about what she had heard and whom she had met. She left her water jar at the well and

hurried back into the town. She wanted to tell others what she had seen and heard. She called to the men to come out and see this unusual man who knew all about her sinful past. She asked with excitement, “Can this be the Christ?”

When a person meets Jesus and believes He is the Christ, that person’s life becomes happy.

### **Knowing about God’s Gift (John 4:39-42)**

The men of Sychar went out to see Jesus. They were so happy when they talked to Jesus that they invited Him to come into the town and stay with them. Jesus and His followers stayed with them for two days teaching them about God and spiritual life. The people understood about God’s gift for them. They believed that Jesus was the Christ, not only because of what the woman said, but because they had met Him themselves. They said, “*We know for sure*, that He is the Christ, the One Who saves men of this world from the punishment of their sins.” They were **convinced** of this because they met Jesus personally.

### **John 4:4-30,39-42**

**4** He had to go through the country of Samaria.

**5** So He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the piece of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

**6** Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from traveling so He sat down just as He was by the well. It was about noon.

**7** A woman of Samaria came to get water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

**8** His followers had gone to the town to buy food.

**9** The woman of Samaria said to Him, “You are a Jew. I am of Samaria. Why do You ask me for a drink when the Jews have nothing to do with the people of Samaria?”

**10** Jesus said to her, “You do not know what God has to give. You do not know Who said to you, ‘Give Me a drink.’ If you knew, you would have asked Him. He would have given you living water.”

**11** The woman said to Him, “Sir, the well is deep. You have nothing to get water with. Where will You get the living water?”

**12** Are You greater than our early father Jacob? He gave us the well. He and his children and his cattle drank from it.”

**13** Jesus said to her, “Whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again.

**14** Whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty. The water that I will give him will become in him a well of

life that lasts forever.”

**15** The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty. Then I will not have to come all this way for water.”

**16** Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.”

**17** The woman said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said, “You told the truth when you said, ‘I have no husband.’”

**18** You have had five husbands. The one you have now is not your husband. You told the truth.”

**19** The woman said to Him, “Sir, I think You are a person Who speaks for God.

**20** Our early fathers worshiped on this mountain. You Jews say Jerusalem is the place where men should worship.”

**21** Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me. The time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.

**22** You people do not know what you worship. We Jews know what we worship. It is through the Jews that men are saved from the punishment of their sins.

**23** The time is coming, yes, it is here now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father wants that kind of worshipers.

**24** God is Spirit. Those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

**25** The woman said to Him, “I know the Jews are looking for One Who is coming.

He is called the Christ. When He comes, He will tell us everything.”

**26** Jesus said to her, “I am the Christ, the One talking with you!”

**27** Right then the followers came back and were surprised and wondered about finding Him talking with a woman. But no one said, “What do You want?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

**28** The woman left her water jar and went into town. She said to the men,

**29** “Come and see a man Who told me everything I ever did! Can this be the Christ?”

**30** They went out of town and came to Him.

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**39** Many people in that town of Samaria believed in Jesus because of what the woman said about Him. She said, “He told me everything I ever did.”

**40** So the people of Samaria came to Him. They asked Him to stay with them. Jesus stayed there two days.

**41** Many more people believed because of what He said.

**42** They said to the woman, “Now we believe! It is no longer because of what you said about Jesus but we have heard Him ourselves. We know, for sure, that He is the Christ, the One Who saves men of this world from the punishment of their sins.”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 5:1-24,31-40

### Memory Verse

“I am doing works the  
Father has given Me  
to do and they are  
proving that the  
Father has sent Me.”  
(John 5:36b)

### Word List

**respond:** to reply to  
someone by word or  
action

**invalid:** a person  
unable to move  
because of sickness

**Sabbath:** the Jewish  
day of rest and  
worship

# Jesus Doing the Work of God

We know people by the work they do. We say, he is a carpenter, she is a doctor, he is a clerk, or she is a teacher. Jesus’ work helped people know Who He was. Some people believed He was from God because of the miracles He did. Others did not believe Jesus was from God. He worked miracles, taught with authority, and did many wonderful things for other people. But they still did not believe. Jesus said that if people knew Who He was, they could know God, His Father. In the lesson, we will study the work Jesus did and how people **responded** to Him.

### **Jesus Heals a Crippled Man (John 5:1-15)**

Jesus and His followers went to visit Jerusalem again. They came to a pool of water where many sick people lay. Some were blind, others could not walk, some could not move. They thought when the water moved, the person who got into the water first would be healed. Jesus saw a man who could not move his body. The man had been an **invalid** for 38 years. He had no hope of being healed because he could not get into the water by himself. Jesus asked him a strange question, “Would you like to be healed?”

Not everyone who is sick really wants to be well. When we lived in Vietnam, we knew a boy who had a very large growth on his face. Every day he would beg from people on the street. Almost everyone would give him money. One day a doctor told the boy he would like to help him. He would remove the growth so the boy would be well. The boy did not want the doctor’s help. He wanted the money people gave him.

The man who Jesus spoke to said he could not get well because he had no one to help him. Jesus spoke to him with authority, “Get up! Pick up your bed and walk.” He got up, picked up his bed, and walked away.

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. Why do you think the Jewish leaders did not believe Jesus' words or work?
2. If you had lived in Jesus' day and seen His miracles, would you have believed?
3. In what ways do you think God is working today?

This made the religious leaders angry. They said to him, "This is the Day of Rest. It is against the Law for you to carry your bed" (v. 10). They only thought about the religious law. A man who was sick for 38 years had been healed but they were not happy.

The Jewish leaders wanted to know who told the man to pick up his bed and walk. The healed man said that the man who healed him told him to do so. But he did not know who healed him. It is sad to think that he was helped in such a wonderful way, yet he did not ask who had helped him. Later the man met Jesus in the temple. Jesus said, "You have been healed. Stop sinning or something worse will come to you." The man may have thought since he was healed he could do anything he wanted to do. He went back to the Jewish leaders and told them it was Jesus who had healed him.

**Jesus Talks to the Jews about His Work**  
**(John 5:16-24)**

The Jewish religious leaders were very angry with Jesus. They did not like Him telling a man to carry his bed on the **Sabbath**. Jesus' reply angered them even more. He said, "My Father is still working all the time so I am working also" (v. 17). They were very angry because His reply meant that God was working on the Sabbath, too. Also Jesus called God His Father, making Himself the same as God.

Jesus said He did not work by His own ability but the Father showed Him what to do. All His miracles were the work of God through Him. Jesus said God would do other wonderful work that they would see. Through Jesus, God would raise the dead and give the gift of life to people who trusted Him.

These great works would help people everywhere honor the Son, Jesus. Jesus made a very important statement

for the Jews and for you and me. He said, “Anyone who hears My Word and puts his trust in Him Who sent Me has life that lasts forever. He will not be guilty. He has already passed from death into life” (v. 24). He was saying we, like the Jews, must decide if Jesus is the Messiah and put our trust in Him. All who do that will receive life that lasts forever.

### **Proving Who Jesus Is (John 5:31-40)**

Jesus wanted the Jewish leaders and everyone to know He was truly from God, that He was the promised Messiah. The Jewish leaders would not believe His words He told about Himself. He did not try to prove who He was by His words. If someone speaks about himself, you cannot always believe what that person says. Jesus said they did not know who He was because they did not have God’s Word in their hearts. Even though they read the Holy Writings, they could not understand because their hearts were closed. Jesus said the Father was proving that He was the Messiah by the work that He did and by what the Holy Writings said. If anyone does not trust Jesus, he cannot receive life that lasts forever. We, like the Jews, must decide who Jesus is and trust Him for life.

### **John 5:1-24,31-40**

**1** Some time later, there was a religious gathering of the Jews. Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

**2** In Jerusalem there is a pool with five porches called Bethesda near the sheep gate.

**3** Inside these porches lay many sick people. Some were blind. Some could not walk. Some could not move their bodies.

**4** (An angel of the Lord came at certain times and made the water move. All of them were waiting for it to move. Whoever got in the water first after it was moving was healed of whatever sickness he had.)

**5** A man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years.

**6** Jesus saw him lying there and knew the man had been sick a long time. Jesus said to him, “Would you like to be healed?”

**7** The sick man said, “Sir, I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is moving. While I am coming, another one gets in first.”

**8** Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your bed and walk.”

**9** At once the man was healed and picked up his bed and walked. This happened on the Day of Rest.

**10** The Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Day of Rest. It is against the Law for you to carry your bed.”

**11** He said to them, “The Man Who healed me said to me, ‘Pick up your bed and walk.’”

**12** Then the Jews asked him, “What man said to you, ‘Pick up your bed and walk’?”



**13** The man who had been healed did not know Who He was. Jesus had gone away while many people were there.

**14** Later Jesus found the man who had been healed in the house of God. He said to him, “Listen! You have been healed. Stop sinning or something worse will come to you.”

**15** The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

**16** Because Jesus did these things on the Day of Rest, the Jews made it very hard for Him.

**17** Jesus said to them, “My Father is still working all the time so I am working also.”

**18** The Jews tried all the more to kill Him, not only because He had worked on the Day of Rest, but because He had also called God His own Father. This made Him the same as God.

**19** Then Jesus said to them, “For sure, I tell you, The Son can do nothing by Himself. He does what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son does also.

**20** The Father loves the Son and shows the Son everything He does. The Father will show Him greater works than these. They will surprise you.

**21** The Father raises up the dead and makes them live. The Son also gives life to anyone He chooses.

**22** The Father does not say who is guilty. He gives this to the Son to do.

**23** He does this so that all people will honor the Son as they honor the Father. He who

does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him.

**24** For sure, I tell you, anyone who hears My Word and puts his trust in Him Who sent Me has life that lasts forever. He will not be guilty. He has already passed from death into life.”

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**31** “If I tell about Myself, My words are worth nothing.

**32** There is another One Who tells about Me. I know the words He says about Me are true.

**33** You sent to John the Baptist and he told you the truth.

**34** I do not need words from men to say I am right. I say this that you might be saved from the punishment of sin.

**35** John the Baptist was a burning and shining light. You were willing for awhile to be glad in his light.

**36** I have something greater than John which tells of Me. I am doing works the Father has given Me to do and they are proving that the Father has sent Me.

**37** The Father has told of Me and has sent Me. You have never heard His voice. You have never seen Him.

**38** You do not have His word living in your hearts because you do not put your trust in the One He sent.

**39** You do read the Holy Writings. You think you have life that lasts forever just because you read them. They do tell of Me.

**40** But you do not want to come to Me so you might have life.”

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# The Gospel of John: So That You May Believe

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Adult Bible Study in Basic English

## UNIT 2: THE GROWING CONFLICT

Lesson 6  
**To Whom Shall We Go?**  
**John 6:41-58,66-69**

Lesson 7  
**The Good Shepherd  
and Human Blindness**  
**John 9:1-7, 9:39-10:19**

## UNIT 2 The Growing Conflict

In 1990, President George Bush was a **popular** American president. He was a man of high honor. People liked his ideas about government. He led the country to fight a short and successful war. Soon after the war, people began to lose their jobs. They had less money. They became fearful. They thought the president should help with their problems. Soon Mr. Bush was not so popular. The nation did not choose him as president in 1992.

Jesus knew what it was like to be **popular**. He also knew what it was like to become unpopular. During the first years of Jesus' ministry, people followed Him. They thought He spoke with authority. He made sick people well. One time, He miraculously fed 5,000 people who gathered to hear Him teach.

In this unit, we see how Jesus becomes unpopular. Lesson 6 shows some of His followers beginning to leave Him. They liked the food He gave them. But they did not understand that He was the Living Bread from heaven. Lesson 7 tells how the Jewish leaders became more unhappy with Jesus after He healed a blind man on the Jewish Day of Rest.

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*Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English*

### **Bible Text**

John 6:41-58,66-69

### **Memory Verse**

“Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, who else can we go to? You have words that give life that lasts forever. We believe and know You are the Christ. You are the Son of the Living God.’” (John 6:68-69)

### **Word List**

**popular:** liked by many people

**offensive:** rude, disrespectful

**risky:** dangerous

# To Whom Shall We Go?

When my wife and I were serving as missionaries in Vietnam, a friend named Binh Minh was arrested and put in prison. He stayed alone in a small cell for a month. After he was let out of prison, he came to our house and was very happy. I thought he was happy about being free. But he said he was happy because he had spent a month just reading the Bible. He said he had very little food to eat in prison, but the Bible was his spiritual food. Jesus was the Bread of Life to him.

### **Jesus, the Bread of Life (John 6:41-51)**

Chapter 6 tells about Jesus feeding thousands of people with five loaves of bread and two fish. After this big miracle, the people tried to make Him king (v. 15). They thought He would continue to give them food. But they had the wrong idea about Jesus. He was not just someone to give food. He was the Living Bread that could give them eternal life. Jesus tried to help them understand Who He was and what He came to do.

Jesus told the people, “I am the Bread that came down from heaven” (v. 41). The Jews did not like this statement. They began to grumble about Jesus. They knew His parents—Joseph, His earthly father, and Mary, His mother. Joseph had been a carpenter, and probably Jesus learned this trade, too. He may have built tables and chairs for them or helped build their houses. How could Jesus say He was the bread that had come down from heaven?

Jesus knew the Jews were still thinking of physical food. He wanted them to think about Who He was. So He answered their grumbling. He told them again that the Father had sent Him. He said God the Father could help them want to follow Him. Then He quoted a verse from the Bible which said they should listen to the Father and learn from Him. If they learned from the

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. How have you received Jesus into your inner being?
2. Do you ever want to go away from Jesus because following Him is too difficult?
3. What does having life that lasts forever mean to you?

Father, they would come to Him. Jesus repeated what He had already told them: He was the only One Who had seen the Father.

Jesus talked to the people about life that lasts forever. He said, “He who puts his trust in Me has life that lasts forever” (v. 47). Then He explained why this is true. Those who believe in Jesus have life that lasts forever because He is the Bread of Life.

To help the people understand what He meant, Jesus gave them an example. He reminded them that the physical bread, called *manna*, which God gave their early fathers did not keep them alive forever. Even though the people ate it, they later died. Then Jesus told them about a different kind of bread. He called it Living Bread, a kind of bread that would give them life that lasts forever. He promised that if they ate this bread, they would never die.

What is the Living Bread that Jesus was talking about? He explained, “The Bread which I will give is My flesh. I will give this for the life of the world” (v. 51). Jesus was talking about giving His life on the cross. When He said “My flesh,” He meant that His body would be nailed to the cross. His death would be for you and me. His death would be for the whole world.

**Receiving Jesus as the Bread of Life (John 6:52-58)**

Some followers continued to listen to Jesus. But they did not understand. They argued among themselves. They could not agree. They probably thought the idea of eating Jesus’ flesh sounded **offensive**. Then Jesus added that they needed to drink His blood also. Without doing this, they would have no life. Both *flesh* and *blood* reminded the people of their way of sacrificing animals in worship. Jesus would give both His body and blood in death. Jesus was telling them

that life that lasts forever came through His death on the cross. People who accept by faith that Jesus died for them will receive life that lasts forever.

Jesus taught that spiritual life comes from heaven. He came from heaven. He is the Bread of Life. Receiving Jesus as the Bread of Life means that we take Jesus into our inner being. This does not mean we need to eat Jesus' real flesh and drink His real blood. It means we become one with Him just like the bread and juice we eat and drink becomes one with our physical bodies. As bread is necessary for physical life, so Jesus is necessary for spiritual life.

### **Peter Confesses Jesus**

**(John 6:66-69)**

Some people who followed Jesus because of His healing and feeding began to go away. They thought what He taught was too difficult to understand. Or perhaps they found it too difficult to follow. They may have become afraid because the Jewish leaders did not trust Jesus. Following Jesus was too **risky**.

Those who continued to follow Jesus began to understand Who He really was. They understood what following Him really meant. Jesus asked His closest twelve followers (called disciples) if they would leave Him, too. Peter, speaking for

everyone, said they would continue to follow Him. They would not go to anyone else because Jesus alone had the words that brought life. Then Peter added this confession: "We believe and know You are the Christ. You are the Son of the Living God" (v. 69).

Jesus' disciples made a decision to follow Him. They understood Who He was. They still had much to learn, but they knew that spiritual life came through Him. So they chose to follow Him.

People today face this same choice. They can decide to follow Jesus, the Son of the Living God.

**John 6:41-58, 66-69**

**41** The Jews talked among themselves against Him. They did not like it because He said, “I am the Bread that came down from heaven.”

**42** They asked each other, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know His father and mother. How can He say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

**43** Jesus said to them, “Do not talk among yourselves against Me.

**44** The Father sent Me. No man can come to Me unless the Father gives him the desire to come to Me. Then I will raise him to life on the last day.

**45** The early preachers wrote, ‘They will all be taught of God.’ (Isaiah 54:13) Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Me.

**46** No one has seen the Father. I am the only One Who has seen Him.

**47** For sure, I tell you, he who puts his trust in Me has life that lasts forever.

**48** I am the Bread of Life.

**49** Your early fathers ate bread that came from heaven in the desert. They died.

**50** But this is the Bread that comes down from heaven. The one who eats it never dies.

**51** I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this Bread, he will live forever. The Bread which I will give is My flesh. I will give this for the life

of the world.”

**52** The Jews argued among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”

**53** Jesus said to them, “For sure, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life in you.

**54** Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has life that lasts forever. I will raise him up on the last day.

**55** My flesh is true food and My blood is true drink.

**56** Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives in Me and I live in him.

**57** The living Father sent Me and I live because of Him. In the same way, the one who eats Me will live because of Me.

**58** I am this Bread that came down from heaven. It is not like the bread that your early fathers ate and they died. Whoever eats this Bread will live forever.”

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**66** From that time on, many of His followers, “Will you leave Me also?”

**68** Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, who else can we go to? You have words that give life that lasts forever.

**69** We believe and know You are the Christ. You are the Son of the Living God.”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 9:1-7,  
9:39-10:19

### Memory Verse

“One thing I know. I was blind, but now I can see.” John 9:25b

### Word List

**afflict:** to cause pain

**opportunity:** a favorable time

**intimately:** very personally

# The Good Shepherd And Human Blindness

Blindness is a terrible condition that **afflicts** many people. But being blind does not make people helpless. Years ago, I met Howard and Mary, a married couple who were both blind. Mary cooked their meals on an electric stove. She made crafts with her hands. Howard mowed the yard. Sometimes he mowed after dark because he could not see the darkness. Howard and Mary were happy. They were Christians. Though they were blind physically, they had spiritual sight. They knew and loved Jesus.

Jesus wants to give spiritual sight to everyone. When we have spiritual sight, we can have a great full life. Our lesson today shows how Jesus continued to help the Jews know Who He is. Jesus said He knows those who know Him just like a shepherd knows his sheep.

### **Jesus Heals a Blind Man (John 9:1-7)**

One day as Jesus and His followers (disciples) were going from place to place, they met a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples wanted to know why the man was blind. They asked, “Did the man or his parents sin?” Jesus said the sin of the man or his parents did not make the man blind. The man’s blindness gave an **opportunity** for God to work. When people see the work of God, they want to know Who God is.

Jesus wanted His followers to help others. He said they should work while it was day because the night was coming. By “day,” He meant right then, and by “night,” He meant the time when He would leave the world. Jesus wanted His first followers, as well as His followers today, to do good any time we have an opportunity.

Jesus put mud on the man’s eyes and told him to go to the

**Things To  
Think About**

1. In what ways are you still spiritually blind?
2. Do you listen to Jesus' voice and follow Him in your life?
3. What other "doors" do people use to try to get life that lasts forever?

pool of Siloam to wash it off. The blind man obeyed Jesus. He believed Jesus could help him so he did what He said. When the blind man came back, he could see. He received physical sight. He also began to see (understand) spiritually that Jesus was sent from God.

**The Need for Spiritual Sight (John 9:39-41)**

Sometimes what Jesus said surprised the Jews. He said He came so the blind might see and those who could see might become blind. What did He mean? Those who are blind are those who have no spiritual sight. But they want to understand spiritual things. Those who could see are people like the Jewish religious leaders. They believed they had spiritual sight, but they really were spiritually blind. They were proud. They thought they did not need Jesus. Jesus told them they would be better off to be spiritually blind. Then they would not be guilty of their sinful, religious pride.

**Jesus Teaches About the Good Shepherd  
(John 10:1-19)**

In talking with the religious leaders, Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. The religious leaders knew that in the Holy Writings, God was called a Shepherd (Psalm 23). They knew what a good shepherd did. A good shepherd took good care of the sheep. He knew his sheep well. He often gave them names.

At night, shepherds would take their sheep to a sheep-pen to be safe. A watchman guarded all the sheep. In the morning, the shepherds returned to get their sheep. The watchman only let shepherds who had sheep in the pen to enter at the gate. If anyone came into the sheep-pen another way, he came to steal sheep. When each shepherd came in the gate, he called out his own sheep. The sheep knew and trusted



his voice. They followed him. They would never follow a stranger.

Jesus used the example of the shepherd and the sheep to teach about Himself. The disciples did not understand. Jesus said He was both the gate and the Shepherd. Just as the door was the way to enter the sheep-pen, Jesus is the door that lets people enter life that lasts forever. Jesus is the way to be safe.

Jesus talked about “others who came ahead of Me are men who steal and rob” (v. 8). Perhaps He was talking about the religious leaders. They kept the true knowledge of God from the people. That was like stealing. Jesus wanted people to know God. He said He was the gate or way to salvation. He saved people from the punishment of their sin. He said He came so people might have life—a great full life (v. 10).

Jesus said the Good Shepherd was willing to die for His sheep. When He said this, He was pointing to His death on the cross. He also said He would take His life up again. By this, He meant He would rise from the dead. Jesus said the Father loves the Son because He was willing to lay down His life for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows His sheep **intimately**. He knows everyone who trusts in Him. He knows

our name. He speaks to us and we can hear His voice and follow Him. He gives us a great full life.

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### John 9:1-7, 9:39-10:19

**1** As Jesus went on His way, He saw a man who had been born blind.

**2** His followers asked Him, “Teacher, whose sin made this man to be born blind? Was it the sin of this man or the sin of his parents?”

**3** Jesus answered, “The sin of this man or the sin of his parents did not make him to be born blind. He was born blind so the work of God would be seen in him.

**4** We must keep on doing the work of Him Who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no man can work.

**5** While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.

**6** After Jesus had said this, He spit on the ground. He mixed it with dust and put that mud on the eyes of the blind man.

**7** Then Jesus said to him, “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam.” (Siloam means Sent.) The man went away and washed. When he came back, he could see.

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**39** Jesus said, “I came into this world to say what is right from wrong. I came so those who do not see might see, and those who do see might be made blind.”

**40** Some of the proud religious law-keepers who were with Him heard this. They said to Him, “Are we blind also?”

**41** Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But because you say, ‘We see,’ you still are guilty of your sin.

**John 10:1** “For sure, I tell you, the man who goes into the sheep-pen some other way than through the door is one who steals and robs.

**2** The shepherd of the sheep goes in through the door.

**3** The one who watches the door opens it for him. The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and he leads them out.

**4** When the shepherd walks ahead of them, they follow him because they know his voice.

**5** They will not follow someone they do not know because they do not know his voice. They will run away from him.”

**6** Jesus told this picture-story to them. Yet they did not understand what He said.

**7** Again Jesus said to them, “For sure, I tell you, I am the Door of the sheep.

**8** All others who came ahead of Me are men who steal and rob. The sheep did not obey them.

**9** I am the Door. Anyone who goes in through Me will be saved from the punishment of sin. He will go in and out

and find food.

**10** The robber comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I came so they might have life, a great full life.

**11** I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

**12** One who is hired to watch the sheep is not the shepherd. He does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep. He runs away while the wolf gets the sheep and makes them run everywhere.

**13** The hired man runs away because he is hired. He does not care about the sheep.

**14** I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me.

**15** I know My Father as My Father knows Me. I give My life for the sheep.

**16** I have other sheep which are not from this sheep-pen. I must bring them also. They will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock with one shepherd.

**17** For this reason My Father loves Me. It is because I give My life that I might take it back again.

**18** No one takes my life from Me. I give it by Myself. I have the right and the power to take it back again. My Father has given Me this right and power.”

**19** Because of what He said, the Jews did not agree in their thinking.

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# The Gospel of John: So That You May Believe

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*Adult Bible Study in Basic English*

## **UNIT 3: THE TIME HAS COME**

**Lesson 8  
The Resurrection  
and the Life  
John 11:14-44,47-53**

**Lesson 9  
The Hour  
Has Come  
John 11:55-57;  
12:20-37,44-50**

## **UNIT 3 The Time Has Come**

**W**hen we face a difficult problem we know we must do something. The time has come to take action. Jesus knew He was facing difficulties with the Jewish leaders. He told His followers His time had come.

As Jesus became well known, the Jewish leaders thought the time had come to kill Jesus and be rid of Him. Jesus knew His time to end His work on earth had come. He would give His life and die as a sacrifice for the sins of all people.

In this unit, we will see that both the Jewish leaders and Jesus think “the time has come.”

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*Jim Gayle, writer of this unit's lessons, coordinated the International Friendship Corps, 1997-2002. He represented BGCT/BSM on the National Collegiate International Student Committee, Lifeway. He is an active member of ACMI (Association of Christians Ministering to Internationals) and serves as interim pastor at First Chinese Baptist Church, Dallas. He served as International Mission Board missionary to Southeast Asia from 1965-1987.*



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 11:14-44,47-53

### Memory Verse

“Jesus said to her, “I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies.” (John 11:25)

### Word List

**private:** alone; not with others

**cave:** a large hole in the side of a hill

**objected:** to not agree with someone

**shout:** to cry out in a loud voice

# The Resurrection and the Life

The movie “Dead Man Walking” is about a criminal who will be put to death for his crime. In the movie, a Catholic nun helps him change his thinking and turn to God. Even though the criminal is put to death, he confesses his sin and trusts in Jesus. He receives life that lasts forever as Jesus promised.

No one lives forever in this world. Everyone will die. The promise of God is that there is life after we die.

## **Jesus Faces Danger (John 11:14-16)**

Jesus and His followers went to a place away from the crowds. Jesus wanted to rest and get away from the Jewish leaders who wanted to kill Him.

A message came to Jesus from His friends, Mary and Martha. They said their brother was very sick and needed Jesus’ help. Jesus did not go immediately but stayed where He was for two days. Then He told His followers He would go and help.

His followers tried to keep Him from going because they feared the angry Jews would kill Him. Thomas, one of His followers, said they all should go with Jesus and, if necessary, die with Him.

## **Jesus Comforts His Friends (John 11:17-37)**

When Jesus arrived near the place, His friends told Him Lazarus had been in the grave four days. It probably took one day for Jesus to get the message. He stayed where He was two days. It took another day for Jesus to get there.

Mary and Martha thought Jesus waited too long to come help Lazarus. They were glad He came to comfort them. Other friends came to comfort Mary and Martha, too.

Martha heard that Jesus was coming and went to meet Him before He arrived. She probably wanted to see Him in **private**. She was so sad that she knelt down before Jesus and cried. She

**Things To****Think About**

1. Why did Jesus wait to go see Lazarus when he was sick? Was He their true friend?
2. Jesus said, “I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life.” What does that mean to you?
3. Do miracles always help people to believe in Jesus? Why?

said, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.” She knew Jesus had power to heal sick people. She also knew God was powerful and would do what Jesus asked Him.

Jesus comforted Martha and said, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha thought He meant when time comes to an end, and God brings back to life everyone who has died. She probably had heard Jesus talk about the resurrection at the end of time (John 6:39-40).

Jesus’ reply to Martha comforts all who believe His words. He said, “I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies. Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die” (v. 25-26). He said this even though Lazarus was dead and had been in the grave four days.

Jesus was talking about spiritual life. He was saying death is not the end of life. Spiritual life begins when a person’s spirit leaves his body. That spiritual life will never end. Spiritual life is possible to all who believe in Jesus as the One Who gives life.

After talking to Jesus, Martha hurried back home to tell Mary that Jesus had arrived and asked to see her. Mary quickly went out to see Jesus. Some of the Jews who were there to comfort her went with her. She, like Martha, knelt at Jesus’ feet and said the same thing to Jesus that Martha said. When Jesus saw all of them crying, He was very sad, too.

The Bible says Jesus wept (or cried). These words reveal the heart of Jesus. He knows and feels our sorrow. The Jews saw Jesus’ tears and said He loved Lazarus very much. They asked, “Since He made a blind man see, could He also have healed Lazarus?”

**A Wonderful Surprise (John 11:38-44)**

Jesus asked to see the place where Lazarus was buried. They took Him to a **cave** with a large stone over the entrance.

Lazarus' body was inside the cave. Jesus said to the people, "Take the stone away." But Martha **objected**. She said, "He has been dead four days." She knew there would be a bad smell. Jesus reminded her that He had promised if she believed, she would see the greatness of God (v. 40).

They rolled the stone away. Then Jesus prayed to the Father. He prayed so the people would know He was doing the work of the Father in Heaven. Then He **shouted**, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus came out all wrapped in grave clothes. Jesus said to take off the grave clothes and let him go free.

Everyone was very surprised and happy to see Lazarus come to life again. They experienced something they had never seen before. They saw the greatness of God. Many people believed in Jesus.

### **The Anger of the Jewish Leaders (John 11:45-53)**

Some of the people who saw this miracle went and told the Jewish leaders what had happened. They knew that Jesus had done a great miracle. They were afraid the people would stop following them and would follow Jesus. They would lose their power.

They met together immediately. The head of the Jewish leaders said it was better for one person to die for all the

people than for the whole nation to be lost. He wanted them to keep their power and influence. So they decided to find a way to kill Jesus.

Jesus would die not just for the nation of Jews but also for all people everywhere. By His death He would save us from our sins. We, too, can have life that lasts forever.

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### **John 11:14-44,47-53**

**14** Then Jesus said to them, "Lazarus is dead.

**15** Because of you I am glad I was not there so that you may believe. Come, let us go to him."

**16** Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to the other followers, "Let us go also so we may die with Jesus."

**17** When Jesus got there, He heard that Lazarus had been in the grave four days.

**18** Bethany was about one-half hour walk from Jerusalem.

**19** Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to give words of comfort about their brother.

**20** Martha heard that Jesus was coming and went to meet Him. Mary stayed in the house.

**21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

**22** I know even now God will give You whatever You ask."

**23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

**24** Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again when the dead are raised from the grave on the last day."

**25** Jesus said to her, "I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies.

**26** Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

**27** She answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God. You are the One Who was to come into the world."

**28** After Martha said this, she went and called her sister Mary. She said without anyone else hearing, "The Teacher is here and has sent for you."

**29** When Mary heard this, she got up and went to Him.

**30** Jesus had not yet come into their town. He was still where Martha had met Him.

**31** The Jews had been in the house comforting Mary. They saw her get up and hurry out. They followed her and said, "She is going to the grave to cry there."

**32** Mary went to the place where Jesus was. When she saw Him, she got down at His feet. She said to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

**33** Jesus saw her crying. The Jews who came with her were crying also. His heart was very sad and He was troubled.

**34** He said, "Where did you lay Lazarus?" They said, "Lord, come and see."

**35** Then Jesus cried.

**36** The Jews said, "See how much He loved Lazarus."

**37** Some of them said, "This Man opened the eyes of the blind man. Could He not have kept this man from dying?"

**38** Jesus went to the grave with a sad heart. The grave was a hole in the side of the hill. A stone covered the door.

**39** Jesus said, "Take the stone away." The dead man's sister, Martha, said to Him, "Lord, by now his body has a bad smell. He has been dead four days."

**40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not say that if you

would believe, you would see the shining-greatness of God?"

**41** They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank You for hearing Me.

**42** I know You always hear Me. But I have said this for the people standing here, so they may believe You have sent Me."

**43** When He had said this, He called with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

**44** The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were tied in grave clothes. A white cloth was tied around his face. Jesus said to the people, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go!"

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**47** The religious leaders of the Jews and the proud religious law-keepers gathered a court together. They said, "What will we do? This Man is doing many powerful works.

**48** If we let Him keep doing these things, all men will put their trust in Him. The Romans will come and take away the house of God and our nation."

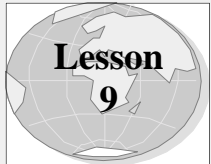
**49** Caiaphas was the head religious leader that year. He said to them, "You know nothing about this.

**50** Do you not see it is better for one man to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed?"

**51** Caiaphas did not think of these words himself. He spoke what God had said would happen. He was telling before it happened that Jesus must die for the nation.

**52** He must die not only for the nation, but also to bring together into one group the children of God who were living in many places.

**53** From that day on they talked together about how they might kill Jesus.



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 11:55-57;  
12:20-37,44-50

### Memory Verse

“I came to save the  
world from the  
punishment of sin.”  
John 12:47b

### Word List

**judgment:** to decide  
the guilt or innocence  
of a person

**indicating:** pointing  
to something

**salvation:** being set  
free from the penalty  
of sin

# The Hour Has Come

In 1965, my wife and I and our three small sons said goodbye to our family and friends. We got on an airplane to leave America and go to Vietnam to be missionaries. We worked for many months to get ready for that time. The hour came for us to leave.

In our lesson today we will study how the hour had come for Jesus to leave. His time had come to give His life as a sacrifice for sin. He knew why He came into the world. His work was to do what God wanted Him to do. He worked among the people for about three years. Now He would give His life for the punishment of all sin. He would be the Savior of all people.

### **The Jewish Leaders Plan to Arrest Jesus (John 11:55-57)**

Many people from different places came to Jerusalem to celebrate a special religious holiday. They were there several days before the celebration began. Some of them were looking for Jesus and His followers. They asked each other, “Do you think He will come to celebrate, too?”

The religious leaders were looking for Jesus, too. They were angry with Jesus because He did miracles and many people followed Him. They said Jesus did not follow the religious teachings. They said if anyone knew where Jesus was, they should tell them. They wanted to arrest and kill Jesus.

### **The Greek People Ask to Meet Jesus (John 12:20-26)**

Some Greek people had become followers of the Jewish religion. They came to celebrate the religious holiday, too. They heard of Jesus and His wonderful work. They wanted to meet Him. They wanted to know Jesus, so they asked Philip, one of Jesus’ followers, to help them meet Jesus. They probably asked Philip because he had a Greek name. He was from a city where



**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. Why did the Jewish religious leaders want to kill Jesus?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Anyone who loves his life will lose it”?
3. How can you explain that Jesus is Light? Is He your Light?
4. Why can we trust the words of Jesus to be true?

many Greek people lived. Philip was not sure why these people wanted to meet Jesus, so he talked with Andrew, another of Jesus’ followers. They went to Jesus and told Him about the Greeks wanting to meet Him.

When Jesus heard this, He knew His hour to leave the world was near. During the three years Jesus taught the people, He said three times His hour had not come. Now He said His hour was near. He was talking about the hour He would die.

Jesus explained to His followers why He must die. He said, “Unless a seed falls into the ground and dies, it will only be a seed. If it dies, it will give much grain” (v. 24). His death would make life possible for all who believe in Him. He would not hold on to His life. He would give it for others.

He told His followers that to love life and hold on to it means they would lose their lives. If they gave it up, God would give it back to them forever. All who follow Jesus must follow His example and be willing to give up their lives for God. God will honor all who follow Jesus’ example. Jesus will be with them now and in the life that lasts forever.

**Jesus Gives Up His Life to Die (John 12:27-37)**

The thought of dying for the sins of all people troubled Jesus. He asked, “Should I say, ‘Father, save Me from this time of trouble and pain? No, this is why I came to this time’ ” (v. 27). Jesus prayed for God’s name to be honored. A voice from heaven said, “I have already honored My name. I will honor it again!” (v. 28). God was pleased that Jesus would give His life so all people could be saved. People heard the voice, but did not know where it came from. Some said it was thunder. Others said an angel spoke to Jesus.

The death of Jesus meant that **judgment** would come to the world. The evil leader of the world would be thrown

out. He would no longer have power to harm followers of Jesus. He said, “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will attract all people toward Me” (v. 32). He was **indicating** that He would die on a cross. The people did not understand what Jesus was saying. They knew the Messiah would live forever. They asked how He could die on a cross. They thought if Jesus died, then He could not be God’s promised Messiah.

Jesus said they should accept His teaching and works. He was God’s Light representing God’s truth. He wanted them to believe what He was saying about His coming death. If they accepted what He said as truth, they would not walk in darkness. Jesus invited people to trust Him and become children of the Light.

But people did not put their trust in Jesus, even though He did many powerful works for them to see.

### **Jesus Calls People to Trust Him (John 12:44-50)**

The death of Jesus means either **salvation** or judgment for all people. He calls all people to trust Him and receive salvation. He wants everyone to know God the Father in heaven. Jesus said to believe in Him was to believe in God the Father, the One Who sent Him. Jesus and the Father are one. When we look at

Jesus, we know what God is like.

Jesus came to be Light to all people. He drives away the darkness of sin. So powerful is this Light that the darkness cannot put it out (John 1:5). Jesus did not come to make people guilty of sin but to give them salvation. He came as One Who saves, not as one who makes us guilty. People judge themselves when they do not trust Jesus. They will be guilty before God on the “last day,” the Day of Judgment.

We can trust Jesus because He spoke the powerful Word of God. He obeyed the Father by His works and His words. These works point to who Jesus is. His words tell us how to receive salvation.

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### **John 11:55-57; 12:20-37,44-50**

**55** The special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt was soon. Many people from around the country came up to Jerusalem to go through the religious washing before the special supper.

**56** They looked for Jesus. They stood together in the house of God and asked each other, “What do you think? Will He come to the special supper?”

**57** The religious leaders of the Jews and the proud religious law-keepers had said that if any man knew where Jesus was, he should tell them. They wanted to take Him.

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**John 12:20** Some Greek people had come to

worship at the religious gathering. They were among the others who had come to worship.

**21** These Greek people came to Philip. He was from the city of Bethsaida in the country of Galilee. They said to him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus!”

**22** Philip went and told Andrew. Then Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

**23** Jesus said to them, “The hour is near for the Son of Man to be taken to heaven to receive great honor.

**24** For sure, I tell you, unless a seed falls into the ground and dies, it will only be a seed. If it dies, it will give much grain.

**25** Anyone who loves his life will lose it. Anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it forever.

**26** If anyone wants to serve Me, he must follow Me. So where I am, the one who wants to serve Me will be there also. If anyone serves Me, My Father will honor him.

**27** Now My soul is troubled. Should I say, ‘Father, save Me from this time of trouble and pain’? No, this is why I came to this time.

**28** Father, honor Your name!” Then a voice from heaven came, saying, “I have already honored My name. I will honor it again!”

**29** The people heard the voice. Some who stood there said, “It was thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to Him.”

**30** Jesus said, “The voice did not come for Me, but it came to be a help to you.

**31** Now this world is being told it is guilty. Now the leader of this world will be thrown out.

**32** And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will attract all people toward Me.”

**33** He said this to tell the kind of death He was going to die.

**34** The people said to Him, “The Law of Moses says that the Christ is to live forever. Why do you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

**35** Jesus said to them, “The Light will be with you for a little while yet. Go on your way while you have the Light so you will not be in the dark. When a man is walking in the dark, he does not know where he is going.

**36** While you have the Light, put your trust in the Light. Then you will be the sons of the Light.” Jesus said these things and then went away. He hid Himself from them.

**37** Jesus had done many powerful works in front of them, but they did not put their trust in Him.

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**44** Then Jesus spoke with a loud voice, “Anyone who puts his trust in Me, puts his trust not only in Me, but in Him Who sent Me.

**45** Anyone who sees Me, sees Him Who sent Me.

**46** I came to the world to be a Light. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will not be in darkness.

**47** If anyone hears My Words but does not believe them, I do not say he is guilty. I did not come to say the world is guilty. I came to save the world from the punishment of sin.

**48** Anyone who does not receive Me and does not receive My teaching has One Who will say he is guilty. The Word that I have spoken will say he is guilty on the last day.

**49** I have not spoken by My own power. The Father Who sent Me has told Me what to say and speak.

**50** I know that His Word is life that lasts forever. I speak the things the Father has told me to speak.”

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# The Gospel of John: So That You May Believe

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Adult Bible Study in Basic English

## UNIT 4: JESUS' GLORIOUS TRIUMPH

Lesson 10  
Following Jesus'  
Example  
John 13:1-17

Lesson 11  
Never Alone  
John 14:15-27;  
15:26-16:15; 17:11

Lesson 12  
It Is Finished  
John 19:1-21,26-30

Lesson 13  
Seeing and Believing  
John 20:1-2,11-29

## UNIT 4 Jesus' Glorious Triumph

**T**riumph means victory. *Glorious* means something wonderful and joyful. This is the way Jesus' last days on earth are described—*glorious triumph*. Jesus ate with His followers. He taught them by example and finished the work the Father sent Him to do. Even though Jesus was nailed to a cross and died, His death became the doorway for us to know God. He rose triumphantly over death, and He is alive even now.

This is the glorious truth that the Gospel of John tells us. In the next four lessons, we will study about Jesus' glorious triumph.

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Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 13:1-17

### Memory Verse

“I am your Teacher and Lord. I have washed your feet. You should wash each other’s feet also. I have done this to show you what should be done. You should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:14-15)

### Word List

**betray:** to give a friend over to an enemy

**demonstrated:** to show something clearly by doing

**humble:** showing oneself lower than others

# Following Jesus' Example

When I was in high school I took a class where we built things out of wood. The teacher taught that class for many years and built many wooden models for his students to follow. I could easily build something by following the example and seeing just how the pieces all fit together.

As we live, it is good to have someone show us, not just tell us, how we should live. Jesus gave this kind of example for His followers. He showed them by what He did so they would know how to live and please God.

### **Jesus Demonstrates Love (John 13:1-5)**

Jesus and His twelve closest followers gathered in a borrowed room to eat a special religious meal together. It was the meal to remember how God led the Jews out of Egyptian slavery. This was the last meal Jesus would eat before He was put to death. He knew the time was very near for Him to leave the world. He wanted to be with His followers and teach them before He left for heaven. He loved these men very much. They had been with Jesus for three years watching Him work miracles and teach God’s truth.

Jesus loved these men, but one of them, Judas Iscariot, was tempted by Satan to **betray** Jesus. Judas would give Jesus over to the Jewish leaders who wanted to kill Jesus. Even though Jesus knew what Judas would do, He still loved Judas. He **demonstrated** His love to Judas and the eleven other men.

Jesus came from God and was about to return to God. He knew God had given Him power over all things. But He would not act in a way that showed His power. He would do something that was hard for His followers to understand. He gave them an example of how to demonstrate love to others. While they ate the meal together, Jesus got up and took off His outer clothes. He

**Things To****Think About**

1. Why did Jesus wash His followers' feet?
2. Was Peter wrong in saying Jesus could not wash his feet?
3. How would you feel if someone greater than you wanted to wash your feet?
4. What things can you do that will show you follow Jesus' example?

picked up a towel and put it around Him. Then He poured water in a pan and began to wash His followers' feet. Then He dried their feet with the towel He had around Him.

Washing feet was important in that time. The roads were dirty, and people's feet got dirty. When a person came into the house, their feet needed to be washed. Usually a servant was told to wash the feet of guests who came to visit. Washing feet was a very low task. None of Jesus' followers wanted to wash the others' feet. They had just talked about who in the group was the greatest among the twelve (Luke 22:24). The followers must have felt very strange and embarrassed for Jesus to wash their feet.

**Peter Says Jesus Cannot Wash His Feet****(John 13:6-11)**

As Jesus washed the followers' feet, He came to Peter. Peter said, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Peter was probably uncomfortable with Jesus **humbling** Himself to do such a low task. Jesus told Peter he did not understand what was happening now, but later he would know what this meant. Peter was proud and told Jesus He could not wash his feet. But Jesus said to Peter if he did not let Him wash his feet, he was not a true follower. Then Peter asked Jesus to wash his feet, hands, and head, too. But Jesus said if Peter had taken a bath, he only needed his feet washed.

When Jesus forgives our sins, it is as if we have taken a spiritual bath. He makes us clean spiritually. Jesus said His followers were clean. He meant they were all spiritually clean before God, except one. That one was Judas, who would hand Jesus over to the Jewish leaders for 30 pieces of silver.

**Jesus Tells the Meaning of What He Did****(John 13:12-17)**

When Jesus finished washing each of their feet, He

took off the towel and put His clothes back on. He sat down again at the table with the followers. He asked if they understood what He had just done. Then Jesus began to tell them the meaning of His actions. He wanted the disciples to know the meaning of His example.

They called Him Teacher and Lord. They knew He was greater than they were. But He had just done something that a lowly servant would do—wash someone's feet. He did it because He wanted to, not because He had to. Jesus said that they should follow His example and do as He had done. Jesus was teaching the importance of being **humble**.

Jesus demonstrated His love for His followers by washing their feet. He also showed His greatness by being an example for them.

Some leaders say to those who follow them, do this or do that. But they do not want to do what they tell others to do.

Jesus gave them an example. His followers should want to **humble** themselves and do as He did. Jesus said we will be happy if we understand and follow His example.

**John 13:1-17**

**1** It was before the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. Jesus knew the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had loved His own who were in the world. He loved them to the end.

**2** He and His followers were having supper. Satan had put the thought into the heart of Judas Iscariot of handing Jesus over to the leaders of the country.

**3** Jesus knew the Father had put everything into His hands. He knew He had come from God and was going back to God.

**4** Jesus got up from the supper and took off His coat. He picked up a cloth and put it around Him.

**5** Then He put water into a wash pan and began to wash the feet of His followers. He dried their feet with the cloth He had put around Himself.

**6** Jesus came to Simon Peter. Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"

**7** Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing but you will later."

**8** Peter said to Him, "I will never let You wash my feet." Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you will not be a part of Me."

**9** Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, do not wash only my feet, but wash my hands and

my head also."

**10** Jesus said to him, "Anyone who has washed his body needs only to wash his feet. Then he is clean all over. You are all clean except one."

**11** Jesus knew who was going to hand Him over to the leaders. That is why He said, "You are all clean except one."

**12** Jesus washed their feet and put on His coat. Then He sat down again and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"

**13** You call Me Teacher and Lord. You are right because that is what I am.

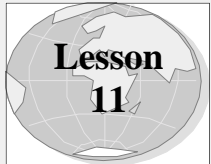
**14** I am your Teacher and Lord. I have washed your feet. You should wash each other's feet also.

**15** I have done this to show you what should be done. You should do as I have done to you.

**16** For sure, I tell you, a workman who is owned by someone is not greater than his owner. One who is sent is not greater than the one who sent him.

**17** If you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.





Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 14:15-27;  
15:26–16:15; 17:11

### Memory Verse

“If you love Me, you will do what I say. Then I will ask My Father and He will give you another Helper. He will be with you forever.”  
(John 14:15-16)

### Word List

**orphanage:** a home for children who have no parents or family to care for them

**cherish:** to value something greatly

**hostile:** feeling or showing anger toward others

# Never Alone

The last words a person speaks before he or she dies tells a lot about that person. The last speech Jesus gave His closest followers shows His heart. He was thinking of His followers. He knew they would face trouble when He was gone. He knew they would be discouraged. So while He was still with His followers, He wanted to comfort and encourage them.

### **The Holy Spirit as Helper (John 14:15-24)**

Jesus loved His followers with true love. He wanted them to show their true love for Him by obeying His teachings. Then He promised His followers the greatest comfort of all. He promised that when He was no longer present with them, He would be with them in a spiritual way because of the Holy Spirit. The followers knew Jesus, but they did not know the Holy Spirit. They did not understand how He would be with them. Because Jesus loved them, He wanted to help them understand.

Jesus assured them, “I will not leave you without help as children without parents” (v. 18). To be left without parents is one of the saddest things that can happen to a child. On TV, we see faces of children in **orphanages**. They lie alone in small beds with no one to pick them up and love them.

Jesus told the followers He would leave them. They would not see Him again. But Jesus cared enough for His followers to not leave them as orphans. He said if they loved Him and obeyed His teaching, He would be with them. He would be with them in the Holy Spirit. God is Spirit and He will come and be in the heart of anyone who receives Him.

Jesus also said the Holy Spirit would be like a Helper—a friend who stands ready to walk alongside and help through difficult times in life. This Helper would be with them forever. He would be with them and live in them.

**convict:** to prove someone guilty of a wrong

**witness:** one who tells what he or she knows to be true

**Things To Think About**

1. In what way is the Holy Spirit your helper?
2. In what way is the Holy Spirit your teacher?
3. How has the Holy Spirit given you peace in troubled times?
4. How did the Holy Spirit convict you of sin?

**The Holy Spirit as Teacher (John 14:25-27)**

Jesus said the Holy Spirit was like a teacher. He also called Him the Spirit of Truth. The followers, like us, did not always understand what Jesus was teaching them. They did not always remember what He had taught. As teacher, the Holy Spirit “will teach you everything and help you remember everything I have told you” (v. 26). The Spirit’s job is not to give new truths about God. He helps us grow in our understanding of God.

Jesus did not want His followers to feel troubled after He was gone. He wanted to leave them something that would help them feel calm in their spirits. So He left them His peace. The followers **cherished** this peace as they lived in the **hostile** world of the early church. Through all the years since Jesus returned to the Father, people have felt the peace of God in their hearts as they faced terrible times.

**The Holy Spirit as Witness (John 15:26-27; 16:6-15)**

In another example, Jesus explained the work of the Holy Spirit. He said the Spirit would “tell about Me when He comes” (vv. 15:26-27). The followers, like followers of Jesus today, would depend on the Holy Spirit to help them **witness** about Jesus to people who did not believe in Him. We witness about Jesus, but the Holy Spirit is the One Who helps others receive the truth.

Jesus made sure the followers understood that the Holy Spirit, the Helper, would not come “if I do not go” (v. 16:7). Then the Helper would work to **convict** all people in the world of their guilt in sin. Jesus meant the sin of not believing in Him.

We see the heart of Jesus again when He said His followers were not strong enough to understand all He was telling them. Later they would understand more—after the

Holy Spirit had come,. He would send the Holy Spirit to continue to teach them.

After Jesus was gone, the Holy Spirit would help them know the Father and the Son. The Spirit would always honor the Son by pointing to His words.

When Jesus left the earth, He did not leave His followers, or Christians who live at any time, alone. He sent the Holy Spirit as Helper, Teacher, Witness. Jesus promised us His presence and His peace. He prayed for us and promised to return one day.

**John 14:15-27; 15:26–16:15; 17:11**

**15** “If you love Me, you will do what I say.

**16** Then I will ask My Father and He will give you another Helper. He will be with you forever.

**17** He is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot receive Him. It does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He lives with you and will be in you.

**18** I will not leave you without help as children without parents. I will come to you.

**19** In a little while the world will see Me no more. You will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

**20** When that day comes, you will know that I am in My Father. You will know that you are in Me. You will know that I am in you.

**21** The one who loves Me is the one who has My teaching and obeys it. My Father will love whoever loves Me. I will love him and will show Myself to him.”

**22** The other Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Why is it You are going to show Yourself to us followers and not to the world?”

**23** Jesus said, “The one who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love him. We will come to him and live with him.

**24** The one who does not love Me does not obey My teaching. The teaching you are now hearing is not My teaching but it is from My Father Who sent Me.

**25** I have told you these things while I am still with you.

**26** The Helper is the Holy Spirit. The Father will send Him in My place. He will teach you everything and help you remember everything I have told you.

**27** Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give peace to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

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**15:26** “The Helper (Holy Spirit) will tell about Me when He comes. I will send Him to you from the Father. He is the Spirit of Truth and comes from the Father.

**27** You will also tell of Me because you have been with Me from the beginning.

**16:1** I have told you these things so you will not be ashamed of Me and leave Me.

**2** They will put you out of the places of worship. The time will come when anyone who kills you will think he is helping God.

**3** They will do these things to you because they do not know the Father or Me.

**4** When these things happen, you will remember I told you they would happen. That is why I am telling you about these things now. I did not tell you these things before, because I was with you.

**5** But now I am going to Him Who sent Me. Yet none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

**6** Your hearts are full of sorrow because I am telling you these things.

**7** I tell you the truth. It is better for you that I go away. If I do not go, the Helper will not

come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you.

**8** When the Helper comes, He will show the world the truth about sin. He will show the world about being right with God. And He will show the world what it is to be guilty.

**9** He will show the world about sin, because they do not put their trust in Me.

**10** He will show the world about being right with God, because I go to My Father and you will see Me no more.

**11** He will show the world what it is to be guilty because the leader of this world (Satan) is guilty.

**12** I still have many things to say to you. You are not strong enough to understand them now.

**13** The Holy Spirit is coming, He will lead you into all truth. He will not speak His Own words. He will speak what He hears. He will tell you of things to come.

**14** He will honor Me. He will receive what is Mine and will tell it to you.

**15** Everything the Father has is Mine. That is why I said to you, ‘He will receive what is Mine and will tell it to you.’ ”

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**17:11** “I am no longer in the world. I am coming to You. But these are still in the world. Holy Father, keep those You have given to Me in the power of Your name. Then they will be one, even as We are One.”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 19:1-21,26-30

### Memory Verse

“Jesus said, ‘My food is to do what God wants Me to do and to finish His work.’ ”

(John 4:34)

### Word List

**mocked:** to treat someone with disrespect and cruel humor

**crucified:** to be nailed to a large cross to die

**humiliating:** an experience that brings great shame

**voluntarily:** to do something by your own decision; not forced to act

## “It Is Finished”

My father-in-law asked me to help him build a barn to store hay. Neither of us was a trained builder but we wanted to save money by doing the work ourselves. We had plans, bought material, and started to work. We worked all day every day for a week. It was very hard work. We were glad when we could say, “It is finished.”

Jesus came into the world to do God’s work. He came to help people know God. His work was to become the Savior of all people by dying for their sins. As Jesus died on the cross, He said, “It is finished.” He completed the work He came to do.

### **Jesus Before Pilate (John 19:1-16)**

Jesus and His followers left the place where they had eaten together and went to a garden outside the city to pray. While Jesus was praying, His followers fell asleep. Judas Iscariot (the follower who received money to turn Jesus over to the religious leaders) came with some police and Roman soldiers. The soldiers and police took Jesus and gave Him over to the Jewish religious leaders.

Before sunrise, during the early morning hours, they questioned Jesus and said He must die. But they did not have the right to put Jesus to death. The Romans, who were ruling their nation at that time, had to decide that. When daylight came, the religious leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. He could put Jesus to death.

Pilate did not like the Jewish people. He did not want to give the Jewish leaders their request, so he had Jesus beaten. After the Roman soldiers tortured Jesus, they **mocked** Him. They put a crown made of thorns on His head and put a purple coat on Him. They hit Him, laughed at Him, and called Him “the King of the Jews.”

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus?
2. Who was Pilate afraid of—the Jews? Jesus? Caesar?
3. When are you like Pilate, allowing fear to influence your decisions?
4. What three things does the Gospel of John tell that Jesus said while He was dying? (vv. 26-28,30) What do these things mean?

They brought Jesus back to Pilate. Pilate presented Him to the crowd and said, "I do not find Him guilty" (v. 4). The people were angry at Pilate's words. They shouted back to Pilate, "Nail Him to a cross! Nail Him to a cross!" They wanted to **crucify** Jesus. Pilate said the religious leaders should **crucify** Jesus themselves, but he knew they did not have the authority to do that.

They told Pilate that Jesus should die because He said He was the Son of God. This made Pilate afraid, so he went back and questioned Jesus. Jesus did not say anything to Pilate. Pilate became angry because of Jesus' silence. He said, "I have the power to nail you to a cross or I have the power to set you free." Jesus said, "You would have no power if it was not given you from above." God is the One Who gives power to people, even to wicked governments.

Pilate was very troubled by Jesus' words. He wanted to let Jesus go free. The religious leaders got many people to oppose Pilate and shout that Jesus should be **crucified**. They said if Pilate let Jesus go free, he would not be a friend of the Roman ruler, Caesar. Then Pilate gave the order to nail Jesus to a cross.

**Jesus on the Cross (John 19:17-21)**

Death on the cross was a very painful and **humiliating** way to die. Jesus was forced to carry the cross from the governor's palace to the place where He was to die. It was a place out of the city called the Place of the Skull. The soldiers took off Jesus' clothes and nailed His hands and feet to the cross.

Jesus was crucified between two criminals who were also nailed to crosses. Pilate had a sign put on the cross over Jesus' head that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews." This was to tell why He was crucified. The religious

leaders objected to this sign. They wanted it to say, "He said, I am King of the Jews." They did not want other people to think that they believed Jesus was King of the Jews. But Pilate would not change the sign.

### **Jesus Remembers His Mother (John 19:26-27)**

Jesus' mother, with some other women, came to be with Jesus. As Jesus was hanging on the cross, He saw His mother there. While He was dying, He gave instructions for one of His followers to care for His mother. He told His mother she should receive this follower as her son. Jesus showed great love and respect for His mother while He was dying. He provides an example for us about caring for our parents.

### **Jesus Finishes His Work (John 19:28-30)**

It took several hours for Jesus to die on the cross. He suffered very much while dying because He was human like you and me. As He hung on the cross, He said He was thirsty. The soldiers put sour wine on a stick and gave it to Him. This was told about hundreds of years earlier in the Holy Writings (Psalm 69:21).

After He received the drink, Jesus said with a loud voice, "It is finished." He

had completed the work God had sent Him to do. He **voluntarily** gave up His life to be the Savior for all people. The Bible says by His suffering, we are made whole.

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### **John 19:1-21,26-30**

**1** Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him beaten.

**2** The soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head. They put a purple coat on Him.

**3** Then they said, "Hello, King of the Jews!" and hit Him with their hands.

**4** Pilate went out again and said to the people, "See, I bring Him out to you so you will know I do not find Him guilty."

**5** Jesus came out. He had on the crown of thorns and a purple coat. Pilate said to the people, "See! This is the Man!"

**6** The religious leaders and the soldiers saw Him. They spoke with loud voices, "Nail Him to a cross! Nail Him to a cross!"

**7** The Jews said to Pilate, "We have a Law that says He should die because He has said He is the Son of God."

**8** When Pilate heard them say this, he was more afraid.

**9** He went into the court room again. He said to Jesus, "Where do You come from?" Jesus did not say a word.

**10** Pilate said, "Will You not speak to me?"

Do You not know that I have the right and power to nail You to a cross? I have the right and the power to let You go free also.”

**11** Jesus said, “You would not have any right or power over Me if it were not given you from above. For this reason the one who handed Me over to you has the worse sin.”

**12** When Pilate heard this, he wanted to let Jesus go free. But the Jews kept saying, “If you let this Man go free, you are not a friend of Caesar! Whoever makes himself as a king is working against Caesar.”

**13** When Pilate heard this, he had Jesus brought in front of him. Pilate sat down at the place where men stand in front of him if they are thought to be guilty. The place is called the Stone Floor.

**14** It was the day to get ready for the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. It was about noon. Pilate said to the Jews, “See, your King!”

**15** They spoke with a loud voice, “Take Him away! Nail Him to a cross!” Pilate said to them, “Do you want me to nail your King to a cross?” The head religious leaders said, “We have no king but Caesar!”

**16** Then Pilate handed Him over to be nailed to a cross. They took Jesus and led Him away.

**17** Jesus carried His own cross to a hill called the Place of the Skull.

**18** There they nailed Him to the cross. With

Him were two others. There was one on each side of Jesus.

**19** Then Pilate put a writing on the cross which said, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

**20** This was read by many of the Jews. The place where Jesus was nailed to the cross was near the city. The writing was written in the Hebrew and the Latin and the Greek languages.

**21** Then the head religious leaders of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’! Write, ‘He said, I am the King of the Jews.’ ”

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**26** Jesus saw His mother and the follower whom He loved standing near. He said to His mother, “Woman, look at your son.”

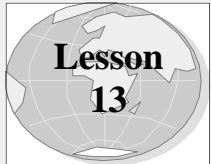
**27** Then Jesus said to the follower, “Look at your mother.” From that time the follower took her to his own house.

**28** Jesus knew that everything was now finished. Everything happened as the Holy Writings said it would happen. He said, “I am thirsty.” (Psalm 69:21)

**29** There was a jar full of sour wine near. They filled a sponge and put it on a stick and put it to His mouth.

**30** Jesus took the sour wine and said, “It is finished.” He put His head down and gave up His spirit and died.





Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

John 20:1-2,11-29

### Memory Verse

“Jesus said... ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you believe.

Those are happy who have never seen Me and yet believe!’ ”

(John 20:29)

### Word List

**astronaut:** a person trained for spaceflight

**appeared:** to be seen, to become visible

**wounded:** to be hurt so that the skin is torn open

**experience:** to know facts by seeing it for yourself

# Seeing and Believing

In 1969, the United States sent some **astronauts** to the moon. Pictures of the men who landed there were on TV. But some people did not believe the **astronauts** really landed on the moon. They believed the pictures were not real or that the **astronauts** landed in a desert somewhere on earth. Seeing the pictures on TV did not make them believe it was true. The only way they would have believed it was true is if they had landed on the moon themselves.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead was and is a mystery to many people. How could anyone come back to life after death? Even one of Jesus' followers, Thomas, said he did not believe Jesus was alive even after the other followers told him they saw Jesus. Thomas said unless he saw and experienced the living Jesus, he would not believe.

### **An Empty Grave (John 20:1-2)**

After the Jewish day of rest, one of Jesus' friends named Mary went to Jesus' grave early in the morning. As she came to the grave, she saw the large stone, which had covered the entrance, rolled back. The grave was open. Mary quickly ran back to tell Jesus' followers that the grave was open and that Jesus' body was gone. She thought someone had taken Jesus' body away.

### **Jesus Meets Mary (John 20:11-18)**

Peter and John ran to the grave to see what happened. They saw some cloths used to wrap Jesus' body, but now His body was not there. Not understanding what happened, they returned home. Mary had followed Peter and John back to the grave. After they left, Mary stayed at the grave crying.

She felt very sad because she did not know what happened

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. What would you have thought if you had seen the empty grave?
2. What do you think Christianity would be like if Jesus had not risen from the grave?
3. What is the important work Jesus' followers do when they go into the world?
4. Are you like Thomas who had to see Jesus before He would believe?

to Jesus' body. She looked in the grave once again. This time she saw two angels in white clothes. They were in the grave where Jesus' body had been. They spoke to Mary and asked her why she was crying. She told them she did not know who moved Jesus' body and she did not know where to find Him.

Mary was probably very confused. Why had the angels asked her a question? Why did they not tell her about Jesus? She turned away from the grave and saw a man standing near. The man asked the same question as the angels, "Why are you crying?" Then he asked, "Who are you looking for?" Mary could not see clearly because she was crying. She thought this man was the person who took care of the garden. She said, "If you have taken Jesus from here, tell me where you have put Him."

The man called her by name, "Mary!" When he spoke her name, she knew it was the voice of Jesus. She turned to Him and said, "Teacher!" It was wonderful to see Jesus alive. She wanted to hold on to Jesus, but He said that He must return to His Father. He told Mary to go and tell His followers He was alive and was going back to His Father in heaven. Mary was very excited as she went to tell Jesus' followers He was alive. She saw Him.

**Jesus Meets His Followers (John 20:19-23)**

In the evening, most of Jesus' followers met together. Because they were afraid of the Jewish religious leaders, they locked the door. As they talked about what happened, Jesus **appeared** in the room with them. He said, "May you have peace." He did not want them to be afraid. He showed them His hands where the nails had been. He also showed them where the soldier's spear **wounded** His side.

Jesus told His followers that just as the Father sent Him into the world, He was now sending them into the world. He

would send the Holy Spirit to give them power. He said He wanted them to continue the work they had seen Him do. He wanted people to know the Father's love. He wanted people to be free from sin. The followers of Jesus must have felt great joy knowing He was alive.

### **Jesus Meets Thomas (John 20:24-29)**

Thomas was not with the other followers when Jesus appeared the first time. Thomas doubted Jesus was really alive. He said he would not believe Jesus was alive unless he could put his finger into the holes in His hands and put his hand in the **wound** in Jesus' side. Thomas wanted to **experience** the living Jesus for himself.

Eight days later, they were all together again and Thomas was with them. They again locked the door so no one could come in the room. Jesus appeared a second time. He spoke peace to them. Then He spoke to Thomas and invited him to come and place his fingers in the holes in His hands and put his hand in His side. Jesus said to Thomas, "Do not doubt, believe!" (v. 27).

Jesus wants everyone to know for certain He is alive. Mary, Jesus' closest followers, and others saw Jesus alive after He died on the cross. They said He was

alive. When Thomas saw Jesus, He said, "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). He knew for sure Jesus was alive again. Jesus said to Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, you believe. Those are happy who have never seen Me and yet believe!" (v. 29).

For almost 2,000 years, Christians have never seen Jesus and yet believe He is alive. Though I have never seen Jesus, I strongly believe He is alive, and that He is the Savior of the world. I am very happy because I believe this. If you believe, God will give you happiness you have not yet **experienced**. He will give you life that lasts forever. Some day we will see Jesus just as Thomas and Jesus' other followers saw Him.

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### **John 20:1-2,11-29**

**1** It was the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene came to the grave early in the morning while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been pushed away from the grave.

**2** She ran to Simon Peter and the other follower whom Jesus loved. She said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the grave. We do not know where they have put Him."

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**11** Mary stood outside the grave crying. As she cried, she got down and looked inside the grave.

**12** She saw two angels dressed in white

clothes. They were sitting where the body of Jesus had lain. One angel was where His head had lain and one angel was where His feet had lain.

**13** They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord. I do not know where they have put Him."

**14** After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus.

**15** He said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She thought He was the man who cared for the garden. She said to Him, "Sir, if you have taken Jesus from here, tell me where you have put Him. I will take Him away."

**16** Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned around and said to Him, "Teacher!"

**17** Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to Me. I have not yet gone up to My Father. But go to My brothers. Tell them that I will go up to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God!"

**18** Mary Magdalene went and told the followers that she had seen the Lord. She told them the things He had said to her.

**19** It was evening of the first day of the week. The followers had gathered together with the doors locked because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "May you have peace."

**20** When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. When the followers saw the Lord, they were filled with joy.

**21** Then Jesus said to them again, "May you have peace. As the Father has sent Me, I also am sending you."

**22** When Jesus had said this, He breathed on them. He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

**23** If you say that people are free of sins, they are free of them. If you say that people are not free of sins, they still have them."

**24** Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. He was one of the twelve followers and was called the Twin.

**25** The other followers told him, "We have seen the Lord!" He said to them, "I will not believe until I see the marks made by the nails in His hands. I will not believe until I put my finger into the marks of the nails. I will not believe until I put my hand into His side."

**26** Eight days later the followers were again inside a house. Thomas was with them. The doors were locked. Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "May you have peace!"

**27** He said to Thomas, "Put your finger into My hands. Put your hand into My side. Do not doubt, believe!"

**28** Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

**29** Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you believe. Those are happy who have never seen Me and yet believe!"