

The
Gospel
of
John

In our series on the gospel of John we want to provide a tool for our community to engage with as we encounter the life of Christ. We want you to be challenged not only in your thinking but also in your emotions so we have provided tools that will offer a variety of ways to reflect, pray and share with others how Jesus' life is transforming you. We encourage you to sit, reflect, pray and use this guide to help lead you to awe and wonder at the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Word. Light. Glory. Life.

The gospel of John presents a unique portrait of Jesus' life with narratives that use striking symbols, but the ultimate aim or purpose of this gospel is made clear by the 'disciple who Jesus loved': "these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." So while these images are highlighted, the ultimate aim is that these would point to a greater reality leading us to believe that Jesus is the son of God.

A significant aspect of the Gospel of John is its emphasis on the divinity of Jesus. This emphasis on the divinity of Jesus sets the Gospel of John apart from the other synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) and emphasizes the importance of Jesus' role in God's plan for salvation. John describes Jesus as the Word made flesh, who was with God from the beginning and is one with God. Jesus performs miracles that reveal his divine nature, such as turning water into wine and raising Lazarus from the dead. These signs are often accompanied with 'I AM' statements that echo back to the Old Testament where God revealed himself to his people. In the gospel of John, Jesus declares that the same power and presence has come.



WEEK 1

- [] Day 1: John 1:1-25
- [] Day 2: John 1:26-51
- [] Day 3: John 2:1-12
- [] Day 4: John 2:13-25
- [] Day 5: John 3:1-18
- [] Day 6: John 3:19-36
- [] Day 7: John 4:1-26

Jesus' I AM Declarations

Often, the Jesus of our minds is starkly different from the Jesus we encounter on the pages of Scripture. When we encounter the 'I Am' statements that Jesus makes in the gospel of John, they help to recalibrate our thoughts and understanding of who Jesus is. We cannot deny the strong stance he takes to define his divinity in spite of everyone's preconceived notions as these two simple words led to a crowd of people being willing to stone him. While it is easy for us to skim over these statements, if we stop and reflect on their power, we will come to see Jesus more clearly than before for he who claimed to be: the Son of God.

Reading Note: When you read the 'I Am' statements, be sure to consider not just the immediate context but also the miracles Jesus performed in conjunction to these statements and the larger context of Scripture. If you read bigger and older, it will help provide greater clarity and align with Jesus' aim.

Week 1: Bread of Life (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

- Consider our reliance on bread or food altogether and how we respond when we haven't eaten or have chosen to intentionally fast from food. There is a physical and emotional response that is innately triggered in us. Have there been times where you've had to rely on God in a similar way?
- How does Jesus connect the idea of the bread he uses to feed the 5,000 with the Exodus generation in the wilderness?
- For the Israelites in the desert, bread was a matter of life and death if they were to make it to the promised land. How is Jesus presenting himself in this same manner? How is Jesus presenting himself as even greater manner?
- Food is not only a necessity of life, it can also be a satiating experience to enjoy and share. How does Jesus call his followers to find satisfaction in him? Are there other sources of "food" you are looking to for satisfaction beyond Jesus? How can you share this satisfaction?

Miraculous Signs: Week 1

Jesus Turns Water into Wine

John 2:1-11

Art

Poetry

Monday

This first sign in the gospel of John is an act of new creation that takes place at a wedding. In what ways do you think this is significant to the inauguration of his earthly ministry?

(See the themes of wine and wedding in Je. 31:12; Ho. 14:7; Am. 9:13–14; Mt. 22:1–14; and Mt. 25:1–13)

Tuesday

Imagine yourself in this scene. What are the sounds you are hearing? What are the smells and sights? What are you noticing? *Music*

Wednesday

Imagine yourself in the story again. What character do you see yourself as? What are you feeling? How are you experiencing Jesus?

Thursday

Jesus tells Mary that she shouldn't presume on their family relationship and expect him to come through on her timetable. Yet, in what must have been a heart wrenching movement from mother to believer, she trusts him. She tells the servants to trust him. Then she waits. What have been some of your own heart wrenching movements towards trust? *Music*

Friday

This story finishes with "And his disciples believed in him" (verse 11). Is there anything that this miracle reveals about Jesus that draws you to him?

Saturday

Slowly read the passage again, with a listening heart. Be willing to pause and linger with anything that sticks out to you.

WEEK 2

- [] Day 8: John 4:27-54
- [] Day 9: John 5:1-23
- [] Day 10: John 5:24-47
- [] Day 11: John 6:1-35
- [] Day 12: John 6:36-71
- [] Day 13: John 7:1-27
- [] Day 14: John 7:28-53

I am the Light of the World (John 8:12; 9:5)

- Consider a time in your life, maybe as a child, when you were surrounded by darkness. How did the dark make you feel? Were you ever scared of the dark? What is it about darkness that can lead to uncertainty in us?
- The 'I Am' statements of Jesus' echo back to the Old Testament. How does the opening of John 1 connect with this 'I Am' statement and Genesis 1?
- How do the Pharisees' response to Jesus' declaration that he is the "light of the world?"
- Light can help us to find or expose what is hidden. How does an encounter with Jesus both allow us to find our true self and expose what is inside of our hearts?

Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son

John 4:46-54

Art

Music

Monday

For this second sign, Jesus is back in Cana where he had turned water to wine. Now he brings a child back from the brink of death, exposing the Galileans lack of faith in the process. In what ways does this continue the mission of Jesus?

Tuesday

Imagine yourself in this scene. Can you imagine the intensity and suspense as the Nobleman begs Jesus to come down to his son?

Wednesday

Imagine yourself in the story again. Who do you see yourself as? Part of the crowd watching? The nobleman? The dying son? What are you feeling? How are you experiencing Jesus?

Thursday

The nobleman begs Jesus twice to come down to his son to heal him. The man's focus was his need, not necessarily who Jesus is. In your own life, what are ways that desperation has both revealed a lack of faith and pointed you to your Savior?

Friday

The story ends with "And he himself believed, and all his household." Is there anything that this miracle reveals about Jesus that draws you to deeper belief?

Music

Saturday

Slowly read the passage again, with a listening heart. Be willing to pause and linger with anything that sticks out to you.

WEEK 3

- [] Day 15: John 8:1-30
- [] Day 16: John 8:31-59
- [] Day 17: John 9:1-20
- [] Day 18: John 9:21-41
- [] Day 19: John 10:1-21
- [] Day 20: John 10:22-42
- [] Day 21: John 11:1-28

I am The Door (John 10:7-9)

- Consider the miracle from Jesus in John 9 - How are the characters of a door, sheep, and shepherd found in Jesus' miracle?
- The idea that Jesus is exclusively the only way to have a relationship with God is highly contested in our culture. Do you find this easy to accept? If not, why?
- Jesus acknowledges that there are thieves who aim to steal. How is Jesus' life not only a door that opens to people but also a way to protect?

Miraculous Signs: Week 3

Jesus Heals the Infirm Man

John 5:1-18

Art

Music

Monday

Here we are at the third sign, the healing of the disabled man at the pool. What are some ways that this story reveals Christ's glory and our need?

Tuesday

Imagine yourself in this scene. What are the sounds you are hearing? What are the smells and sights? What are you noticing?

Wednesday

Imagine yourself in the story again. What character do you see yourself as? What are you feeling as the drama unfolds?

Thursday

The disabled man was alone when Jesus saw him. For years, he languished with no one to carry him into the pool. Where have you felt alone and helpless in your ache for healing? How has Jesus seen you?

Friday

The Jewish authorities completely missed the beauty of what Jesus had done for this man and instead were only interested in the breach of their standards. Think of some ways this has happened in your life. Are there times when you fixated on a principle or method and missed what God was doing? Where does this story call you to repentance?

“They think they see what is important, but in religious matters there are none so blind as those who are always certain that they see.”

Carson, D. A.. The Gospel according to John (The Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC)) (p. 245). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition.

Saturday

Repentance is a gift, one that draws us back to the love and grace of the Father. Read the passage one more time and give thanks for anything that he might have shown you about your own heart and about his glory. *Music*

WEEK 4

- [] Day 22: John 11:29-57
- [] Day 23: John 12:1-25
- [] Day 24: John 12:26-50
- [] Day 25: John 13:1-18
- [] Day 26: John 13:19-38
- [] Day 27: John 14:1-15
- [] Day 28: John 14:16-31

I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-14)

- Read Psalm 23 and consider what values and traits a good shepherd must have. How are these found in Jesus?
- What areas of your heart still consistently wander from God as a stubborn sheep would? What rhythms in your life are contributing to this pattern? Can you identify new habits or rhythms that would help this area of your heart to surrender to God?
- Who in the Old Testament were also shepherds and leaders of God's people? How is Jesus' spiritual shepherding an escalation of this pattern?

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

John 6:1-15

Art

Poetry

Monday

The fourth sign in the gospel of John is the only miracle of Jesus recorded in all four Gospels. In what ways does this narrative herald both his compassion and his Kingdom?

Tuesday

Imagine that you are Phillip in this story and Jesus has just asked where you will find bread to feed the crowd. What is your response?

Wednesday

Notice the beautiful phrase in the middle of vs 10 - "Now there was much grass in the place." Spend a few minutes meditating on this in the light of Psalm 23. *Music*

Thursday

Imagine yourself in the crowd, passing the bread and fish. What are you seeing, feeling, tasting, smelling, hearing?

Friday

After seeing what Jesus had done, the people hail him as the Prophet. Yet in seeing the multiplied bread they missed the Bread of Life, the only true sustenance for their body and soul. What is a way you have missed the Giver for the gift this week? Ask God to reveal more of his heart toward you in that space. *Music*

Saturday

Slowly read the passage again, with a listening heart. Receive the bounty of God's goodness to you.

WEEK 5

- [] Day 29: John 15:1-14
- [] Day 30: John 15:15-27
- [] Day 31: John 16:1-16
- [] Day 32: John 16:17-33
- [] Day 33: John 17:1-13
- [] Day 34: John 17:14-26
- [] Day 35: John 18:1-20

I am Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

- Jesus weeps over the death of his friend. How should we as Christians think about death? Should the way we think about death be different for the believer than for those who do not believe in Christ? If so, how?
- How is Jesus' resurrection and defeat of death a first step in restoring all things back to true life? Where is the only place in Scripture that we see this state briefly? What is it like?
- Does the resurrection give you meaningful hope? If so, what does this hope look like? Has the resurrection ever been secondary in your mind to the forgiveness Jesus offers?

Jesus Walks on Water

John 6:16-21

Art

Music

Monday

Here in the 5th sign, the scene is set in the evening. It's dark and "Jesus had not yet come to them". A storm is ripping through the sea. Where have you found yourself in the dark, in a storm? Does Jesus feel absent? *Music*

Tuesday

Did yesterday's question stir a memory or a present circumstance? Consider reaching out to a trusted friend and sharing what you are comfortable with, inviting them into that boat with you.

Wednesday

The disciples are scared when they first see Jesus. Rescue can be terrifying. Are their times in your story when what you feared proved to be the very means of leading you to the light? *Music*

Thursday

“It is I; do not be afraid.” Speak these words out loud, maybe two or three times. Imagine what it would be like to be in the boat and hear Jesus speak these words to you.

Friday

“Then they were glad to take him into the boat”. What do you experience as you picture Jesus gripping the calloused hands of his disciples, letting their weary arms help him into the boat, and looking with his kind, piercing eyes into their beleaguered faces?

Saturday

What are you glad for this week? Take a moment to write down what comes to mind.

WEEK 6

- [] Day 36: John 18:21-40
- [] Day 37: John 19:1-21
- [] Day 38: John 19:22-42
- [] Day 39: John 20:1-15
- [] Day 40: John 20:16-31
- [] Day 41: John 21:1-12
- [] Day 42: John 21:13-25

I am the Way, Truth and Life (John 14:6)

- John 14-17 is the beginning of an instruction manual or playbook of sorts for Jesus' followers. How does this 'I Am' statement serve as three pillars for this manual?
- How does knowing Jesus as the way, truth, and life allow us to also know God the Father?
- How does Jesus' teaching confront the idea that there is no absolute truth?

Jesus Gives Sight to Blind Man

John 9

Art

Music

Monday

Underline or make a note of all the times the words "eyes", "see", "saw", and "sight" are used. What stands out to you?

Tuesday

The drama of the story begins with Jesus seeing the blind man. The Light of the World fixes his eyes on a man who can not see, and begins the illuminating work of redemption in the man's body and soul. How are the eyes of Jesus a comfort to you today? *Music*

Wednesday

Reflect on the contrasting trajectories between the vision of the blind man and the vision of the Pharisees, one journeying from blindness to belief and the other from curiosity to condemnation. Where do you long for more, truer sight?

Thursday

Read through the passage again, this time placing yourself in the story. What and who are you seeing?

Friday

Are there people in your life that you long to know Jesus? Spend a moment asking God to give them sight to believe.

Saturday

Can you think of times in your life when the Spirit has revealed an area of blindness and enabled you to see his work in you more clearly? Take a moment to give thanks for the sight he gives. *Music*

WEEK 7

I am the True Vine (John 15:1-5)

- Israel is often referred to in Scripture as the Old Vine. How is Jesus the 'New Israel' and the true vine?

- Jesus calls his followers to abide in the vine. What must we do to truly abide in Christ? What are the practices and rhythms that allow us to draw life from and bear fruit by the Holy Spirit?

- What are very concrete and tangible examples of what it would look like for you to bear fruit? Do you see God using you to bear fruit in your life?

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

John 11:1-44

Art

Poetry

Monday

From waiting to being with, from weeping to rejoicing, from death to life - this last of the miraculous signs in the gospel of John culminates in the foreshadowing of the greatest drama yet to come: the resurrection of Jesus. It is an intense narrative, full of confusion and grief. Read it slowly and linger where you find the words "love" and "loved."

Tuesday

The love of Jesus waits. It is jarring to read verses 6 and 7: "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was." When and where have you found yourself bewildered by the waiting of Jesus?

Wednesday

The love of Jesus calls us to belief. Spend some time meditating on verse 25 and 26.

Thursday

The love of Jesus weeps. Think about what it would have been like to hear Jesus weeping. Picture yourself there. What stirs in you as you imagine the sound of his sobbing over his friend and over death? Do you experience him weeping with you in your own sorrow? *Music*

Friday

The love of Jesus resurrects. Slowly read verses 38-44, paying close attention to the action words. Where have you seen these kinds of movements in your own life?

Saturday

Even death must bow to Jesus. Today, spend some time reflecting and giving thanks for specific ways the power and the love of Jesus have shown up in your life and in the life of your community. Share your gratitude with someone close to you.

Music