

10 DAY STUDY OF JOHN

As you begin your walk with God, we want to provide you with ten days of guided devotionals through the Book of John. We believe that if you can truly understand the content of John, your life will be forever changed. It is by believing in Jesus Christ as the true Son of God, who lived the perfect life and died a brutal death on a cross for each of us, that you can find a new understanding of your decision to follow Christ.

The Book of John is designed to show us that Jesus is God, specifically through some of the detailed accounts of the miracles of Jesus. You will read of such miracles as Jesus turning water into wine, healing blind and diseased people, and walking on water. These miracles were not performed simply to relieve human sufferings or to meet human needs, but rather to be proof of Jesus' claim of being the Son of God.

Over the next 21 days, we encourage you to commit to walking through the Book of John. There are 21 chapters in the Book of John, so that breaks down to one chapter a day. As a supplement to your reading, we have provided you with ten personal studies to assist you in your readings. We encourage you to go through these studies as you come to the appropriate chapter. We believe you will be blessed.

JOHN 1

...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

The Book of John opens up with one of the biggest truths for someone who has been a follower of Christ for years, as well as for those who are just beginning their walk with God. The opening verses set the tone for the entire book as the text refers to Jesus as the “Word,” and proclaims Him to be one with God. This opening chapter should set the foundation for the next ten days.

1. What descriptions (titles and terms) does John use to introduce the person of Jesus?
2. Which of these facts helps you understand who Jesus is?
3. Understanding that the John that is being introduced is not the author, but rather John the Baptist, what steps does he take to ensure people understand that he is not the Christ? How would you summarize his testimony concerning Jesus?
4. In verses 14-18, what specific aspects of God’s character are revealed to us through Jesus?
5. In verses 35-51, how does each man respond to the testimony he hears about Jesus?

Thoughts:

JOHN 2

...He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. John 2:11b

In Chapter 2, we see Jesus demonstrate his power and authority. We observe Jesus turning water into wine (his first public miracle) at a wedding. We then see Jesus showing His authority over the Temple by ridding it of those who had turned it into a market. These two instances prove to us that Jesus was the fullness of God clothed in humanity.

1. What do you think Christ revealed about Himself in the miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee?
2. According to verse 11, Jesus desired to show His glory in the miracle, rather than simply saving the groom from embarrassment. How does this speak to you? What aspects of Christ's glory does this miracle reveal to you?
3. What do you believe to be the significance of Jesus' claim that the temple is "my Father's house" (v.16)?
4. How does this picture of Jesus painted in verses 15-16 differ from the popular concept of Jesus in today's culture?
5. This passage depicts both true, devoted followers of Christ and others who seemed to be marked by only a superficial enthusiasm for Christ. Which are you more like on most days? What can you change, and what do you need to change?

Thoughts:

JOHN 9

“Go,” Jesus told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam.” So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7

In Chapter 9, we meet a man who has been blind since birth. Jesus interacts with this man, and this man's life is forever changed. Jesus' disciples also learn a truth from this interaction; their understanding of this interaction was vital to their ministry. In the same way, your understanding of this interaction is vital to the growth of your relationship with Christ.

1. Based on the question that the disciples ask in verse 2, what is the difference between Jesus' view and the disciples' view of the relation between sickness and sin?
2. In verse 5, Jesus claims to be the light of the world. In what sense does the physical healing of the blind man confirm Jesus' spiritual claim?
3. Why do you think that Jesus goes through the process of making mud, and then requiring the man to walk to a specific place to wash the mud off? Jesus could have healed the man right on the spot; why didn't He heal him instantly?
4. How might you describe the initial response to the healed blind man of his neighbors? Then, of the Pharisees, his parents, and then the man himself?
5. Through what weakness, failed relationship, or disability in your life could God demonstrate His glory?

Thoughts:

John 10

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for my sheep. John 10:14-15

In Chapter 10, you will witness one of the most moving pictures of our salvation and assurance in Christ found anywhere in the Bible. Jesus tells the story of a shepherd enclosing his sheep in a sheepfold in this chapter. You will not doubt the love of Christ after walking through this chapter.

1. As you read through verses 1-21, list out the characteristics of the following:
 - a. The sheep pen:
 - b. The shepherd:
 - c. The thief:
 - d. The sheep:
 - e. The gate:
 - f. The hired hand:
2. After reading verses 11-15, what can you learn about Jesus' care and relationship with you after reading about how the shepherd's care for his sheep?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus laid down his own life on his own accord, according to verse 17-18?
4. How does it make you feel after reading the promises and assurances that Jesus gives in verses 28-29?
5. How can these promises and assurances help you when you are struggling with doubt?

Thoughts:

John 11

“Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” John 11:14

In Chapter 11, we learn that we should never fear death again. We see a family struggling with the loss of a loved one, and then we see Jesus come on the scene and raise the loved one back to life. The applications of this text will be of a tremendous value to you.

1. Based on what you read in Chapter 11, put into your own words the relationship between Jesus and each member of this family:
 - a. Mary:
 - b. Martha:
 - c. Lazarus:
2. What is the connection between the seeming conflict between Jesus' love for Lazarus and his decision to “stay where He was for two more days” (verse 5)?
3. What elements of doubt and faith do you see in Martha's statement to Jesus in verses 17-27? How does Jesus stretch Martha's faith in this encounter?
4. Verses 25-26 says, “He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” In your own words, what kind of “life” and “death” is Jesus referring to in this passage? How do these statements change your view of life and death, especially your views before you accepted Christ?
5. In what ways will this chapter change the way you respond to personal difficulty or the apparent delay of God in answering your prayers?

Thoughts:

John 13

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash one another’s feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you.” John 13:14

In Chapter 13, we see Jesus in the role of a servant to his disciples. He sets the example that He wants for each of us as He washes the feet of His disciples. In doing this, He is showing us His true heart and compassion for those who follow Him.

1. Read verses 1-3. List out what the text says that Jesus knows about himself.
2. Now read verses 4-5. In the light of the answers to Question 1, what is remarkable about what Jesus does next?
3. What does it show the disciples about Jesus when He decided to wash their feet instead of simply teaching them about love via a sermon?
4. In your world, what would be some of the equivalents to the washing of feet? How can you serve those around you with God’s love?
5. In verses 6-11, what is Peter’s motivation in his words, and what is Jesus trying to teach Peter in his response to him?
6. In your own words, summarize the message of Jesus to His disciples after He washes their feet.

Thoughts:

John 15

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.” John 15:9

In Chapter 15, we see Jesus use the analogy of a vine and its branches to show one of the keys to your continued spiritual growth. We will hear directly from Jesus the importance of staying close to Him spiritually. To his disciples, he simply said, “Remain in me.” This simple message can carry you through your walk with God.

1. Jesus uses three symbols in this text: the vine, the gardener, and the branches. How would you describe for yourself what Jesus meant by calling himself the “true vine?”
2. In the same way, describe for yourself the significance of calling his disciples “branches.”
3. If you notice, Jesus did not command us to bear fruit, but rather to simply, “Remain in me.” Why do you think he used those instructions?
4. What are some things that you can do to help you “remain in Christ?” Or, what are some specific things that you can do to deepen your relationship with Jesus?
5. Read verses 9-14. What does it mean to you to make your “joy complete” as Jesus referred to in these verses? How does it make you feel that because of your decision for Christ you have been made “complete?”

Thoughts:

John 17

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.” John 17:1

In Chapter 17, Jesus spends a lot of time in prayer for himself, for his disciples, and then for you. Every believer, from both then and now, is on the mind of Jesus in this prayer. He is about to go through the biggest trial of his life, his crucifixion.

1. Jesus opens up the chapter with one main request – that the Father would glorify him so he might glorify the Father. In your own words, why do you think that was so important to Jesus? In the same context, how can you change your mindset so that God’s glory is foremost in your daily?
2. In his prayer for the disciples, he asks God to protect them against the evil one. Why would that protection be so important to Jesus’ mind as He faces the cross?
3. In verse 17, Jesus asks God to sanctify his disciples through the Word. Look up the definition to the word “sanctify,” and then apply the context to your own life. How can you allow God’s word to have that kind of effect on our lives?
4. Construct your prayer based on Jesus’ model. Pray a prayer for yourself, for the people closest to you, and for the people whom you influence in your workplace, family, circle of friends, or neighborhood.

Thoughts:

John 19

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. John 19:19

In Chapter 19, you will read about the public and painful crucifixion of Jesus. You will read the death that he willingly died for each of us. You will read His last words, and see the love that He had for each of us as He hung on a cross. During this time, we will focus on the love He showed.

1. Three groups of people are involved in the death of Jesus – the soldiers, the Jewish leaders, and Pilate. Based on what you read in Chapter 19, how would you characterize each of their attitudes toward Jesus?
2. How do you feel that their attitudes towards Jesus parallel those of our society today?
3. If you were Mary, how would you have felt as you watched your son die a brutal death on the cross?
4. What aspect of the death of Jesus has made the deepest impression on you and why?
5. As you grow in your faith, why is it important to establish the certainty of Jesus' death?

Thoughts:

John 20 & 21

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" John 20:18

In Chapters 20 and 21, we experience the resurrection and appearance of Jesus! We experience the power of Christ to overcome the grave and live again. These facts are the foundation of our faith. Without the resurrection, we would not worship Jesus in the same way. These chapters are worthy of our joy and celebration!

1. These chapters identify three witnesses to the empty tomb: Mary Magdalene, Peter, and "the other disciple." What important details do we learn from each one?
2. The Book of John also records three appearances of the risen Christ. He appears to Mary Magdalene, to his disciples, and to Thomas.
 - a. Why do you think Mary Magdalene doesn't recognize Jesus immediately?
 - b. Once she does, what impresses you the most about their encounter?
 - c. Once Jesus appears to his disciples, He gives them specific gifts and promises. In verses 19-23, what were they?
 - d. What is the significance of each gift or promise?
 - e. What can we learn from Jesus' encounter with Thomas about helping people who have doubts about the Christian message?
3. In Chapter 21, verses 7-8, Peter hears, "it is the Lord" and then jumps out of the boat and begins to swim towards Jesus. What does this say about the relationship between Peter and Jesus?
4. Pretend that Jesus is talking to you with the following statements:
 - a. Do you truly love me?
 - b. Take care of my sheep.
 - c. You must follow me.

How would you respond, or what would these words mean to you in the context of your life?

As you have now studied John's Gospel, what aspects of Jesus' character or ministry have impressed you the most? What are the main life applications that you are going to take away from these studies?

Thoughts:

new you

Conclusion

We hope you were encouraged by these ten studies. We hope that you became engaged with the Book of John and its message of hope, encouragement, and love.

Now, your challenge is to take this same approach with other books of the Bible. Your challenge is to take what you have learned from these ten studies and apply it to your life.

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