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**Adult
Bible Study
in
Simplified
English**

Study Guide

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The Gospel of John:
Light Overcomes Darkness
Part One: *The Light Shines*
John 1-12
(Includes Christmas Lesson)

Adult Bible Study in Simplified English Study Guide

The Gospel of John: *Light Overcomes Darkness* *Part One: The Light Shines (John 1-12)*

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Introduction

The Gospel of John: Light Overcomes Darkness Part One: The Light Shines

Many Christians say that the Gospel of John is their favorite book of the Bible. It is a simple story of God's love for the world. But it is also a story with deeper meaning. When we read these wonderful stories of Jesus, we need to think deeply about them. We can better see the Father that Jesus came to show us when we study these stories carefully. By looking at the meaning behind the signs, we see Jesus as God's Son. This study gives us a great way to learn. Through it, we can come to a better understanding of Jesus, the Son of God. Through this Gospel we can see God the Father, who loved us enough to send His Son to give us life that lasts forever (John 3:16).

Because the Gospel of John is so rich and full of important truths, we have divided it into two parts. Part One, The Light Shines, covers the first twelve chapters of John. There are two units of study in Part One. The first unit, The Book of Signs (John 1-4), shows how Jesus can do far more than traditions and laws could ever do. The second unit is named Signs Show Who Jesus Is (John 5-12). It gives us a clear picture of Jesus as the Son of God. Part Two, The Light Overcomes, will cover the last nine chapters (John 13-21) in 11 lessons and will be the next study.

About the Writer

Judy Hughes wrote the study guide for ***The Gospel of John: Light Overcomes Darkness***. She is a professional educator and pastor's wife. Judy has taught English for many years. She is also a trainer in ESL with the North American Mission Board. She is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Waco, Texas where her husband pastors. Randy and Judy have two children and seven grandchildren.

Overview

The Gospel of John *Part One: The Light Shines*

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Word List

Unit 1

Lesson 1

believe: to put one's trust in, to commit one's life to; more than knowing something is true

equal: The same size, amount, strength, power

glory: The shining-greatness of God with us

Gospel: The Good News about Jesus Christ who came into the world to save us sinners. Also a book written about the life of Jesus.

human: a person, man, woman or child. Not an animal.

purpose: a plan, a reason for an action

Lesson 2

custom: an accepted practice

kingdom: a country ruled by a king or queen. God's kingdom is ruled by God.

sign: information that proves a statement or belief is true.

Lesson 3

authority: The right and power to act, control or command

confused: did not understand it at all, thought the meaning was very different from the true meaning

details: many small facts that help us understand something

sacrifice: to give something valuable or the giving up something of value, especially to honor God.

Lesson 4

background: a person's family, education and experience.

physical: of or concerning things that can be seen or felt, concerning the body, not the mind or spirit

spiritual: of the spirit, not physical and not mental.

Lesson 5

avoid: to stay away from

burst forth: a sudden breaking out like a balloon popping with a rush of air, water or light

Messiah: the promised Savior of the world. There are many false Messiahs who promise help. Only Jesus is the true Savior of the world. Only Jesus can give Living Water.

relationship: a special closeness or link between two beings

Lesson 6

command: to tell someone to do something in a way that they understand that you want them to obey you

humble: not too proud, sometimes lower in authority

limited: small in amount, strength, ability and not able to improve

Word List

Unit 2

Lesson 7

excuse: something said as a reason for doing something wrong, whether the reason is true or not.

recognize: to know something or someone when seeing it or them again.

repent: to be sorry from one's sins and decide not to sin that way again.

Lesson 8

manna: a special food that God put on the ground at night. It was white and tasted good. They did not have to work for the manna.

provide: to give something that is needed.

Lesson 9

celebrate: to honor a holy day with special activities and rejoicing.

conflict: a disagreement

popularity: being well liked

turn the tables: to say that someone is talking about himself instead

Lesson 10

anointed: to put oil on a person as a special religious act

knead: to mix and work dough or clay by folding and pushing down.

respond: to act in reply

Lesson 11

dedicate: to set apart for a special purpose

intimidate: to frighten someone to get them to do or say what is wanted.

reject: to say no to something

Lesson 12

grieve: to feel great sad about the death of a loved one

reveal: to show something hidden, to allow to be seen

scold: to speak in an angry way, to blame

Lesson 13

decision: a choice

deliver: to free from, to rescue, to save

plot: a plan

successful: having reached one's goal

Christmas Lesson

character: the special ways a person feels, thinks and acts; honesty, morality

family tree: a list of the family line

unique: one of a kind, nothing is like it

virgin: a person who has never had sex

Memory Verses

Unit 1

Lesson 1

"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." (John 1:12)

Lesson 2

"I came so that they might have life, a great full life." (John 10:10)

Lesson 3

"For My house will be called a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7)

Lesson 4

"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)

Lesson 5

"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." (John 4:14)

Lesson 6

"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 20:31)

Unit 2

Lesson 7

"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." (John 5:24)

Lesson 8

"We believe and know You are the Christ. You are the Son of the Living God." (John 6:69)

Lesson 9

"The Holy Writings say that rivers of living water will flow from the heart of the one who puts his trust in Me." (John 7:38)

Lesson 10

"Jesus spoke to all the people, saying, 'I am the Light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will not walk in darkness. He will have the Light of Life.'" (John 8:12)

Lesson 11

"My sheep hear My voice and I know them. They follow Me." (John 10:27)

Lesson 12

"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)

Lesson 13

"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will attract all people toward Me." (John 12:32)

Christmas Lesson

"A Son will be born to her. You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from the punishment of their sins." (Matthew 1:21)



*Adult Bible Study in
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UNIT 1

The Book of Signs

Lesson 1

God Lives with Us
John 1:1-18

Lesson 2

Jesus Shows His Glory
John 2:1-11

Lesson 3

Jesus' Authority as the
Son of God
John 2:13-25

Lesson 4

A Teacher Talks with Jesus
John 3:1-16

Lesson 5

The Well of Life that Lasts
Forever
John 4:4-30, 39-42

Lesson 6

Signs-Faith or True Faith
John 4:43-54

The Book of Signs

Once my husband and I had our picture taken beside a sign that said "Canada." But to really know Canada, we needed to go passed the sign and into Canada. The signs Jesus did point us to the Father. They prove that Jesus is the Son of God. We need to think deeper about the signs to really know God.

Jesus came to be a light for us to see God clearly. He was with the Father in the very beginning, but He came to live with us. He showed us His glory and power in the signs He did. When He made water into wine, he showed us that He is greater than our old ways of doing things. When He talked with a teacher, we see He is greater than the old teachers and schools. Jesus showed he is greater than the old ways of worship when he talked to a woman by a well. Jesus has power over sickness and death, but He is much more than that. We see this when He heals the son of a man who worked for a king.

The signs were given to point us to Jesus as God's Son. We will not know God if we stop at the signs. Some people wanted more and more signs from Jesus. They saw the signs but did not trust Jesus as God's Son. When we know and trust Jesus, the Son of God, we know God the Father. God wants us to believe and trust Him to care for us and change our lives. The signs point the way, but true faith does not need signs.



*Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

John 1:1-18

Memory Verse

“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.”

(John 1:12)

Word List

believe: to put one's trust in, to commit one's life to; more than knowing something is true

equal: The same size, amount, strength, power

glory: The shining-greatness of God with us

Gospel: The Good News about Jesus Christ who came into the world to save us sinners. Also a book written about the life of Jesus.

human: a person, man, woman or child. Not an animal.

purpose: a plan, a reason for an action

God Lives with Us

Some Chinese friends came to our house for Thanksgiving dinner. They wanted to see our house and eat with us. They wanted to know us better. We can know someone better when we see how they live. The ones we know the very best live with us. God wants us to know Him. He knew we would understand Him better if He lived with us. So God sent His Son to live with us.

John explained this in the **Gospel** he wrote. He knew that his readers were Jews and Greeks. Jews understood the power of God's Word. They knew He created the world by speaking His Word (Psalm 33:6-9). They knew God's Word is powerful with a **purpose** (Isaiah 55:11). The Greek readers knew the Word was the mind of God. John wanted his readers to know more. He told them the Word of God came to earth as Jesus. Jesus came to live with us so that we could know God. John repeated this lesson often in his Gospel.

The Word in the Beginning (1:1-5)

Other Gospel writers begin telling the story of Jesus with human events. Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus' family first. Mark tells about the life of John the Baptist. John starts from the very beginning before the world was made.

He explained the Word was with God when the earth was made. This means the Word was with God from the very beginning of time. But John says more. The Word was with God in the beginning and was **equal** to God. Jesus made everything

Things to Think About

1. How would you feel if an important person came to live with you? God has come to live with us. How does that make you feel?
2. Why would God want to be human? Why was it necessary for Him to become human?
3. Why is it important that we know Jesus was all God?
4. Have you put your trust in Jesus? Is there something else you are putting your trust in?

Glory

The word *glory* is used all through the Bible. Even before Jesus came into the world, God's glory was often seen. It made the people want to follow God. They were afraid of God's glory when they had not followed God. Jesus showed us more clearly who God is.

that was made. John says He is Life and Light. When everything was dark, God made Light by His Word. Jesus came to live with us to bring Light to a dark world.

There is more Good News. John says there are two things the darkness cannot do. The darkness cannot understand the Light. And the darkness cannot put out the Light. The Light of God's Word is not less bright just because we don't understand all of it. God's Light shines in the Life, Jesus. Nothing can put out the Light of God's Word.

Sent to Tell of the Word (1:6-9)

John, the writer of this Gospel, tells about another man named John. Some writers call this other John, "John the Baptist." They tell us some facts about him. He was a cousin of Jesus. He was a bold preacher. Many people knew about John the Baptist. They thought he was a messenger of God.

The writer of this Gospel tells us only one thing about him. "He came to tell what he knew about the Light so that all men might **believe** through him." God's purpose for John's life was to be a lamp to point the way to Jesus, the Light. John was not the Light. He was the lamp. Jesus is the Light of the world.

The Word in the World (1:10-14)

John tells us the Word, that was in the beginning, became **human** flesh. Jesus had a human body, mind, soul and nature. He was all human. He was all God. God became one of us. Jesus was all God and all human too.

This is hard for us to understand. Some people want to believe that Jesus was human, but not God. Others say he was God, but only partly human. Both ideas are wrong. Jesus was all human, just as we are human. Jesus was all God, just as the Father is God.

Many people in Jesus' day did not accept Him as the Christ, the Son of God. How sad! He made them. They belonged to Him. But they didn't believe and trust Him. Many people today do not put their trust in Jesus. We trust in things like money or power. There are two great blessings from trusting Jesus.

First, God gives us the right and the power to become His own children. All we need to do is to receive Him, to trust in His name. We cannot become God's children by doing things only humans can do. Only God can make us His children and He does this only when we believe in Jesus.

The second great blessing is that we see the **glory** of God through Jesus. When Jesus lived with us, we were able to see the shining-greatness of God. This is God's presence. The Jewish readers knew God had shown His glory when He was with

them in the wilderness (Exodus 24:16; 40:35). Jesus was full of God's loving-favor and truth. Through Jesus we see God's glory, His presence with us.

The Word Above All Others (1:15-18)

Some people thought John the Baptist was more important than Jesus. But John the Baptist told the truth about Jesus. He told everyone that Jesus, has all the power and riches of God. He has so much and He shares with us. Because of Jesus we have loving-favor. John calls this, "one loving-favor after another." God blesses our lives over and over again.

Some people thought the Law was the most important gift God gave His people. God gave the Law to Moses to make the nation of Israel special. Moses knew God face to face. This law gave Israel a better way to live. It helped them understand God better.

John explains that we can understand God more through Jesus. Jesus was with God and was God. Only through Jesus can we know God's glory and loving-favor. Jesus brings loving-favor and the truth of God that no law can bring.

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.



*Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

John 2:1-11

Memory Verse

“I came so that they
might have life, a
great full life.”

(John 10:10)

Word List

custom: an accepted
practice

kingdom: a country
ruled by a king or
queen. God’s
kingdom is ruled by
God.

sign: information that
proves a statement or
belief is true.

Jesus Shows His Glory

Weddings around the world have different **customs**. In China, the bride wears a bright red dress. It stands for love and joy. In the USA, Mexico and Japan the bride’s dress is white. It stands for a bride’s clean life before she gets married. In Mexico, the bride and groom stand under a lasso (circle of rope) to show they are together for life. Many weddings end with food and drink.

Jewish weddings in Jesus’ day had special customs too. After the wedding, everyone was invited to a big party. There was lots of food and drink. The party lasted a week. The people ate and drank together. The bride and groom wanted their guests to have a good time.

The Problem (2:1-3)

In chapter one, John shows that Jesus is the Son of God. Then he tells about seven important **signs**. These signs pointed to Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Each sign shows us something special about Jesus and God’s **kingdom**.

The first sign happened at a wedding in Cana. Cana was just a few miles north of Jesus’ hometown. Jesus and his followers were invited to this wedding. His mother, Mary, was there too.

Before the party ended, they ran out of wine. This made the groom feel shame. It was a terrible problem for the groom’s family. Mary wanted to solve the problem. She went to Jesus.

**Things to
Think About**

1. Why was this wedding included in John's Gospel? What does the wedding show about Jesus?

2. What does turning water to wine show about God?

3. Have you ever had a problem you took to Jesus? Did He help you in a way that surprised you?

4. What wedding customs are special to you?

She knew Jesus could help. We don't know what she wanted Jesus to do. She didn't tell Him what to do. She told Him the problem and left.

The Help (2:4-8)

At first, we may think Jesus' answer to his mother was rude. It seems He was saying He would not help. Really, "woman" was a gentle term of love. Jesus reminded Mary that she and He were not the same. Mary saw the problem through her human eyes. He saw everything through God's eyes. Mary wanted to help the groom's family. Jesus reminded Mary that His first job was to bring God's kingdom to earth. He came to show us God's glory. He said it was not time yet.

Mary did not think Jesus was rude. She knew He would help. Maybe Mary was in charge of the helpers. She told them to obey whatever Jesus said to do.

The first thing the guests did at the party was to wash in a special way. This was a Jewish religious custom. Six large stone water jars had been used for this special washing. They held 20 to 30 gallons of water each. Jesus saw these large water jars. He told the helpers to fill the water jars. They filled them to the top. Then Jesus told them to give some to the head man. The water had been turned to wine.

The Result (2:9-11)

The head man did not know where the wine came from. The helpers knew it came from Jesus. He was surprised because it was very good wine. The custom was to serve the best wine first. When the people had much to drink, they wouldn't mind a

wine that was not so good. But this groom put out the good wine later.

The followers with Jesus saw this sign and put their trust in Him. They knew a new day had come. God's glory was being shown in Jesus. God's glory was shown in the power to change things humans cannot change.

What does this sign mean? What was the sign pointing to?

First, Jesus came to give us a better way to be clean. He used the stone water jars. These jars were used in the special Jewish religious washing custom. The water in these jars did not really make a person clean. What Jesus came to give us is better than our old customs. We can be cleaned inside and out when we accept Jesus.

Second, Jesus gives more than we expect. The groom's family needed only a little more wine for the party. But Jesus gave them a lot more than they needed. He gave them 120 to 180 gallons of wine.

Jesus said this in John 10:10. "I came so that they might have life, a great full life." We don't expect to have a great full life. We are surprised by the full life Jesus gives us.

Third, what Jesus gives is better. The head man was surprised by the very best wine that Jesus made. Sometimes we take the not so good life the world gives. Jesus gives us the very best life. When we have had too much of the not so good life we don't know that it's not so good. We are surprised by the goodness of God's gift of life and God's kingdom.

What does this show us about Jesus? First, Jesus was a part of the daily life around Him. Jesus went to this wedding because He was a real person. He didn't stay in a church all the time. Jesus enjoyed being human. His daily life was like the life of the people around him. He did what people do.

Second, Jesus was willing to meet human needs. Jesus came first to show God's glory and bring His kingdom to earth. But when Jesus saw a person in need, He helped. Jesus cared about people and their problems.

Third, Jesus showed that He is willing to do more than we expect. When we bring our needs to Jesus, He helps. He gives us a great full life.

John 2:1-11

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.



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

John 2:13-25

Memory Verse

“For My house will be called a house of prayer for all people.”
(Isaiah 56:7)

Word List

authority: The right and power to act, control or command
confused: did not understand it at all, thought the meaning was very different from the true meaning
details: many small facts that help us understand something
sacrifice: to give something valuable or the giving up something of value, especially to honor God.

Jesus' Authority as the Son of God

Each Sunday at our church there are several languages spoken. We have a Chinese church that meets in our chapel. There is a Bible study class for Spanish speakers. We have members from other countries who attend worship with us. We have changed our customs to welcome everyone.

From the beginning God wanted the Jews to lead all nations to trust and love Him. Many years before Jesus, Isaiah told the purpose of the temple. “For My house will be called a house of prayer for all people” (Isaiah 56:7). God wants us to welcome everyone in His house. His house is a place for all to pray. This is true for Christian churches today too.

Jesus offers a better way than our old customs. He proved this when He turned the water to wine. Today we learn that lesson again. Jesus offers a better way. He offers more than our old customs can do. Jesus has the **authority** to bring changes to our lives and to our churches.

What Jesus Saw (2:13-14)

The most important Jewish festival was near. It was a time to remember how God had brought them out of Egypt. Jesus went to Jerusalem for this special time. At the temple He saw things He did not like. The temple was not a house of prayer. It made it hard for people who were not Jews to worship God.

Each year at the temple, Jews **sacrificed** animals to God for their sins. They could bring an animal with them to the temple. But the sacrifice had to be perfect. The priests had the authority to decide if an animal was perfect. Sometimes the

Things to Think About

1. Do you see things in your church like the things Jesus saw in the temple?

2. What if Jesus were coming to our class? What would we want to change before He comes?

The Temple

The temple of Jesus' day was built by Herod. In the center was the special place only the priest could enter. Outside was the Court of the Men and then the Court of the Women. Jewish men and women could go in these courts. These places were circled by a court for people who were not Jews. They could not go inside the other courts. All around the outside of the temple was a porch.

The tables and animals in today's lesson were not on the porch. They were in the court for people who are not Jews.

people brought an animal and they were told it was not good. Then they had to buy another animal. It was easier to buy an animal at the temple. The animals at the temple cost a lot of money. Sometimes those who decided were not honest.

Worshippers had to pay a temple tax with a special coin. People from many nations came with their money. They had to change their money to this special coin. The money changers cheated the people when they changed the money.

There was a special court for the people who were not Jews. The Jews could go into an inner court. But the people who were not Jews had to worship outside. This was the only place they could worship God. The animals were sold in this outer court. All the noises and smells did not make this court a place of prayer. It was like a market. It even sounded and smelled like a farm. The money changers were also in this court.

The people selling animals got rich. The money changers got rich. The priests got rich. But the worshipers were cheated. God was not honored by their customs.

What Jesus Did (2:15-17)

Jesus took action. John's Gospel tells us some special **details**. Jesus made a whip out of cords. He used this whip to drive out the sellers and the animals. Imagine having sheep and cattle in a church! Then Jesus turned over the tables of the money changers. Jesus told them to take the doves out of the temple. "You must not make My Father's house a place for buying and selling," He said. Jesus wanted everyone to be able to pray and worship in God's house.

John tells us Jesus' followers remembered a verse from Psalm 69. Maybe they had learned this verse as children. They knew this Psalm described the suffering of the Christ. They believed Jesus was the promised Christ. It may have made them happy to see Jesus act like David said the Christ would act. Jesus showed strong feelings for the house of God. Maybe it also made them sad. David said the Christ would suffer. They did not want Jesus to suffer.

What Jesus Said (2:18-25)

The Jewish leaders did not like Jesus to go against their customs. They asked Him who gave Him the authority to do such things. They wanted to see a sign to prove His authority.

Jesus knew the greatest sign of His authority. Jesus knew that one day soon He would be the sacrifice for the sins of all. Unlike the animals, Jesus would die and rise again in three days. Jesus would die only once for our sins. Jesus is better than the animals sacrificed. He takes away our sin. So Jesus pointed to this greatest sign.

His answer **confused** the Jewish leaders. Jesus said, "Destroy this house of

God and in three days I will build it again." He was talking about His own body. But the leaders thought He was talking about the temple. It had taken 46 years to build the temple. They couldn't believe Jesus could build it again in three days.

Jesus' followers did not understand either. After Jesus rose from the dead, they remembered this day. They thought again about what Jesus had said this day and they understood.

What is the church? Is it a place to keep old customs alive? Is it a place for someone to get rich?

No, the church is a house of prayer for all people. All people who love God can come together. Together we make God's house a place of prayer and worship. We want to worship God in a way that honors Him. Everything we do in God's house must welcome others to find Him. We must never let any custom come between anyone and God.

Look at your church. Does the building honor God? Do the greeters welcome all people? Does the Bible study point to Jesus? Is the worship honoring God?

John 2:13-25

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 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.

23 Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. Many people put their trust in Him when they saw the powerful works He did.

24 But Jesus did not trust them because He knew all men.

25 He did not need anyone to tell Him about man. He knew what was in man.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified 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

background: a person's family, education and experience.

physical: of or concerning things that can be seen or felt, concerning the body, not the mind or spirit

spiritual: of the spirit, not physical and not mental.

A Teacher Talks with Jesus

All of us come to God from different **backgrounds**. God's love is for all people. He loves the rich and the poor. He loves the healthy and the sick. He loves the educated and the uneducated. God loves those who have heard of His love as children. And God loves the person who has never heard the Word of God.

All of us come to God with one thing in common. We have had a **physical** birth. We all have physical bodies. We know the world through what we can see and feel. Sometimes this makes it hard for us to understand God. The **spiritual** things are hard for us to understand because we cannot see or feel them.

Wrong Ways to Get to God (3:1-2)

Nicodemus was a rich man. He had been to school. He had learned about God all his life. He was a member of an important group of leaders of the Jews. Nicodemus had been blessed.

He came one night to talk to Jesus. Maybe he came at night because he didn't want anyone to know. Jesus was very busy all day. There were always people around Him. So Nicodemus may have come at night so he could be alone with Jesus. His first words were, “Teacher, we know you have come from God to teach us.” Maybe the group had been talking about Jesus. They had seen the signs. Maybe they sent Nicodemus to ask some important questions.

Nicodemus was sure that Jesus had come from God. He had seen the signs and believed what he saw. Jesus' reply to Nicodemus seems to change the subject. Jesus didn't want to

**Things to
Think About**

1. Are you like Nicodemus? Do you understand only those things you can see and feel?
2. Has your spirit come alive by the new birth in Christ? Can you understand things now that did not make sense to you before?
3. Can you share what Jesus has done for you?
4. What are you doing to show the world that God loves them?

talk about the physical signs. He wanted to talk about spiritual things. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to believe by faith. Jesus wants us to believe by faith too.

Nicodemus tried to get close to God by understanding Him. He wanted to think it through. The Jewish leaders taught that the Law was the way to get right with God. They said a person had to follow many religious customs. Nicodemus was trying to get right with God the wrong way.

Jesus Shows Nicodemus the Way (3:3-15)

Jesus may have surprised Nicodemus when He said a man must be “born again” to see God’s holy nation. Nicodemus was a Jew by birth. He thought he was already a member of God’s holy nation. The words Jesus used could also mean “born from above.” Jesus was talking about spiritual birth. All Nicodemus could think about was physical birth.

Nicodemus asked Jesus to explain it. How could a man be born again? He knew a grown man cannot get into his mother’s body and be born again. It didn’t make sense to him.

Jesus used words Nicodemus could understand. He said a person must be born of water and the Spirit of God. Just like a baby cannot get into our physical world unless he is born physically. We cannot get into God’s spiritual world unless we are born spiritually.

When does it happen that a person is born again? We know our birthday. When is our re-birthday? Jesus said it’s just like the wind. We don’t know when or where the wind starts. We don’t know where it ends. But we hear the wind and feel the breeze.

It is the same with every person who is born spiritually. We don't know when God's Spirit first touches us. We don't know how far God's Spirit will take us. But we can feel His Spirit in our lives. We can know God is talking to us through His Spirit.

Still Nicodemus didn't understand. Jesus was surprised that Nicodemus had studied God's Law and still didn't understand the things of God. Nicodemus knew the things he could see and feel. He could not understand things he had to know by faith.

Jesus gave Nicodemus a wonderful promise in verse 11. "For sure, I tell you, We are talking about things We know. We tell of what We have seen." Jesus wasn't guessing. He knew about the Spirit. He said he could tell Nicodemus things of the earth he would not believe.

Imagine all the things Jesus knew about the earth He created. Nicodemus would not understand the atom, cells, or germs. Jesus knew Nicodemus could not understand heaven either. Some things we have to understand by faith.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus about

faith. Moses lifted up a bronze snake in the desert (Numbers 21:4-9). People who looked up at the snake believed and lived. Those who would not look died.

Jesus was pointing to His death on the cross. People who look to the cross and believe are born again. It's a new life, a life that lasts forever. Those who will not believe die a forever death.

For God so Loved the World (3:16)

All of the Gospel is in this little verse. It begins with God's nature—love. God's love makes Him do amazing things for those He loves. The world in this verse means every person on earth. God loved all of us so much that He sent Jesus. We can have an alive spirit forever. All it takes is faith. We cannot understand it through our physical senses. We simply put our trust in Jesus and live forever.

Maybe you are like Nicodemus. You may have come to this lesson for many reasons. You may find it hard to understand faith and trust. Your background may make it hard for you to trust Jesus. Life that lasts forever is an act of God. Look up to Jesus, trust and live.

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
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 4:4-30, 39-42

Memory Verse

"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." (John 4:14)

Word List

avoid: to stay away from

burst forth: a sudden breaking out like a balloon popping with a rush of air, water or light

Messiah: the promised Savior of the world. There are many false Messiahs who promise help. Only Jesus is the true Savior of the world. Only Jesus can give Living Water.

relationship: a special closeness or link between two beings

The Well of Life that Lasts Forever

Years ago, people dug wells in Waco, Texas. The water **burst forth** out of the ground with great power. The wells gave good water. They gave a lot of water. But these wells have run out of water. Now the city gets its water from a lake. In this passage, Jesus meets a woman at a well. He talks to her about another kind of water. He calls it living water. He tells her this water gives life that lasts forever.

Jesus Teaches in Samaria (4:4-9)

The religious leaders knew that many people were coming to Jesus. This made them jealous. Jesus didn't want them to stop His work. So Jesus left Judea to go to Galilee. The trip would take three days if He went straight to Galilee. He would go through the country of Samaria. The Jews did not like the Samaritans. They would take a trip of six days to **avoid** Samaria.

Jesus came to the Samaritan city of Sychar at noon. He was tired and thirsty. His disciples went into the city to buy food. Jesus waited for them at a well outside the city.

Women went to this well to draw water. They met in the morning or evening when it was cool. They visited at the well. This woman came in the heat of the day. Maybe she was avoiding the other women.

Jesus asked her for a drink of water. This surprised her. She reminded him it was not right to talk to her. Jewish men did not talk to women in public. Jews did not talk to Samaritans.

Things to Think About

1. Look for people who are left out, looked down on or judged near you. These are the Samaritans of our day.
2. Just like Jesus, cross the cultural line, build a relationship of respect and love them to Jesus.
3. Find ways to turn your conversations to spiritual matters.

Samaria

Over many years the Samaritans had married foreigners. They did not go to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple. They worshiped on a mountain in Samaria. They did not like the Jews. The Jews did not like the Samaritans because the Samaritans did not follow the Law. They thought the Samaritans were dirty. Jesus cared about all people.

The Promise of Living Water (4:10-18)

Jesus showed He cared more about the woman than the customs. He turned the conversation to spiritual matters. Just like Nicodemus, the woman thought only about physical things. Jesus said He could give her living water.

The woman called him “sir,” a title of respect. She reminded Him he didn’t have a bucket. How could He get this living water? Her thoughts went back in history to Jacob who dug the well and drank from it. This was a great gift to the people. She asked if Jesus could give a greater gift than Jacob.

Gently, Jesus explained the spiritual things to her in physical terms. Our bodies need water. When we drink water, we get thirsty again. Our spirits need living water. Anyone who drinks the living water will be satisfied forever. Even better, the living water becomes a spring in us that bursts forth to eternal life. Physical water gives a good feeling for now. Spiritual water gives eternal life or life that lasts forever.

This made the woman want what Jesus offered. She wanted an easier life. But Jesus made her look at her own life. He asked her to bring her husband. The woman wanted to avoid talking about the truth of her life. She told Jesus a half truth. Jewish custom said a person could be married only three times. This woman was not living a good life. Jesus was gentle with her. He did not judge her, but He told the whole truth of her life.

True Worship (4:19-27)

She changed the subject again. Jesus called her “woman.” This is the same gentle word of respect He used with His mother, Mary, at the wedding in Cana. Jesus showed respect for

this woman who was not respected by people in her city.

Then Jesus explained that God is spirit. God isn't concerned about the physical things of our worship. He wants worship that is spiritual and truthful. When this woman talked about the Messiah, Jesus answered plainly. He told the whole truth about Himself.

Yet Jesus did not change the Gospel. He told her plainly that "It is through the Jews that men are saved" This means that God worked through the Jewish nation to bring the Messiah.

The Samaritans Understand Who Jesus Is (4:28-30, 39-42)

When the disciples returned they were surprised to see Jesus talking to this woman. The woman left her water jar. She went into the city and told them about her experience with Jesus. Then she invited them to come see for themselves.

Many of the Samaritans believed because of what the woman said. They asked Jesus to stay with them. They wanted to get to know Him better.

They saw that Jesus was greater than the Jewish customs. They saw He was

greater than their customs. They believed and trusted in Jesus.

When we come to Jesus, we start a new **relationship**. We want to know Him better. We cannot know Jesus from another person's experience. We have to know Him for ourselves. We can know that Jesus really is the Savior of the World.

Jesus showed us how to share the Gospel. He did not judge the woman for her sinful life. He did not ask her to clean up her life before coming to Him. He showed love and respect for her.

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 the 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.

...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
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 4:43-54

Memory Verse

“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 20:31)

Word List

command: to tell someone to do something in a way that they understand that you want them to obey you

humble: not too proud, sometimes lower in authority

limited: small in amount, strength, ability and not able to improve

Signs-Faith or True Faith

Sometimes our pastor uses little science tricks to explain spiritual truths to children. They love these tricks and say, “Do that again!” They don’t always understand the spiritual truth. But they love to see the trick.

Jesus had this happen to Him too. There were people who loved to see His signs. They didn’t understand or believe Jesus was the Son of God. But they wanted to see Him show His power in some special way.

This faith that depends on signs is not true faith. A sign or powerful work should point us to Christ. True faith puts our trust in Christ. We stop doing things our way and do things His way. We obey His commands. Our life is so changed that others around us see and believe. Today we will learn about a man that had true faith.

Jesus Returns to Cana in Galilee (4:43-47)

Jesus spent two days in Sychar where He met the woman at the well. Then he went on to Galilee. The people in Galilee had seen what Jesus had done in Jerusalem. They were glad He had come. Jesus returned to Cana where He had made the water into wine.

A man came to Cana from Capernaum. He came 20 miles to see Jesus. The king lived in Capernaum and this man worked for the king. He was a busy and important man. But he had a big problem. His son was very ill and near death. He believed that only Jesus could heal him. He believed enough to ask Jesus for help. So he **humbled** himself to talk to Jesus.

Things to Think About

1. Have you believed Jesus enough to ask Him to help you?
2. Have you believed Jesus enough to obey Him?
3. Have you ever changed your plans to do things God's way?
4. Has your life changed because of your trust in Jesus?
5. In what areas of your life have you put your trust in what Jesus says?
6. Have you believed Jesus enough to share the good news of what He has done for you?

Belief

To believe in Jesus is more than agreeing with Him. It is putting trust in Him. It means your life changes because you give it to Jesus. It means you trust Him to take care of you forever.

Jesus Heals a Royal Official's Son (4:48-49)

There must have been a crowd gathered to see the important man talk to Jesus. We know this because Jesus used a "you" in verse 48 that means He was talking to more than one person. Some Bible versions say "Unless you people...." Maybe the people had been asking Jesus for another sign. They wanted to see Him "Do that again!" They were all watching to see what Jesus would do. But Jesus did not want the people to believe because of the signs. He wanted them to believe and know He was the Son of God because of faith alone.

This man did not come to see a trick. He came from his home with a plan. He wanted Jesus to come with him to heal his son. He knew they needed to hurry because his son was dying. He did not get angry when Jesus said, "Unless you see special things and powerful works done, you will not believe." He did not argue with Jesus or defend himself. He showed respect for Jesus when he called Him "sir." He pleaded with Jesus to come quickly. He was afraid his son would die unless Jesus went with him to Capernaum.

The Meaning of the Sign (4:50-54)

Jesus gave this important man a **command** and a promise. He said, "Go your way. Your son will live." The command to leave could have hurt this important man. He did not plan to leave without Jesus. He didn't get angry. He heard the promise. "Your son will live." He "put his trust in what Jesus said and left." He changed his plan and obeyed.

The father could not yet see that his son was better. He left because Jesus told him to. Sometimes when we pray we can't

see the answer to our prayers. We obey God because we trust what He says. When we ask Him to forgive us, we can't see it happen. We trust what He says because we know He is the Son of God.

God's power is not **limited**. Jesus did not have to go with him to heal his son.

The father believed Jesus and obeyed him.

There must have been a very happy family in Capernaum. The son was alive and getting better. The servants were sent to tell the father the happy news.

The father knew something powerful had happened. He asked what time the son began to get well. He knew that 1:00 was the exact time he had been talking with Jesus. He knew Jesus had healed his son. He must have shared this good news with his family. Everyone in his house put their trust in Jesus.

Meaning for Today (20:31)

God wants us to believe Him and ask Him for help. Jesus healed this man's son because He loved him. He didn't ask the man for money first. He didn't ask the crowd to do anything. God still wants to help us. We must believe enough to ask.

This visit to Cana shows us that God has power over sin, sickness and death. The father believed enough to change his plans and do things the way Jesus said. God wants us to obey Him because we trust Him. God's ways are better than ours.

Sometimes we don't see our prayers answered. We wait believing God. We obey and follow His commands. We know that He is working for us even when we can't see what's happening.

Just like the father, the good news is too good to keep to ourselves. We share because we know that God is working. It is important to tell others what God has done for us.

John tells about seven signs in his Gospel. He tells us that there were many other things Jesus did. "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."

Signs-faith only leads us to want God to do it again. We cannot have eternal life on signs-faith. True faith leads us to obey, to let Him change us, and to show others the way to Christ.

John 4:43-54

43 Two days later He went from there and came to the country of Galilee.

44 Jesus Himself said that no one who speaks for God is respected in his own country.

45 When He came to Galilee, the people there were glad. They had seen all the things He did in Jerusalem. It was at the time of the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. They had been there also.

46 Jesus came again to the town of Cana of Galilee where He had made water into wine. A man who worked with the king had a son who was sick in the city of Capernaum.

47 This man went to Jesus. He had heard that Jesus had come from the country of Judea to Galilee. The man asked Jesus if He would go to Capernaum and heal his son who was dying.

48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see special things and powerful works done, you will not believe."

49 The man said to Him, "Sir, come with me before my son dies."

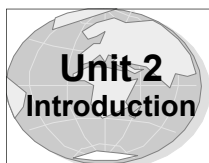
50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way. Your son will live." The man put his trust in what Jesus said and left.

51 As he was on his way home, his servants met him. They said to him, "Your son is living!"

52 He asked them what time his boy began to get well. They said to him, "Yesterday at one o'clock the sickness left."

53 The father knew it was the time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." He and everyone in his house put their trust in Jesus.

54 This was the second powerful work that Jesus did after He came from the country of Judea to the country of Galilee.



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

UNIT 2

Signs Show Who Jesus Is

Lesson 7

Who's in Charge Here
(John 5:1-24, 31-40)

Lesson 8

Hungry for....?
(John 6:1-20, 25-35, 48-51,
66-69)

Lesson 9

Conflict Over Jesus
(John 7:1-31, 37-43)

Lesson 10

Seeing and Believing
(John 9:122, 24-41)

Lesson 11

Decision Time
(John 10:22-43)

Lesson 12

Jesus Raises the Dead and
Gives Them Life
(John 11:14-53)

Lesson 13

The Hour Is Near
(John 11:55-57, 12:20-37,
44-50)

Christmas Lesson

Jesus, God with Us
(Matthew 1:18-25)

Signs Show Who Jesus Is

John 5-12 asks a good question. "Who is this man, Jesus?"

It seems very clear that He is more than an ordinary man. His power over nature, sin, sickness and even death cannot be questioned. So what does that say about who He is?

In these chapters, Jesus shows that He is the Son of God. He uses signs to teach us about Himself. He heals a man who had not been able to walk for 38 years. He helps a blind man see again. He feeds 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus even walks on top of the water! Then He brings His good friend, Lazarus, back from the dead. Surely these signs show that He was truly the Son of God.

Jesus teaches about living water and the good shepherd to explain His relationship with the Father. He explains what is about to happen to Him in Jerusalem. Jesus even tries to make His followers understand how important His death is.

Finally, Jesus uses the feasts of the Jews to show who He is. On the Day of Rest, Jesus does not rest because God the Father is always working. At the Feast of Dedication, Jesus says God set Him apart for the special purpose of saving us from our sin. At the Passover, Jesus reminds us that He came to be, "The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 5:1-24, 31-40

Memory Verse

“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.” (John 5:24)

Word List

excuse: something said as a reason for doing something wrong, whether the reason is true or not.

recognize: to know something or someone when seeing it or them again.

repent: to be sorry from one's sins and decide not to sin that way again.

Who's in Charge Here?

Our family likes to play games together. Some of us are very careful to follow the rules exactly. Some of us want to play for fun. We think the rules are less important than spending time together. The Jews loved the rules too. They made up new rules to make the Law harder to follow. Their rules became more important than spending time with God or each other. Jesus came to give us a new way. He thought the rules were less important than doing the work of God.

Jesus at the Pool Called Bethesda (5:1-8)

The Pool of Bethesda must have been a beautiful place to visit. There were five covered porches. But there were many sick people at this pool. Maybe people visited the pool and did not look at the sick people. Jesus looked at them. Jesus loved the people.

Jesus saw a man who had not been able walk for 38 years. He asked him an unusual question, “Would you like to be healed?” Surely the answer is, “Of course!” Why didn't Jesus just heal the man without asking the question? God doesn't force Himself on us. Jesus gave this man a choice. God always gives us the choice to follow Him or not. The choice is ours.

But the man didn't answer simply. Instead, he gave an **excuse**. Maybe this man thought his case was hopeless. He had been sick longer than most people lived in those days. He had no family or friends. Someone always got into the pool before him. He said it was other people's fault that he was not being healed.

Things to Think About

1. Why do some people love the rules more than anything?
2. Do you know people who are always careful to follow the rules?
3. How can always following the rules keep us from recognizing what God is doing?
4. What if God stopped working for one hour? What would happen to life on earth? See Colossians 1:15-17.
5. In what area of your life do you need to give Jesus the power to change things?
6. Are you willing to obey God the first time He asks?

Jesus didn't reply to the man's excuses. Instead, He told him to get up, pick up his bed and walk! The man did exactly what Jesus told him to do. How happy the man must have been! How happy Jesus and His followers must have been.

A Problem with the Healing (5:9-15)

John tells us the Jews were not happy. Jesus was a Jew. The man who was healed was a Jew, too. John called the people who carefully followed the Law Jews. The Jews thought the Law was more important than anything else.

They didn't **recognize** this man when they saw him carrying his bed. They had walked by him for 38 years and didn't know him. All they saw was the bed he was carrying on the Day of Rest. They had rules against carrying a bed on the Day of Rest. This rule is not in the Bible. They made it up.

The healed man made another excuse. He blamed the one who healed him for his breaking the rules. The Jews didn't care that he had been healed. Now they wanted to go find the man who was telling others to break the rules! But this man couldn't tell them who healed him.

Jesus met the man a second time. He said worse things would happen if the man did not stop sinning. Jesus warned the man that continuing to sin would lead to worse things than sickness. Jesus knew this man's heart. This man needed spiritual healing. He needed to **repent**. Sin leads to eternal, spiritual death. To live without God is worse than to live without walking.

The Jews Make It Very Hard for Jesus (5:16-24)

Now the man could identify Jesus as the one who healed him. The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because He broke the rules of the Day of Rest. What if God took a day off? Jesus explained that God is still working. So Jesus, God's Son, doesn't stop working on the Day of Rest.

This made the Jews even more angry. Now they had another reason to be angry with Jesus. He said he was equal with God. They did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God. They thought they were in charge. They didn't think Jesus had the power to set the rules.

Jesus explained more about His relationship with God the Father. Jesus is not greater than the Father. He does what the Father does. God loves the Son. He allows the Son do surprising things like raising the dead to life. God allows the Son decide who is guilty. The person who does not honor the Son is guilty. We cannot honor God unless we honor His Son.

Witnesses for Jesus (5:31-40)

Jesus knew the Jews would not listen to Him talk about Himself. They would not

believe what He said. So Jesus told them about others who tell the truth about Him. John the Baptist told the truth about Jesus. Even better, God the Father said Jesus was His Son. Jesus did the works of the Father to prove He was God's Son. Even the Holy Writings told about Jesus. The Jews loved these Writings. They studied them, but they did not see the truth. They did not have the Word of God living in their hearts. They did not honor Jesus as the Son of God.

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.

....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.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 6:1-20, 25-35,
48-51, 66-69

Memory Verse

“We believe and know You are the Christ. You are the Son of the Living God.” (John 6:69)

Word List

manna: a special food that God put on the ground at night. It was white and tasted good. They did not have to work for the manna.

provide: to give something that is needed.

Hungry for...?

Our children and grandchildren are coming for a visit. I love to cook for them. I think about how long they will be with us. I always want to cook enough food so that everyone has plenty to eat.

I wonder about Moses before he led the children of Israel out of Egypt. Did he worry about everyone having enough to eat? God wasn't worried about feeding all those people. He knew He would **provide** for their needs. God is still providing for our needs today. We can trust Him to take care of us.

Serving the Bread, Walking on the Water (6:1-20)

Many people had seen the signs Jesus was doing. They began to follow Him wherever He went. Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee. Maybe He was trying to get away from the crowd. He sat on the side of a mountain and saw the large crowd of people coming to Him. Maybe Jesus thought about the Passover then. Passover was a special feast of the Jews. At this feast they remembered how God had brought them out of slavery in Egypt.

Jesus knew the people would be hungry. He wanted to provide for them. John tells us Jesus asked Philip about buying food to see what he would say. Jesus didn't need Philip to solve the problem. He knew what He was going to do. Sometimes God may cause us to wonder about such things. He wants us to think about how little we can do to solve the problem. Then we can see how He provides for us.

Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two small fish. All the people ate as much as they wanted. After eating, they

Things to Think About

1. When have you seen God provide for your needs?
2. What are the works God wants us to do? (John 6:28 and 29.)
3. What does Jesus mean in verse 35 when He says, “He who comes to Me will never be hungry. He who puts his trust in Me will never be thirsty?”
4. What made the people believe when Jesus gave them fish and bread? They had seen many other signs?

said Jesus was the One who speaks for God. Many Jews believed someone like Moses would come again. This new person would give them plenty to eat. He would be their king and help them overcome their enemies. Jesus knew the people wanted to make Him king. He went up the mountain alone. Jesus did not come to be our ruler. He came to bring us eternal life.

That night the followers of Jesus saw another amazing sign. Many people think this is the fifth sign in the book of John. Jesus walked to the followers on top of the water. He told them it was Him and not to be afraid.

Jesus Is the Bread of Life (6:25-35, 48-51)

The next day the crowd of people found Jesus again. They wanted Him to do another powerful work. Jesus knew they really wanted more food. Just like Nicodemus and the woman at the well, they were thinking of physical things.

The early fathers left Egypt after the first Passover. God gave them **manna** from heaven on the long trip. They didn't have to grow the grain. They just picked up the bread that fell from heaven each night. They thought Moses had given them this bread. The people wanted Jesus to give them this bread too.

Jesus corrected the crowd. He told them Moses didn't give them the manna. God gave their fathers physical bread from heaven. Jesus said God has now sent the “true Bread from heaven.” Then Jesus told them, “I am the Bread of Life.” This is not physical bread our bodies need to stay alive. We eat bread and get hungry again. Jesus is the spiritual bread our spirits need to live forever. Jesus said, “The Bread which I will give is My flesh.”

Who Else Can We Go To? (6:66-69)

The words of Jesus were hard to understand. They thought Jesus meant they would have to eat His physical body. This was too hard to understand. Many people turned away from Jesus because of this.

We know that Jesus meant we must take Him into our spirits. When we eat physical bread, we take it into our bodies. It becomes a part of us and helps us grow. When we receive Jesus into our spirits, He helps us to grow spiritually too.

It must have made Jesus very sad to see His followers turn away. He asked his closest followers if they were going to leave Him too. Peter's answer was a question. "Lord, who else can we go to?" He knew no one else could give them what Jesus provided. "You have the words that give life and lasts forever. We believe and know You are the Christ. You are the Son of the Living God."

There are some hard things in the Christian faith. We live in physical bodies. It is hard for us to understand spiritual things. God calls us to follow Him. This means we no longer do things our way. Sometimes this is hard to do. But there is

no other way that leads to life that lasts forever.

John 6:1-20, 25-35, 48-51, 66-69

1 After this Jesus went over to the other side of the sea of Galilee. It is sometimes called Tiberias.

2 Many people followed Him. They saw the powerful works He did on those who were sick.

3 Jesus went up on a mountain and sat down with His followers.

4 The special religious supper to remember how the Jews left Egypt was soon.

5 Jesus looked up and saw many people coming to Him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?"

6 He said this to see what Philip would say. Jesus knew what He would do.

7 Philip said to Him, "The money we have is not enough to buy bread to give each one a little."

8 One of His followers was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He said to Jesus, for so many people?"

9 "There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two small fish. What is that or so many people?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was much grass in that place. About five thousand men sat down.

11 Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. Then He gave the bread to those who were sitting down. The fish were given out the same way. The people had as much as they wanted.

12 When they were filled, Jesus said to His followers, "Gather up the pieces that are left None will be wasted."

13 The followers gathered the pieces together. Twelve baskets were filled with pieces of barley bread. These were left after all the people had eaten.

14 The people saw the powerful work Jesus had done. They said, "It is true! This is the One Who speaks for God Who is to come into the world."

15 Jesus knew they were about to come and take Him to make Him king, so He went to the mountain by Himself.

16 When evening had come, His followers went down to the lake.

17 They got into a boat and started to cross the lake to go to the city of Capernaum. By this time it was dark. Jesus had not come back to them yet.

18 A strong wind was making high waves on the lake.

19 They were about half way across the lake when they saw Jesus walking on the water. As He got near the boat, they were afraid.

20 But Jesus called to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid."

...25 The people found Him on the other side of the lake. They said to Him, "Teacher, when did You come here?"

26 Jesus said to them, "For sure, I tell you, you are not looking for Me because of the powerful works. You are looking for Me because you ate bread and were filled.

27 Do not work for food that does not last. Work for food that lasts forever. The Son of Man will give you that kind of food. God the Father has shown He will do this."

28 Then the people said to Him, "What are the works God wants us to do?"

29 Jesus said to them, "This is the work of God, that you put your trust in the One He has sent."

30 They said to Him, "Can You show us some powerful work? Then we can see it and believe You. What will You do?"

31 Our early fathers ate bread that came from heaven in the desert. This happened as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " (Exodus 16:15)

32 Then Jesus said to the people, "For sure, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven. My Father gives you the true Bread from heaven.

33 The Bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 They said to Him, "Sir, give us this Bread all the time."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry. He who puts his trust in Me will never be thirsty.

...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."

...66 From that time on, many of His followers turned back to their old ways of living. They would not go along with Him after that.

67 Then Jesus said to the twelve 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
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 7:1-31, 37-43

Memory Verse

“The Holy Writings say that rivers of living water will flow from the heart of the one who puts his trust in Me.” (John 7:38)

Word List

celebrate: to honor a holy day with special activities and rejoicing.

conflict: a disagreement

popularity: being well liked

turn the tables: to say that someone is talking about himself instead

Conflict over Jesus

Ruth had made many important decisions in her life. She chose a what to study in school. She chose to leave China and come to the US to study. These decisions changed her life. She met new people. She saw a new culture. Ruth’s decision to follow Jesus changed her life forever. Jesus made Ruth a new person. He gave her an overflowing joy.

Brotherly Advice (7:1-10)

The **popularity** of Jesus’ ministry had grown so that large crowds of people followed Him. Then Jesus spoke to the crowds about the Bread of Life. Many people did not understand what Jesus said. They turned away from Him. About six months had passed since then. It was time for the largest Jewish feast. The Supper of Tents **celebrated** the Exodus experience. For eight days, people lived in tents. They gave thanks for the harvest and prayed for a good harvest to come.

Jesus’ brothers thought He should go to the feast. They wanted Him to show Himself there. They did not believe in Jesus. It makes us wonder why they would say these things.

Jesus told his brothers to go to the feast without Him. He said that His time had not come. Jesus and His brothers were different. The world hated Jesus because of His message. He went to Jerusalem several days after the feast had started. He went to teach, not to celebrate.

Conflict over Jesus Grows (7:11-31)

The people noticed that Jesus was not there. They had different opinions about Him. They were judging Him to be

**Things to
Think About**

1. The brothers of Jesus grew up with Him. How could they not believe He was the Son of God?
2. Some people today believe Jesus was just a 'good man'. Why is this not enough?
3. Jesus said the believer has an overflow of living water in his life. Have you received the blessing of the Living Water?
4. Has this blessing overflowed to bless others?

either good or bad. But they were quiet about their thoughts because of the Jews. No one wanted trouble with the Jews.

In the middle of the feast, Jesus began to teach in the Temple. The leaders were surprised. They knew Jesus had not gone to their schools. Jesus **turned the tables** on them. He said that instead of judging Him, they should judge themselves. Jesus questioned if they were doing what God wants. If they were, they would know His teaching was from God. Jesus' teaching said they should make a decision, not give an opinion.

Jesus surprised everyone. He talked about their plans to kill Him. He knew their plans. Jesus healed a man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Day of Rest. After that, the Jews wanted to kill Him (John 5:16-18). The Law of the Day of Rest was very important to them. But sometimes they would ignore the Law to do a religious act on that day. Jesus showed mercy on the Day of Rest. They wanted to kill Him for being merciful.

The people began to talk about Jesus more. There was a **conflict** over where He came from. Some thought He would be born in Bethlehem. Others thought the Messiah would come full grown. Jesus didn't explain that He was born in Bethlehem. He said He came from God.

Some people saw Jesus' signs and wanted more signs. To prove who Jesus was. Many believed in Jesus without more signs. Belief in Jesus is an act of faith. It does not need proof or signs.

Decision Time (7:37-43)

Water was very important in the Supper of Tents. Each day the priest went to the Pool of Siloam to get water. He

marched with the people back to the Temple. The water was poured on the altar. They were remembering how God had given them water in the wilderness. They were thanking God for the rains and the harvest. They were asking God for good rains in the year to come.

The people were thinking about physical water God provided. Jesus stood up to teach about the Living Water from God. Usually, a teacher sat down to teach. But Jesus wanted everyone to hear. He shouted these words. Jesus wasn't afraid of the Jews. The message of the living water was too important to hide. The water of life is not found at a pool, or well (John 4:13-14) or feast. Jesus is the living water.

No one drank the water at the feast. It was for show. But Jesus invites all the thirsty to come and drink the Living Water. Then He makes "rivers of living water" that "flow from the heart of the one who puts his trust in" Jesus. Thirsty believers drink and become fountains of water for others. This living water is the Holy Spirit that comes into the life of all believers.

John 7:1-31, 37-43

1 Jesus did not stay in the country of Judea because the Jews were trying to kill Him. After this He went from place to place in the country of Galilee.

2 A religious gathering of the Jews was near. This gathering was called the Supper of Tents.

3 The brothers of Jesus said to Him, "Leave here and go to the country of Judea. Let your followers there see the things You do.

4 If a person wants others to know what he is doing, he does things to be seen. Since You are doing such things, show Yourself to the world."

5 Not even His brothers were putting their trust in Him.

6 Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come. But any time is good for you.

7 The world cannot hate you but it hates Me. I speak against the world because of its sinful works.

8 You go to the religious gathering. I am not going yet. My time has not yet come."

9 Jesus told His brothers this and then stayed in Galilee.

10 His brothers went to the religious gathering. He went later by Himself so He would not be seen there.

11 At the religious gathering the Jews were looking for Jesus. They were saying, "Where is He?"

12 There was much talk among the people about Him. Some said, "He is a good Man." Others said, "No, He leads the people in the wrong way."

13 No one spoke about Him in front of other people. They were afraid of the Jews.

14 The religious gathering was half over when Jesus went to the house of God and taught.

15 The Jews were surprised and wondered, saying, "How can this Man know so much when He has never been to school?"

16 Jesus said to them, "What I teach is not Mine. It is from God Who sent Me.

17 If anyone will do what God wants, he will know if My teaching is from God, or if I am speaking of Myself.

18 The man who speaks of himself is looking for greatness for himself. But He Who is looking for the greatness of the One Who sent Him is true. There is nothing false in Him.

19 Did not Moses give you the Law? And yet not one of you keeps the Law. Why do you try to kill me?"

20 The people said, "You have a demon in You. Who is trying to kill You?"

21 Jesus said to them, "I did one work and you are surprised.

22 Moses gave you the religious act of becoming a Jew. (Yet it was not from Moses but from the early fathers.) You do this religious act on a man on the Day of Rest.

23 Now if you can do that, why are you angry with Me for healing a man on the Day of Rest?

24 Do not say a person is guilty by what you see. Be sure you know when you say what is right or wrong."

25 Some of the people of Jerusalem said, "Is not this the Man the Jews want to kill?"

26 But see! This Man is speaking out in the open. They are saying nothing to Him. Do the leaders know this is the true Christ?

27 We know where this Man came from. When the Christ comes, no one will know where He comes from."

28 Then Jesus spoke with a loud voice as He taught in the house of God. He said, "You know Me. You know where I came from. I have not

come on My own. The One Who sent Me is true but you do not know Him.

29 I know Him because I am from Him and He sent Me."

30 Then they wanted to take Jesus but no one put his hands on Him. His time had not yet come.

31 Many of the people believed in Him. They said, "When Christ comes, will He do more powerful works than this Man?"

...37 It was the last and great day of the religious gathering. Jesus stood up and spoke with a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

38 The Holy Writings say that rivers of living water will flow from the heart of the one who puts his trust in Me."

39 Jesus said this about the Holy Spirit Who would come to those who put their trust in Him. The Holy Spirit had not yet been given. Jesus had not yet been raised to the place of honor.

40 When many of the people heard His words, they said, "For sure, this is the One Who speaks for God."

41 Others said, "He is the Christ!" Some said, "The Christ would not come from the country of Galilee, would He?"

42 Do not the Holy Writings say that the Christ will come from the family of David? Will He not come from the town of Bethlehem where David lived?"

43 The people were divided in what they thought about Him.



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

John 9:1-22, 24-41

Memory Verse

“Jesus spoke to all the people, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will not walk in darkness. He will have the Light of Life.’” (John 8:12)

Word List

anointed: to put oil on a person as a special religious act

knead: to mix and work dough or clay by folding and pushing down.

respond: to act in reply

Seeing and Believing

Our grandson, Chance, was born blind. Doctors said his eyes did not **respond** to light. The doctors could not do anything to make him see. But today, Chance sees! Some say the doctors were wrong. They say Chance was never blind. We know the truth. We believe God healed our grandson.

The Power of the Light (9:1-7)

Jesus was still in Jerusalem after the Supper of Tents. He saw a man who was born blind. Jesus’ followers thought the man was blind because of sin. They asked Jesus if it was the sin of his parents or the man’s sin that caused him to be blind. Jesus didn’t respond to their question as they expected. He said it was an opportunity to see God at work.

There were huge lamps lit at the Temple each night of the feast. They could be seen all over Jerusalem. After the feast the lamps were put out. Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World.” His light never goes out. The light of the world shines all over the world.

Jesus healed the man by putting mud on his eyes. The man obeyed Jesus and washed the mud off in the pool of Siloam. For the first time in his life, he could see the light!

Responses to the Light (9:8-12)

In all the Old Testament, no one gave sight to the blind. Many people believed the Messiah would open the eyes of the blind (Isaiah 29:18, 35:5, 42:7). This would be a sign of His coming. They were watching for this sign.

**Things to
Think About**

1. How do you respond to the suffering of others?
2. Have you ever experienced conflict against Jesus?
3. Complete this sentence about your own life: "I once was _____, but now I _____."
4. Have you ever had a time of suffering that turned to glory for God?

Do We Get What We Deserve?

The Jews believed a person suffered because of sin. Some say we suffer because we do not have enough faith. Jesus said these things happen so we can see God at work. God can turn suffering into His glory!

The man's neighbors refused to believe Jesus was the Messiah. They even questioned if this man was the one born blind. Some saw the Light of the World. Others chose to remain blind.

They asked the man what happened. He pointed to Jesus who healed him. His neighbors didn't know what to do or think. They took the man to the religious leaders.

Law and Order (9:13-34)

The Jews were already angry with Jesus. They did not see this as a sign of the Messiah. To them this was one more time Jesus broke their law. Jesus healed this blind man on the Day of Rest. They said Jesus broke the law more than once. He **kneaded** by mixing the mud. This was against the law. He **anointed** the man when he put the mud on his eyes. This too was against the law. He healed a man on the Day of Rest. This could only be done if the person was about to die. Jesus broke the law. They thought Jesus was a sinner.

Other leaders recognized this as a sign of the Messiah. They began to argue. The man who had been healed could see better than they did. He said Jesus was a man who speaks for God. But that is not what they wanted to hear.

The leaders asked the parents. Surely this man was never really blind. That would solve the problem. The parents were afraid of the leaders. They said this was their blind son and to go ask him what happened.

The Jews went back to the man who had been healed. They tried to scare him into saying Jesus was a sinner. But the man

would not say such things about Jesus. He told them the truth about Jesus. Their pride would not let them hear what He said. They could not argue against him so they made him leave the place of worship.

Eyes Wide Open, Eyes Held Shut (9:35-41)

Jesus heard about the man's punishment. He met him again. Jesus asked him if he put his trust in the Son of God. Then he reminded him of his new sight. "You have seen Him, He is talking with you." This man who had not been able to see anything, saw the Son of God! He fell down and worshiped Him.

Jesus came to open spiritual eyes. Those who want to can see the Son of God. Those who hold their eyes shut and do not want to see cannot see the Son of God. The Jews thought they knew all the answers. But they did not respond to the light. The man recognized his need and responded to Jesus as the Light of the World.

John 9:1-22, 24-41

- 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.
- 8 Neighbors and others had seen him begging. They said, "Is not this the man who sat and begged?"
- 9 Some said, "This is the one." Others said, "No, but he looks like him." But the man who had been blind said, "I am the man."
- 10 They said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"
- 11 He answered, "A Man called Jesus made mud and put it on my eyes. Then He said to me, 'Go and wash in the pool of Siloam.' I went and washed and I can see."
- 12 Then they asked him, "Where is He?" He answered, "I do not know."
- 13 They took the man who had been born blind to the proud religious lawkeepers.
- 14 It was the Day of Rest when Jesus had made mud and opened his eyes.

15 Again the proud religious lawkeepers asked the man who had been born blind how he had been made to see. He answered them, "Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed and now I see!"

16 Some of the proud religious law-keepers said, "The Man Who did this is not from God because He worked on the Day of Rest." Others said, "How can a sinful man do powerful works?" They could not agree about Jesus.

17 They spoke again to the blind man, saying, "What do you say about Him since He opened your eyes?" He answered, "He is One Who speaks for God."

18 The Jews did not believe this man had been blind and had been made to see. They called his parents

19 and asked them, "Is this your son? Do you say he was born blind? How does he see now?"

20 They answered, "We know this is our son and we know he was born blind.

21 But we do not know how it is that he can see now. We do not know who opened his eyes. He is old enough, ask him. He can tell you himself."

22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews. The Jews had talked among themselves. They had agreed that the person who said that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the Jewish place of worship.

...24 The proud religious law-keepers asked the man again, who had been blind, to come. They said to him, "Give thanks to God. We know this man is a sinner."

25 The man who had been blind said to them, "I do not know if He is a sinner or not. One thing I know. I was blind, but now I can see."

26 They asked him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27 He answered, "I have told you already. You did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become His followers also?"

28 The proud religious law-keepers became angry at him and said, "You are a follower of Jesus. We are followers of Moses.

29 We know God spoke to Moses. We do not know where this Man is from."

30 The man said to them, "This is strange! You do not know where He came from and yet He opened my eyes.

31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. We know if anyone loves and worships God, and does what He wants, God listens to him.

32 From the beginning of the world no one has ever heard of anyone opening the eyes of a man born blind.

33 If this Man were not from God, He would not be able to do anything like this."

34 They said to him, "You were born in sin. Are you trying to teach us?" Then they put him out of the place of worship.

35 Jesus heard that the proud religious law-keepers had put the man who had been healed out of the place of worship. He found the man and said to him, "Do you put your trust in the Son of God?"

36 He said, "Who is He, Sir? Tell me so that I can put my trust in Him."

37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him. He is talking with you."

38 He said, "I do put my trust in You, Lord." Then he bowed down before Jesus and worshiped Him.

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."



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 10:22-42

Memory Verse

“My sheep hear My voice and I know them. They follow Me.” (John 10:27)

Word List

dedicate: to set apart for a special purpose

intimidate: to frighten someone to get them to do or say what is wanted.

reject: to say no to something

Decision Time

If sheep could choose their shepherd, they would choose a good one. Sheep that have a good shepherd grow healthy and strong. The pastures on which they graze are healthy. But sheep that have a bad shepherd are sick and weak. The pastures of these sheep are bare and poor. We have the choice to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

A Celebration of Dedication (10:22)

When a church builds a new building, they often have a special service to **dedicate** the building. This is a way of saying they give the building back to God. The Jews had a feast of dedication of their temple too. It happened just two months after the Supper of Tents. Jesus went to the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem. Rome ruled Israel in Jesus' day. The people wanted to win a victory over Rome. They wanted to be free of Rome.

The history of the Feast of Dedication is interesting. In the year 167 B.C., the Greeks ruled the land of Israel. Their ruler wanted to end the worship of God. He wanted all the Jews to worship him, so he tore down God's altar. He put up an altar to a false god and had a pig killed in the temple. The Jews hated this. They thought pigs were dirty and would never bring a pig into the Temple. The ruler said they had to repeat this terrible act each month. The Jews rebelled against the Greeks and won an unexpected victory. The Temple was rededicated in 164 B.C.

Jewish people today still celebrate this feast each year in December. They call it Hanukkah. They still celebrate with lights and food and gifts.

Things to Think About

1. How does it make you feel to think of Jesus as the shepherd and yourself as His sheep?
2. What led you to believe in Jesus?
3. What kept the Jews in this lesson from believing?

“Practice What You Preach”

It is easier for us to believe what someone says if their actions match their words. Jesus said, “But I tell you, love those who hate you.” (Matthew 5:44)

Jesus knew the Jews hated Him. He knew they wanted to kill Him. But Jesus still wanted them to believe and have life forever. He still tried to show them the truth. Jesus loved the ones who hated Him.

We can see the power of His teaching in Jesus’ life. This passage shows us how Jesus practiced what He taught.

A Big Question, A Bigger Answer (10:23-30)

The Gospel of John uses the term “Jews” for the religious leaders. These people knew the Holy Writings very well. They were proud of all their learning. They had a lot of power and they liked being important. They didn’t want Jesus to change things. They had decided to find a way to get rid of Him.

As Jesus was walking in the Temple, they gathered around Him. Maybe they were trying to **intimidate** Him. They asked Him a question because they wanted to trap Him. Their first question seems to be an angry one. “How long will you keep us in doubt?” Then they demanded, “If you are the Christ, tell us”(10:24). They must have known Jesus was doing signs that pointed to the Messiah. They wanted Jesus to say this publicly. They wanted another reason to kill Him.

There are seven times in the Gospel of John when Jesus said “I am” to explain who He is. After healing the blind man, Jesus said, “I am the door of the sheep” (10:7). He had also told them, “I am the good shepherd”(10:11). In answer to their question, Jesus said they did not know who He was because they were not His sheep.

The Jews would have remembered many examples of good shepherds in their Holy Writings. They would all have known the precious words of Psalm 23. “The Lord is my shepherd...” They would also have remembered the shepherds of Ezekiel 34. These were bad shepherds that were the leaders of the people. God said he would remove the sheep from these bad shepherds. Jesus stated clearly that God had sent Him to be the good shepherd. Did the leaders know they were the bad shepherds?

Jesus' answer is a beautiful promise to those who believe. He knows His sheep and they know Him. They willingly follow Him. He gives them life that lasts forever. No one can take His sheep away from Him (10:27-28). We may experience times of trouble, but we rest in the most powerful hands of God.

The religious leaders heard the words of Jesus, but they did not want to follow Him. Jesus said they were not His sheep. They asked for a clear answer. Jesus gave them more than they asked for when He said, "My Father and I are one!"

Reasons to Believe (10:31-39)

Instead of giving the leaders a reason to believe, this made them even more angry. They were ready to kill Jesus right there on Solomon's Porch at the Temple. There would not have been loose stones at the Temple. Maybe they had brought the stones with them! They wanted to throw those stones and kill Jesus.

Jesus wasn't intimidated by their stones. He calmly asked them which good deed was their reason for stoning Him. They accused Him of talking against God. They understood that Jesus was saying He

was God's Son. But they did not think what to do if what He said was true. If Jesus truly is the Son of God, we must dedicate ourselves to Him.

This means our lives must change, but the Jews did not want their lives to change. They were angry that Jesus called Himself God. So Jesus said the words from Psalm 82:6. "I said, 'You are gods. You are all sons of the Most High.'" Psalm 82:2 says, "How long will you rulers be wrong in how you judge?" The Jews knew they were not right. Jesus reminded them that God's word cannot be ignored.

Then He said a word they were all saying that week. Jesus said God had dedicated Jesus for Himself. The temple was dedicated to God by men. Jesus was dedicated to God by God!

Moving Away to the Desert (10:40-42)

Jesus left Jerusalem to go to the place where John the Baptist had baptized. In the city, He had done many signs. He had taught in the temple. The people who knew the Holy Writings **rejected** what Jesus said. They wanted to throw stones at Him. Here in the desert, many people came to put their trust in Jesus.

John 10:22-42

22 It was time for the religious gathering of remembering how the house of God was opened in Jerusalem.

23 It was winter and Jesus was there. He was walking in Solomon's porch in the house of God.

24 The Jews gathered around Him. They said, "How long are You going to keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us.

25 Jesus answered, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in My Father's name speak of Me.

26 You do not believe because you are not My sheep.

27 My sheep hear My voice and I know them. They follow Me.

28 I give them life that lasts forever. They will never be punished. No one is able to take them out of My hand.

29 My Father Who gave them to Me is greater than all. No one is able to take them out of My Father's hand.

30 My Father and I are one!"

31 Again the Jews picked up stones to throw at Him.

32 Jesus said to them, "Many good things have I shown you from My Father. For which of these things are you going to throw stones at Me?"

33 They said, "We are not going to throw stones at You for any good work. It is because of the way You talk against God. It

is because You make Yourself to be God when You are only a man."

34 Jesus said to them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? (Psalm 82:6)

35 The Holy Writings were given to them and God called them gods. (The Word of God cannot be put aside.)

36 But God has set Me apart for Himself. He sent Me into the world. Then how can you say that I am speaking against God because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?

37 If I am not doing the works of My Father, do not believe Me.

38 But if I do them, even if you do not believe Me, believe the works that I do. Then you will know the Father is in Me and I am in Him."

39 They tried again to take Him but He got out of their hands.

40 Jesus went away to the other side of the Jordan River to the place where John was baptizing people. Jesus stayed there.

41 Many people came to Him and said, "John did no powerful work, but what John said about this Man is true."

42 Many people put their trust in Jesus there.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 11:14-53

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

grieve: to feel great sad about the death of a loved one

reveal: to show something hidden, to allow to be seen

scold: to speak in an angry way, to blame

Jesus Raises the Dead

What happens when a person dies? When this body dies, is that the end of the person? Is there life after death? Jesus came to answer these questions. Jesus raises the dead and gives them life.

Call Jesus When You Need Him (11:1-16)

Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus were good friends of Jesus. They lived in the little town of Bethany, just a half hour’s walk from Jerusalem. Lazarus got very ill so Mary and Martha sent for Jesus. They knew that Jesus could heal the sick. They expected Jesus to come quickly and heal Lazarus.

But Jesus was across the Jordan River when He got the bad news. Jesus and His followers had left Jerusalem because the leaders wanted to kill Him. He waited two more days before leaving for Bethany. He told His followers that this was another time when something happened to **reveal** God’s glory.

Jesus said Lazarus was “asleep.” This is a nice way of saying Lazarus was dead. Sometimes we say a person has “passed away.” It sounds nicer than saying someone has died. But Jesus’ followers didn’t understand. They thought Lazarus would wake up if he was asleep. They didn’t want to go back to the danger of Jerusalem if Lazarus was just sleeping. So Jesus said plainly, “Lazarus is dead.” They started the trip to Bethany.

It Is Never Too Late for Hope (11:17-32)

Jesus got to Bethany four days after they buried Lazarus. Mary and Martha **grieved** for their brother. Martha **scolded** Jesus for coming too late. Martha trusted Jesus’ power to heal;

Things to Think About

1. Have you ever prayed and wondered why God didn't answer the way you wanted and when you wanted it?
2. Why do you think the answer to prayer sometimes comes later than we want?
3. Is it wrong for a Christian to grieve? Does grief mean we don't have faith?

Life and Death

Several people in the Bible were brought back to life. Elisha raised a woman's son in 2 Kings 4. Jesus raised Jairus' daughter in Mark 5. He raised a widow's son in Luke 7. And He raised His good friend Lazarus in John 11. But all these people died again.

Only one person was raised from the dead to never die again. Jesus is the One and Only Son of God.

but she thought it was too late to do anything for her dead brother. She may have been angry with Jesus.

Jesus assured Martha, "Your brother will rise again." She knew some day all the dead would rise again and come back to life. She had hope for the future. Jesus offered her hope for the present. The One standing with her was the One who has the power to bring back the dead and give them life. Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?" What we believe about Jesus matters. Martha said Jesus was the Son of God. She didn't understand all that it meant, but she trusted Him. No one understands all the things about Jesus. But like Martha, we trust Him.

It's Okay to be Sad (11:33-44)

It is natural to grieve when someone dies. Believing in Jesus doesn't take away our sadness. Friends had come from Jerusalem to be with Mary and Martha. Jesus saw all the people crying. He cried with them. He didn't cry because Lazarus was dead. He knew He was going to bring Lazarus back. Jesus felt the sadness of His friends; and it made Him sad. Jesus feels our hurts too. He knows everything. He knows God has a wonderful plan, but He still hurts when we hurt.

Lazarus was buried in a cave with a stone over the opening. When Jesus told them to remove the stone, Martha warned Him. She knew after four days, Lazarus' body was beginning to rot. The smell would be bad.

Jesus then **revealed** to Martha why He had not come earlier. All these things were happening so that they could see God's glory. No one could say that Lazarus wasn't really dead

after four days. They would see God's glory better if Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead than if He had healed him. Jesus shouted for Lazarus to come out. Lazarus was alive!

Why Not Believe? (11:45-53)

Many people watching believed in Jesus that day. Some went to the religious law keepers and told them what had happened. Maybe they would believe too. Surely there was no doubt that Jesus was the Son of God. But the law keepers would not believe. They knew Jesus had healed the blind. Bringing Lazarus back from the dead was the seventh sign in the Book of John. It proved that Jesus was the Son of God. It also pointed forward to the time when Jesus would walk out of His own grave alive.

The leaders were afraid the people would turn away from them and turn to Jesus. They were willing to kill the Son of God to keep their power. They even decided they would have to kill Lazarus to keep him from telling this wonderful thing that happened to him. The chief priest, Caiaphas, even told them to kill Jesus. He didn't know how true his words were. One man did die for all the people. Through

Jesus Christ, his death and coming back to life, we know we can have life that lasts forever.

John 11:14-53

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 cave in the side of a 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!"

45 Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what Jesus had done put their trust in Him. 46 Some of them went to the proud religious law-keepers and told them what Jesus had done.

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.

54 For this reason Jesus did not walk out in the open among the Jews. He went to a town called Ephraim. It was near a desert. He stayed there with His followers.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

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

Memory Verse

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

(John 12:32)

Word List

decision: a choice

deliver: to free from,
to rescue, to save

plot: a plan

successful: having
reached one's goal

The Hour Is Near

I have a pretty little jar of bluebonnet seeds. I have been saving them for several months. In the winter, I will soak them in water to soften the outside of the seed. Then I will plant them in the soil. The seeds will burst open. Next spring there will be blue fields of flowers around our house. I will **sacrifice** the seeds to get the flowers.

Jesus said **sacrifice** is the way to honor God and be honored by God. The world says we must get all we can to be honored. What God honors is not what the world honors.

The Plot of the People (11:55-57)

The time of Passover was near. This was a time to remember how God had **delivered** the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Jews would come from all over the world to be in Jerusalem for Passover. Days before Passover they would do special washings. This stood for getting rid of sin in their lives. Then on the day of Passover, the priest would sacrifice a lamb on the altar in the temple. This stood for the forgiveness of the sins of the people. But these sacrifices did not really forgive sin.

Jesus' came to give us forgiveness from sins. He is the “Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world,” as John the Baptist said (1:29). Jesus is our sacrifice. He knew this meant He would “die for the people” as Caiaphas said (11:50).

Everyone was looking for and talking about Jesus. Once before at Passover, Jesus had cleared the temple of money changers. He fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish at another Passover. What would He do this Passover?

Things to Think About

1. What does success mean to you? To people you know?
2. If you had a face-to-face talk with Jesus like the Greeks wanted, what would you say?
3. Can you think of Christians who have sacrificed for God's kingdom?

Passover

There are things about Passover that make it a picture of Jesus' sacrifice. The people put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts to keep the angel of death away. Jesus' blood rescues us from spiritual death. Meat from the lamb was eaten to get strength for the long journey. We take the life of Jesus into our lives to get strength to live for Him. God rescued the people from slavery. Jesus' death gives us freedom from a life of sin.

The religious leaders were looking for Jesus too. They had made a **plot** to kill Jesus. Jerusalem was a dangerous place for Him. He went first to Bethany to visit his friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Mary loved Jesus. She poured an expensive jar of perfume out on Jesus' feet. His disciples thought she should have sold the perfume and given the money to the poor. Jesus said she was preparing Him to be buried. Within days Jesus would die and no one would have this opportunity to prepare His body to be buried. This sacrifice was an important one.

The next day Jesus went into Jerusalem. The people met Him along the way with shouts of joy. Jesus didn't come like a **successful** leader. He came riding a humble donkey.

The Plan of God (12:20-37)

The Greek people who wanted to talk to Jesus came from many countries. They wanted to see Him and talk to Him themselves. Jesus knew it was time for God's plan to be revealed when people from all over the world wanted to come to Him. He knew He had to do more than meet and talk to people. To do God's will, Jesus had to die on the cross just like a seed dies to grow fruit. Jesus explained that success in God's kingdom is more than success in this life. He said all of us must sacrifice this life to get true life in God's kingdom. This doesn't mean we all must die like Jesus did. His death paid for all of us. But we are called to give up our selfishness. Most of us find this hard to do.

Even Jesus was troubled by the sacrifice He came to give. The cross was a terrible way to die. Jesus would be put to shame in front of all the people. He would endure great pain. When

Jesus was troubled, He talked to God about it. God answered from heaven and said Jesus had already honored God by the way He lived. But God said He would be honored again. The people didn't understand that it was God who spoke. God's words were spoken to help the people. Jesus knew the Father was pleased with Him.

Jesus said when He was lifted up, He would draw all people to Him. Jesus' death on the cross would spread the Good News to the world. Everyone knew Jesus meant He would die on a cross.

The people brought up a good point. Shouldn't the Messiah live forever? They couldn't see anything good coming from a death on a cross. They had seen Jesus' power over death when He brought Lazarus back to life. But they could not imagine that Jesus could die on the cross and come back to live forever.

The Path for Success (12:44-50)

The crowd could not understand God's ways are not man's ways. They saw Jesus do wonderful things, but they did not put their trust in Him. Jesus called for a **decision**. They had to make a choice. To

trust Jesus is to trust God. To honor Jesus is to honor God. To refuse Jesus is to stay in darkness without hope. Living for Jesus is the way to a blessed life.

This Lesson and Our Lives

We want happy, successful lives. We think God should give us happy homes, healthy children, lots of money and happy hearts. But we don't want to do things God's way. God offers us more than we ask for. He give us happiness, purpose and closeness with Himself. But we can't have these things unless we are willing to do things God's way.

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.

...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.

...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."



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 1:18-25

Memory Verse

“A Son will be born to her. You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from the punishment of their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Word List

character: the special ways a person feels, thinks and acts; honesty, morality

family tree: a list of the family line

unique: one of a kind, nothing is like it

virgin: a person who has never had sex

Jesus, God with Us

A young mother loves to tell the story of when she had her first baby. Mothers plan for months what they will name their babies. Sometimes mothers and fathers have a hard time agreeing on a name. Sometimes the name they choose has special meaning for them.

The story of Jesus' birth is unlike any other birth. Mary and Joseph were told by an angel what to name the baby. This baby would carry a name chosen by God. His name would be remembered forever. The name of Jesus carries special meaning for all who believe.

Mary: A Virgin Mother (1:18)

Mary was a young girl when an angel told her that she was going to have a baby. This was surprising news to Mary. She knew she been with a man. She was a **virgin**. How could this be? The angel told her that she would have a baby by the Holy Spirit. “For God can do all things” (Luke 1:37). Mary trusted God. She said to the angel, “I am willing to be used of the Lord, Let it happen to me as you have said” (Luke 1:38).

Many people have questioned the virgin birth of Jesus. Isaiah, the early preacher, said the Messiah would be born of a virgin. It is hard for us to understand how a woman can become a mother without being with a man. Like Mary we ask, “How can this be?” God can do anything. It is a matter of trust. We believe Jesus could bring back the dead, heal a blind man, walk on the water. How can these things be? We trust God.

Things to Think About

1. What are some qualities of a good person?
2. How could Joseph being “good” have kept him from doing God’s will?
3. What did trusting God mean in Mary’s life? What did she risk?
4. How was she blessed? What does trusting God mean in your life?

John’s Christmas Story (John 1:1-18)

Matthew and Luke begin their Gospels by telling the story of Jesus’ birth. John begins his Gospel by simply saying that God’s Son (Jesus) is God.

Jesus was with God from the beginning (John 1:1-2). He came to save people, to help them become children of God (John 1:12). God came to earth in the form of a human being (John 1:14).

We believe Jesus died on the cross, was buried, came back to life, and lives forever. We believe He will one day bring those who believe back from the dead to live with Him forever. It is no different to believe God could give Mary a baby without the help of a man. God can do anything. Like Mary, we trust God.

Joseph—A Good Man (1:19-25)

Matthew’s Gospel begins with the listing of the **family tree** of Jesus. The list goes back to Abraham, through David and ends with Joseph. Joseph was not the human father of Jesus. But he was chosen by God to be the father in the home of Jesus.

The **character** of Joseph was important. Matthew says he was a good man. Joseph kept the law. He followed the ways of Jewish marriage. The parents of Mary and Joseph decided their children would be married. They were promised to each other by law. They spent a year getting to know each other. They were not husband and wife yet. They did not live together, but they were faithful to each other.

Mary must have told Joseph that she was going to have a baby. Joseph thought Mary had not been faithful to him. He knew he was not the father of the baby. Joseph wanted to marry a woman who was good and faithful. But Joseph cared about Mary. He was planning a way to quietly break the promise to marry her.

While he was thinking about this, an angel came to Joseph in a dream. He said that Mary had been chosen by God for a special purpose. She would give birth to the Son of God. The Mary’s baby was not the son of another man. He would be the Savior of the world. Joseph knew that Mary was good and

faithful. God had blessed Mary in an unusual way.

The angel told Joseph to name the child “Jesus.” He even explained the name meant: “He will save his people from their sins.” Joseph trusted God just like Mary did. He married her and took her home with him. But Mary and Joseph did not live as husband and wife until after the birth of Jesus. Later, they added at least four sons and two daughters (Matt 13:55-56).

Jesus—God’s Unique Son on Earth

We are all children of God if we believe. But Jesus is the **unique** Son of God. This means there is no other one like Jesus. There are three names for God’s Son in this lesson: “Jesus,” “Christ,” and “Immanuel.” Each name shows how truly unique God’s Son is.

“Christ” is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah. It means the “Chosen One.” The Jews had been waiting for the Messiah. There are many times Matthew connects the old writings with the life of Jesus. He wanted his readers to know that Jesus was the one God had promised in Isaiah 7:14.

“Immanuel” means “God with us.” (1:23). The story of Jesus begins with this important truth: God is with us in Jesus. Matthew ends his Gospel with Jesus’ promise to His followers “And I am with you always, even to the end of the world” (28:18-20).

“Jesus” is the name Joseph was told to name the baby. It is the Greek name for “Joshua” which means, “Our Lord saves.” There were many Jewish children named Jesus. But this baby had a unique purpose. He changed the history of the world. Jesus is God’s solution to our sin.

There are many stories in the Bible where God played a part in the birth of a child. But all of those children had a human mother and father. Jesus is unique because He had no human father. His mother was a woman, but by a miracle His father was God. Jesus was fully human because of His mother. He was fully God because of His Father. The Gospel of John says, “Christ became human flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). Only this unique Son of God could take away the sins of the world.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 The birth of Jesus Christ was like this:

Mary His mother had been promised in marriage to Joseph. Before they were married, it was learned that she was to have a baby by the Holy Spirit.

19 Joseph was her promised husband. He was a good man and did not want to make it hard for Mary in front of people. He thought it would be good to break the promised marriage without people knowing it.

20 While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is to become a mother by the Holy Spirit.

21 A Son will be born to her. You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from the punishment of their sins."

22 This happened as the Lord said it would happen through the early preacher.

23 He said, "The young woman, who has never had a man, will give birth to a Son. They will give Him the name Immanuel. This means God with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

24 Joseph awoke from his sleep. He did what the angel of the Lord told him to do. He took Mary as his wife.

25 But he did not have her, as a husband has a wife, until she gave birth to a Son. Joseph gave Him the name Jesus.