

T H E G O S P E L O F  
**JOHN**  
S T U D Y G U I D E



Written by Alex McGraw and Julie Partridge



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## ***John Study Guide***

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Edited by James Granger and Melissa Kranzo

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At Riv, we invite everyone to know and enjoy Jesus  
as we stumble together in our pursuit to love like Him.

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# Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Location
1	Sept. 18	<b>Introduction</b>	Westside
2	Sept. 25	<b>John 1</b>	Westside
3	Oct. 2	<b>John 2</b>	Westside
4	Oct. 9	<b>John 3</b>	Westside
5	Oct. 16	<b>John 4</b>	Westside
6	Oct. 23	<b>John 5</b>	Westside
7	Oct. 30	<b>John 6</b>	Westside
8	Nov. 6	<b>John 7</b>	Westside
9	Nov. 13	<b>John 8</b>	Westside
<b>Winter Break</b>			
10	Jan. 8	<b>John 9</b>	Holt
11	Jan. 15	<b>John 10</b>	Holt
12	Jan. 22	<b>John 11</b>	Holt
13	Jan. 29	<b>John 12</b>	Holt
14	Feb. 5	<b>John 13</b>	Holt
15	Feb. 12	<b>John 14</b>	Holt
16	Feb. 19	<b>John 15</b>	Holt
17	Feb. 26	<b>John 16</b>	Holt
18	Mar. 5	<b>John 17</b>	Holt
<b>Spring Break</b>			
19	Apr. 9	<b>John 18</b>	REO Town
20	Apr. 16	<b>John 19</b>	REO Town
21	Apr. 23	<b>John 20</b>	REO Town
22	Apr. 30	<b>John 21</b>	REO Town



# Introduction to John

The culture of the New Testament world was vastly different from the one that existed at the end of the Old Testament. Over four hundred years had passed since the close of the Old Testament, bringing many powerful new political and influences onto the scene. The Roman empire had swiftly commandeered the Mediterranean Sea and surrounding cities. The Jews once again sat under oppressive rule and had been forced into a melting pot of ideologies that scratched against their sole allegiance to God while they simultaneously yearned for salvation. In addition, new subgroups of people appeared in the gospels such as the Pharisees, Sadducees, Hellenists, and Samaritans, each navigating the intricacies of long-held Old Testament beliefs intertwined with society as a whole.

The entirety of this book takes place within Israel and is over 90% unique compared to the other three gospels. John was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, along with his brother James. They were first called to follow Jesus while participating in their family fishing trade with their father, Zebedee (Mark 1:19-20). John was part of Jesus' inner circle (along with Peter and James) and spent three years following Jesus around transcribing intentional insights into his eyewitness accounts. It is widely believed that this book was written between A.D. 85-90 after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and before John was banished to the island of Patmos, where the book of Revelation is believed to be written. After Jesus' ascension, John became a pillar in the early church (Galatians 2:9) and eventual pastor over in the church in Ephesus.

John's Jewish roots are unavoidable in his writings, yet he takes care to offer explanations to his Greek audience as well. This gospel is famous for the use of "I am" statements from Jesus as He declares himself as the *bread of life* (John 6:35), *the light of the world* (John 8:12), *the door of the sheep* (John 10:7), *the good shepherd* (John 10:11,14), *the resurrection and the life* (John 11: 25), *the way, the truth, and the life* (John 14:6), and *the true vine* (John 15:1). Each "I am" statement is given during a major Jewish festival, which would have required any able bodied male to pilgrimage to the city of Jerusalem. John carefully points his audience towards Jesus Christ as the only means for salvation by repeatedly proclaiming that abundant life is found in Christ as believers step out of darkness and into the light.

The gospels in general are the culmination and climax of the redemptive story of Scripture. The Old Testament continually offers shadows and glimpses of God's power and presence among His people as He points them to ultimate restoration. Jesus then steps in as the embodiment of God where people are offered unshakeable peace and salvation as they interact with God face to face. John begs his audience to consider Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah as they come, see, follow, and walk with Christ on the road to ultimate restoration. Marinate yourself in these words as you dive into deeper understanding of who Christ is, recognize His divine power to transform your life, and behold the glory of the God who holds not only the world but your story in His hands.



## WEEK 2:

# John 1

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, “This was the one of whom I said, ‘The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, <sup>17</sup> for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father’s side—he has revealed him.

<sup>19</sup> This was John’s testimony when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?”

<sup>20</sup> He didn’t deny it but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”

<sup>21</sup> “What then?” they asked him. “Are you Elijah?”

“I am not,” he said.

“Are you the Prophet?”

“No,” he answered.

<sup>22</sup> “Who are you, then?” they asked. “We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What can you tell us about yourself?”

<sup>23</sup> He said, “I am a voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord—just as Isaiah the prophet said.”

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> So they asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you aren’t the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?”

<sup>26</sup> “I baptize with water,” John answered them. “Someone stands among you, but you don’t know him. <sup>27</sup> He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I’m not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup> All this happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” <sup>30</sup> This is the one I told you about: ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I didn’t know him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him.” <sup>33</sup> I didn’t know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this and followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and noticed them following him, he asked them, “What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

<sup>39</sup> “Come and you’ll see,” he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed him. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated “the Christ”), <sup>42</sup> and he brought Simon to Jesus.

When Jesus saw him, he said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated “Peter”).

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and told him, “Follow me.”

<sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”

<sup>46</sup> “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael asked him.

“Come and see,” Philip answered.

<sup>47</sup> Then Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

<sup>48</sup> “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you,” Jesus answered.

<sup>49</sup> “Rabbi,” Nathanael replied, “You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!”

<sup>50</sup> Jesus responded to him, “Do you believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” <sup>51</sup> Then he said, “Truly I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read the chapter or listen to it a few times. Compare it to another translation.
2. How would you divide this chapter into 2 or 3 “paragraphs”?  
Draw a line(s) in the chapter to indicate where you would divide it.
3. Write a title or brief summary for each of your divisions, including the verses it includes.
4. List and define the repeated words, phrases, or ideas you find throughout the chapter.
5. Circle the names of places in this chapter. Find them on a map.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. How do the different sections of this chapter fit together? Why do you think John combines themes the way he does?
5. What message might John be trying to convey to his audience in this chapter?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How does John’s depiction of Jesus in this chapter impact your understanding of Him?
7. What does this chapter teach you about sin, salvation, or your response to Jesus?

---

## Things to Ponder:

List some of the ways John reveals Jesus as both God and man in this chapter. Why do you think it is necessary for us to believe in Jesus as both God and man?

Read John 1:12-13 with Romans 1:16. How do these verses help us understand salvation?

How would you describe John the Baptist's life and mission? What can we learn from him about pointing others to Jesus?

How would John's original audience understand the idea of "Messiah," and how might that understanding have impacted their response to Jesus?

What do you notice about Jesus' conversations with the men He called to follow Him? In what ways has He invited you to follow Him, and how have you responded throughout your life?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Read John 1:50-51. What do you think Jesus meant in these verses?
- Do a word study of "light" and "darkness" to see where and how these concepts are used in other Scripture chapters.
- Review Exodus 12 which describes the first Passover. Consider what it would have meant to Israel that Jesus was the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

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## As You Go:

In John 1:38, Jesus asked the men following Him what they were looking for.

Consider what you are looking for in this study of John, and record it here as a prayer to Jesus.

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## Summing Up:

The book of John differs from the other three gospel accounts in a number of ways. While Matthew, Mark, and Luke all jump quickly into the life and ministry of Jesus, John instead roots his account in the creation narrative with the words, “In the beginning.” His main goal is to convince his audience that “these [words] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). John highlights that Jesus is God, was with God, and has been holding all things together since the creation of the universe. By contrasting “light” and “darkness,” John uses familiar language to remind not only his Jewish audience, but general hearers, that God’s redemptive plan to set creation right has come to its culmination in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the one true Messiah. John the Baptist is also introduced as a prophet who paves the way for Christ’s earthly ministry. Through the introduction of each character in this first chapter, we see God inviting people to come, see, repent, believe, and marvel at God’s plan unfolding. All of Scripture has been pointing to this moment so that God not only draws near to His people, but now His people can freely draw near to Him in unhindered abundance and intimacy.



## WEEK 3: **John 2**

<sup>1</sup> On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus's mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, Jesus's mother told him, "They don't have any wine."

<sup>4</sup> "What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."

<sup>5</sup> "Do whatever he tells you," his mother told the servants.

<sup>6</sup> Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup> "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup> Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." And they did.

<sup>9</sup> When the headwaiter tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom <sup>10</sup> and told him, "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now."

<sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

<sup>12</sup> After this, he went down to Capernaum, together with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples, and they stayed there only a few days.

<sup>13</sup> The Jewish Passover was near, and so Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and he also found the money changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup> After making a whip out of cords, he drove everyone out of the temple with their sheep and oxen. He also poured out the money changers' coins and overturned the tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling doves, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

<sup>17</sup> And his disciples remembered that it is written: Zeal for your house will consume me.

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews replied to him, "What sign will you show us for doing these things?"

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days."

<sup>20</sup> Therefore the Jews said, "This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?"

<sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.

<sup>23</sup> While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. <sup>24</sup> Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Consider how you would divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title for each section.
4. Circle the names of places in this chapter. Find them on a map.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What would it have been like to experience these events as a disciple, a person involved in the story, or a person in the crowd?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is John's purpose in putting these stories about Jesus here in his book?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What does this chapter teach us about mankind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In what ways does this chapter challenge or strengthen your faith?

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## Things to Ponder:

Why might Jesus have performed His first miracle at a wedding? How did this sign reveal His glory?

What is the festival of Passover? Why might the presence of animals and money changers in the temple result in this response from Jesus?

What can we learn about God's "house" from Jesus' actions in the temple? (see also Psalm 69:9)

Who are "the Jews" in vs. 20, and what might their motivations be in their interactions with Jesus?

Compare the belief of the disciples in vs. 22 with the belief of the many in vs. 23. How does your own belief in Jesus compare with each description?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Read about the cultural practices of weddings in the ancient near east.
- Study the festival of Passover as described in Exodus 12 and Deuteronomy 14 & 16.
- Learn more about the symbolism of the temple and how it points to Jesus.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.
- Review Exodus 12 which describes the first Passover. Consider what it would have meant to Israel that Jesus was the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

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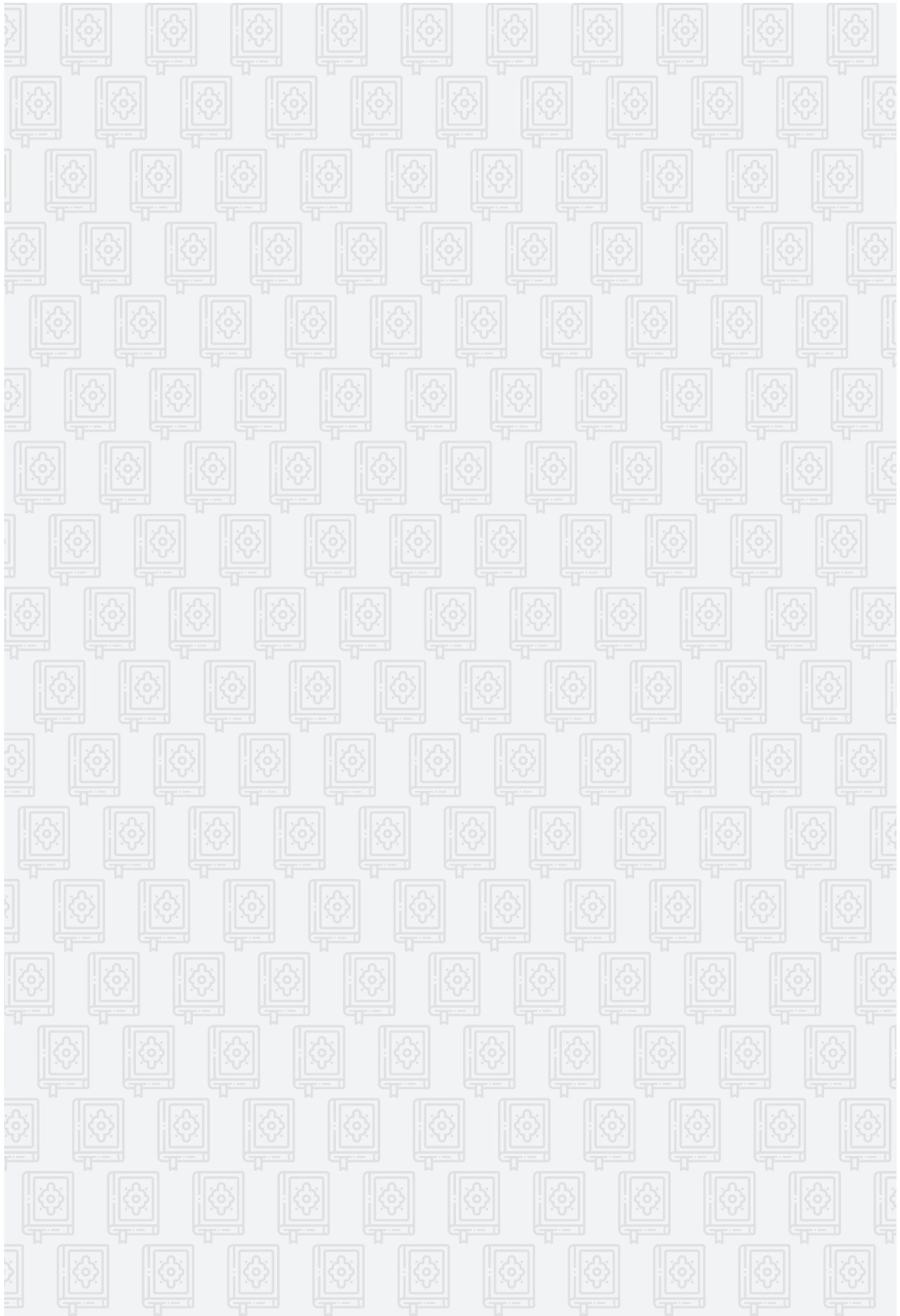
## As You Go:

This chapter reveals Jesus' power and authority to bring renewal and restoration. Ask God to reveal what areas of your life need to be renewed or restored. Confess these to Him and repent, determining what step you might take to be more aligned with Him.

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## Summing Up:

John 2 describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and the ways He began to reveal His divine power and authority. His first miracle was the changing of water into wine at a wedding in a village near His own hometown. At the request of His mother who knew His true identity, Jesus instructed the servants to put water in the jars used for ceremonial washing. The water used for ceremonial washing could only provide cleansing on the outside. By changing this water into wine, Jesus demonstrated His divine power to bring inner transformation and cleansing to those who believe in Him. Shortly after this wedding celebration, Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem for the celebration of Passover, which commemorates God delivering Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Passover was an annual celebration which required Jewish males aged 12 and older to travel to Jerusalem to offer specific sacrifices in the temple. The temple was a holy place to the Jewish people because it represented God's presence among them. When Jesus arrived, however, He experienced the chaos of people offering their services to exchange money so that those who traveled great distances could buy animals for the sacrifice. The place that was intended to represent God's holy presence had become a place of human greed. Jesus displayed His divine authority by driving the sellers and money changers out, referring to the temple as "my Father's house." When questioned by the religious leaders (called "the Jews" in vs. 18), Jesus again revealed his divine power and authority by revealing He would "raise this temple in three days," pointing forward to His own crucifixion and resurrection. Ultimately, Jesus' death and resurrection would bring about inner renewal and restoration for all who believe in Him.





## WEEK 4: **John 3**

<sup>1</sup> There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> This man came to him at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

<sup>10</sup> “Are you a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things?” Jesus replied.

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup> “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”

<sup>22</sup> After this, Jesus and his disciples went to the Judean countryside, where he spent time with them and baptized.

<sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized, <sup>24</sup> since John had not yet been thrown into prison.

<sup>25</sup> Then a dispute arose between John’s disciples and a Jew about purification.

<sup>26</sup> So they came to John and told him, “Rabbi, the one you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing—and everyone is going to him.”

<sup>27</sup> John responded, “No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I’ve been sent ahead of him.’ <sup>29</sup> He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom’s friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the groom’s voice. So this joy of mine is complete. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease.”

<sup>31</sup> The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms. The one who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He testifies to what he has seen and heard, and yet no one accepts his testimony. <sup>33</sup> The one who has accepted his testimony has affirmed that God is true. <sup>34</sup> For the one whom God sent speaks God’s words, since he gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands. <sup>36</sup> The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections, then write a title or summary for each.
4. Identify and define repeated words, phrases, or themes in this chapter.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. How would the original audience understand the reference to Moses in vs. 14?  
(See also Numbers 21:4-9)
5. How does this chapter support John’s purpose in writing this book? What is he trying to reveal about Jesus and salvation?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How do the truths of this text impact your understanding of belief and faith in Jesus?
7. What is an application you can make to your life from this chapter?

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## Things to Ponder:

Consider the exchange between Nicodemus and Jesus. What might Nicodemus' motivations be? Why might Jesus have brought up the idea of being "born again"?

How does Jesus contrast those who believe with those who do not?

What is your personal understanding of what it means to be saved?  
(See also Acts 4:12, Romans 10:13, and Ephesians 2:8-9)

Why might John the Baptist's disciples have been concerned about Jesus baptizing others?  
What can you learn from John's response to them?

How would you explain vs. 31-36 in your own words? Why do you think John included this here?

---

## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Learn about the Pharisees, their role in the ancient Near Eastern Jewish society, and their general response to Jesus.
- Compare Jesus' use of "light" and "darkness" with John's use of the same words in chapter 1.
- Read about Moses and the snake on the pole in Numbers 21, comparing this to Jesus.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

With the differences between light and darkness as described in this chapter in mind, reflect on and write about the difference Jesus has made in your life since putting your faith in Him. If you have not yet put your faith in Him, consider what is holding you back.

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## Summing Up:

Sometime after being questioned by the Jewish leaders at Passover, Nicodemus approached Jesus in the dark of night. A Pharisee, Nicodemus spent his life striving to live according to the standards of the law in order to earn the righteousness required to enter the Kingdom of God. But Jesus revealed to Nicodemus that this was not enough. Instead, anyone who wants to enter God's Kingdom must be "born again" by the Holy Spirit, who regenerates the heart of anyone who believes. Jesus then revealed His true purpose on earth by comparing Himself to the snake Moses raised on a pole in the wilderness. Just as Israel could be saved from their disease by looking to the snake on the pole, now all people are invited to be saved from their sin by looking to the Christ on the cross. Nicodemus, under the cover of darkness, met the Light of the World who had come to redeem those who would believe. John the Baptist understood the truth about Jesus being the Messiah. When John's disciples came to him, upset that some of John the Baptist's disciples were turning from him to follow Jesus, John the Baptist humbly acknowledged that his role was to be sent ahead of the Messiah to prepare the way. But now that the Messiah had begun His work in the world, John the Baptist stated, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John ended this portion of his book by noting Jesus' superiority to John the Baptist. Jesus came from heaven, He had knowledge of heaven and God's eternal plan, He spoke God's words and was given power and authority by God the Father. Jesus offers what John the Baptist could not – eternal life. John sums it up this way in verse 36: "The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him."



## WEEK 5: **John 4**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (though Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and went again to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> He had to travel through Samaria; <sup>5</sup> so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

"Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, <sup>8</sup> because his disciples had gone into town to buy food.

<sup>9</sup> "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'?" <sup>12</sup> You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock."

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. <sup>14</sup> But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> "Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here."

<sup>17</sup> "I don't have a husband," she answered.

"You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. <sup>18</sup> "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

<sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus told her, "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

<sup>26</sup> Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people,  
<sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”  
<sup>30</sup> They left the town and made their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> In the meantime the disciples kept urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

<sup>32</sup> But he said, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

<sup>33</sup> The disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?”

<sup>34</sup> “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work,” Jesus told them. <sup>35</sup> “Don’t you say, ‘There are still four more months, and then comes the harvest’? Listen to what I’m telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For in this case the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you didn’t labor for; others have labored, and you have benefited from their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, “He told me everything I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> Many more believed because of what he said. <sup>42</sup> And they told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

<sup>43</sup> After two days he left there for Galilee. <sup>44</sup> (Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) <sup>45</sup> When they entered Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him because they had seen everything he did in Jerusalem during the festival. For they also had gone to the festival.

<sup>46</sup> He went again to Cana of Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to him and pleaded with him to come down and heal his son, since he was about to die.

<sup>48</sup> Jesus told him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe.”

<sup>49</sup> “Sir,” the official said to him, “come down before my boy dies.”

<sup>50</sup> “Go,” Jesus told him, “your son will live.” The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed.

<sup>51</sup> While he was still going down, his servants met him saying that his boy was alive. <sup>52</sup> He asked them at what time he got better. “Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him,” they answered. <sup>53</sup> The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” So he himself believed, along with his whole household.

<sup>54</sup> Now this was also the second sign Jesus performed after he came from Judea to Galilee.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify and define repeated words, phrases, or themes in this chapter.
5. Circle the names of places in this chapter. Find them on a map.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. How do the stories in this chapter connect with John’s intent for writing this book?
5. What evidence does John present in this chapter to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who offers life to those who believe?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What does this chapter teach you about sin, salvation, or your response to Jesus?
7. What do you learn from the people in this chapter that you can apply to yourself?

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## Things to Ponder:

Why might the Samaritan woman have been surprised and the disciples amazed that Jesus talked with this woman at the well? What does this conversation reveal about Jesus?

How does their conversation reveal the deepest need of people? What might their conversation reveal about what Jesus offers us? (Consider all aspects of their conversation: living water, marriage, worship, and the Messiah).

How would you explain the conversation about food starting in vs. 31?  
What is Jesus trying to communicate to His disciples?

What were the results of the Samaritan woman's conversation with Jesus? How might we apply this to our own lives and interactions with others?

What do you notice about the official's interaction with Jesus? What does this teach you about faith in Jesus and how He answers prayer?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Learn about the Samaritans and their conflict with the Jews.
- Compare Jesus' conversations with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.
- Read and compare a few other Bible passages that talk about "living water."
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Jesus offers true satisfaction for our deepest needs. Reflect on ways that Jesus has met you in your sin or challenging circumstances. How did He meet your deepest need in those situations? How might you use these experiences to point others to Him?

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## Summing Up:

Leaving Judea in order to avoid conflict with the Pharisees, Jesus traveled back to Galilee by way of Samaria. Verse 4 tells us Jesus “had” to travel through Samaria, though it was typical for the Jews to travel around Samaria due to their longstanding conflict. Jesus, however, had to travel through Samaria so that he could meet with the Samaritan woman at the well. During their exchange, Jesus spoke hard truth with gentle compassion as He offered to meet the woman’s deepest need with “living water.” The woman, realizing Jesus knew more about her life than an ordinary stranger should, recognized Him as the Messiah and ran to share this news with the people of her town. While she was gone, the disciples offered Jesus food. But Jesus told them His “food” was doing His Father’s will by reaping a harvest of people who would believe in Him. Just as Jesus finished talking about sowing and reaping a harvest for eternal life, many of the Samaritan people who heard the woman’s story came to Jesus expressing their belief in Him. This “harvest” of Samaritans was a practical example of the work Jesus was inviting His disciples to – the deeply satisfying work of inviting people to believe in Jesus and to receive eternal life. Once in Galilee, Jesus returned to Cana, where He performed the first sign of turning water into wine, revealing Himself as the Son of God and the Messiah. He met a royal official whose son was dying, and that official asked Jesus to come with him to heal his son. Instead, Jesus simply told the official his son would live, and the man returned home to his son who had been healed at the same time Jesus said he would live. John 4 shows us that Jesus offers true and deep satisfaction to those who receive His “living water,” who participate in bringing others to Jesus, and who trust His word.



## WEEK 6: **John 5**

<sup>1</sup> After this, a Jewish festival took place, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> By the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool, called Bethesda in Aramaic, which has five colonnades. <sup>3</sup> Within these lay a large number of the disabled—blind, lame, and paralyzed.

<sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and realized he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to get well?”

<sup>7</sup> “Sir,” the disabled man answered, “I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I’m coming, someone goes down ahead of me.”

<sup>8</sup> “Get up,” Jesus told him, “pick up your mat and walk.” <sup>9</sup> Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk.

Now that day was the Sabbath, <sup>10</sup> and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath. The law prohibits you from picking up your mat.”

<sup>11</sup> He replied, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

<sup>12</sup> “Who is this man who told you, ‘Pick up your mat and walk?’” they asked. <sup>13</sup> But the man who was healed did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

<sup>14</sup> After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.” <sup>15</sup> The man went and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, the Jews began persecuting Jesus because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus responded to them, “My Father is still working, and I am working also.” <sup>18</sup> This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill him: Not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing, and he will show him greater works than these so that you will be amazed. <sup>21</sup> And just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom he wants. <sup>22</sup> The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> so that all people may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

<sup>24</sup> “Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.

<sup>25</sup> “Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself.

<sup>27</sup> And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.

<sup>30</sup> “I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

<sup>31</sup> “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup> There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony he gives about me is true. <sup>33</sup> You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. <sup>34</sup> I don’t receive human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup> John was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

<sup>36</sup> “But I have a greater testimony than John’s because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup> The Father who sent me has himself testified about me. You have not heard his voice at any time, and you haven’t seen his form. <sup>38</sup> You don’t have his word residing in you, because you don’t believe the one he sent. <sup>39</sup> You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. <sup>40</sup> But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

<sup>41</sup> “I do not accept glory from people, <sup>42</sup> but I know you—that you have no love for God within you. <sup>43</sup> I have come in my Father’s name, and yet you don’t accept me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. <sup>44</sup> How can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don’t seek the glory that comes from the only God? <sup>45</sup> Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup> For if you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> But if you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe my words?”

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. How would those present at this event or John’s original audience hear and understand Jesus’ actions and words in light of their culture and the law?
5. What might John have wanted to convey to his audience in this chapter?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What does this chapter teach you about Jesus?
7. How do these truths about Jesus impact your response to Him?

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## Things to Ponder:

How did Jesus' question and actions at the pool and in the temple meet the man's needs? What did Jesus' commands require of the man?

How do lingering struggles and seemingly hopeless circumstances cause us to doubt God's love for us? What can you apply from this chapter to combat this thinking?

What do you learn from this chapter about the work of the Father and the Son? In what ways does God's work continue every day?

List some of the aspects of Jesus' divine authority you find in this chapter. How does knowing these things about Jesus impact your response to Him?

Why do you think it is important for us to know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Notice that verse 3 is only included as a footnote. Learn why some verses in the Bible are not included in the text but are inserted as footnotes. Consider what this teaches you about the way the Bible has been preserved over time and its trustworthiness.
- Compare Jesus' second sign in John 4:46-54 with His third sign in John 5:1-16.
- Consider more carefully what Jesus meant by His reference to Moses in John 5:45-47.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Consider what you learn in this chapter about God the Father and God the Son. Acknowledge these attributes and truths by writing a prayer of praise to God for who He is and confessing the ways you resist His rightful authority in your life.

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## Summing Up:

When Jesus returned to Jerusalem for a festival, He encountered a man at the Pool of Bethesda, a place where people suffering from disease and disability congregated in the hopes of being healed. This man had been lame for 38 years, but at Jesus' command he took a risk – he got up, took up his mat by himself, and walked. This third sign resulted in persecution from the Jewish leaders who valued adherence to the law over the miraculous recovery of the man. In response, Jesus responded with claims of His position as Son of God. Jesus defended this Sabbath healing by stating His equality with God who is sovereign over all things, including the Sabbath. Jesus acknowledged that He and the Father were unified in purpose as they give life and render judgment. Just as the Father is worthy of honor, so also is Jesus worthy of honor as the Son of God. In a pointed statement to the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus states, “Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him” (vs. 23). Jesus also identifies witnesses to His divine power and authority: John the Baptist who testified about Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29); the miracles and signs Jesus had performed; God the Father Himself who spoke these words from heaven at Jesus' baptism, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased” (Matthew 3:17); and the Old Testament Scriptures which testify about Him. The evidence of Jesus' equality with God ought to bring us to humility and result in obedience. However, Jesus ends by addressing the hypocrisy of these Jewish leaders who claimed to love God and obey His law, yet refused to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah.



## WEEK 7: **John 6**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). <sup>2</sup> A huge crowd was following him because they saw the signs that he was performing by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

<sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. <sup>5</sup> So when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, “Where will we buy bread so that these people can eat?” <sup>6</sup> He asked this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn’t be enough for each of them to have a little.”

<sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> “There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.”

There was plenty of grass in that place; so they sat down. The men numbered about five thousand. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks he distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted.

<sup>12</sup> When they were full, he told his disciples, “Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.” <sup>13</sup> So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, “This truly is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

<sup>15</sup> Therefore, when Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. Darkness had already set in, but Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> A high wind arose, and the sea began to churn. <sup>19</sup> After they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea. He was coming near the boat, and they were afraid. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, “It is I. Don’t be afraid.” <sup>21</sup> Then they were willing to take him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading.

<sup>22</sup> The next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw there had been only one boat. They also saw that Jesus had not boarded the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone off alone. <sup>23</sup> Some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set his seal of approval on him.”

<sup>28</sup> “What can we do to perform the works of God?” they asked.

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup> “What sign, then, are you going to do so that we may see and believe you?” they asked. “What are you going to perform? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> Then they said, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup> “I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again. <sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you’ve seen me, and yet you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

<sup>41</sup> Therefore the Jews started grumbling about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup> They were saying, “Isn’t this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets: And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me—<sup>46</sup> not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father.

<sup>47</sup> “Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

<sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup> The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day, <sup>55</sup> because my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will

live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the manna your ancestors ate—and they died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”

<sup>59</sup> He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> Therefore, when many of his disciples heard this, they said, “This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?”

<sup>61</sup> Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to observe the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> But there are some among you who don’t believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning those who did not believe and the one who would betray him.)

<sup>65</sup> He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> From that moment many of his disciples turned back and no longer accompanied him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the Twelve, “You don’t want to go away too, do you?”

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

<sup>70</sup> Jesus replied to them, “Didn’t I choose you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.” <sup>71</sup> He was referring to Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, one of the Twelve, because he was going to betray him.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.
5. Circle the names of places in this chapter. Find them on a map.



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## Things to Ponder:

Consider Jesus' response to the crowd, the disciples' response to Jesus, and the crowd's response to the miracle. What do you notice? What can you learn from them?

What is your response to Jesus' fifth sign, walking on water?

Compare Jesus' words about work with the crowd's understanding of work.  
What must we believe about Jesus in order to receive the food that lasts for eternity?

In your own words, summarize Jesus' teaching about the bread of life.

What in this chapter gives believers assurance for eternity?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Compare the stories in this chapter with the same stories as found in Matthew 14.
- Consider the link between the manna in the wilderness and Jesus as the bread of life.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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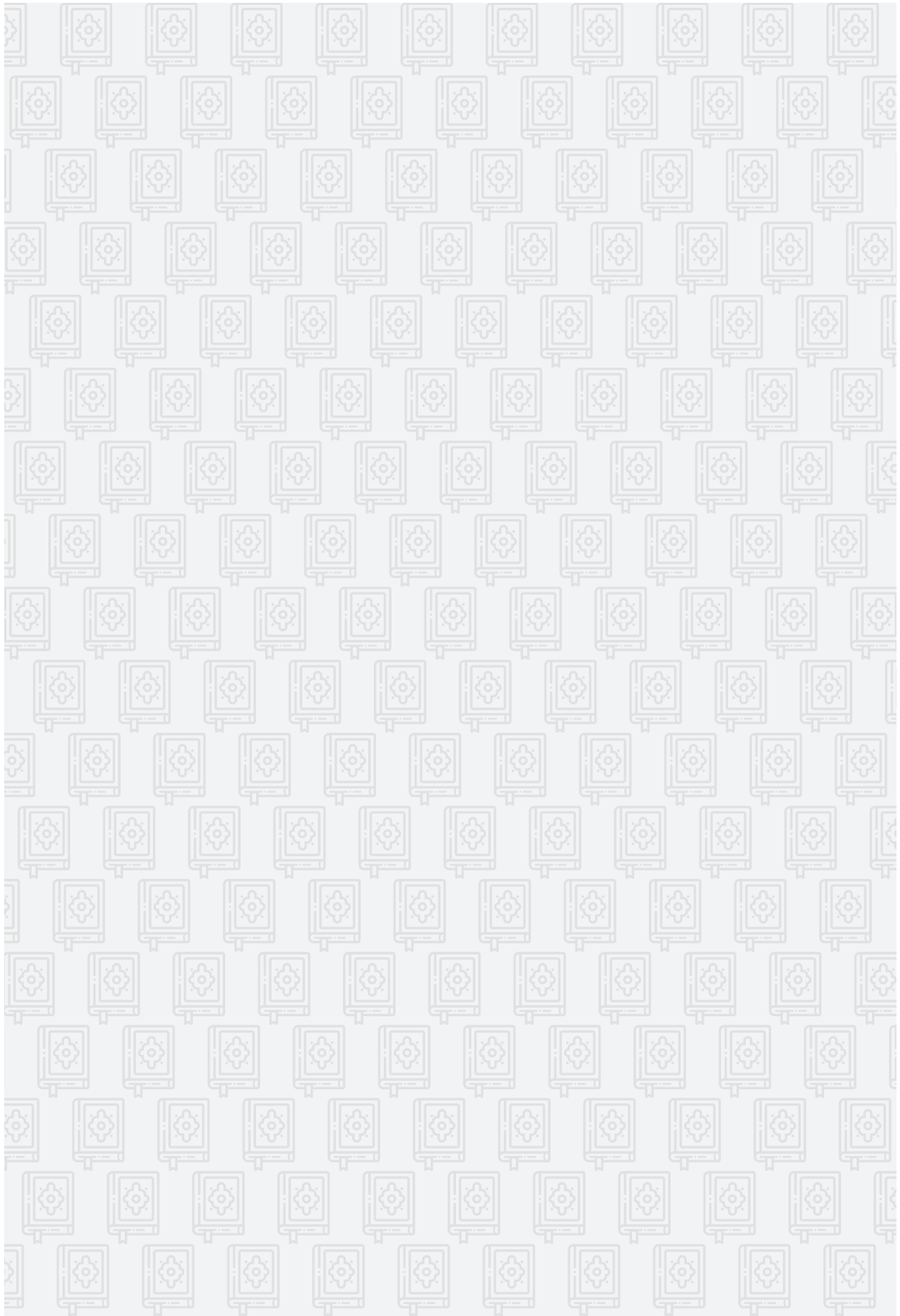
## As You Go:

Consider what you have learned in this chapter about trusting Jesus and His power to provide. Apply what you have learned to a challenging situation you face today, and record what the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

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## Summing Up:

The Passover Feast was upon Jesus again as John spends this portion highlighting Jesus as the 'Bread of Life.' This section begins with Jesus performing a miracle where he takes a willing boy's lunch and turns his scraps into a feast for the multitudes. Although the disciples were caught up in the practical, the humble offering of a child was used by God to momentarily satiate the people's appetites. Jesus, in His divinity, is aware of how this miracle will be manipulated into making Him king and he flees from the crowds. John shifts the story to Jesus' miraculous power over the wind and waves as he makes His way onto the disciple's boat as they cross the Sea of Galilee. What we miss in the English translation is awe-inspiring in the Greek. In vs. 20, Jesus uses the same phrase given to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14), declaring not only His Lordship but His nearness to the people who had been longing to be rescued. With Passover in their minds, the people would have been remembering God's sovereign daily provision of manna in the wilderness. They were to collect this bread daily and be sustained on it through their dutiful adherence in order to have their appetites met. Jesus continues in His metaphor that He is in fact the "bread that has come down from heaven" in order to eternally satisfy their deepest longings. What seems literal at first, as a feasting on Jesus' flesh, is made clear in verse 63 when Jesus says it is in fact the Spirit that will give life and open the gateway of intimacy with God. It is evident that this is a difficult teaching, yet Peter declares that there is no one else to whom he would give his life. Jesus ultimately declares that they have been looking to have their physical needs met while under the oppressive hands of the Roman army, but He has come to give them food that never spoils along with eternal satisfaction that will never diminish or fade. John reminds us that Jesus Christ is the only one who can truly satisfy the deepest desires of our soul, and He will daily replenish our weary spirits as we look to Him and say "to whom shall I go?" He is the Holy One who holds our life in His hands and promises to replenish us abundantly as we turn to Him.





## WEEK 8: **John 7**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus traveled in Galilee, since he did not want to travel in Judea because the Jews were trying to kill him. <sup>2</sup> The Jewish Festival of Shelters was near. <sup>3</sup> So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples can see your works that you are doing. <sup>4</sup> For no one does anything in secret while he’s seeking public recognition. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” <sup>5</sup> (For not even his brothers believed in him.)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told them, “My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always at hand. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it does hate me because I testify about it—that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> Go up to the festival yourselves. I’m not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” <sup>9</sup> After he had said these things, he stayed in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup> After his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not openly but secretly. <sup>11</sup> The Jews were looking for him at the festival and saying, “Where is he?” <sup>12</sup> And there was a lot of murmuring about him among the crowds. Some were saying, “He’s a good man.” Others were saying, “No, on the contrary, he’s deceiving the people.” <sup>13</sup> Still, nobody was talking publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

<sup>14</sup> When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. <sup>15</sup> Then the Jews were amazed and said, “How is this man so learned, since he hasn’t been trained?”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered them, “My teaching isn’t mine but is from the one who sent me. <sup>17</sup> If anyone wants to do his will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. <sup>18</sup> The one who speaks on his own seeks his own glory; but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him. <sup>19</sup> Didn’t Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”

<sup>20</sup> “You have a demon!” the crowd responded. “Who is trying to kill you?”

<sup>21</sup> “I performed one work, and you are all amazed,” Jesus answered. <sup>22</sup> “This is why Moses has given you circumcision —not that it comes from Moses but from the fathers —and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses won’t be broken, are you angry at me because I made a man entirely well on the Sabbath? <sup>24</sup> Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment.”

<sup>25</sup> Some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? <sup>26</sup> Yet, look, he’s speaking publicly and they’re saying nothing to him. Can it be true that the authorities know he is the Messiah? <sup>27</sup> But we know where this man is from. When the Messiah comes, nobody will know where he is from.”

<sup>28</sup> As he was teaching in the temple, Jesus cried out, “You know me and you know where I am from. Yet I have not come on my own, but the one who sent me is true.

You don't know him;<sup>29</sup> I know him because I am from him, and he sent me."

<sup>30</sup> Then they tried to seize him. Yet no one laid a hand on him because his hour had not yet come. <sup>31</sup> However, many from the crowd believed in him and said, "When the Messiah comes, he won't perform more signs than this man has done, will he?" <sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things about him, and so the chief priests and the Pharisees sent servants to arrest him.

<sup>33</sup> Then Jesus said, "I am only with you for a short time. Then I'm going to the one who sent me. <sup>34</sup> You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."

<sup>35</sup> Then the Jews said to one another, "Where does he intend to go that we won't find him? He doesn't intend to go to the Jewish people dispersed among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, does he? <sup>36</sup> What is this remark he made: 'You will look for me, and you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come?'"

<sup>37</sup> On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him." <sup>39</sup> He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

<sup>40</sup> When some from the crowd heard these words, they said, "This truly is the Prophet." <sup>41</sup> Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some said, "Surely the Messiah doesn't come from Galilee, does he? <sup>42</sup> Doesn't the Scripture say that the Messiah comes from David's offspring and from the town of Bethlehem, where David lived?" <sup>43</sup> So the crowd was divided because of him. <sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to seize him, but no one laid hands on him.

<sup>45</sup> Then the servants came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him?"

<sup>46</sup> The servants answered, "No man ever spoke like this!"

<sup>47</sup> Then the Pharisees responded to them, "Are you fooled too? <sup>48</sup> Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup> But this crowd, which doesn't know the law, is accursed."

<sup>50</sup> Nicodemus—the one who came to him previously and who was one of them—said to them, <sup>51</sup> "Our law doesn't judge a man before it hears from him and knows what he's doing, does it?"

<sup>52</sup> "You aren't from Galilee too, are you?" they replied. "Investigate and you will see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

**[The earliest manuscripts do not include 7:53–8:11.]**

[<sup>53</sup> Then each one went to his house.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter. Also notice any words or phrases repeated in this chapter from previous chapters.
5. Circle the names of places in this chapter. Find them on a map.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. How does this chapter support John’s purpose in writing this book?  
What does this chapter reveal about Jesus’ true identity?
5. In light of the responses to Jesus in this chapter, what might have contributed to the confusion or lack of belief in Jesus’ true identity as Messiah? What might this teach us about people?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. In what ways do the various responses of the people to Jesus in this chapter remind you of peoples’ responses to Jesus today (both believers and unbelievers)? What can you apply from this to your own life?
7. Which verse or words from Jesus in this chapter is most impactful to you?

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## Things to Ponder:

What do you think Jesus means when He says, “My time has not yet come”?  
(also consider verse 30)

List some of the truths Jesus reveals about Himself in this chapter.

What is Jesus’ point when He talks about circumcision, the Sabbath,  
and righteous judgment in verses 21-24?

What do you think Jesus meant in verses 33-34? Why might He have chosen to speak in ways  
that were not completely clear to the people and the disciples?

What do you learn about “living water” in this chapter?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Look back in John to compile a greater understanding of “living water” as revealed thus far in the book.
- Do a character study about Nicodemus to see what else you can learn about his life.
- Learn about the Festival of Shelters, described in verse 2.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

When Jesus taught in the temple and spoke with the people, He revealed truth about Himself and His Father, even in the midst of controversy, confusion, and doubt. Reflect on an issue in your own life that is controversial, confusing, or where you have doubt. What truth in God's Word might apply to this situation, bringing you peace, clarity, and security in Jesus?

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## Summing Up:

In chapter seven we see the rising tension around Jesus as He enters the final six months of his life and ministry. Jesus makes the claim again that his time has not yet come, but undoubtedly has His crucifixion in the forefront of His mind. He sends His brothers ahead of Him into Jerusalem to celebrate the upcoming festival. During the Feast of Tabernacles (Feast of Booths) thousands of Jews would gather to celebrate the bountiful harvest provided by God, while also remembering His provision over them during Israel's desert wanderings under the leadership of Moses. This was the last festival of the Jewish calendar and was a joyous occasion. Leading a parade of people, the priest would walk to the Pool of Siloam and fill his golden pitcher with its "living water." He would then proceed to pour it over the altar prior to the sacrifice offerings. John then draws his audience back to the first chapter, where we are told that Jesus is God and came to "tabernacle" among His people (John 1:14). Verse 37 highlights the importance of this ceremony and the significance of Jesus' claim. As the crowds cried out "Hosanna," meaning "Please, Lord save us!" Jesus stands up and declares that He is the God who saves and is dwelling among them. John explains that the "living water" is connected to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension, declaring that God not only promises to dwell among His people but within them. Jesus reminds the people that even though He may depart to where they cannot go, God will surely be with them, continually offering His eternal presence and provision in a new and intimate way.



## WEEK 9: John 8

<sup>1</sup> But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he went to the temple again, and all the people were coming to him. He sat down and began to teach them.

<sup>3</sup> Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. <sup>4</sup> “Teacher,” they said to him, “this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They asked this to trap him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse him.

Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, “The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> Then he stooped down again and continued writing on the ground. <sup>9</sup> When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only he was left, with the woman in the center. <sup>10</sup> When Jesus stood up, he said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

<sup>11</sup> “No one, Lord,” she answered.

“Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus. “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”]

<sup>12</sup> Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

<sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to him, “You are testifying about yourself. Your testimony is not valid.”

<sup>14</sup> “Even if I testify about myself,” Jesus replied, “my testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I’m going. But you don’t know where I come from or where I’m going. <sup>15</sup> You judge by human standards. I judge no one. <sup>16</sup> And if I do judge, my judgment is true, because it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. <sup>17</sup> Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. <sup>18</sup> I am the one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me.”

<sup>19</sup> Then they asked him, “Where is your Father?”

“You know neither me nor my Father,” Jesus answered. “If you knew me, you would also know my Father.” <sup>20</sup> He spoke these words by the treasury, while teaching in the temple. But no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

<sup>21</sup> Then he said to them again, “I’m going away; you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I’m going, you cannot come.”

<sup>22</sup> So the Jews said again, “He won’t kill himself, will he, since he says, ‘Where I’m going, you cannot come?’”

<sup>23</sup> “You are from below,” he told them, “I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.”

<sup>25</sup> “Who are you?” they questioned.

“Exactly what I’ve been telling you from the very beginning,” Jesus told them.  
<sup>26</sup> “I have many things to say and to judge about you, but the one who sent me is true, and what I have heard from him—these things I tell the world.”

<sup>27</sup> They did not know he was speaking to them about the Father. <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own. But just as the Father taught me, I say these things. <sup>29</sup> The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.”

<sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. <sup>32</sup> You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

<sup>33</sup> “We are descendants of Abraham,” they answered him, “and we have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will become free?’”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus responded, “Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free. <sup>37</sup> I know you are descendants of Abraham, but you are trying to kill me because my word has no place among you. <sup>38</sup> I speak what I have seen in the presence of the Father; so then, you do what you have heard from your father.”

<sup>39</sup> “Our father is Abraham,” they replied.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” Jesus told them, “you would do what Abraham did. <sup>40</sup> But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. <sup>41</sup> You’re doing what your father does.”

“We weren’t born of sexual immorality,” they said. “We have one Father—God.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn’t come on my own, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why don’t you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to my word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Who among you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? <sup>47</sup> The one who is from God listens to God’s words. This is why you don’t listen, because you are not from God.”

<sup>48</sup> The Jews responded to him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you’re a Samaritan and have a demon?”

<sup>49</sup> “I do not have a demon,” Jesus answered. “On the contrary, I honor my Father and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and judges. <sup>51</sup> Truly I tell you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

<sup>52</sup> Then the Jews said, “Now we know you have a demon. Abraham died and so did the prophets. You say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham who died? And the prophets died. Who do you claim to be?”

<sup>54</sup> “If I glorify myself,” Jesus answered, “my glory is nothing. My Father—about whom you say, ‘He is our God’—he is the one who glorifies me. <sup>55</sup> You do not know him, but I know him. If I were to say I don’t know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.”

<sup>57</sup> The Jews replied, “You aren’t fifty years old yet, and you’ve seen Abraham?”

<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.”

<sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter, including ones you recognize from past lessons.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What does this chapter reveal about the differences between Jesus and mankind?
5. How do these revelations contribute to John’s purpose for writing this book?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What stands out to you about Jesus’ character in this chapter and why is this meaningful to you?
7. What from this chapter might you use to help another person understand who Jesus is or the salvation He offers?

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## Things to Ponder:

Consider the story of the woman caught in adultery in light of Leviticus 20:10.  
What do you learn? What did Jesus offer to this woman?

What are some proofs Jesus offers in verses 13-18 that His testimony is true?

How do verses 21-28 reveal the answer to the Pharisees' question, Who are you?

Describe in your own words how Jesus challenged the Pharisees who stated Abraham was their father. What is Jesus saying?

What does Jesus mean in verse 51? What does it mean to keep Jesus' word?

How does the freedom Jesus offers in verse 32 relate to both the woman caught in adultery and the Pharisees who challenged Jesus? How does this freedom relate to you?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Learn more about the Jewish religious leaders and reasons they opposed Jesus.
- Study other passages in which God refers to Himself as "I Am" (see verse 58).
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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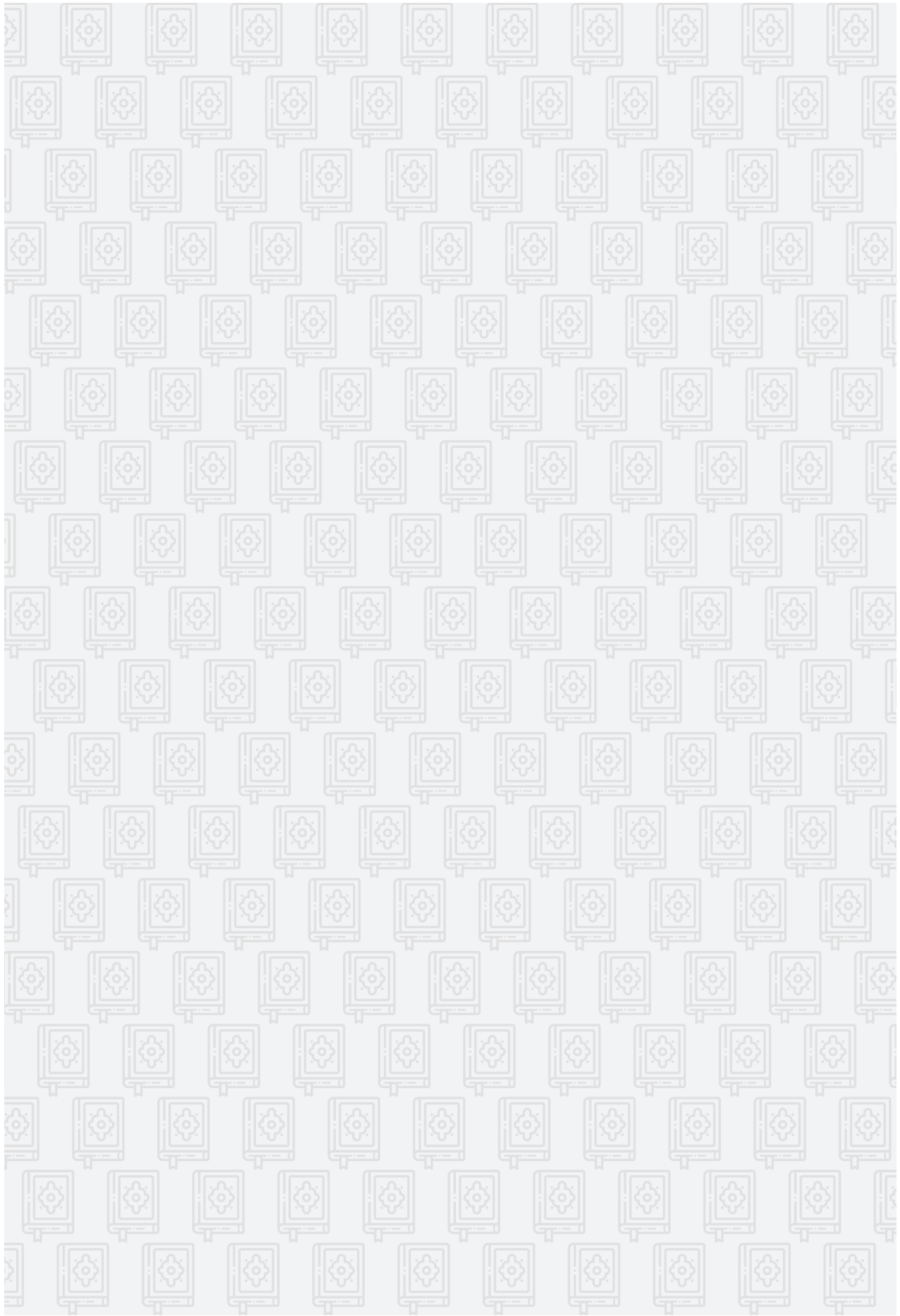
## As You Go:

Consider the freedom you have found through belief in Jesus Christ. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the transformation He has brought. Ask Him to bring His light into the places of your life that still need His transforming power.

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## Summing Up:

The teachers and Pharisees set a trap for Jesus while simultaneously breaking the Mosaic covenant by failing to bring forward the man who was also caught in adultery (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). Jesus' commitment to truth, forgiveness, and grace are on full display in the first 11 verses of chapter 8. He does not condone the sin of the accused, yet shows how each of us deserve the penalty of sin and do not have a leg to stand on when it comes to judgment of others. The theme of righteous judgment weaves its way through the chapter, displaying that no one will be found guilty or left dead in their sins if they turn to Christ and believe He is God. Jesus expands their worldly vision to eternal perspective, telling them they will indeed be set free under His care. Verse 12 is a continuation of the conversation from Chapter 7 during the Feast of Tabernacles. Giant menorahs that reached 75 feet high would be lit in the Temple courts for the entire city to behold. The pillar of fire that led the Israelites in the wilderness would be in their minds as they recalled their freedom from slavery in Egypt. This chapter deeply pulls on threads from the Old Testament and Israel's birth story as they became the people of God. Jesus speaks about slavery, freedom, and being legitimate children of God. He finishes by declaring Himself as the great "I am," which is the same phrase used with Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 4. In the final months of His life, Jesus is revealing His divinity and explaining that only He can offer the true freedom they have been longing for.





## WEEK 10: **John 9**

<sup>1</sup> As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit begging?” <sup>9</sup> Some said, “He’s the one.” Others were saying, “No, but he looks like him.”

He kept saying, “I’m the one.”

<sup>10</sup> So they asked him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

<sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So when I went and washed I received my sight.”

<sup>12</sup> “Where is he?” they asked.

“I don’t know,” he said.

<sup>13</sup> They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> The day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees asked him again how he received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” he told them. “I washed and I can see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he doesn’t keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a sinful man perform such signs?” And there was a division among them.

<sup>17</sup> Again they asked the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

“He’s a prophet,” he said.

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe this about him—that he was blind and received sight—until they summoned the parents of the one who had received his sight.

<sup>19</sup> They asked them, “Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

<sup>20</sup> “We know this is our son and that he was born blind,” his parents answered.

<sup>21</sup> “But we don’t know how he now sees, and we don’t know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he’s of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews, since the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed him as the Messiah, he would be banned from the synagogue.

<sup>23</sup> This is why his parents said, “He’s of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> So a second time they summoned the man who had been blind and told him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”

<sup>25</sup> He answered, “Whether or not he’s a sinner, I don’t know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!”

<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

<sup>27</sup> “I already told you,” he said, “and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don’t want to become his disciples too, do you?”

<sup>28</sup> They ridiculed him: “You’re that man’s disciple, but we’re Moses’s disciples. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses. But this man—we don’t know where he’s from.”

<sup>30</sup> “This is an amazing thing!” the man told them. “You don’t know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Throughout history no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.”

<sup>34</sup> “You were born entirely in sin,” they replied, “and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

<sup>36</sup> “Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?” he asked.

<sup>37</sup> Jesus answered, “You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

<sup>38</sup> “I believe, Lord!” he said, and he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.”

<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things and asked him, “We aren’t blind too, are we?”

<sup>41</sup> “If you were blind,” Jesus told them, “you wouldn’t have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What is the main idea of this chapter, and how does it relate to John’s purpose?
5. How might John be comparing and contrasting the various characters in this chapter?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How does this chapter help you understand salvation in new or different ways?
7. What do you learn about Jesus from this chapter that increases your love for Him?

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## Things to Ponder:

How did Jesus correct the disciples' wrong thinking? How might we also sometimes fall into wrong thinking related to sin and suffering?

What do you notice about the healed man's faith throughout this chapter? How does this challenge or encourage you in your own faith?

Compare the Pharisees' reasons Jesus could not be from God with the healed man's reasons why Jesus must be from God. What do you notice?

What does Jesus mean in verse 35 when He refers to "the Son of Man"?  
(see Daniel 7:13-14 for some help)

Try to imagine what it might be like to receive physical sight as an adult, having never seen at all. Compare this with what it is like for those who do not believe in Jesus to receive spiritual sight when they turn to Him in belief.

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Consider more deeply what life would have been like for a person born blind in this culture and how this might impact their ability to participate in Jewish life or customs.
- Learn more about Jesus as the "Son of Man."
- Explain in your own words what Jesus means in verses 39-41.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

God is the Giver of spiritual sight, and His desire is that we share what we see about Him with others. Write a prayer thanking God for the spiritual sight He has given you, confessing what holds you back from openly sharing it with others, and asking for His guidance as you seek to point others to Jesus.

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## Summing Up:

On the Sabbath, Jesus performs a miracle, restoring physical sight to a blind man by gathering dust from the ground and having him wash in the Pool of Siloam. Jesus' disciples ask the question, "whose sin caused this blindness," which is consistent with the common 1st century philosophical belief that negative outcomes were the result of "karma". Jesus points that this miracle was performed in order to bring glory to God. This thread is woven through the chapter as Jesus makes connections between not only physical blindness but spiritual blindness as well. As the Pharisees continue to press the man whose sight was restored, his parents are brought into the conversation. Verse 22 lets the audience in on the rising tension that Jesus' ministry has caused, showing how his followers are now being restricted from the synagogues, their only place of worship. The Pharisees are so caught up in their own rules and regulations that they have lost sight of the spirit of the Law. Jesus warns them of their own pride and their spiritual blindness to the Son of Man standing before them. The man who was healed has been radically changed and humbles himself before Jesus by calling Him Lord and worshiping Him. John uses this story and miracle to draw us into our own tendencies of self reliance and blindness to our need for a Savior. Jesus Christ has come to heal and forgive those who trust Him and embolden us to share this good news unashamedly. God is both merciful and just. We should not remain complacent in our sin, idly walking in faith. We can turn to God continually, fixing our eyes on Him as He renews our sight daily and transforms us into the image of Christ.



## WEEK 11:

# John 10

<sup>1</sup> “Truly I tell you, anyone who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don’t know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus gave them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said again, “Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn’t care about the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

<sup>19</sup> Again the Jews were divided because of these words. <sup>20</sup> Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and he’s crazy. Why do you listen to him?” <sup>21</sup> Others were saying, “These aren’t the words of someone who is demon-possessed. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

<sup>22</sup> Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem, and it was winter. <sup>23</sup> Jesus was walking in the temple in Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews surrounded him and asked, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

<sup>25</sup> “I did tell you and you don’t believe,” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in my Father’s name testify about me. <sup>26</sup> But you don’t believe because you are not of my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”

<sup>31</sup> Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone him.

<sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these works are you stoning me?”

<sup>33</sup> “We aren’t stoning you for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because you—being a man—make yourself God.”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Isn’t it written in your law, I said, you are gods? <sup>35</sup> If he called those to whom the word of God came ‘gods’—and the Scripture cannot be broken— <sup>36</sup> do you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the one the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I am the Son of God? <sup>37</sup> If I am not doing my Father’s works, don’t believe me. <sup>38</sup> But if I am doing them and you don’t believe me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father.” <sup>39</sup> Then they were trying again to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

<sup>40</sup> So he departed again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. <sup>41</sup> Many came to him and said, “John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true.” <sup>42</sup> And many believed in him there.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What might John want the original audience to understand from this chapter?
5. How does this chapter impact your understanding of salvation?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What from this chapter is particularly encouraging or challenging to you?
7. How does this chapter impact your relationship with Jesus?

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## Things to Ponder:

Why might Jesus have continued his conversation with the Pharisees in Chapter 9 with this analogy of thieves and shepherds?

Describe what Jesus says about Himself as the Good Shepherd.  
How have you experienced Jesus as your Good Shepherd?

What do you learn about sheep who follow the Good Shepherd?  
What promises does Jesus make to those who follow Him?

Consider what you think Jesus meant in verses 25-30.  
What encouragement do you find in these verses?

Explain in your own words what Jesus might have meant in verses 34-39.  
(see also Psalm 82:6). How do His words further reveal His connection with the Father?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Compare Psalm 23 with what this chapter teaches about true shepherds.
- Do a study on sheep and shepherds to locate other passages using these terms.
- Look back through the study of John we have completed so far to compare how various people and groups responded to Jesus as He revealed Himself as Messiah.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Respond to Jesus' teaching about Himself as the Good Shepherd by prayerfully reading Psalm 23. Record your thoughts here as you reflect on what your Good Shepherd offers to you.

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## Summing Up:

In a continued conversation from Chapter 9, Jesus speaks of Himself as a shepherd lovingly looking over His sheep who know Him by his voice. This imagery is pulled from the Old Testament, where God is a shepherd over Israel and appoints intermediary shepherds to lead His people. The prophets use this same imagery to speak about Israel during their exile, when they wandered aimlessly without leadership or provision due to their own obstinance. Jesus uses this prevalent imagery to declare that He is the long-awaited Messiah and offers abundant life to the sheep who are unswayed by thieves and strangers seeking to lull His people away from His caring hand. Verse 16 displays God's redemptive plan that has been in motion from the beginning: Gentiles and Jews as one cohesive flock being guided by the sacrificial shepherd. In Chapter 10, the Jews are still longing for divine leadership and self governance as they sit under the oppressive rule of Rome. The Feast of Dedication (celebrated in verse 22) in particular was a remembrance of a successful Jewish revolt where the Temple was reclaimed, cleansed, and reestablished under Jewish leadership. What would seem as a large step in the direction of salvation for the Jews becomes undermined by power hungry leaders once again. Jesus uses this festival to speak about true leadership showing up in the form of someone willing to lay themselves down for the sake of His people. This is the final "I am" statement that is offered to the people in a public setting. Jesus declares that even though the people have been led astray, there is still the offer of eternal life that will never be taken from them. There will be present dangers and sufferings in this life, yet Jesus offers peace and security amidst those trials and victory in the life to come. Acclimate yourself to Jesus' voice as you draw near to the Good Shepherd who lovingly laid down His life and will never abandon you.



## WEEK 12:

# John 11

<sup>1</sup> Now a man was sick—Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to him: “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard it, he said, “This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after that, he said to the disciples, “Let’s go to Judea again.”

<sup>8</sup> “Rabbi,” the disciples told him, “just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you’re going there again?”

<sup>9</sup> “Aren’t there twelve hours in a day?” Jesus answered. “If anyone walks during the day, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him.”

<sup>11</sup> He said this, and then he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I’m on my way to wake him up.”

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well.”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> So Jesus then told them plainly, “Lazarus has died. <sup>15</sup> I’m glad for you that I wasn’t there so that you may believe. But let’s go to him.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (called “Twin”) said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go too so that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away). <sup>19</sup> Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

<sup>20</sup> As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup> Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. <sup>22</sup> Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”

<sup>23</sup> “Your brother will rise again,” Jesus told her.

<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”

<sup>29</sup> As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him.

<sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up

quickly and went out. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there.

<sup>32</sup> As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died!”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you put him?” he asked.

“Lord,” they told him, “come and see.”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Couldn’t he who opened the blind man’s eyes also have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> “Remove the stone,” Jesus said.

Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days.”

<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup> So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. <sup>42</sup> I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what he did believed in him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

<sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and were saying, “What are we going to do since this man is doing many signs? <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

<sup>49</sup> One of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! <sup>50</sup> You’re not considering that it is to your advantage that one man should die for the people rather than the whole nation perish.” <sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to unite the scattered children of God. <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they plotted to kill him.

<sup>54</sup> Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews but departed from there to the countryside near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and he stayed there with the disciples.

<sup>55</sup> Now the Jewish Passover was near, and many went up to Jerusalem from the country to purify themselves before the Passover. <sup>56</sup> They were looking for Jesus and asking one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? He won’t come to the festival, will he?” <sup>57</sup> The chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should report it so that they could arrest him.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What do you think John wanted his readers to understand from this story about Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How does this story inform or broaden your understanding about eternal life?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How does this chapter grow your understanding of Jesus and His gift of life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What truth from this chapter can you apply to your own life?

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## Things to Ponder:

Why do you think Jesus said Lazarus's sickness would bring glory to the Son of God?  
When has a difficulty in your own life brought glory to God?

Consider Martha's conversation with Jesus when He arrived. How do you see her faith growing through that conversation?

How does Jesus predict His own crucifixion in this chapter? What phrases does He use to point toward His own death?

Why do you think Jesus wept before arriving at Lazarus's tomb? What does it mean to you personally that Jesus wept in this situation?

How does Jesus' gift of physical life to Lazarus compare with His gift of spiritual life to those who believe in Him?

Consider verses 49-52. What do you think is the significance of the high priest's words?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- List the seven miracles John has described so far, noting the purpose of each.
- Study burial practices of this culture and consider how this might have impacted Jesus' actions.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Reflect on the truth that Jesus has power over death and the ability to raise the dead to life. Consider what this means for you today as you seek to live as a follower of Jesus.

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## Summing Up:

Jesus hears the news that his friend Lazarus is riddled with a sickness that will end in death. In spite of this, Jesus is confident that this grievous moment will inevitably bring glory to God. As they head to Judea two days after receiving the news, the disciples accompany Jesus, believing that they would themselves become eventual martyrs due to his unwanted presence within the city (v. 16). Martha, Lazarus' sister, greets Jesus with grief and hope, entrusting the situation to Him. In Jesus' response, he not only confirms Martha's hope, but offers the eternal truth that He is the "resurrection and the life." Theologically, Jesus is revealing that He is the author of life and the one who will restore life not only here and now, but in the future as well. Martha then tells her sister that Jesus has arrived and she quickly runs to him with the same grief shown by Mary. She is overcome and falls to His feet, moving Jesus to weep over the death of His friend and indignation over how sin has vandalized God's intention for His creation. Jesus Christ, as fully human and fully God, ransacked by the grief of this world that comes from death, performs a miracle that brings Lazarus back to life. In this moment, we receive a whisper of what is to come. Death had entered into the cosmos back in the garden of Eden and had sunk its talons into every fiber of God's creation that had been marred by sin. Yet Jesus stands and holds power over death as he peels back the stench of decay and breathes life into what seems too far gone. Notice His grief in this moment as He surely looks forward to His coming crucifixion. Notice His compassion for the family and tender way He offers hope in a storm of weariness. Lazarus' death becomes a temporary healing; he will not live forever on this side of Heaven. But Jesus promises that anyone who places their life in His hands will not taste an everlasting death but will live with Him in eternity. Even when the walls are caving in and death takes hold of us or those we love, we can cling to the hope and future we hold with our tender Savior who came to overcome sin, Satan, and death on our behalf. We, who were once dead in our sin, have been made alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).



## WEEK 13:

# John 12

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for him there; Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped his feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

<sup>4</sup> Then one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> He didn't say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

<sup>9</sup> Then a large crowd of the Jews learned he was there. They came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, the one he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> But the chief priests had decided to kill Lazarus also, <sup>11</sup> because he was the reason many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> they took palm branches and went out to meet him. They kept shouting:

***"Hosanna!***

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord —the King of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written:

**<sup>15</sup> Do not be afraid,  
Daughter Zion. Look, your King is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt.**

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first. However, when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, the crowd, which had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify. <sup>18</sup> This is also why the crowd met him, because they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> Then the Pharisees said to one another, "You see? You've accomplished nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

<sup>20</sup> Now some Greeks were among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> So they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested of him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied to them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. <sup>25</sup> The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me. Where I am, there my servant also will be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

<sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus responded, “This voice came, not for me, but for you. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. <sup>32</sup> As for me, if I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate what kind of death he was about to die.

<sup>34</sup> Then the crowd replied to him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah will remain forever. So how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus answered, “The light will be with you only a little longer. Walk while you have the light so that darkness doesn’t overtake you. The one who walks in darkness doesn’t know where he’s going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may become children of light.” Jesus said this, then went away and hid from them.

<sup>37</sup> Even though he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. <sup>38</sup> This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet, who said:

**Lord, who has believed our message?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

<sup>39</sup> This is why they were unable to believe, because Isaiah also said:

**<sup>40</sup> He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their hearts,  
so that they would not see with their eyes  
or understand with their hearts,  
and turn,  
and I would heal them.**

<sup>41</sup> Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke about him.

<sup>42</sup> Nevertheless, many did believe in him even among the rulers, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, so that they would not be banned from the synagogue. <sup>43</sup> For they loved human praise more than praise from God.

<sup>44</sup> Jesus cried out, “The one who believes in me believes not in me, but in him who sent me. <sup>45</sup> And the one who sees me sees him who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup> If anyone hears my words and doesn’t keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and doesn’t receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a command to say everything I have said. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command is eternal life. So the things that I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.
5. Circle the names of places in this chapter. Find them on a map.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. In this chapter, John references four Old Testament prophecies. Read the original references in the Old Testament and explain how these prophecies were fulfilled in this chapter. (Look for the original references in the footnotes of your Bible).
5. What would these prophecies have meant to John’s original audience?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What truth from this chapter impacts your worship of Jesus?
7. How does this chapter convict or strengthen you?

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## Things to Ponder:

Compare the actions and attitudes of Judas and Mary. What do you notice?

Consider the motivation of the crowd when Jesus entered Jerusalem.  
What do you think they might have expected from Him?

What does Jesus reveal about His death in this chapter?

How do the Old Testament prophecies in this chapter provide a warning to John's audience?

What stands out to you in Jesus' description of His purpose in coming to the world at the end of this chapter?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Both Mary and the crowd offered worship to Jesus in this chapter, though for different reasons and with different motivations. Compare the worship each offered, then do a word study on “worship” to learn more about worship that glorifies God.
- Compare the four gospel accounts of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.
- Study the Old Testament passages recorded in this chapter to gain a greater understanding of when they were originally spoken.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Jesus calls us to commit our lives to Him completely, with a willingness to “hate” this life and to serve Him. Reflect on what in this world holds you back from a life fully committed to Jesus. What might be different in your life if you fully surrendered to Him?

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## Summing Up:

Jesus arrives in Bethany, beginning the final week of His life dining with friends. As the night unfolds, Mary takes a jar of perfume, worth a year’s wages, and anoints the King of Israel for His upcoming burial. Judas’ true character is revealed as he protests the amount of money that could have been made by selling the perfume instead. Jesus defends Mary’s sacrifice by reminding them that this is a special occasion and should be honored as she humbly recognizes Him as the true Messiah they have been longing for. John then records what is known as Jesus’ Triumphal Entry, where He rides into Jerusalem on a colt. The crowd cries out, asking for salvation and recognizing Jesus as King. These phrases in particular would have been used for the Feast of Tabernacles, not Passover, showing that crowds believed a new kingdom was being established. However, during Passover, this day would have been when the sacrificial lamb would be brought into the city to undergo assessments and tests to ensure that it was in fact spotless and without blemish. This marks the beginning of Jesus being tested and tried on whether or not He was the true Messiah, God Himself. He reminds His followers that the events that will follow will not only glorify God but will also be a time of judgment for everyone who has chosen not to believe. Jesus shares pointed words that one must not only believe inwardly but outwardly, not fearing condemnation from man, but valuing allegiance to Christ. Jesus and His message have been rejected by many, but those who have chosen to walk in the light with Christ as their guide will never walk in darkness again. John pulls together themes of light, darkness, judgment, and eternal life as he reminds his audience that even though Jesus was rejected, God’s divine restoration plan will come to fruition in Jesus’ perfect and sinless sacrifice of Himself. Choose today whom you will align yourself to: the praise and acceptance of man or the abundant and everlasting life found in Christ.



## WEEK 14:

# John 13

<sup>1</sup> Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. <sup>5</sup> Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand."

<sup>8</sup> "You will never wash my feet," Peter said.

Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

<sup>10</sup> "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.

<sup>16</sup> "Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

<sup>18</sup> "I'm not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the Scripture must be fulfilled: The one who eats my bread has raised his heel against me. <sup>19</sup> I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he. <sup>20</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever receives anyone I send receives me, and the one who receives me receives him who sent me."

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had said this, he was troubled in his spirit and testified, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

<sup>22</sup> The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one he was speaking about. <sup>23</sup> One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus. <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who it was he was talking about. <sup>25</sup> So he leaned back against Jesus and asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, "He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it."

When he had dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son. <sup>27</sup> After Judas ate the piece of bread, Satan entered him. So Jesus told him, "What you're doing, do quickly."

<sup>28</sup> None of those reclining at the table knew why he said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Since Judas kept the money-bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup> After receiving the piece of bread, he immediately left. And it was night.

<sup>31</sup> When he had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so now I tell you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

<sup>34</sup> "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

<sup>36</sup> "Lord," Simon Peter said to him, "where are you going?"

Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later."

<sup>37</sup> "Lord," Peter asked, "why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly I tell you, a rooster will not crow until you have denied me three times.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What might it have been like to be a disciple in this story?  
How might they have understood or confused Jesus' words?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is the main idea of this chapter, and how does it relate to John's purpose?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What stands out to you in this chapter that you can apply to your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What do you learn about Jesus from this chapter that increases your love for Him?

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## Things to Ponder:

List some of the things this chapter tells us Jesus knew at this point. How do you think these connect to the Passover?

What does Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet and His explanation of this teach you about service and humility?

In what ways do you see Jesus preparing the disciples for what was about to happen?

How would you explain or define God's glory? How would you explain Jesus' words about Himself and God being glorified in verses 31-32?

Reflect on the new command Jesus gave in verses 34-35. How might the way Jesus has loved you impact the way you love others?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Compare the four gospel accounts of the last supper.
- Do a character study on the life of Judas.
- Consider John's use of "light" and "darkness" throughout his book and how that theme is revealed in Judas' betrayal.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Jesus, who deserved the highest honor as the Son of God, exemplified humble service to others when He knelt to wash His disciples' feet. He also commanded His followers to love one another the way He has loved us. Record practical and specific ways you might show this kind of love and humble service to others.

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## Summing Up:

Chapters 13-17 begin a section in John known as the “upper room discourse.” The next five chapters take place during Jesus’ last Passover supper the night before His death. Jesus begins the evening by humbly washing the disciples’ feet as an act of service. The God of the universe gently lowers Himself and cleanses their dusty feet, knowing He is about to cleanse them holistically in a way they cannot fathom in the days to come. Although they have already accepted Jesus as Messiah, they will still deal with daily sin in need of cleansing on the road to glorification. Even though Judas is about to betray Jesus for a few pieces of silver, Jesus still washed his feet. Jesus demonstrates for His disciples that they are to serve everyone, no matter the cost, in order to point people to the ultimate Suffering Servant. After Judas leaves the dinner, Jesus reveals a new command: love one another. While this is not a novel idea in terms of the way God’s covenantal people should behave towards one another, it will now have the capacity to be internalized and become a matter of the heart, rather than an unmet duty. The obedience that did not come about under the old covenant will now be reality within the new. In light of this command, Jesus reveals that He will be leaving to where they cannot go, but even in His absence the disciples will become conduits of God’s love to a watching world. Peter boldly declares that he will die for Jesus in order to go with him, but Jesus warns Peter that he will betray Jesus before the night is over. The human heart can be fickle in its allegiance, a condition of which Jesus was fully aware. We can be quick to deny Jesus in order to bring ourselves momentary comfort, yet this story offers us a reminder that Jesus denied Himself comfort in order to permanently and perfectly rescue us from the devastation of sin from which we are entangled. Let us remember Peter’s words from earlier in Jesus’ ministry: “Lord, to whom else shall we go?” (John 6:68). Cling to Jesus and emulate His sacrificial love by stepping into the messy corners of this world that have nothing to offer us, daily laying down our own comforts for the sake of God’s kingdom.



## WEEK 15:

# John 14

<sup>1</sup> “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> “Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

<sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> The one who doesn’t love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

<sup>27</sup> “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful. <sup>28</sup> You have heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me. <sup>31</sup> On the contrary, so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do as the Father commanded me.

“Get up; let’s leave this place.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. How might these Jewish disciples have understood or been confused by Jesus' teachings?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How do these teachings of Jesus help support John's purpose for writing this book?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What promises does Jesus offer in this chapter that might have an impact on your faith in Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What promise from this chapter might you use to encourage another believer who is struggling?

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## Things to Ponder:

How might Jesus' words have comforted His disciples? How do they comfort you?

Consider the questions posed by Thomas and Philip as well as Jesus' responses to their questions. What do you learn or notice?

Read verses 12-14. What "works" do you think Jesus is referring to? What questions do you have about these verses, and/or how might you explain them?

What does Jesus teach the disciples about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? How have you experienced the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in your life?

In what ways is the peace Jesus offers different from the peace the world offers?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Look back through John and compare the various times Jesus describes the connection between Himself and God the Father.
- Do a deeper study on the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
- Do a word study on peace.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Jesus comforted His disciples on the night before His death with teaching about the Comforter who would come. Record a prayer here, sharing with God what it means to you that He gives the Holy Spirit to dwell within all who put their faith in Jesus.

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## Summing Up:

Continuing the conversation from Chapter 13, Jesus encourages the disciples that even though trouble may come, they have no reason to fear due to their belief in God. It's striking that the first verse that follows the declaration of Peter's denial contains the gentle encouragement that their future home in heaven is sealed. Even though the disciples still don't fully understand the scope of what is about to unfold, Jesus still patiently offers them truth and hope. Jesus clearly says that He is the *only* way, truth, and life. Intimacy and connection with Jesus, as the perfect mediator, is the only way for creation to be brought back into perfect rhythm with God. Jesus explains that it is better for Him to leave, because an advocate and comforter (the Holy Spirit) will be sent to go with His followers wherever they go. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will live inside all those who trust in Him. As the disciples have witnessed Jesus' miracles, character, and devotion, Jesus now wants them to follow His example in their own lives. Eternal life and salvation are found in Christ alone and there are implications for how this shifts our focus and desires. The disciples have uniquely experienced intimacy with Jesus and are about to undergo an immense transformation for the sake of God's kingdom. To love God is to obey God. 'Belief' in the Jewish culture was more than a mindset but was held in tandem with action. The Holy Spirit will actualize this truth by inscribing the Law on believers' hearts, motivating them into loving obedience. This invitation is one of holistic, life-giving peace that can only be found in the future death and resurrection of Jesus. He has come to recalibrate the people's beliefs, attitudes, and actions as they extend this peace outward to a hurting world. Let's accept this invitation and do the same.



## WEEK 16:

# John 15

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

<sup>11</sup> “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> “This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

<sup>17</sup> “This is what I command you: Love one another.

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. <sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they don’t know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> The one who hates me also hates my Father. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this happened so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: They hated me for no reason.

<sup>26</sup> “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. How would you define the words “remain” and “love” in the context of this chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How do these words support John’s purpose for his book?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How does this chapter impact your understanding of what it means to live your life connected to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Which of these verses is particularly meaningful to you?

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## Things to Ponder:

In your own words, explain Jesus' analogy of the vine and the branches.

What might be some examples of pruning and bearing fruit in the lives of believers?

How have you experienced pruning and fruitfulness in your own life?

How would you explain what Jesus might have meant in verse 7?

What limits or parameters exist around asking "whatever you want?"

What does Jesus teach His disciples about love? What are His instructions? What are His promises?

How does Jesus describe "the world" and the world's responses to Jesus and believers? What comfort do you find in this chapter, knowing you will be persecuted for your faith in Jesus?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Meditate on John 15:3 together with John 13:10-11.
- Read Psalm 80 to understand the metaphor of vine and branches.
- Search other Bible chapters to better understand fruitfulness and/or love in Christ.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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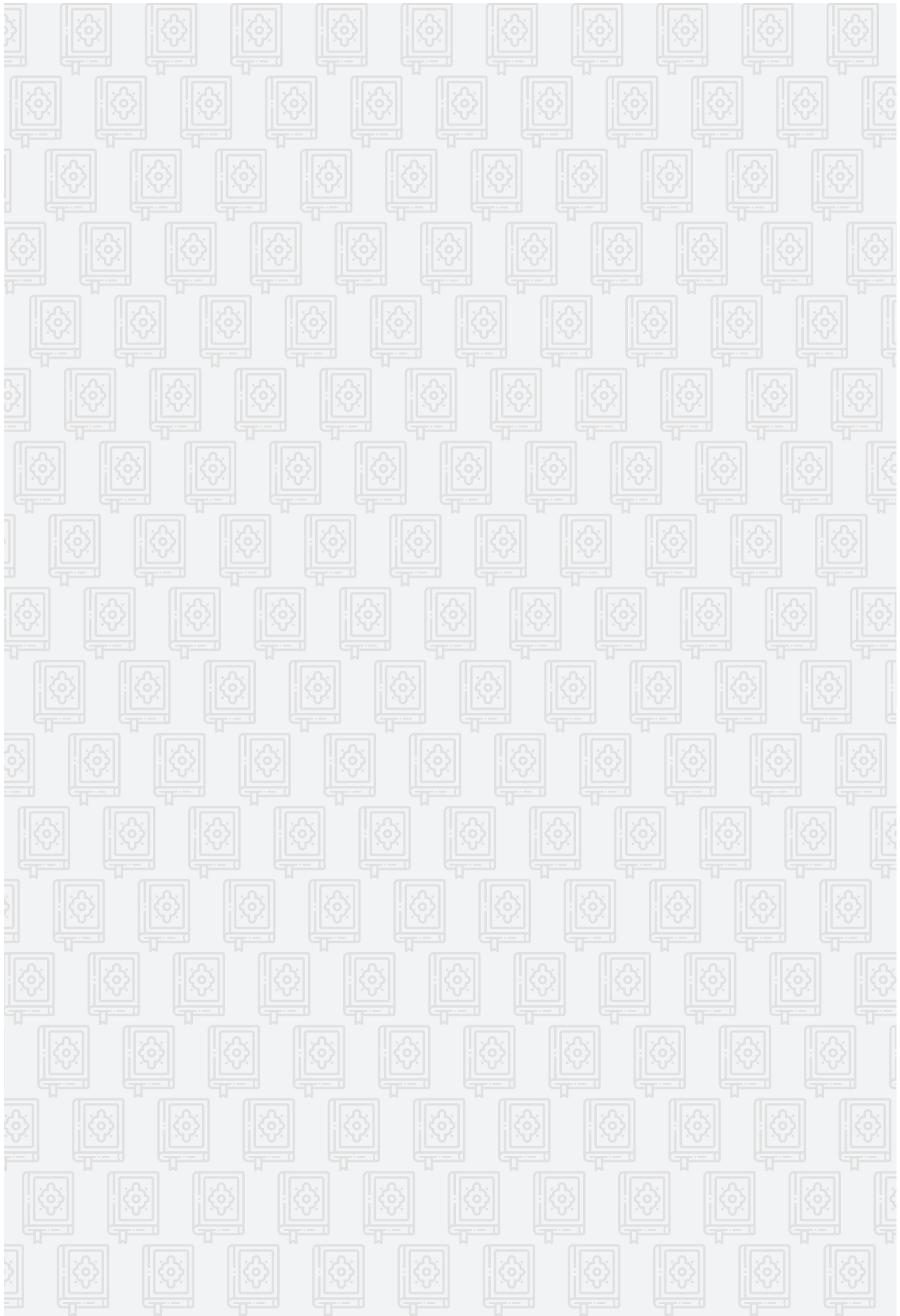
## As You Go:

Consider Jesus' call to remain in Him, reflecting on your own life patterns. In what ways does your life exemplify remaining in Jesus? What might be hindering you from remaining in Him? Write a prayer thanking Jesus for His invitation to remain and asking for His help to do so.

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## Summing Up:

In Jesus' last "I am" statement, He once again draws imagery from the Old Testament. In the Psalms and prophets, Israel is depicted as a fruitless vine that is in need of deep pruning due to disobedience and complacency. The mention of grape vines in the Old Testament is typically tied to God's judgment. It is here that Jesus declares that He has come to be the intermediary between God and His people. Jesus will take God's judgment upon Himself and the stain of their unfaithfulness will only be seen in light of Jesus' saving death. In verse 5, Jesus declares that He is the vine in whom they must abide and receive grace. In contrast, Christ is clear that anyone who does not remain connected to Him will be thrown aside; just as a gardener will remove useless branches from their crop, so the Cosmic Gardener will do the same. All of this is for the glory of God. At the same time, those of us who remain in Christ should expect to be lovingly pruned. Jesus offers a prudent reminder that a vine cannot survive on its own. Colossians 3 tells us that we are to set our minds on things above and that we have died to our old ways and are hidden in Christ. Following Jesus is not promised to be easy. In fact, Jesus assures us that we will be hated due to our fidelity to Christ and truth. There is a constant renewing and remaining that we are equipped to participate in due to the Holy Spirit's presence within us. Just as Israel lost sight of their identity in God, we too are prone to wander. Yet, as we draw close to Jesus daily, beholding His glory and grace, we will produce much fruit for the sake of His beautiful plan of redemption that He has invited us into. Continually take hold of Jesus; He promises to never let go.





## WEEK 17:

# John 16

<sup>1</sup> “I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. <sup>2</sup> They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do these things because they haven’t known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you will remember I told them to you. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup> Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: <sup>9</sup> About sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

<sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

<sup>16</sup> “In a little while, you will no longer see me; again in a little while, you will see me.”

<sup>17</sup> Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this he’s telling us: ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me,’ and, ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup> They said, “What is this he is saying, ‘In a little while’? We don’t know what he’s talking about.”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, and so he said to them, “Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me’?” <sup>20</sup> Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

<sup>23</sup> “In that day you will not ask me anything. Truly I tell you, anything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

<sup>25</sup> “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> On that day you will ask in my name, and I am not telling you that I

will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Look, now you’re speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know everything and don’t need anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came from God.”

<sup>31</sup> Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He does throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What message is Jesus trying to give His disciples in this chapter?
5. How do you think the disciples would have heard or understood Jesus' words?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How does this chapter increase your understanding of Jesus and the disciples' experience?
7. What is an application you can make to your own life from this chapter?

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## Things to Ponder:

How is Jesus' compassion for His sorrowful disciples revealed in this chapter?

What does Jesus reveal about the next steps in God's redemption plan?

What part does the Holy Spirit play in this plan?

How do verses 12-15 point to the unity of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Explain what you think Jesus meant when He said,

“In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me.”

What do the disciples profess to believe? How does this chapter impact your own belief in Jesus?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Explore the meaning of verses 7-11 more deeply to better understand how the Holy Spirit convicts the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- Learn about Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit was first sent to believers.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

In preparing the disciples for His impending death and return to the Father, Jesus knew the disciples would be sorrowful. Still, He shared with them the greater benefits of His leaving so the Holy Spirit could come. Record what it means to you that the Holy Spirit is with you always and that you are never alone.

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## Summing Up:

As the Passover dinner comes to a close, Jesus speaks pointedly about the upcoming suffering and grief the disciples will be exposed to. These words, which the disciples do not fully understand at the beginning, are meant to encourage and motivate them to joyfully persevere. Though they may experience temporary grief at the death of Jesus, it will end in celebration when they see Him again. This is a mere glimpse of what they will experience once Jesus ascends and they face adversity and affliction within their ministry callings. Jesus once again mentions that their joy will not only be steadfast but complete when they stay tied to Jesus through the indwelling of the Spirit and boldness in prayer. As they look to their Savior and friend, they must remember what He endured joyfully and willingly in order to be reminded of their purpose. In these final words, Jesus wants to ensure that the disciples have unwavering faith and devotion to Him and remind them that they will not be alone. The Holy Spirit will not only comfort them, but will convict the world of their sin, reveal and demonstrate God's desired righteousness, and display God's judgment over Satan. Ultimately, the Spirit will guide them to the Truth. Jesus is inviting his disciples and us to trust him, the one who pursues, the one who gives divine peace, and the one who says love is the marker of a disciple. Will we give up our worldview of power and lean into the one who relinquished his own status and dignity to invite you in? Let us be compelled and delighted by Jesus that we radiate with joy even in our sufferings because we can approach God confidently through Christ offering Himself.



## WEEK 18:

# John 17

<sup>1</sup> Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to everyone you have given him. <sup>3</sup> This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent —Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> because I have given them the words you gave me. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from you. They have believed that you sent me.

<sup>9</sup> “I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> Everything I have is yours, and everything you have is mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I was protecting them by your name that you have given me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy completed in them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> I sanctify myself for them, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

<sup>20</sup> “I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. <sup>21</sup> May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world’s foundation. <sup>25</sup> Righteous Father, the world has not known you. However, I have known you, and they have known that you sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them.”

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the things Jesus prays to the Father about Himself.
3. List some of the things Jesus prays to the Father for the disciples.
4. List some of the things Jesus prays to the Father for future believers.

### Interpret the Intent:

5. What purpose might this prayer serve for the disciples?  
How might they have heard and understood it?

6. How does this prayer reveal Jesus' unity with the Father?

### Apply the Chapter:

7. What stands out to you or is particularly meaningful to you in this chapter?
8. How does this chapter impact your love for and response to Jesus?

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## Things to Ponder:

What does it mean to “glorify” God? How do you think Jesus glorified God on earth, and how do you think the Father glorified Jesus?

How does Jesus define eternal life? What might some differences be between knowing Jesus and knowing about Him? Which one do you most relate to?

In what ways do you think the disciples glorified Jesus (vs. 10)? How might you also seek to glorify Him in your life?

Jesus talks about the disciples as being in the world but not of the world. What do you think is the distinction between these? What might you need to be on guard against in your own life to prevent being negatively impacted by the world?

What does it mean to be sanctified by truth? How have you experienced sanctification in your own life, even this year in your study of John?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Learn more about what Scripture says about prayer or study other prayers recorded in the Bible.
- Do a word study on sanctification.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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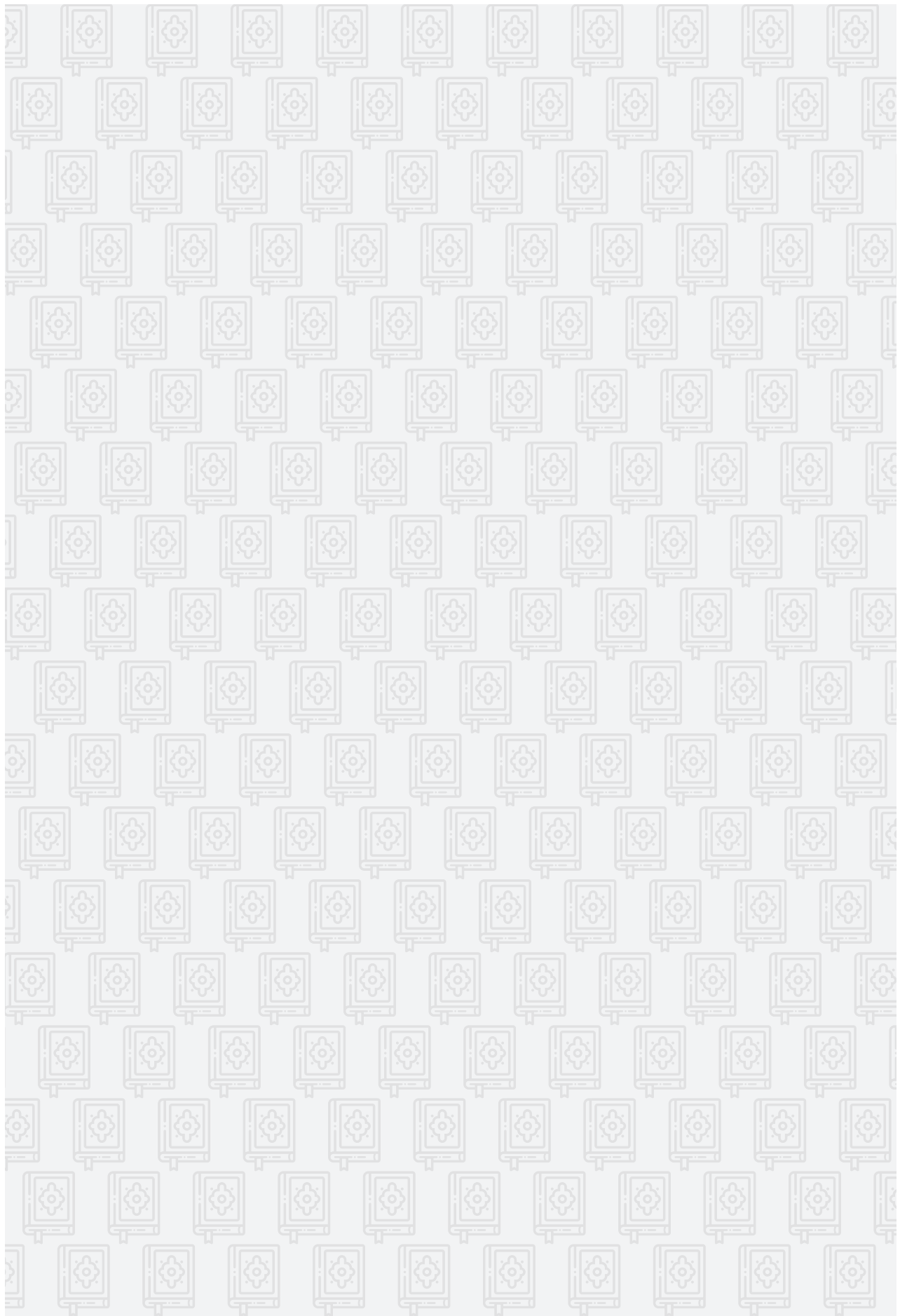
## As You Go:

Consider specifically Jesus' prayer for all believers in verses 20-26. Record your thoughts about this prayer that Jesus prayed even for you and how it has been answered in your life.

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## Summing Up:

The entirety of Chapter 17 is God the Son, Jesus, passionately praying to God the Father. Some people argue that Jesus never explicitly says that He is God, yet in this prayer we have a clear vision of the specific roles each person of the Trinity holds, putting the divinity of Jesus on display. Jesus Christ is the human embodiment of God and came to reveal God's perfect nature and character to the world. In the Old Testament, no one could look upon God's face. But when Jesus stands as fully human and fully God, Israel has now seen God face to face. While Jesus has spoken about eternal life repeatedly through the book of John, verse 3 finally validates the truth that eternal life is knowing God. The word "know" in Greek is more than just knowledge, but an intimacy through experience. Jesus says that He has revealed God, given them the words of God, protected them, and brought God His deserved glory. He also petitions God for unity not only between the disciples but also for the people they will spread the gospel to. As the disciples would become dispersed and martyred for this message, Jesus yearns for God's power and presence to be displayed. As the Church, we are to be united in what we believe and how we model God's nature to a watching world. Jesus clearly says that He does not desire for God to take His people out of this world, but to protect them within it. It seems as though this becomes part of our sanctification process. Sanctification is the process through which we become more like the image of Christ through confessing our sin, turning to God, and obeying His Word that is Truth. Jesus, who was with God in the beginning, lovingly prays on our behalf before He returns to His throne and rightful place. Marvel at His humility and loving advocacy on your behalf.





## WEEK 19:

# John 18

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had said these things, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. <sup>2</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas took a company of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him, went out and said to them, “Who is it that you’re seeking?”

<sup>5</sup> “Jesus of Nazareth,” they answered.

“I am he,” Jesus told them.

Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus told them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Then he asked them again, “Who is it that you’re seeking?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

<sup>8</sup> “I told you I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you’re looking for me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the words he had said: “I have not lost one of those you have given me.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

<sup>11</sup> At that, Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?”

<sup>12</sup> Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus and tied him up. <sup>13</sup> First they led him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better for one man to die for the people.

<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter was following Jesus, as was another disciple. That disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest; so he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard. <sup>16</sup> But Peter remained standing outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter in.

<sup>17</sup> Then the servant girl who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?”

“I am not,” he said. <sup>18</sup> Now the servants and the officials had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold. They were standing there warming themselves, and Peter was standing with them, warming himself.

<sup>19</sup> The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.

<sup>20</sup> “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus answered him. “I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple, where all the Jews gather, and I haven’t spoken anything in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you question me? Question those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said.”

<sup>22</sup> When he had said these things, one of the officials standing by slapped Jesus, saying, “Is this the way you answer the high priest?”

<sup>23</sup> “If I have spoken wrongly,” Jesus answered him, “give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit me?” <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?”

He denied it and said, “I am not.”

<sup>26</sup> One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” <sup>27</sup> Peter denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed.

<sup>28</sup> Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover.

<sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

<sup>30</sup> They answered him, “If this man weren’t a criminal, we wouldn’t have handed him over to you.”

<sup>31</sup> Pilate told them, “You take him and judge him according to your law.”

“It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death,” the Jews declared. <sup>32</sup> They said this so that Jesus’s words might be fulfilled indicating what kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “I’m not a Jew, am I?” Pilate replied. “Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup> “My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. “If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

“You say that I’m a king,” Jesus replied. “I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

<sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” said Pilate.

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no grounds for charging him. <sup>39</sup> You have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So, do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He says throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. Looking back through previous chapters, how do these events fulfill what Jesus had already told the disciples?
5. What stands out to you about the charges brought against Jesus and the ways He responded to those charges?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. What do you notice about Jesus' character in this chapter, and how might you as a Jesus follower seek to exemplify Him in challenges you face?
7. What is most impactful to you in this chapter and why?

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## Things to Ponder:

What do you notice about Jesus' betrayal and arrest? How do you see His power revealed?

Compare and contrast Jesus' strength in obedience to the Father with Peter's weakness in denying Jesus.

How did Jesus answer Annas' questions? What stands out to you about Jesus in this situation?

What do you notice about Pilate's conversations with the Jewish leaders?

What truths about Himself did Jesus share with Pilate? What is your response to Jesus, the King?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Compare the four Gospel accounts of Judas' betrayal, Jesus' arrest, and Peter's denial.
- Do a historical person study on Pilate to learn about his role in Israel.
- Research how the events in this chapter fulfill Old Testament prophecies.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

By preparing Himself in prayer beforehand (Chapter 17), Jesus faced these last events in His earthly life with unflinching strength and obedience, exemplifying trust in God the Father even in the most difficult circumstances. Consider how you might follow Jesus' example in your own difficult circumstances, and write a prayer asking for God to strengthen you.

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## Summing Up:

Jesus and the disciples leave their dinner and head to the Garden of Gethsemane as they had apparently done many times before. It is here that the Jewish and Roman officials approach Jesus to have Him arrested and handed over to the Roman government for execution. Peter draws his sword to fight on Jesus' behalf, just as Peter proclaimed he would do, but Jesus reminds Peter that this is how the plan of God must unfold. Jesus is bound and brought to Annas (the former high priest) then to Caiphas (the current high priest). In John 11:49-51, Caiphas unknowingly prophesies that Jesus would not only die for Israel but also the Gentiles. After Caiphas, Jesus ends His trials with Pilate, the Roman governor, after a grueling night of defamation, ridicule, and physical attacks which took place in the dark of night. It is ironic that during the process, Jewish officials seek to remain ceremonially clean while condemning an innocent man to death (John 18:28). Even though they set out to meticulously follow the Law in devotion to God, they were missing His very presence in their midst. In the background of the night, Peter suffers for his own lack of fidelity by denying Jesus to onlookers. The chapter finishes with Pilate considering Jesus' innocence and attempting to have Him released due to the Jewish custom. Even though Jesus' accusers have no evidence, Jesus willingly offers Himself to be bound, mocked, and abandoned. The cup that Jesus referenced in vs.11 is one of divine wrath that Jesus drinks on our behalf. Consider that Barabbas (vs. 40) had been guilty, yet Jesus in His innocence would step in and die in His place. Though we all deserve death as a penalty for our sin, Jesus came and humbly stepped in our place to offer us eternal life.



## WEEK 20:

# John 19

<sup>1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and clothed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> And they kept coming up to him and saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” and were slapping his face.

<sup>4</sup> Pilate went outside again and said to them, “Look, I’m bringing him out to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging him.” <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

<sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the temple servants saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

Pilate responded, “Take him and crucify him yourselves, since I find no grounds for charging him.”

<sup>7</sup> “We have a law,” the Jews replied to him, “and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup> He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus did not give him an answer. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Don’t you know that I have the authority to release you and the authority to crucify you?”

<sup>11</sup> “You would have no authority over me at all,” Jesus answered him, “if it hadn’t been given you from above. This is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

<sup>12</sup> From that moment Pilate kept trying to release him. But the Jews shouted, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!”

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge’s seat in a place called the Stone Pavement (but in Aramaic, Gabbatha).

<sup>14</sup> It was the preparation day for the Passover, and it was about noon. Then he told the Jews, “Here is your king!”

<sup>15</sup> They shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Should I crucify your king?”

“We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.

<sup>16</sup> Then he handed him over to be crucified.

Then they took Jesus away. <sup>17</sup> Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

<sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Don’t write, ‘The king of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the king of the Jews.’”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate replied, “What I have written, I have written.”

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it.” This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. This is what the soldiers did.

<sup>25</sup> Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, “I’m thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth.

<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the preparation day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men’s legs broken and that their bodies be taken away. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to Jesus, they did not break his legs since they saw that he was already dead. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup> He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth. <sup>36</sup> For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of his bones will be broken. <sup>37</sup> Also, another Scripture says: They will look at the one they pierced.

<sup>38</sup> After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus’s body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. <sup>40</sup> They took Jesus’s body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it. <sup>42</sup> They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
  
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He says throughout the chapter.
  
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What would it have been like to experience these events as a disciple, a person involved in the story, or a person in the crowd traveling to Jerusalem for Passover?
  
5. Which details does John include in this chapter to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who offered His life so others might live?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How do these events in Jesus' life impact your response to Him?
  
7. In what ways does this chapter challenge or strengthen your faith?

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## Things to Ponder:

What do you notice about Pilate's interactions with the Jewish leaders and with Jesus?  
Why might Pilate have hesitated to make a decision regarding Jesus?

In what ways are Jesus' power and compassion revealed throughout this chapter, first in His conversation with Pilate all the way until His death on the cross?

What stands out to you in John's recording of Jesus' crucifixion? What does the suffering He endured teach you about the problem of sin and Jesus' love for us?

How does John's description of Jesus' death indicate that Jesus had physically died?  
Why do you think this is important?

What do you notice about the burial of Jesus? How do the actions of those involved encourage or inspire you as a Jesus follower?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Compare the four Gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion.
- Study Colossians 1:21-22 and 2:13-15 to consider what Jesus' crucifixion accomplished.
- Research the Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

It can be difficult to carefully consider the suffering Jesus endured in order to provide salvation from sin and reconciliation to God, but these truths can also instill in us a deeper appreciation for the amazing gift of salvation and draw us deeper into relationship with God. Write a prayer of response to Jesus for His death that brought you life.

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## Summing Up:

Pilate continues his attempts to exonerate Jesus, but the crowds are relentless as he unwillingly hands Him over to be crucified. Jesus is flogged, which was a gruesome punishment that would leave Jesus unrecognizable to even His closest friends (Isaiah 52:14). Jesus is stripped, crowned with thorns, mocked, and robbed of His dignity. What is described in writing in this brief chapter must have felt like a lifetime of suffering for Jesus and His disciples. Jesus is then forced to carry the wood that would be mounted to a vertical beam that would become His death sentence. According to historians, He would have been at eye level on the outskirts of Jerusalem for all to behold His perceived transgressions. Written above His head a sign would have hung transcribed with the words “This is the King of the Jews.” The priests attempt to change the sign that Pilate had prepared for Jesus, but Pilate refuses, possibly standing by His belief in Jesus’ claim of divinity. As the Savior of the world hangs on the cross, He offers few words, but His final statement “It is finished” seals the future of all believers. The debt has been paid for the price of sin in an unimaginable way and there is nothing that can be added to the act. Jesus’ body is then removed, prepared for burial, and placed in a sealed tomb by the only followers who had not abandoned Him. Consider what Jesus stepped into, endured, and purchased in His death on the cross. We were reconciled by the grace of God and did nothing to earn this precious gift. Saturate yourself in the story and absorb the deep love that Jesus displayed for you in His abundant forgiveness.



## WEEK 21:

# John 20

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, “They’ve taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him!”

<sup>3</sup> At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then, following him, Simon Peter also came. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. <sup>7</sup> The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. <sup>8</sup> The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then also went in, saw, and believed. <sup>9</sup> For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus’s body had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“Because they’ve taken away my Lord,” she told them, “and I don’t know where they’ve put him.”

<sup>14</sup> Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> “Woman,” Jesus said to her, “why are you crying? Who is it that you’re seeking?”

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you’ve carried him away, tell me where you’ve put him, and I will take him away.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

Turning around, she said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!”—which means “Teacher.”

<sup>17</sup> “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus told her, “since I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them what he had said to her.

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

<sup>20</sup> Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” <sup>22</sup> After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.

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## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He says throughout the chapter.
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What do you think John wanted his readers to understand about Jesus?
5. How do these stories regarding Jesus' resurrection support John's purpose for writing this book?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. How does this chapter increase your understanding of Jesus and the disciples' experience?
7. In what ways does this chapter challenge or strengthen your faith?

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## Things to Ponder:

In light of this chapter, what can you learn about Mary Magdalene and her relationship with Jesus and the other disciples? Why do you think this is significant?

Who do you think is “the other disciple”? What evidence did he and Peter see in the tomb to indicate Jesus had resurrected rather than being taken, as Mary Magdalene first reported?

What do you notice about Mary’s interaction with Jesus in the tomb? How does this encourage you in your relationship with Jesus?

What are some ways Jesus encouraged and commissioned the disciples (including Thomas) following His resurrection?

In light of verses 30-31, how has studying John’s gospel accomplished his purposes in you this year?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Compare the four Gospel accounts of Jesus’ resurrection.
- Do a person study of Mary Magdalene to better understand her role in scripture.
- Study other scripture chapters that discuss Jesus’ victory over death and what this accomplishes in the life of a believer.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

John's portrayal of Jesus' resurrection reveals His power and victory over death as well as the compassion and intimacy Jesus shared with His disciples (both men and women). Reflect on what these things mean to you and record what the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

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## Summing Up:

Early Sunday morning Mary Magdalene heads to the tomb with some other women to anoint Jesus' body. However, once they arrive, they find that the stone has been rolled away and the tomb is empty. They are greeted by two angels, perhaps a homage to the two angels that adorned the Ark of the Covenant, who announce that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! The women run to tell the disciples the surprising news, becoming the first people to spread the gospel. John and Peter hurry to the tomb to confirm for themselves, then report back to the other disciples. John includes the detail in his narrative that Jesus' grave linens are left behind. Each detail of the gospel accounts deepen the truth of Jesus' resurrection. After John and Peter leave, Mary and the other women stay behind and are the first to meet the resurrected Jesus. It seems at first they are unaware of who they are talking to, yet Jesus reveals Himself lovingly and the women are overcome with emotion. Everything Jesus had told them comes flooding to mind and they are aware that He is the true Messiah. Jesus then appears to the disciples, who are hiding from the Jewish leaders, and shows them His nail pierced hands and body. The disciples become the first to receive the Holy Spirit after Jesus' resurrection and receive the peace of Christ. The same God who breathed life into Adam in the garden now breathes His very power and presence into their souls as He gives them new life in His Name. Thomas, who had not yet seen Jesus, finally meets His resurrected Savior and professes belief after momentary obstinance at the lack of evidence. Without the resurrection, our faith would be worthless, yet John is careful in the details he includes in order for his audience to believe that Jesus is in fact the risen Christ. Praise God that Jesus conquered sin and death on our behalf. Praise God that we who once had hearts of stone have been offered new life in His name. This abundant life is more than a future hope - it becomes a thriving reality. May we be blessed in our faith as we believe without seeing the risen Christ but have assurance of His faithfulness, transformative power, and historic claims of accuracy. Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave!



## WEEK 22:

# John 21

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way:

<sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (called “Twin”), Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples were together.

<sup>3</sup> “I’m going fishing,” Simon Peter said to them.

“We’re coming with you,” they told him. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> When daybreak came, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> “Friends,” Jesus called to them, “you don’t have any fish, do you?”

“No,” they answered.

<sup>6</sup> “Cast the net on the right side of the boat,” he told them, “and you’ll find some.” So they did, and they were unable to haul it in because of the large number of fish.

<sup>7</sup> The disciple, the one Jesus loved, said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer clothing around him (for he had taken it off) and plunged into the sea. <sup>8</sup> Since they were not far from land (about a hundred yards away), the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish.

<sup>9</sup> When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus told them.

<sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

<sup>12</sup> “Come and have breakfast,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said to him, “you know that I love you.”

“Feed my lambs,” he told him. <sup>16</sup> A second time he asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said to him, “you know that I love you.”

“Shepherd my sheep,” he told him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

“Feed my sheep,” Jesus said. <sup>18</sup> “Truly I tell you, when you were younger, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where

you don't want to go." <sup>19</sup> He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After saying this, he told him, "Follow me."

<sup>20</sup> So Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following them, the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and asked, "Lord, who is the one that's going to betray you?" <sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"

<sup>22</sup> "If I want him to remain until I come," Jesus answered, "what is that to you? As for you, follow me."

<sup>23</sup> So this rumor spread to the brothers and sisters that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not tell him that he would not die, but, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?"

<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup> And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if every one of them were written down, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.

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## Organize Your Thoughts:

1. Read or listen to this chapter a few times in various translations.
2. Turn back to remember what happened before this chapter. List some of those things.
3. Divide this chapter into 2-3 sections. Write a title or summary for each section.
4. Identify repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this chapter.
5. Circle the names of places in this chapter. Find them on a map.

---

## Inductive Study:

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**John 20:31**

### Observe the Facts:

1. Consider the who, what, when, where, and why of this chapter. What do you notice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List some of the ways Jesus is presented and what He says throughout the chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you observe about the people in this chapter and their responses to Jesus?

### Interpret the Intent:

4. What does this chapter reveal about Jesus and His disciples?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How does this ending to John's book serve his purpose in writing it?

### Apply the Chapter:

6. In what ways does this chapter encourage or challenge you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What application can you make to your own life from this chapter?

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## Things to Ponder:

In light of their recent experiences with Jesus' death and resurrection, what do you think the disciples were thinking or feeling when they went fishing?

What do you notice about the disciples' interaction with Jesus in this story?  
What is significant in the events that occur?

How is the conversation between Peter and Jesus impactful to you?  
What do you learn from this interaction?

What does the conversation between Peter and Jesus reveal about the calling Jesus makes to individuals?

How does verse 25 impact your thinking about Jesus' life?

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## Digging Deeper:

Consider digging deeper into one or more of the following topics related to this chapter:

- Consider each of the times Jesus revealed Himself to others after His resurrection, noting who was present and what those interactions were like.
- Learn about the purpose of the other three gospels and what each writer hoped to accomplish in his recording of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- Reflect on and research the questions you still have from your study of this chapter.

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## As You Go:

Consider John's goal for his gospel: *"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* John 20:31. How has studying John's gospel this year impacted your belief in Jesus? How might you now answer His call to "feed My sheep"?

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## Summing Up:

It is striking that the disciples are back to fishing after witnessing the resurrection of Jesus. Yet it is here that Jesus knows He will find His disciples and offers reconciliation with Peter. Although Peter has already been forgiven along with the rest of Jesus' followers, Jesus takes care to cleanse Peter's conscience as well. Three times Peter denied Jesus on the night of His death and three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him, seemingly exonerating each denial. Each time Jesus gives Peter a commission: "feed my lambs," "shepherd my sheep," and "feed my sheep." Peter had already been previously told that he would be the one through whom Jesus would build His Church (Matthew 16:18-19). Here, Jesus gives specific instructions that Peter is to tend to and care for the spiritually younger and older believers as he guides them in the truth of God's Word and character. Peter is to follow Jesus, the good and true Shepherd, as he leads God's people into loving obedience. Although Peter has just received a high calling, he promptly wonders what will become of John. How quick we can be to lose sight of what Christ has entrusted to us as we turn and compare ourselves to others. John records that Jesus performed many other signs and miracles, yet this is what the Holy Spirit saw fit for us to consume as our daily bread (Deuteronomy 8:3). Remember, there is no other name than Jesus Christ who offers true life. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, remain bound to His fruitful vine, constantly trusting Him to complete what He has started in us. Thirst for Him daily, feast on His Word, trust His guidance and goodness, and share this good news with the world!



# Bible Study Resources

## Riverview Resources

- **Introduction to Inductive Bible Study** - [rivchurch.com/inductivebiblestudy](http://rivchurch.com/inductivebiblestudy)  
a short video outlining how we approach studying the Bible. (15 minutes)
- **Reading the Bible Normally** - [rivchurch.com/readingthebiblenormally](http://rivchurch.com/readingthebiblenormally)  
a one-page document outlining how we approach studying the Bible.
- **Comprehension Questions** - [rivchurch.com/biblecomprehensionquestions](http://rivchurch.com/biblecomprehensionquestions)  
strategies to help you consider what the Bible says.
- **Five Ws Study Guide** - [rivchurch.com/fivewstudyguide](http://rivchurch.com/fivewstudyguide)  
a list of questions to get you started.
- **Riverview's Messages** - [rivchurch.com/watch/messages](http://rivchurch.com/watch/messages)  
A catalog of current and past messages from Riverview Church.  
Sort by series, speaker, or location.
- **Online Classes** - [rivchurch.com/watch/online-classes](http://rivchurch.com/watch/online-classes)  
Three on-demand classes to get you plugged into Riverview (Membership Class), familiar with the Bible (Bible Basics), and studying the Bible (Interpreting the Bible Normally).

## Other Resources

- **CSB Study Bible**
- **Bible Gateway** - [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)  
A searchable online Bible with over 200 translations and audio versions.
- **Interlinear Bible** - [biblehub.com/interlinear](http://biblehub.com/interlinear)  
Greek and Hebrew with Concordance
- **BibleRef** - [bibleref.com](http://bibleref.com)  
Free online Bible commentary
- **The Bible Project YouTube channel** - [youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject](http://youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject)  
Short, animated videos that help you better understand the Bible.
- **Got Questions? website** - [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)  
A searchable resource of over 7,600 answers to frequently asked Bible questions.
- *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds*  
by Jen Wilkin
- *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*  
by Scott Duvall & Daniel Hayes

# Israel in the New Testament



**These are written  
so that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Messiah,  
the Son of God, and that  
by believing you may  
have life in his name.**

John 20:31



At Riv, we invite everyone to know and enjoy Jesus  
as we stumble together in our pursuit to love like Him.