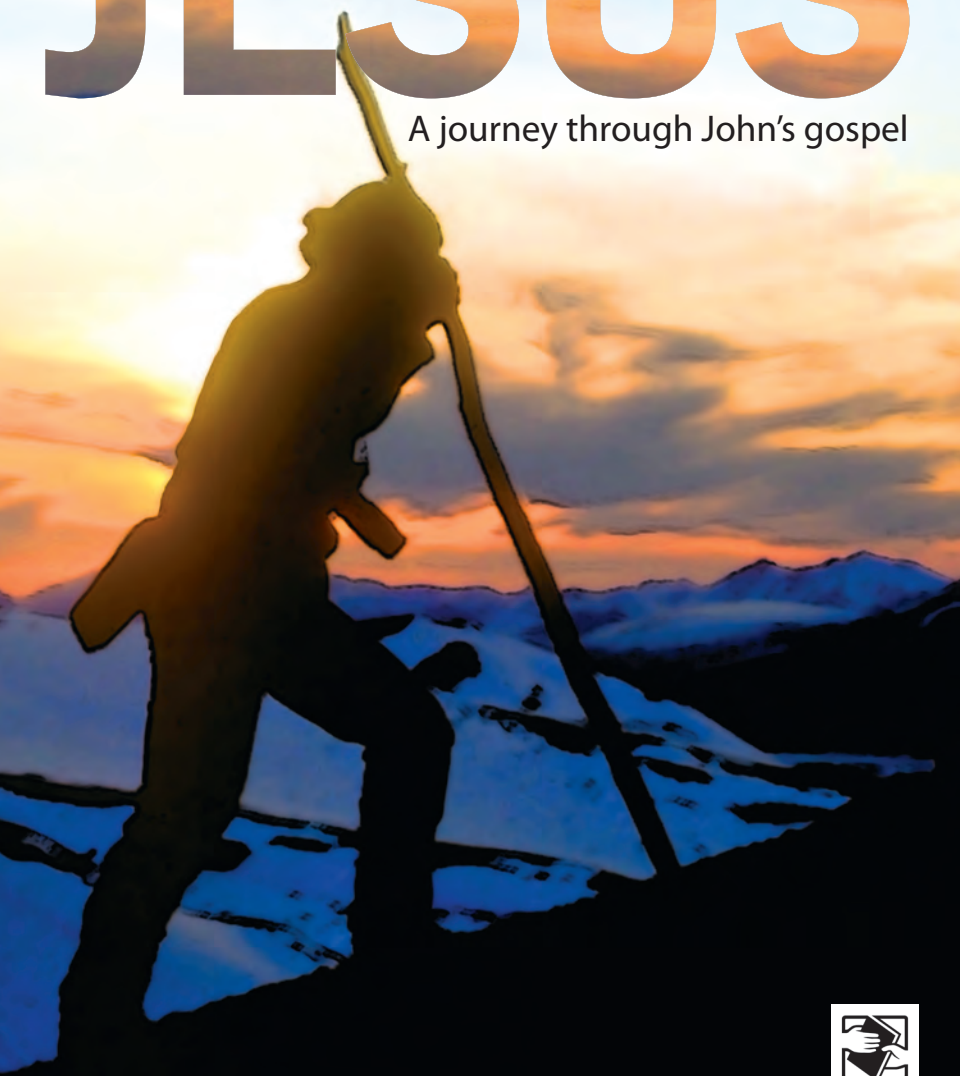


21 days with JESUS

A journey through John's gospel



21 days with Jesus

A journey through John's gospel

Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version™

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A lifelong journey

There is no magic formula for getting to know Jesus. It's not a matter of saying the right things and reciting a quick prayer. It's not a one-time decision. It's a lifelong journey.

A relationship with Jesus (or God) is like any other relationship—it grows out of talking and listening to each other.

Every day.

You talk to God whenever you pray. You listen to God by reading the Bible—because God wrote the Bible for us.

What you have in your hands is one book of the Bible, the book of John. John was a close friend of Jesus, and in this book he recalls many of the things Jesus said and did while He lived on earth.

John himself says that the purpose of his book is “that you can believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through his name.” (John 20:31, page 63 in this book)

Reading the book John wrote is a good way for us to get to know Jesus. It is not only a historical record; it's also a living document because Jesus is still alive today. When we read His words in these pages, we know He is still speaking to us now.

Sharing the journey

The book of John is just one book of the Bible. (There are 66 altogether.) It's a good book for deep thinkers because John loves to talk about the mysteries of Jesus.

There are 21 chapters in this book. If you read one chapter each day, you'll have spent 21 days with Jesus.

You might find it even more enjoyable to share this journey with others. Consider meeting once a week with a few friends to talk about what you've been reading and to encourage

each other. After all, the Bible is meant to be shared, discussed, and lived! The things we learn from each other can make each of our individual journeys richer and more meaningful. Try it!

Finding your way around

All books of the Bible use the same method for helping people find their place. Each book is divided into chapters and verses, so when you're reading it in a group, you can all refer to the same thing easily. When you see a reference like “John 20:31,” it's pointing you to the book of John, chapter 20 (indicated by a large number), verse 31 (indicated by a small number).

In this book, along with John's writing we've included some study helps to help you think about what you're reading. We've divided John's 21 chapters into three sections of 7 chapters each. Each section uses a different style of study helps, so you'll have a chance to experiment with three different styles and find one you like. This way, if you decide to read more Bible books when you're done with John, you'll already have some “tools” for getting the most out of your reading.

Enjoying the journey

Whenever you read the Bible—on your own or with others—remember, you don't have to understand everything you read. Some of it might be confusing. Parts of it might not apply to you now (though they might later). Just keep reading, a little bit every day.

No matter what, keep it up. Keep talking to God through prayer. And keep listening to God by reading what He says in the Bible.

Every day.

John

The Gospel of John

□ Day 1:

Try praying first: “Jesus, I’m curious about your life. I want to learn, so open my mind and help me understand what I’m about to read.”

Christ Comes to the World

1 ¹Before the world began, the Word was there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was there with God in the beginning. ³Everything was made through him, and nothing was made without him. ⁴In him there was life, and that life was a light for the people of the world. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not defeated it.

⁶There was a man named John, who was sent by God. ⁷He came to tell people about the light. Through him all people could hear about the light and believe. ⁸John was not the light. But he came to tell people about the light. ⁹The true light was coming into the world. This is the true light that gives light to all people.

¹⁰The Word was already in the world. The world was made through him, but the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to the world that was his own. And his own people did not accept him. ¹²But some people did accept him. They believed in him, and he gave them the right to become children of God. ¹³They became God’s children, but not in the way babies are usually born. It was not because of any human desire or plan. They were born from God himself.

¹⁴The Word became a man and lived among us. We saw his divine greatness—the greatness that belongs to the only Son of the Father. The Word was full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John told people about him. He said loudly, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one who is coming after me is greater than I am, because he was living before I was even born.’”

¹⁶Yes, the Word was full of grace and truth, and from him we all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷That is, the law was given to us through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No

one has ever seen God. The only Son is the one who has shown us what God is like. He is himself God and is very close to the Father.

John Tells About the Messiah

¹⁹The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, “Who are you?” He told them the truth. ²⁰Without any hesitation he said openly and plainly, “I am not the Messiah.”

²¹They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He answered, “No, I am not Elijah.”

They asked, “Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, “No, I am not the Prophet.”

²²Then they said, “Who are you? Tell us about yourself. Give us an answer to tell the people who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³John told them the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert:
‘Make a straight road ready for the Lord.’”

²⁴These Jews were sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They said to John, “You say you are not the Messiah. You say you are not Elijah or the Prophet. Then why do you baptize people?”

²⁶John answered, “I baptize people with water. But there is someone here with you that you don’t know. ²⁷He is the one who is coming later. I am not good enough to be the slave who unties the strings on his sandals.”

²⁸These things all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River. This is where John was baptizing people.

Jesus, the Lamb of God

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sins of the world! ³⁰This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘There is a man coming after me who is greater than I am, because he was living even before I was born.’ ³¹I did not know who he was. But I came baptizing people with water so that Israel could know that he is the Messiah.”

³²⁻³⁴Then John said this for everyone to hear: “I also did not know who the Messiah was. But the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and rest on a man. He is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen this happen. I saw

the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and rest on this man. So this is what I tell people: 'He is the Son of God.'

The First Followers of Jesus

³⁵The next day John was there again and had two of his followers with him. ³⁶He saw Jesus walking by and said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷The two followers heard him say this, so they followed Jesus.

³⁸Jesus turned and saw the two men following him. He asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" ("Rabbi" means "Teacher.")

³⁹He answered, "Come with me and you will see." So the two men went with him. They saw the place where he was staying, and they stayed there with him that day. It was about four o'clock.

⁴⁰These men followed Jesus after they had heard about him from John. One of them was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to go and find his brother Simon. Andrew said to him, "We have found the Messiah." ("Messiah" means "Christ.")

⁴²Then Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, the son of John. You will be called Cephas." ("Cephas" means "Peter.")

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He met Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the law. The prophets wrote about him too. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth."

⁴⁶But Nathanael said to Philip, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

Philip answered, "Come and see."

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said, "This man coming is a true Israelite, one you can trust."

⁴⁸Nathanael asked, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree, before Philip told you about me."

⁴⁹Then Nathanael said, "Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel."

⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Do you believe this just because I said I saw you under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than that!" ⁵¹Then he said, "Believe me when I say that you will all see heaven open. You will see 'angels of God going up and coming down' on the Son of Man."

Day 2

1. Underline three things that interest you in today's chapter.
 2. Choose one of the three things you underlined, and write why you underlined it. If you are studying this book with someone else, take turns sharing what you've written down.
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3. Write down something you think Jesus wanted you to learn in this chapter today, then share out loud.
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(You can use this simple exercise with any part of the Bible. It's a good way to help apply what God is saying in the Bible and to learn from other people what God is saying to them. We will use this exercise with each of the first seven chapters of John. Then we'll use two other exercises for the remaining chapters.)

□ Day 2:

Try praying first: *"God, speak to me again today. I'm ready to listen."*

The Wedding at Cana

2¹Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee, and Jesus' mother was there. ²Jesus and his followers were also invited. ³At the wedding there was not enough wine, so Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴Jesus answered, "Dear woman, why are you telling me this? It is not yet time for me to begin my work."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do what he tells you."

⁶There were six large stone waterpots there that were used by the Jews in their washing ceremonies. Each one held about 20 or 30 gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them to the top.

⁸Then he said to them, "Now dip out some water and take it to the man in charge of the feast."

So they did what he said. ⁹Then the man in charge tasted it, but the water had become wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants who brought the water knew. He called the

bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “People always serve the best wine first. Later, when the guests are drunk, they serve the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine until now.”

¹¹This was the first of all the miraculous signs Jesus did. He did it in the town of Cana in Galilee. By this he showed his divine greatness, and his followers believed in him.

¹²Then Jesus went to the town of Capernaum. His mother and brothers and his followers went with him. They all stayed there a few days.

Jesus at the Temple

¹³It was almost time for the Jewish Passover, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.

¹⁴There in the Temple area he saw men selling cattle, sheep, and doves. He saw others sitting at tables, exchanging and trading people’s money.

¹⁵Jesus made a whip with some pieces of rope. Then he forced all these men and the sheep and cattle to leave the Temple area. He turned over the tables of the money traders and scattered their money. ¹⁶Then he said to those who were selling pigeons, “Take these things out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a place for buying and selling!”

¹⁷When this happened, his followers remembered what was written in the Scriptures:

“My strong devotion to your Temple will destroy me.”

¹⁸Some Jews said to Jesus, “Show us a miracle as a sign from God. Prove that you have the right to do these things.”

¹⁹Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple and I will build it again in three days.”

²⁰They answered, “People worked 46 years to build this Temple! Do you really believe you can build it again in three days?”

²¹But the temple Jesus meant was his own body. ²²After he was raised from death, his followers remembered that he had said this. So they believed the Scriptures, and they believed the words Jesus said.

²³Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Many people believed in him because they saw the miraculous signs he did. ²⁴But Jesus did not trust them, because he knew how all people think. ²⁵He did not need anyone to tell him what a person was like. He already knew.

Day 3

1. Underline three things that interest you in today's chapter.
 2. Choose one of the three things you underlined, and write why you underlined it. If you are studying this book with someone else, take turns sharing what you've written down.
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3. Write down something you think Jesus wanted you to learn in this chapter today, then share out loud.
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□ Day 3:

Try praying first: *"Here I am again, God, ready to listen and learn."*

Jesus and Nicodemus

3¹There was a man named Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees. He was an important Jewish leader. ²One night he came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No one can do these miraculous signs that you do unless they have God's help."

³Jesus answered, "I assure you, everyone must be born again. Anyone who is not born again cannot be in God's kingdom."

⁴Nicodemus said, "How can a man who is already old be born again? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born a second time?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Believe me when I say that everyone must be born from water and the Spirit. Anyone who is not born from water and the Spirit cannot enter God's kingdom. ⁶The only life people get from their human parents is physical. But the new life that the Spirit gives a person is spiritual. ⁷Don't be surprised that I told you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it wants to. You hear it, but you don't know where it is coming from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born from the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus asked, "How is all this possible?"

¹⁰Jesus said, "You are an important teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these things? ¹¹The truth is, we talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you people don't accept what we tell you. ¹²I have told you about things here on earth, but you

do not believe me. So I'm sure you will not believe me if I tell you about heavenly things! ¹³The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the one who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.

¹⁴“Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. It is the same with the Son of Man. He must be lifted up too. ¹⁵Then everyone who believes in him can have eternal life.”

¹⁶Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life. ¹⁷God sent his Son into the world. He did not send him to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸People who believe in God's Son are not judged guilty. But people who do not believe are already judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. ¹⁹They are judged by this fact: The light has come into the world. But they did not want light. They wanted darkness, because they were doing evil things. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light. They will not come to the light, because the light will show all the bad things they have done. ²¹But anyone who follows the true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that whatever they have done was done through God.

Jesus and John the Baptizer

²²After this, Jesus and his followers went into the area of Judea. There he stayed with his followers and baptized people. ²³John was also baptizing people in Aenon, a place near Salim with plenty of water. People were going there to be baptized. ²⁴This was before John was put in prison.

²⁵Some of John's followers had an argument with another Jew about religious washing. ²⁶Then they came to John and said, “Teacher, remember the man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? He is the one you were telling everyone about. He is also baptizing people, and many are going to him.”

²⁷John answered, “A person can receive only what God gives. ²⁸You yourselves heard me say, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only the one God sent to prepare the way for him.’ ²⁹The bride always belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who helps the bridegroom just waits and listens. He is happy just to hear the bridegroom talk. That's how I feel now. I am so happy that he is here. ³⁰He must become more and more important, and I must become less important.

The One Who Comes From Heaven

³¹“The one who comes from above is greater than all others. The one

who is from the earth belongs to the earth. He talks about things that are on the earth. But the one who comes from heaven is greater than all others. ³²He tells what he has seen and heard, but people don't accept what he says. ³³Whoever accepts what he says has given proof that God speaks the truth. ³⁴God sent him, and he tells people what God says. God gives him the Spirit fully. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given him power over everything. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. But those who do not obey the Son will never have that life. They cannot get away from God's anger."

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3. Write down something you think Jesus wanted you to learn in this chapter today, then share out loud.
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☐ Day 4:

Start with a prayer like this: "Thank you, God, for meeting with me every day and helping me get to know you."

Jesus Talks to a Woman in Samaria

4 ¹Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard the report that he was making and baptizing more followers than John. ²(But really, Jesus himself did not baptize anyone; his followers baptized people for him.) ³So he left Judea and went back to Galilee. ⁴On the way to Galilee, he had to go through the country of Samaria.

⁵In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar, which is near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip, so he sat down beside the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water, and

Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink."⁸This happened while his followers were in town buying some food.

⁹The woman answered, "I am surprised that you ask me for a drink! You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman!" (Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered, "You don't know what God can give you. And you don't know who I am, the one who asked you for a drink. If you knew, you would have asked me, and I would have given you living water."

¹¹The woman said, "Sir, where will you get that living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with. ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob? He is the one who gave us this well. He drank from it himself, and his sons and all his animals drank from it too."

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. ¹⁴But anyone who drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. The water I give people will be like a spring flowing inside them. It will bring them eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty again and won't have to come back here to get more water."

¹⁶Jesus told her, "Go get your husband and come back."

¹⁷The woman answered, "But I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You are right to say you have no husband. ¹⁸That's because, although you have had five husbands, the man you live with now is not your husband. That much was the truth."

¹⁹The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship."

²¹Jesus said, "Believe me, woman! The time is coming when you will not have to be in Jerusalem or on this mountain to worship the Father. ²²You Samaritans worship something you don't understand. We Jews understand what we worship, since salvation comes from the Jews. ²³But the time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. In fact, that time is now here. And these are the kind of people the Father wants to be his worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit. So the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

²⁵The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming." (He is the one called Christ.) "When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶Then Jesus said, "He is talking to you now—I am the Messiah."

²⁷Just then Jesus' followers came back from town. They were

surprised because they saw Jesus talking with a woman. But none of them asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to town. She told the people there, ²⁹“A man told me everything I have ever done. Come see him. Maybe he is the Messiah.” ³⁰So the people left the town and went to see Jesus.

³¹While the woman was in town, Jesus’ followers were begging him, “Teacher, eat something!”

³²But Jesus answered, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³So the followers asked themselves, “Did someone already bring him some food?”

³⁴Jesus said, “My food is to do what the one who sent me wants me to do. My food is to finish the work that he gave me to do. ³⁵When you plant, you always say, ‘Four more months to wait before we gather the grain.’ But I tell you, open your eyes, and look at the fields. They are ready for harvesting now. ³⁶Even now, the people who harvest the crop are being paid. They are gathering crops for eternal life. So now the people who plant can be happy together with those who harvest. ³⁷It is true when we say, ‘One person plants, but another person harvests the crop.’ ³⁸I sent you to harvest a crop that you did not work for. Others did the work, and you get the profit from their work.”

³⁹Many of the Samaritan people in that town believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman had told them about him. She had told them, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰The Samaritans went to Jesus. They begged him to stay with them. So he stayed there two days. ⁴¹Many more people became believers because of the things he said.

⁴²The people said to the woman, “First we believed in Jesus because of what you told us. But now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know now that he really is the one who will save the world.”

Jesus Heals an Official’s Son

⁴³Two days later Jesus left and went to Galilee. ⁴⁴(Jesus had said before that a prophet is not respected in his own country.) ⁴⁵When he arrived in Galilee, the people there welcomed him. They had been at the Pass-over festival in Jerusalem and had seen everything he did there.

⁴⁶Jesus went to visit Cana in Galilee again. Cana is where he had changed the water into wine. One of the king’s important officials lived

in the city of Capernaum. This man's son was sick. ⁴⁷The man heard that Jesus had come from Judea and was now in Galilee. So he went to Jesus and begged him to come to Capernaum and heal his son, who was almost dead. ⁴⁸Jesus said to him, "You people must see miraculous signs and wonders before you will believe in me."

⁴⁹The king's official said, "Sir, come before my little son dies."

⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Go. Your son will live."

The man believed what Jesus told him and went home. ⁵¹On the way home, the man's servants came and met him. They said, "Your son is well."

⁵²The man asked, "What time did my son begin to get well?"

They answered, "It was about one o'clock yesterday when the fever left him."

⁵³The father knew that one o'clock was the same time that Jesus had said, "Your son will live." So the man and everyone in his house believed in Jesus.

⁵⁴That was the second miraculous sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

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□ Day 5:

Try praying first: "God, I don't always understand the things I read about you, but thank you for spending time with me. Speak to me again today."

Jesus Heals a Man at a Pool

5 ¹Later, Jesus went to Jerusalem for a special Jewish festival. ²In Jerusalem there is a pool with five covered porches. In Aramaic it is called Bethzatha. This pool is near the Sheep Gate. ³Many sick people were lying on the porches beside the pool. Some of them were blind, some were crippled, and some were paralyzed. ^{4*}⁵One of the men lying there had been sick for 38 years. ⁶Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been sick for a very long time. So he asked him, "Do you want to be well?"

⁷The sick man answered, "Sir, there is no one to help me get into the water when it starts moving. I try to be the first one into the water. But when I try, someone else always goes in before I can."

⁸Then Jesus said, "Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk." ⁹Immediately the man was well. He picked up his mat and started walking.

The day all this happened was a Sabbath day. ¹⁰So some Jews said to the man who had been healed, "Today is the Sabbath. It is against our law for you to carry your mat on the Sabbath day."

¹¹But he answered, "The man who made me well told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

¹²They asked him, "Who is the man who told you to pick up your mat and walk?"

¹³But the man who had been healed did not know who it was. There were many people there, and Jesus had left.

¹⁴Later, Jesus found the man at the Temple and said to him, "See, you are well now. But stop sinning or something worse may happen to you!"

¹⁵Then the man left and went back to the Jews who questioned him. He told them that Jesus was the one who made him well.

¹⁶Jesus was doing all this on the Sabbath day. So these Jews began trying to make him stop. ¹⁷But he said to them, "My Father never stops working, and so I work too."

* **5:4** A few later copies add verse 4: "Sometimes an angel of the Lord came down to the pool and shook the water. After this, the first person to go into the pool was healed from any sickness he had."

¹⁸This made them even more determined to kill him. They thought it was bad enough that he was breaking the law about the Sabbath day. And now he was saying that God is his Father, making himself equal with God!

Jesus Has God's Authority

¹⁹But Jesus answered, "I assure you that the Son can do nothing alone. He does only what he sees his Father doing. The Son does the same things that the Father does. ²⁰The Father loves the Son and shows him everything he does. This man was healed. But the Father will show the Son greater things than this to do. Then you will all be amazed. ²¹The Father raises the dead and gives them life. In the same way, the Son gives life to those he wants to.

²²"Also, the Father judges no one. He has given the Son power to do all the judging. ²³God did this so that all people will respect the Son the same as they respect the Father. Anyone who does not respect the Son does not respect the Father. He is the one who sent the Son.

²⁴"I assure you, anyone who hears what I say and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life. They will not be judged guilty. They have already left death and have entered into life. ²⁵Believe me, an important time is coming. That time is already here. People who are dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live. ²⁶Life comes from the Father himself. So the Father has also allowed the Son to give life. ²⁷And the Father has given him the power to judge all people because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸"Don't be surprised at this. A time is coming when all people who are dead and in their graves will hear his voice. ²⁹Then they will come out of their graves. Those who did good in this life will rise and have eternal life. But those who did evil will rise to be judged guilty.

³⁰"I can do nothing alone. I judge only the way I am told. And my judgment is right, because I am not trying to please myself. I want only to please the one who sent me.

Jesus Says More to the Jewish Leaders

³¹"If I tell people about myself, they cannot be sure that what I say is true. ³²But there is someone else who tells people about me, and I know that what he says about me is true.

³³"You sent men to John, and he told you what is true. ³⁴I don't need anyone to tell people about me, but I remind you of what John said so

that you can be saved. ³⁵John was like a lamp that burned and gave light, and you were happy to enjoy his light for a while.

³⁶“But I have a proof about myself that is greater than anything John said. The things I do are my proof. These are what my Father gave me to do. They show that the Father sent me. ³⁷And the Father who sent me has given proof about me himself. But you have never heard his voice. You have never seen what he looks like. ³⁸The Father’s teaching does not live in you, because you don’t believe in the one the Father sent. ³⁹You carefully study the Scriptures. You think that they give you eternal life. These same Scriptures tell about me! ⁴⁰But you refuse to come to me to have that life.

⁴¹“I don’t want praise from you or any other human. ⁴²But I know you—I know that you have no love for God. ⁴³I have come from my Father and speak for him, but you don’t accept me. But when other people come speaking only for themselves, you accept them. ⁴⁴You like to have praise from each other. But you never try to get the praise that comes from the only God. So how can you believe? ⁴⁵Don’t think that I will be the one to stand before the Father and accuse you. Moses is the one to accuse you. And he is the one you hoped would save you. ⁴⁶If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷But you don’t believe what he wrote, so you can’t believe what I say.”

1. Underline three things that interest you in today’s chapter.
 2. Choose one of the three things you underlined, and write why you underlined it. If you are studying this book with someone else, take turns sharing what you’ve written down.
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3. Write down something you think Jesus wanted you to learn in this chapter today, then share out loud.
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□ Day 6:

Try praying this prayer out loud: "God, I want to get to know you. Remind me to talk to you about whatever's on my mind. And remind me to listen to you by reading the Bible every day."

Jesus Feeds More Than 5,000

6¹ Later, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (also known as Lake Tiberias). ² A great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he did in healing the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the side of the hill and sat there with his followers. ⁴ It was almost the time for the Jewish Passover festival.

⁵ Jesus looked up and saw a crowd of people coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough bread for all these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.

⁷ Philip answered, "We would all have to work a month to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece!"

⁸ Another follower there was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Andrew said, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people."

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Tell everyone to sit down." This was a place with a lot of grass, and about 5,000 men sat down there. ¹¹ Jesus took the loaves of bread and gave thanks for them. Then he gave them to the people who were waiting to eat. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted.

¹² They all had plenty to eat. When they finished, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything." ¹³ So they gathered up the pieces that were left. The people had started eating with only five loaves of barley bread. But the followers filled twelve large baskets with the pieces of food that were left.

¹⁴ The people saw this miraculous sign that Jesus did and said, "He must be the Prophet who is coming into the world."

¹⁵ Jesus knew that the people planned to come get him and make him their king. So he left and went into the hills alone.

Jesus Walks on Water

¹⁶ That evening Jesus' followers went down to the lake. ¹⁷ It was dark now, and Jesus had not yet come back to them. They got into a boat and started going across the lake to Capernaum. ¹⁸ The wind was blowing very

hard. The waves on the lake were becoming bigger. ¹⁹They rowed the boat about three or four miles. Then they saw Jesus. He was walking on the water, coming to the boat. They were afraid. ²⁰But he said to them, “Don’t be afraid. It’s me.” ²¹When he said this, they were glad to take him into the boat. And then the boat reached the shore at the place they wanted to go.

The People Look for Jesus

²²The next day came. Some people had stayed on the other side of the lake. They knew that Jesus did not go with his followers in the boat. They knew that the followers had left in the boat alone. And they knew it was the only boat that was there. ²³But then some boats from Tiberias came and landed near the place where the people had eaten the day before. This was where they had eaten the bread after the Lord gave thanks. ²⁴The people saw that Jesus and his followers were not there now. So they got into the boats and went to Capernaum to find Jesus.

Jesus, the Bread of Life

²⁵The people found Jesus on the other side of the lake. They asked him, “Teacher, when did you come here?”

²⁶He answered, “Why are you looking for me? Is it because you saw miraculous signs? The truth is, you are looking for me because you ate the bread and were satisfied. ²⁷But earthly food spoils and ruins. So don’t work to get that kind of food. But work to get the food that stays good and gives you eternal life. The Son of Man will give you that food. He is the only one qualified by God the Father to give it to you.”

²⁸The people asked Jesus, “What does God want us to do?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “The work God wants you to do is this: to believe in the one he sent.”

³⁰So the people asked, “What miraculous sign will you do for us? If we can see you do a miracle, then we will believe you. What will you do?”

³¹Our ancestors were given manna to eat in the desert. As the Scriptures say, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³²Jesus said, “I can assure you that Moses was not the one who gave your people bread from heaven. But my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³God’s bread is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴The people said, “Sir, from now on give us bread like that.”

³⁵Then Jesus said, “I am the bread that gives life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who believes in me will ever be

thirsty. ³⁶I told you before that you have seen me, and still you don't believe. ³⁷The Father gives me my people. Every one of them will come to me. I will always accept them. ³⁸I came down from heaven to do what God wants, not what I want. ³⁹I must not lose anyone God has given me. But I must raise them up on the last day. This is what the one who sent me wants me to do. ⁴⁰Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him has eternal life. I will raise them up on the last day. This is what my Father wants."

⁴¹Some Jews began to complain about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that comes down from heaven." ⁴²They said, "This is Jesus. We know his father and mother. He is only Joseph's son. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven?'"

⁴³But Jesus said, "Stop complaining to each other. ⁴⁴The Father is the one who sent me, and he is the one who brings people to me. I will raise them up on the last day. Anyone the Father does not bring to me cannot come to me. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets: 'God will teach them all.' People listen to the Father and learn from him. They are the ones who come to me. ⁴⁶I don't mean that there is anyone who has seen the Father. The only one who has ever seen the Father is the one who came from God. He has seen the Father.

⁴⁷"I can assure you that anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread that gives life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna God gave them in the desert, but it didn't keep them from dying. ⁵⁰Here is the bread that comes down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will never die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my body. I will give my body so that the people in the world can have life."

⁵²Then the Jews began to argue among themselves. They said, "How can this man give us his body to eat?"

⁵³Jesus said, "Believe me when I say that you must eat the body of the Son of Man, and you must drink his blood. If you don't do this, you have no real life. ⁵⁴Those who eat my body and drink my blood have eternal life. I will raise them up on the last day. ⁵⁵My body is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my body and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them.

⁵⁷"The Father sent me. He lives, and I live because of him. So everyone who eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸I am not like the bread that your ancestors ate. They ate that bread, but they still died. I am the bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever."

⁵⁹Jesus said all this while he was teaching in the synagogue in the city of Capernaum.

Many Followers Leave Jesus

⁶⁰When Jesus' followers heard this, many of them said, "This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹Jesus already knew that his followers were complaining about this. So he said, "Is this teaching a problem for you? ⁶²Then what will you think when you see the Son of Man going up to where he came from?"

⁶³It is the Spirit that gives life. The body is of no value for that. But the things I have told you are from the Spirit, so they give life. ⁶⁴But some of you don't believe." (Jesus knew the people who did not believe. He knew this from the beginning. And he knew the one who would hand him over to his enemies.) ⁶⁵Jesus said, "That is why I said, 'Anyone the Father does not help to come to me cannot come.'"

⁶⁶After Jesus said these things, many of his followers left and stopped following him.

⁶⁷Jesus asked the twelve apostles, "Do you want to leave too?"

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, where would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. ⁶⁹We believe in you. We know that you are the Holy One from God."

⁷⁰Then Jesus answered, "I chose all twelve of you. But one of you is a devil." ⁷¹He was talking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Judas was one of the twelve apostles, but later he would hand Jesus over to his enemies.

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3. Write down something you think Jesus wanted you to learn in this chapter today, then share out loud.

□ Day 7:

Greet God and ask Him to speak clearly to you as you read today's chapter of the Bible.

Jesus and His Brothers

7 ¹After this, Jesus traveled around the country of Galilee. He did not want to travel in Judea, because the Jewish leaders there wanted to kill him. ²It was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters. ³So his brothers said to him, "You should leave here and go to the festival in Judea. Then your followers there can see the miracles you do. ⁴If you want to be well known, you must not hide what you do. So, if you can do such amazing things, let the whole world see you do them." ⁵Jesus' brothers said this because even they did not believe in him.

⁶Jesus said to them, "The right time for me has not yet come, but any time is right for you to go. ⁷The world cannot hate you. But the world hates me, because I tell the people in the world that they do evil things. ⁸So you go to the festival. I will not go now, because the right time for me has not yet come." ⁹After Jesus said this, he stayed in Galilee.

¹⁰So his brothers left to go to the festival. After they left, Jesus went too, but he did not let people see him. ¹¹At the festival the Jewish leaders were looking for him. They said, "Where is that man?"

¹²There was a large group of people there. Many of them were talking secretly to each other about Jesus. Some people said, "He is a good man." But others said, "No, he fools the people." ¹³But no one was brave enough to talk about him openly. They were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

Jesus Teaches in Jerusalem

¹⁴When the festival was about half finished, Jesus went to the Temple area and began to teach. ¹⁵The Jewish leaders were amazed and said, "How did this man learn so much? He never had the kind of teaching we had!"

¹⁶Jesus answered, "What I teach is not my own. My teaching comes from the one who sent me. ¹⁷People who really want to do what God wants will know that my teaching comes from God. They will know that this teaching is not my own. ¹⁸If I taught my own ideas, I would just be trying to get honor for myself. But if I am trying to bring honor to the one who sent me, I can be trusted. Anyone doing that is not going to lie. ¹⁹Moses gave you the law, right? But you don't obey that law. If you do, then why are you trying to kill me?"

²⁰The people answered, “A demon is making you crazy! We are not trying to kill you.”

²¹Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle on a Sabbath day, and you were all surprised. ²²But you obey the law Moses gave you about circumcision—and sometimes you do it on a Sabbath day. (Really, Moses is not the one who gave you circumcision. It came from our ancestors who lived before Moses.) Yes, you often circumcise baby boys on a Sabbath day. ²³This shows that someone can be circumcised on a Sabbath day to obey the Law of Moses. So why are you angry with me for healing a person’s whole body on the Sabbath day? ²⁴Stop judging by the way things look. Be fair and judge by what is really right.”

People Wonder if Jesus Is the Messiah

²⁵Then some of the people who lived in Jerusalem said, “This is the man they are trying to kill. ²⁶But he is teaching where everyone can see and hear him. And no one is trying to stop him from teaching. Maybe the leaders have decided that he really is the Messiah. ²⁷But when the real Messiah comes, no one will know where he comes from. And we know where this man’s home is.”

²⁸Jesus was still teaching in the Temple area when he said loudly, “Do you really know me and where I am from? I am here, but not by my own decision. I was sent by one who is very real. But you don’t know him. ²⁹I know him because I am from him. He is the one who sent me.”

³⁰When Jesus said this, the people tried to grab him. But no one was able even to touch him, because the right time for him had not yet come. ³¹But many of the people believed in Jesus. They said, “We are waiting for the Messiah to come. When he comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man has done?”

The Jewish Leaders Try to Arrest Jesus

³²The Pharisees heard what the people were saying about Jesus. So the leading priests and the Pharisees sent some Temple police to arrest him.

³³Then Jesus said, “I will be with you a little while longer. Then I will go back to the one who sent me. ³⁴You will look for me, but you will not find me. And you cannot come where I am.”

³⁵These Jews said to each other, “Where will this man go that we cannot find him? Will he go to the Greek cities where our people live? Will he teach the Greek people there? ³⁶He says, ‘You will look for me,

but you will not find me.’ He also says, ‘You cannot come where I am.’ What does this mean?”

Jesus Talks About the Holy Spirit

³⁷The last day of the festival came. It was the most important day. On that day Jesus stood up and said loudly, “Whoever is thirsty may come to me and drink. ³⁸If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from their heart. That is what the Scriptures say.” ³⁹Jesus was talking about the Spirit. The Spirit had not yet been given to people, because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory. But later, those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit.

The People Argue About Jesus

⁴⁰When the people heard the things that Jesus said, some of them said, “This man really is the Prophet.”

⁴¹Other people said, “He is the Messiah.”

And others said, “The Messiah will not come from Galilee. ⁴²The Scriptures say that the Messiah will come from the family of David. And they say that he will come from Bethlehem, the town where David lived.”

⁴³So the people did not agree with each other about Jesus. ⁴⁴Some of the people wanted to arrest him. But no one tried to do it.

The Jewish Leaders Refuse to Believe

⁴⁵The Temple police went back to the leading priests and the Pharisees. The priests and the Pharisees asked, “Why didn’t you bring Jesus?”

⁴⁶The Temple police answered, “We have never heard anyone say such amazing things!”

⁴⁷The Pharisees answered, “So he has fooled you too! ⁴⁸You don’t see any of the leaders or any of us Pharisees believing in him, do you? ⁴⁹But those people out there know nothing about the law. They are under God’s curse!”

⁵⁰But Nicodemus was there in that group. He was the one who had gone to see Jesus before. He said, ⁵¹“Our law will not let us judge anyone without first hearing them and finding out what they have done.”

⁵²The Jewish leaders answered, “You must be from Galilee too! Study the Scriptures. You will find nothing about a prophet coming from Galilee.”

[The oldest and best Greek copies do not have verses 7:53–8:11.

Other copies have this section in different places.]

⁵³Then they all left and went home.

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3. Write down something you think Jesus wanted you to learn in this chapter today, then share out loud.
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□ Day 8:

Let God know you are glad to be spending time with Him today.

A Woman Caught in Adultery

8 ¹Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he went back to the Temple area. The people all came to him, and he sat and taught them.

³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought a woman they had caught in bed with a man who was not her husband. They forced her to stand in front of the people. ⁴They said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The Law of Moses commands us to stone to death any such woman. What do you say we should do?"

⁶They were saying this to trick Jesus. They wanted to catch him saying something wrong so that they could have a charge against him. But Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. ⁷The Jewish leaders continued to ask him their question. So he stood up and said, "Anyone here who has never sinned should throw the first stone at her." ⁸Then Jesus stooped down again and wrote on the ground.

⁹When they heard this, they began to leave one by one. The older men left first, and then the others. Jesus was left alone with the woman standing there in front of him. ¹⁰He looked up again and said to her, "Where did they all go? Did no one judge you guilty?"

¹¹She answered, "No one, sir."

Then Jesus said, "I don't judge you either. You can go now, but don't sin again."

Jesus Is the Light of the World

¹²Later, Jesus talked to the people again. He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never live in darkness. They will have the light that gives life.”

¹³But the Pharisees said to Jesus, “When you talk about yourself, you are the only one to say that these things are true. So we cannot accept what you say.”

¹⁴Jesus answered, “Yes, I am saying these things about myself. But people can believe what I say, because I know where I came from. And I know where I am going. But you don’t know where I came from or where I am going. ¹⁵You judge me the way people judge other people. I don’t judge anyone. ¹⁶But if I judge, my judging is true, because when I judge I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me. ¹⁷Your own law says that when two witnesses say the same thing, you must accept what they say. ¹⁸I am one of the witnesses who speaks about myself. And the Father who sent me is my other witness.”

¹⁹The people asked, “Where is your father?”

Jesus answered, “You don’t know me or my Father. But if you knew me, you would know my Father too.” ²⁰Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the Temple area, near the room where the Temple offerings were kept. But no one arrested him, because the right time for him had not yet come.

Some Jews Don’t Understand Jesus

²¹Again, Jesus said to the people, “I will leave you. You will look for me, but you will die in your sin. You cannot come where I am going.”

²²So the Jewish leaders asked themselves, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he said, ‘You cannot come where I am going?’”

²³But Jesus said to them, “You people are from here below, but I am from above. You belong to this world, but I don’t belong to this world.

²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins. Yes, if you don’t believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.”

²⁵They asked, “Then who are you?”

Jesus answered, “I am what I have told you from the beginning. ²⁶I have much more I could say to judge you. But I tell people only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he speaks the truth.”

²⁷They did not understand who he was talking about. He was telling them about the Father. ²⁸So he said to them, “You will lift up the Son of Man. Then you will know that I AM. You will know that whatever I do is

not by my own authority. You will know that I say only what the Father has taught me. ²⁹The one who sent me is with me. I always do what pleases him. So he has not left me alone.” ³⁰While he was saying these things, many people believed in him.

Jesus Talks About Freedom From Sin

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, “If you continue to accept and obey my teaching, you are really my followers. ³²You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³They answered, “We are Abraham’s descendants. And we have never been slaves. So why do you say that we will be free?”

³⁴Jesus said, “The truth is, everyone who sins is a slave—a slave to sin. ³⁵A slave does not stay with a family forever. But a son belongs to the family forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you are really free. ³⁷I know you are Abraham’s descendants. But you want to kill me, because you don’t want to accept my teaching. ³⁸I am telling you what my Father has shown me. But you do what your father has told you.”

³⁹They said, “Our father is Abraham.”

Jesus said, “If you were really Abraham’s descendants, you would do what Abraham did. ⁴⁰I am someone who has told you the truth I heard from God. But you are trying to kill me. Abraham did nothing like that. ⁴¹So you are doing what your own father did.”

But they said, “We are not like children who never knew who their father was. God is our Father. He is the only Father we have.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were really your Father, you would love me. I came from God, and now I am here. I did not come by my own authority. God sent me. ⁴³You don’t understand the things I say, because you cannot accept my teaching. ⁴⁴Your father is the devil. You belong to him. You want to do what he wants. He was a murderer from the beginning. He was always against the truth. There is no truth in him. He is like the lies he tells. Yes, the devil is a liar. He is the father of lies.

⁴⁵“I am telling you the truth, and that’s why you don’t believe me.

⁴⁶Can any of you prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, why don’t you believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever belongs to God accepts what he says. But you don’t accept what God says, because you don’t belong to God.”

Jesus Talks About Himself and Abraham

⁴⁸The Jews there answered, “We say you are a Samaritan. We say a demon is making you crazy! Are we not right when we say this?”

⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I have no demon in me. I give honor to my Father, but you give no honor to me. ⁵⁰I am not trying to get honor for myself. There is one who wants this honor for me. He is the judge. ⁵¹I promise you, whoever continues to obey my teaching will never die.”

⁵²The Jews said to Jesus, “Now we know that you have a demon in you! Even Abraham and the prophets died. But you say, ‘Whoever obeys my teaching will never die.’ ⁵³Do you think you are greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I give honor to myself, that honor is worth nothing. The one who gives me honor is my Father. And you say that he is your God. ⁵⁵But you don’t really know him. I know him. If I said I did not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I obey what he says. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham was very happy that he would see the day when I came. He saw that day and was happy.”

⁵⁷The Jews said to Jesus, “What? How can you say you have seen Abraham? You are not even 50 years old!”

⁵⁸Jesus answered, “The fact is, before Abraham was born, I AM.”
⁵⁹When he said this, they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus hid, and then he left the Temple area.

1. **Look.** What is going on in this chapter? What stands out to you?

2. **Learn.** What insights do you find in these stories?

3. **Live.** How can you live differently today because of what you’ve read and learned?

□ Day 9:

Thank God for meeting with you each day. If you have something specific you'd like His input on, let Him know. Then listen carefully to what He says in this chapter.

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 ¹While Jesus was walking, he saw a man who had been blind since the time he was born. ²Jesus' followers asked him, "Teacher, why was this man born blind? Whose sin made it happen? Was it his own sin or that of his parents?"

³Jesus answered, "It was not any sin of this man or his parents that caused him to be blind. He was born blind so that he could be used to show what great things God can do. ⁴While it is daytime, we must continue doing the work of the one who sent me. The night is coming, and no one can work at night. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶After Jesus said this, he spit on the dirt, made some mud and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷Jesus told him, "Go and wash in Siloam pool." (Siloam means "Sent.") So the man went to the pool, washed and came back. He was now able to see.

⁸His neighbors and some others who had seen him begging said, "Look! Is this the same man who always sits and begs?"

⁹Some people said, "Yes! He is the one." But others said, "No, he can't be the same man. He only looks like him."

So the man himself said, "I am that same man."

¹⁰They asked, "What happened? How did you get your sight?"

¹¹He answered, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went there and washed. And then I could see."

¹²They asked him, "Where is this man?"

He answered, "I don't know."

Some Pharisees Have Questions

¹³Then the people brought the man to the Pharisees. ¹⁴The day Jesus had made mud and healed the man's eyes was a Sabbath day. ¹⁵So the Pharisees asked the man, "How did you get your sight?"

He answered, "He put mud on my eyes. I washed, and now I can see."

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "That man does not obey the law about the Sabbath day. So he is not from God."

Others said, “But someone who is a sinner cannot do these miraculous signs.” So they could not agree with each other.

¹⁷They asked the man again, “Since it was your eyes he healed, what do you say about him?”

He answered, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jewish leaders still did not believe that this really happened to the man—that he was blind and was now healed. But later they sent for his parents. ¹⁹They asked them, “Is this your son? You say he was born blind. So how can he see?”

²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this man is our son. And we know that he was born blind. ²¹But we don’t know why he can see now. We don’t know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He is old enough to answer for himself.” ²²They said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The leaders had already decided that they would punish anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah. They would stop them from coming to the synagogue. ²³That is why his parents said, “He is old enough. Ask him.”

²⁴So the Jewish leaders called the man who had been blind. They told him to come in again. They said, “You should honor God by telling the truth. We know that this man is a sinner.”

²⁵The man answered, “I don’t know if he is a sinner. But I do know this: I was blind, and now I can see.”

²⁶They asked, “What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?”

²⁷He answered, “I have already told you that. But you would not listen to me. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to be his followers too?”

²⁸At this they shouted insults at him and said, “You are his follower, not us! We are followers of Moses. ²⁹We know that God spoke to Moses. But we don’t even know where this man comes from!”

³⁰The man answered, “This is really strange! You don’t know where he comes from, but he healed my eyes. ³¹We all know that God does not listen to sinners, but he will listen to anyone who worships and obeys him. ³²This is the first time we have ever heard of anyone healing the eyes of someone born blind. ³³This man must be from God. If he were not from God, he could not do anything like this.”

³⁴The Jewish leaders answered, “You were born full of sin! Are you trying to teach us?” And they told the man to get out of the synagogue and to stay out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵When Jesus heard that they had forced the man to leave, he found him and asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶The man said, “Tell me who he is, sir, so I can believe in him.”

³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have already seen him. The Son of Man is the one talking with you now.”

³⁸The man answered, “Yes, I believe, Lord!” Then he bowed and worshiped Jesus.

³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world so that the world could be judged. I came so that people who are blind could see. And I came so that people who think they see would become blind.”

⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees were near Jesus. They heard him say this. They asked, “What? Are you saying that we are blind too?”

⁴¹Jesus said, “If you were really blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But you say that you see, so you are still guilty.”

1. **Look.** What is going on in this chapter? What stands out to you?

2. **Learn.** What insights do you find in these stories?

3. **Live.** How can you live differently today because of what you've read and learned?

Day 10:

Thank God for something He said to you yesterday. Ask Him to help you think of someone you could talk to about this today.

The Shepherd and His Sheep

10 ¹Jesus said, “It is certainly true that when a man enters the sheep pen, he should use the gate. If he climbs in some other way, he is a robber. He is trying to steal the sheep. ²But the man who takes care of the sheep enters through the gate. He is the shepherd. ³The man who

guards the gate opens the gate for the shepherd. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out. ⁴He brings all of his sheep out. Then he goes ahead of them and leads them. The sheep follow him, because they know his voice. ⁵But sheep will never follow someone they don't know. They will run away from him, because they don't know his voice."

⁶Jesus told the people this story, but they did not understand what it meant.

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

⁷So Jesus said again, "I assure you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All those who came before me were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will be able to come in and go out. They will find everything they need. ¹⁰A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came to give life—life that is full and good.

¹¹"I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. ¹²The worker who is paid to keep the sheep is different from the shepherd. The paid worker does not own the sheep. So when he sees a wolf coming, he runs away and leaves the sheep alone. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³The man runs away because he is only a paid worker. He does not really care for the sheep.

^{14–15}"I am the shepherd who cares for the sheep. I know my sheep just as the Father knows me. And my sheep know me just as I know the Father. I give my life for these sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep too. They are not in this flock here. I must lead them also. They will listen to my voice. In the future there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The Father loves me because I give my life. I give my life so that I can get it back again. ¹⁸No one takes my life away from me. I give my own life freely. I have the right to give my life, and I have the right to get it back again. This is what the Father told me."

¹⁹Again the Jews were divided over what Jesus was saying. ²⁰Many of them said, "A demon has come into him and made him crazy. Why listen to him?"

²¹But others said, "These aren't the words of someone controlled by a demon. A demon cannot heal the eyes of a blind man."

The Jewish Leaders Against Jesus

²²It was winter, and the time came for the Festival of Dedication at

Jerusalem. ²³Jesus was in the Temple area at Solomon's Porch. ²⁴The Jewish leaders gathered around him. They said, "How long will you make us wonder about you? If you are the Messiah, then tell us clearly."

²⁵Jesus answered, "I told you already, but you did not believe. I do miracles in my Father's name. These miracles show who I am. ²⁶But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give my sheep eternal life. They will never die, and no one can take them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father is the one who gave them to me, and he is greater than all. No one can steal my sheep out of his hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

³¹Again the Jews there picked up stones to kill Jesus. ³²But he said to them, "The many wonderful things you have seen me do are from the Father. Which of these good things are you killing me for?"

³³They answered, "We are not killing you for any good thing you did. But you say things that insult God. You are only a man, but you say you are the same as God! That is why we are trying to kill you!"

³⁴Jesus answered, "It is written in your law that God said, 'I said you are gods.' ³⁵This Scripture called those people gods—the people who received God's message. And Scripture is always true. ³⁶So why do you accuse me of insulting God for saying, 'I am God's Son'? I am the one God chose and sent into the world. ³⁷If I don't do what my Father does, then don't believe what I say. ³⁸But if I do what my Father does, you should believe in what I do. You might not believe in me, but you should believe in the things I do. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

³⁹They tried to get Jesus again, but he escaped from them.

⁴⁰Then he went back across the Jordan River to the place where John began his work of baptizing people. Jesus stayed there, ⁴¹and many people came to him. They said, "John never did any miraculous signs, but everything John said about this man is true." ⁴²And many people there believed in Jesus.

1. **Look.** What is going on in this chapter? What stands out to you?

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3. **Live.** How can you live differently today because of what you've read and learned?
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□ Day 11:

Greet God and let Him know you are ready to listen.

The Death of Lazarus

1 ¹There was a man named Lazarus who was sick. He lived in the town of Bethany, where Mary and her sister Martha lived. ²(Mary is the same woman who put perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) Mary's brother was Lazarus, the man who was now sick. ³So Mary and Martha sent someone to tell Jesus, "Lord, your dear friend Lazarus is sick."

⁴When Jesus heard this he said, "The end of this sickness will not be death. No, this sickness is for the glory of God. This has happened to bring glory to the Son of God." ⁵Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days ⁷and then said to his followers, "We should go back to Judea."

⁸They answered, "But Teacher, those Jews there tried to stone you to death. That was only a short time ago. Now you want to go back there?"

⁹Jesus answered, "There are twelve hours of light in the day. Whoever walks in the day will not stumble and fall because they can see with the light from the sun. ¹⁰But whoever walks at night will stumble because there is no light."

¹¹Then Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus is now sleeping, but I am going there to wake him."

¹²The followers answered, "But, Lord, if he can sleep, he will get well." ¹³They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was literally sleeping, but he really meant that Lazarus was dead.

¹⁴So then Jesus said plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵And I am glad I was not there. I am happy for you because now you will believe in me. We will go to him now."

¹⁶Then Thomas, the one called "Twin," said to the other followers, "We will go too. We will die there with Jesus."

Jesus in Bethany

¹⁷Jesus arrived in Bethany and found that Lazarus had already been dead and in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to see Martha and Mary. They came to comfort them about their brother Lazarus.

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to greet him. But Mary stayed home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask."

²³Jesus said, "Your brother will rise and be alive again."

²⁴Martha answered, "I know that he will rise to live again at the time of the resurrection on the last day."

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection. I am life. Everyone who believes in me will have life, even if they die. ²⁶And everyone who lives and believes in me will never really die. Martha, do you believe this?"

²⁷Martha answered, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. You are the one who was coming to the world."

Jesus Cries

²⁸After Martha said these things, she went back to her sister Mary. She talked to Mary alone and said, "The Teacher is here. He is asking for you." ²⁹When Mary heard this, she stood up and went quickly to Jesus. ³⁰He had not yet come into the village. He was still at the place where Martha met him. ³¹The Jews who were in the house comforting Mary saw her get up and leave quickly. They thought she was going to the tomb to cry there. So they followed her. ³²Mary went to the place where Jesus was. When she saw him, she bowed at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw Mary crying and the people with her crying too, he was very upset and deeply troubled. ³⁴He asked, "Where did you put him?" They said, "Lord, come and see."

³⁵Jesus cried.

³⁶And the Jews said, "Look! He loved Lazarus very much!"

³⁷But some of them said, "Jesus healed the eyes of the blind man. Why didn't he help Lazarus and stop him from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus From Death

³⁸Again feeling very upset, Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance. ³⁹He said, "Move the stone away."

Martha said, “But, Lord, it has been four days since Lazarus died. There will be a bad smell.” Martha was the sister of the dead man.

⁴⁰Then Jesus said to her, “Remember what I told you? I said that if you believed, you would see God’s divine greatness.”

⁴¹So they moved the stone away from the entrance. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴²I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me.” ⁴³After Jesus said this he called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with pieces of cloth. He had a handkerchief covering his face.

Jesus said to the people, “Take off the cloth and let him go.”

The Jewish Leaders Plan to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵There were many Jews who came to visit Mary. When they saw what Jesus did, many of them believed in him. ⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus did. ⁴⁷Then the leading priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the high council. They said, “What should we do? This man is doing many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸If we let him continue doing these things, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take away our Temple and our nation.”

⁴⁹One of the men there was Caiaphas. He was the high priest that year. He said, “You people know nothing! ⁵⁰It is better for one man to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed. But you don’t realize this.”

⁵¹Caiaphas did not think of this himself. As that year’s high priest, he was really prophesying that Jesus would die for the Jewish people. ⁵²Yes, he would die for the Jewish people. But he would also die for God’s other children scattered all over the world. He would die to bring them all together and make them one people.

⁵³That day the Jewish leaders began planning to kill Jesus. ⁵⁴So Jesus stopped traveling around openly among the Jews. He went away to a town called Ephraim in an area near the desert. He stayed there with his followers.

⁵⁵It was almost time for the Jewish Passover festival. Many people from the country went to Jerusalem before the Passover. They went to do the special things to make themselves pure for the festival. ⁵⁶The people looked for Jesus. They stood in the Temple area and asked each other, “Is he coming to the festival? What do you think?” ⁵⁷But the

leading priests and the Pharisees had given a special order about Jesus. They said that anyone who knew where he was must tell them so that they could arrest him.

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□ Day 12:

Let God know you are glad to be spending time with Him today. Prepare yourself to really hear whatever He has to say.

Jesus in Bethany With His Friends

12 ¹Six days before the Passover festival, Jesus went to Bethany. That is where Lazarus lived, the man Jesus raised from death. ²There they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food, and Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus. ³Mary brought in a pint of expensive perfume made of pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus' feet. Then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.

⁴Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' followers, was there—the one who would later hand Jesus over to his enemies. Judas said, ⁵“That perfume was worth a full year's pay. It should have been sold, and the money should have been given to the poor people.” ⁶But Judas did not really care about the poor. He said this because he was a thief. He was the one who kept the moneybag for the group of followers. And he often stole money from the bag.

⁷Jesus answered, “Don't stop her. It was right for her to save this perfume for today—the day for me to be prepared for burial. ⁸You will

always have those who are poor with you. But you will not always have me.”

The Plot Against Lazarus

⁹Many of the Jews heard that Jesus was in Bethany, so they went there to see him. They also went there to see Lazarus, the one Jesus raised from death. ¹⁰So the leading priests made plans to kill Lazarus too. ¹¹Because of him, many Jews were leaving them and believing in Jesus. That is why they wanted to kill Lazarus too.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem Like a King

¹²The next day the people in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming there. These were the crowds of people who had come to the Passover festival. ¹³They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus. They shouted,

“Praise Him!

‘Welcome! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’

God bless the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Jesus found a donkey and rode on it, as the Scriptures say,

¹⁵“Do not be afraid, people of Zion!

Look! Your king is coming.
He is riding on a young donkey.”

¹⁶The followers of Jesus did not understand at that time what was happening. But after he was raised to glory, they understood that this was written about him. Then they remembered that they had done these things for him.

¹⁷There were many people with Jesus when he raised Lazarus from death and told him to come out of the tomb. Now they were telling others about what Jesus did. ¹⁸That’s why so many people went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign he did. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to each other, “Look! Our plan is not working. The people are all following him!”

Jesus Talks About Life and Death

²⁰There were some Greeks there too. These were some of the people who went to Jerusalem to worship at the Passover festival. ²¹They went to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew. Then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus said to them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to receive his glory. ²⁴It is a fact that a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die before it can grow and produce much more wheat. If it never dies, it will never be more than a single seed. ²⁵Whoever loves the life they have now will lose it. But whoever is willing to give up their life in this world will keep it. They will have eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me. My servants must be with me everywhere I am. My Father will give honor to anyone who serves me.

Jesus Talks About His Death

²⁷“Now I am very troubled. What should I say? Should I say, ‘Father save me from this time of suffering’? No, I came to this time so that I could suffer. ²⁸Father, do what will bring you glory!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have already brought glory to myself. I will do it again.”

²⁹The people standing there heard the voice. They said it was thunder.

But others said, “An angel spoke to him!”

³⁰Jesus said, “That voice was for you and not for me. ³¹Now is the time for the world to be judged. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. ³²I will be lifted up from the earth. When that happens, I will draw all people to myself.” ³³Jesus said this to show how he would die.

³⁴The people said, “But our law says that the Messiah will live forever. So why do you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

³⁵Then Jesus said, “The light will be with you for only a short time more. So walk while you have the light. Then the darkness will not catch you. People who walk in the darkness don’t know where they are going. ³⁶So put your trust in the light while you still have it. Then you will be children of light.” When Jesus finished saying these things, he went away to a place where the people could not find him.

Some Jews Refuse to Believe in Jesus

³⁷The people saw all these miraculous signs Jesus did, but they still did not believe in him. ³⁸This was to give full meaning to what Isaiah the prophet said:

“Lord, who believed what we told them?
Who has seen the Lord’s power?”

³⁹This is why the people could not believe. Because Isaiah also said,

⁴⁰ “God made the people blind.
He closed their minds.
He did this so that they would not see with their eyes
and understand with their minds.
He did it so that they would not turn
and be healed.”

⁴¹Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ divine greatness. So he spoke about him.

⁴²But many people believed in Jesus. Even many of the Jewish leaders believed in him, but they were afraid of the Pharisees, so they did not say openly that they believed. They were afraid they would be ordered to stay out of the synagogue. ⁴³They loved praise from people more than praise from God.

Jesus’ Teaching Will Judge People

⁴⁴Then Jesus said loudly, “Everyone who believes in me is really believing in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵Everyone who sees me is really seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶I came into this world as a light. I came so that everyone who believes in me will not stay in darkness.

⁴⁷“I did not come into the world to judge people. I came to save the people in the world. So I am not the one who judges those who hear my teaching and do not obey. ⁴⁸But there is a judge for all those who refuse to believe in me and do not accept what I say. The message I have spoken will judge them on the last day. ⁴⁹That is because what I taught was not from myself. The Father who sent me told me what to say and what to teach. ⁵⁰And I know that whatever he says to do will bring eternal life. So the things I say are exactly what the Father told me to say.”

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3. **Live.** How can you live differently today because of what you've read and learned?

□ Day 13:

Thank God for something He said to you yesterday. Ask Him to help you think of someone you could share this with today.

Jesus Washes His Followers' Feet

13¹It was almost time for the Jewish Passover festival. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go back to the Father. Jesus had always loved the people in the world who were his. Now was the time he showed them his love the most.

²Jesus and his followers were at the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot to hand Jesus over to his enemies. (Judas was the son of Simon.) ³The Father had given Jesus power over everything. Jesus knew this. He also knew that he had come from God. And he knew that he was going back to God. ⁴So while they were eating, Jesus stood up and took off his robe. He got a towel and wrapped it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers' feet. He dried their feet with the towel that was wrapped around his waist.

⁶He came to Simon Peter. But Peter said to him, "Lord, you should not wash my feet."

⁷Jesus answered, "You don't know what I am doing now. But later you will understand."

⁸Peter said, "No! You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, you are not one of my people."

⁹Simon Peter said, “Lord, after you wash my feet, wash my hands and my head too!”

¹⁰Jesus said, “After a person has a bath, his whole body is clean. He needs only to wash his feet. And you are clean, but not all of you.”

¹¹Jesus knew who would hand him over to his enemies. That is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and went back to the table. He asked, “Do you understand what I did for you? ¹³You call me ‘Teacher.’ And you call me ‘Lord.’ And this is right, because that is what I am. ¹⁴I am your Lord and Teacher. But I washed your feet. So you also should wash each other’s feet. ¹⁵I did this as an example for you. So you should serve each other just as I served you.

¹⁶Believe me, servants are not greater than their master. Those who are sent to do something are not greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, great blessings will be yours if you do them.

¹⁸“I am not talking about all of you. I know the people I have chosen. But what the Scriptures say must happen: ‘The man who shared my food has turned against me.’ ¹⁹I am telling you this now before it happens. Then when it happens, you will believe that I AM. ²⁰I assure you, whoever accepts the person I send also accepts me. And whoever accepts me also accepts the one who sent me.”

Jesus Tells Who Will Turn Against Him

²¹After Jesus said these things, he felt very troubled. He said openly, “Believe me when I say that one of you will hand me over to my enemies.”

²²His followers all looked at each other. They did not understand who Jesus was talking about. ²³One of the followers was next to Jesus and was leaning close to him. This was the one Jesus loved very much. ²⁴Simon Peter made signs to this follower to ask Jesus who he was talking about.

²⁵That follower leaned closer to Jesus and asked, “Lord, who is it?”

²⁶Jesus answered him, “I will dip this bread into the dish. The man I give it to is the one.” So Jesus took a piece of bread, dipped it, and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷When Judas took the bread, Satan entered him. Jesus said to Judas, “What you will do—do it quickly!”

²⁸No one at the table understood why Jesus said this to Judas. ²⁹Since Judas was the one in charge of the money, some of them thought that Jesus meant for him to go and buy some things they needed for the feast. Or they thought that Jesus wanted him to go give something to the poor.

³⁰Judas ate the bread Jesus gave him. Then he immediately went out. It was night.

Jesus Talks About His Death

³¹When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the time for the Son of Man to receive his glory. And God will receive glory through him. ³²If God receives glory through him, he will give glory to the Son through himself. And that will happen very soon.”

³³Jesus said, “My children, I will be with you only a short time more. You will look for me, but I tell you now what I told the Jewish leaders: Where I am going you cannot come.

³⁴“I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other just as I loved you. ³⁵All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.”

Jesus Says Peter Will Deny Him

³⁶Simon Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I am going you cannot follow now. But you will follow later.”

³⁷Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I am ready to die for you!”

³⁸Jesus answered, “Will you really give your life for me? The truth is, before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know me.”

1. **Look.** What is going on in this chapter? What stands out to you?

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□ Day 14:

Thank God for spending time with you each day. Tell Him something you've learned about Him and about yourself.

Jesus Comforts His Followers

14 ¹Jesus said, "Don't be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. ²There are many rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵Thomas said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. ⁷If you really knew me, you would know my Father too. But now you know the Father. You have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need."

⁹Jesus answered, "Philip, I have been with you for a long time. So you should know me. Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father too. So why do you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The things I have told you don't come from me. The Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done.

¹²"I can assure you that whoever believes in me will do the same things I have done. And they will do even greater things than I have done, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And if you ask for anything in my name, I will do it for you. Then the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵"If you love me, you will do what I command. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever. ¹⁷The Helper is the Spirit of truth. The people of the world cannot accept him, because they don't see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you all alone like orphans. I will come back to you. ¹⁹In a very short time the people in the world will not see me anymore. But you will see me. You will live because I live. ²⁰On that day you will

know that I am in the Father. You will know that you are in me and I am in you. ²¹Those who really love me are the ones who not only know my commands but also obey them. My Father will love such people, and I will love them. I will make myself known to them.”

²²Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “Lord, how will you make yourself known to us, but not to the world?”

²³Jesus answered, “All who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them. My Father and I will come to them and live with them.

²⁴But anyone who does not love me does not obey my teaching. This teaching that you hear is not really mine. It is from my Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have told you all these things while I am with you. ²⁶But the Helper will teach you everything and cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name.

²⁷“I leave you peace. It is my own peace I give you. I give you peace in a different way than the world does. So don’t be troubled. Don’t be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am leaving, but I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be happy that I am going back to the Father, because the Father is greater than I am. ²⁹I have told you this now, before it happens. Then when it happens, you will believe.

³⁰“I will not talk with you much longer. The ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me. ³¹But the world must know that I love the Father. So I do exactly what the Father told me to do.

“Come now, let’s go.”

1. **Look.** What is going on in this chapter? What stands out to you?

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□ Day 15:

Talk to God about anything that's worrying you today. Ask Him to speak clearly to you through what you read today.

Jesus Is Like a Vine

15 ¹Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch of mine that does not produce fruit. He also trims every branch that produces fruit to prepare it to produce even more. ³You have already been prepared to produce more fruit by the teaching I have given you. ⁴Stay joined to me and I will stay joined to you. No branch can produce fruit alone. It must stay connected to the vine. It is the same with you. You cannot produce fruit alone. You must stay joined to me.

⁵"I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I to you, you will produce plenty of fruit. But separated from me you won't be able to do anything. ⁶If you don't stay joined to me, you will be like a branch that has been thrown out and has dried up. All the dead branches like that are gathered up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷Stay joined together with me, and follow my teachings. If you do this, you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you. ⁸Show that you are my followers by producing much fruit. This will bring honor to my Father.

⁹"I have loved you as the Father has loved me. Now continue in my love. ¹⁰I have obeyed my Father's commands, and he continues to love me. In the same way, if you obey my commands, I will continue to love you. ¹¹I have told you these things so that you can have the true happiness that I have. I want you to be completely happy. ¹²This is what I command you: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³The greatest love people can show is to die for their friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I tell you to do. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because servants don't know what their master is doing. But now I call you friends, because I have told you everything that my Father told me.

¹⁶"You did not choose me. I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus Warns His Followers

¹⁸“If the world hates you, remember that they hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as it loves its own people. But I have chosen you to be different from those in the world. So you don’t belong to the world, and that is why the world hates you.

²⁰“Remember the lesson I told you: Servants are not greater than their master. If people treated me badly, they will treat you badly too. And if they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours too. ²¹They will do to you whatever they did to me, because you belong to me. They don’t know the one who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to the people of the world, they would not be guilty of sin. But now I have spoken to them. So they have no excuse for their sin.

²³“Whoever hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴I did things among the people of the world that no one else has ever done. If I had not done those things, they would not be guilty of sin. But they have seen what I did, and still they hate me and my Father. ²⁵But this happened to make clear the full meaning of what is written in their law: ‘They hated me for no reason.’

²⁶“I will send you the Helper from the Father. The Helper is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell about me. ²⁷And you will tell people about me too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

For these seven chapters we will be using the initials “A.C.T.S.”—**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication—to guide our Bible reading and prayer. A.C.T.S. is a guide you can use whenever you read the Bible. It’s also a useful prayer guide that helps you think of things to say to God.

1. **Adoration.** What is something in this chapter for which you love Jesus? Write it down. Then say it out loud to God.
Jesus, I think it’s great that you ...

2. **Confession.** What in this chapter reminds you of a sin you have committed? Write it down, then say it out loud.
God, forgive me for ...

3. **Thanksgiving.** What in this chapter reminds you of reasons you have to be thankful? Write down a few things you're grateful for, and then say them out loud. *God, thank you for...*
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4. **Supplication.** Is there something in this chapter that makes you think God will respond when you ask Him for things? Write down some requests you have and say them out loud. *God, please meet these needs...*
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□ Day 16:

Before reading, try praying to God using the A.C.T.S. guide.

16 ¹“I have told you all this so that you won’t lose your faith when you face troubles. ²People will tell you to leave their synagogues and never come back. In fact, the time will come when they will think that killing you would be doing service for God. ³They will do this because they have not known the Father, and they have not known me. ⁴I have told you all this now to prepare you. So when the time comes for these things to happen, you will remember that I warned you.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

“I did not tell you these things at the beginning, because I was with you then. ⁵Now I am going back to the one who sent me. And none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But you are filled with sadness because I have told you all this. ⁷Let me assure you, it is better for you that I go away. I say this because when I go away I will send the Helper to you. But if I did not go, the Helper would not come.

⁸“When the Helper comes, he will show the people of the world how wrong they are about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment. ⁹He will prove that they are guilty of sin, because they don’t believe in me. ¹⁰He will show them how wrong they are about how to be right with God. The Helper will do this, because I am going to the Father. You will not see me then. ¹¹And he will show them how wrong their judgment is, because their leader has already been condemned.

¹²“I have so much more to tell you, but it is too much for you to accept now. ¹³But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words. He will speak only what he hears and will tell you what will happen in the future. ¹⁴The Spirit of truth will bring glory to me by telling you what he receives from me. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will tell you what he receives from me.

Sadness Will Turn Into Happiness

¹⁶“After a short time you won’t see me. Then after another short time you will see me again.”

¹⁷Some of the followers said to each other, “What does he mean when he says, ‘After a short time you won’t see me. Then after another short time you will see me again?’ And what does he mean when he says, ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸They also asked, “What does he mean by ‘a short time’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

¹⁹Jesus saw that the followers wanted to ask him about this. So he said to them, “Are you asking each other what I meant when I said, ‘After a short time you won’t see me. Then after another short time you will see me again?’” ²⁰The truth is, you will cry and be sad, but the world will be happy. You will be sad, but then your sadness will change to happiness.

²¹“When a woman gives birth to a baby, she has pain, because her time has come. But when her baby is born, she forgets the pain. She forgets because she is so happy that a child has been born into the world. ²²It is the same with you. Now you are sad, but I will see you again, and you will be happy. You will have a joy that no one can take away. ²³In that day you will not have to ask me about anything. And I assure you, my Father will give you anything you ask him for in my name. ²⁴You have never asked for anything in this way before. But ask in my name, and you will receive. And you will have the fullest joy possible.

Victory Over the World

²⁵“I have told you these things, using words that hide the meaning. But the time will come when I will not use words like that to tell you things. I will speak to you in plain words about the Father. ²⁶Then you will be able to ask the Father for things in my name. I’m not saying that I will have to ask the Father for you. ²⁷The Father himself loves you because you have loved me. And he loves you because you have believed that

I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

²⁹Then his followers said, “You are already speaking plainly to us. You are not using words that hide the meaning. ³⁰We can see now that you know all things. You answer our questions even before we ask them. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

³¹Jesus said, “So now you believe? ³²Listen to me. A time is coming when you will be scattered, each to his own home. In fact, that time is already here. You will leave me, and I will be alone. But I am never really alone, because the Father is with me.

³³“I have told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have troubles. But be brave! I have defeated the world!”

1. **Adoration.** What is something in this chapter for which you love Jesus? Write it down. Then say it out loud to God.
Jesus, I think it's great that you ...
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2. **Confession.** What in this chapter reminds you of a sin you have committed? Write it down, then say it out loud.
God, forgive me for ...
-
-

3. **Thanksgiving.** What in this chapter reminds you of reasons you have to be thankful? Write down a few things you're grateful for, then say them out loud. *God, thank you for ...*
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4. **Supplication.** Is there something in this chapter that makes you think God will respond when you ask Him for things? Write down some requests you have and say them out loud.
God, please meet these needs ...
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□ Day 17:

Talk to God about something He's taught you about Himself or about yourself during these first 17 days.

Jesus Prays for Himself and His Followers

17 ¹After Jesus said these things, he looked toward heaven and prayed, “Father, the time has come. Give glory to your Son so that the Son can give glory to you. ²You gave the Son power over all people so that he could give eternal life to all those you have given to him. ³And this is eternal life: that people can know you, the only true God, and that they can know Jesus Christ, the one you sent. ⁴I finished the work you gave me to do. I brought you glory on earth. ⁵And now, Father, give me glory with you. Give me the glory I had with you before the world was made.

⁶“You gave me some people from the world. I have shown them what you are like. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your teaching. ⁷Now they know that everything I have come from you. ⁸I told them the words you gave me, and they accepted them. They realized the fact that I came from you and believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them now. I am not praying for the people in the world. But I am praying for these people you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And my glory is seen in them.

¹¹“Now I am coming to you. I will not stay in the world, but these followers of mine are still in the world. Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name—the name you gave me. Then they will be one, just as you and I are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them safe by the power of your name—the name you gave me. I protected them. And only one of them was lost—the one who was sure to be lost. This was to show the truth of what the Scriptures said would happen.

¹³“I am coming to you now. But I pray these things while I am still in the world. I say all this so that these followers can have the true happiness that I have. I want them to be completely happy. ¹⁴I have given them your teaching. And the world has hated them, because they don't belong to the world, just as I don't belong to the world.

¹⁵“I am not asking you to take them out of the world. But I am asking that you keep them safe from the Evil One. ¹⁶They don't belong to the world, just as I don't belong to the world. ¹⁷Make them ready for your service through your truth. Your teaching is truth. ¹⁸I have sent

them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. ¹⁹I am making myself completely ready to serve you. I do this for them, so that they also might be fully qualified for your service.

²⁰“I pray not only for these followers but also for those who will believe in me because of their teaching. ²¹Father, I pray that all who believe in me can be one. You are in me and I am in you. I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me. I gave them this glory so that they can be one, just as you and I are one. ²³I will be in them, and you will be in me. So they will be completely one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you loved them just as you loved me.

²⁴“Father, I want these people you have given me to be with me in every place I am. I want them to see my glory—the glory you gave me because you loved me before the world was made. ²⁵Father, you are the one who always does what is right. The world does not know you, but I know you, and these followers of mine know that you sent me. ²⁶I showed them what you are like, and I will show them again. Then they will have the same love that you have for me, and I will live in them.”

1. **Adoration.** What is something in this chapter for which you love Jesus? Write it down. Then say it out loud to God.
Jesus, I think it's great that you ...

2. **Confession.** What in this chapter reminds you of a sin you have committed? Write it down, then say it out loud.
God, forgive me for ...

3. **Thanksgiving.** What in this chapter reminds you of reasons you have to be thankful? Write down a few things you're grateful for, then say them out loud. *God, thank you for ...*

4. **Supplication.** Is there something in this chapter that makes you think God will respond when you ask Him for things? Write down some requests you have and say them out loud. *God, please meet these needs...*
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□ Day 18:

Thank God for something He said to you yesterday. Ask Him to help you think of someone you could talk about this with today.

Jesus Is Arrested

18 ¹When Jesus finished praying, he left with his followers and went across the Kidron Valley. He went into a garden there, his followers still with him.

²Judas, the one responsible for handing Jesus over, knew where this place was. He knew because Jesus often met there with his followers.

³So Judas led a group of soldiers to the garden, along with some guards from the leading priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

⁴Jesus already knew everything that would happen to him. So he went out and asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

⁵They answered, “Jesus from Nazareth.”

He said, “I am Jesus.” (Judas, the one responsible for handing Jesus over, was standing there with them.) ⁶When Jesus said, “I am Jesus,” the men moved back and fell to the ground.

⁷He asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”

They said, “Jesus from Nazareth.”

⁸Jesus said, “I told you that I am Jesus. So if you are looking for me, let these other men go free.” ⁹This was to show the truth of what Jesus said earlier: “I have not lost anyone you gave me.”

¹⁰Simon Peter had a sword, which he pulled out. He struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back in its place! I must drink from the cup the Father has given me.”

Jesus Is Brought Before Annas

¹²Then the soldiers with their commander and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus. They tied him ¹³and brought him to Annas, the

father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest that year. ¹⁴He was also the one who had told the other Jewish leaders that it would be better if one man died for all the people.

Peter Lies About Knowing Jesus

¹⁵Simon Peter and another one of Jesus' followers went with Jesus. This follower knew the high priest. So he went with Jesus into the yard of the high priest's house. ¹⁶But Peter waited outside near the door. The follower who knew the high priest came back outside and spoke to the gatekeeper. Then he brought Peter inside. ¹⁷The girl at the gate said to Peter, "Are you also one of the followers of that man?"

Peter answered, "No, I am not!"

¹⁸It was cold, so the servants and guards had built a fire. They were standing around it, warming themselves, and Peter was standing with them.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹The high priest asked Jesus questions about his followers and what he taught them. ²⁰Jesus answered, "I have always spoken openly to all people. I always taught in the synagogues and in the Temple area. All the Jews come together there. I never said anything in secret. ²¹So why do you question me? Ask the people who heard my teaching. They know what I said."

²²When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing there hit him. The guard said, "You should not talk to the high priest like that!"

²³Jesus answered, "If I said something wrong, tell everyone here what was wrong. But if what I said is right, then why do you hit me?"

²⁴So Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas the high priest. He was still tied.

Peter Lies Again

²⁵Simon Peter was standing at the fire, keeping himself warm. The other people said to Peter, "Aren't you one of the followers of that man?"

Peter denied it. He said, "No, I am not."

²⁶One of the servants of the high priest was there. He was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off. The servant said, "I think I saw you with him in the garden!"

²⁷But again Peter said, "No, I was not with him!" As soon as he said this, a rooster crowed.

Jesus Is Brought Before Pilate

²⁸Then the guards took Jesus from Caiaphas' house to the Roman governor's palace. It was early in the morning. The Jews there would not go inside the palace. They did not want to make themselves unclean, because they wanted to eat the Passover meal. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and asked, "What do you say this man has done wrong?"

³⁰They answered, "He is a bad man. That is why we brought him to you."

³¹Pilate said to them, "You take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

The Jewish leaders answered, "But your law does not allow us to punish anyone by killing them." ³²(This was to show the truth of what Jesus said about how he would die.)

³³Then Pilate went back inside the palace. He called for Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴Jesus said, "Is that your own question, or did other people tell you about me?"

³⁵Pilate said, "I'm not a Jew! It was your own people and their leading priests who brought you before me. What have you done wrong?"

³⁶Jesus said, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it did, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jewish leaders. No, my kingdom is not an earthly one."

³⁷Pilate said, "So you are a king."

Jesus answered, "You are right to say that I am a king. I was born for this: to tell people about the truth. That is why I came into the world. And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me."

³⁸Pilate said, "What is truth?" Then he went out to the Jewish leaders again and said to them, "I can find nothing against this man. ³⁹But it is one of your customs for me to free one prisoner to you at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to free this 'king of the Jews'?"

⁴⁰They shouted back, "No, not him! Let Barabbas go free!" (Barabbas was a rebel.)

1. **Adoration.** What is something in this chapter for which you love Jesus? Write it down. Then say it out loud to God. *Jesus, I think it's great that you ...*

Day 19

- Confession.** What in this chapter reminds you of a sin you have committed? Write it down, then say it out loud.
God, forgive me for ...

- Thanksgiving.** What in this chapter reminds you of reasons you have to be thankful? Write down a few things you're grateful for, then say them out loud. *God, thank you for ...*

- Supplication.** Is there something in this chapter that makes you think God will respond when you ask Him for things? Write down some requests you have and say them out loud. *God, please meet these needs ...*

□ Day 19:

Is there anything worrying you or distracting you today? Talk to God about it. Then be ready to listen as He speaks to you through today's chapter.

19 ¹Then Pilate ordered that Jesus be taken away and whipped. ²The soldiers made a crown from thorny branches and put it on his head. Then they put a purple robe around him. ³They kept coming up to him and saying, "Hail to the king of the Jews!" And they hit him in the face.

⁴Again Pilate came out and said to the Jewish leaders, "Look! I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want you to know that I find nothing I can charge him with." ⁵Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is the man!"

⁶When the leading priests and the Jewish guards saw Jesus they shouted, "Kill him on a cross! Kill him on a cross!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and nail him to a cross yourselves. I find nothing I can charge him with."

⁷The Jewish leaders answered, “We have a law that says he must die, because he said he is the Son of God.”

⁸When Pilate heard this, he was more afraid. ⁹So he went back inside the palace and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus did not answer him. ¹⁰Pilate said, “You refuse to speak to me? Remember, I have the power to make you free or to kill you on a cross.”

¹¹Jesus answered, “The only power you have over me is the power given to you by God. So the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹²After this, Pilate tried to let Jesus go free. But the Jewish leaders shouted, “Anyone who makes himself a king is against Caesar. So if you let this man go free, that means you are not Caesar’s friend.”

¹³When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out to the place called “The Stone Pavement.” (In Aramaic the name is *Gabbatha*.) Pilate sat down on the judge’s seat there. ¹⁴It was now almost noon on Preparation day of Passover week. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your king!”

¹⁵They shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Kill him on a cross!”

Pilate asked them, “Do you want me to kill your king on a cross?”

The leading priests answered, “The only king we have is Caesar!”

¹⁶So Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be killed on a cross.

Jesus Is Nailed to a Cross

The soldiers took Jesus. ¹⁷He carried his own cross to a place called “The Place of the Skull.” (In Aramaic the name of this place is “Golgotha.”)

¹⁸There they nailed Jesus to the cross. They also nailed two other men to crosses. They put them on each side of Jesus with him in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate told them to write a sign and put it on the cross. The sign said, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” ²⁰The sign was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was nailed to the cross was near the city.

²¹The leading Jewish priests said to Pilate, “Don’t write, ‘The King of the Jews.’ But write, ‘This man said, I am the King of the Jews.’”

²²Pilate answered, “I will not change what I have written.”

²³After the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts. Each soldier got one part. They also took his tunic. It was all one piece of cloth woven from top to bottom.

²⁴So the soldiers said to each other, “We should not tear this into parts.

Let's throw lots to see who will get it." This happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Scriptures say:

"They divided my clothes among them,
and they threw lots for what I was wearing."

So the soldiers did this.

²⁵Jesus' mother stood near his cross. Her sister was also standing there with Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶Jesus saw his mother. He also saw the follower he loved very much standing there. He said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the follower, "Here is your mother." So after that, this follower took Jesus' mother to live in his home.

Jesus Dies

²⁸Later, Jesus knew that everything had been done. To make the Scriptures come true he said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹There was a jar full of sour wine there, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a branch of a hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus' mouth. ³⁰When he tasted the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

³¹This day was Preparation day. The next day was a special Sabbath day. The Jewish leaders did not want the bodies to stay on the cross on the Sabbath day. So they asked Pilate to order that the legs of the men be broken. And they asked that the bodies be taken down from the crosses. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men on the crosses beside Jesus. ³³But when the soldiers came close to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs.

³⁴But one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus' side. Immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵(The one who saw this happen has told about it. He told about it so that you also can believe. The things he says are true. He knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things happened to give full meaning to the Scriptures that said, "None of his bones will be broken" ³⁷and "People will look at the one they stabbed."

Jesus Is Buried

³⁸Later, a man named Joseph from Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. (Joseph was a follower of Jesus, but he did not tell anyone, because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders.) Pilate said Joseph could take Jesus' body, so he came and took it away.

³⁹Nicodemus went with Joseph. He was the man who had come to Jesus before and talked to him at night. He brought about 100 pounds of spices—a mixture of myrrh and aloes. ⁴⁰These two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in pieces of linen cloth with the spices. (This is how the Jews bury people.) ⁴¹In the place where Jesus was killed on the cross, there was a garden. In the garden there was a new tomb. No one had ever been buried there before. ⁴²The men put Jesus in that tomb because it was near, and the Jews were preparing to start their Sabbath day.

1. **Adoration.** What is something in this chapter for which you love Jesus? Write it down. Then say it out loud to God.

Jesus, I think it's great that you ...

2. **Confession.** What in this chapter reminds you of a sin you have committed? Write it down, then say it out loud.

God, forgive me for ...

3. **Thanksgiving.** What in this chapter reminds you of reasons you have to be thankful? Write down a few things you're grateful for, then say them out loud. *God, thank you for ...*

4. **Supplication.** Is there something in this chapter that makes you think God will respond when you ask Him for things? Write down some requests you have and say them out loud.

God, please meet these needs ...

□ Day 20:

Thank God for spending time with you each day.

News That Jesus Has Risen From Death

20 ¹Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw that the large stone was moved away from the entrance. ²So she ran to Simon Peter and the other follower (the one Jesus loved very much). She said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”

³So Peter and the other follower started going to the tomb. ⁴They were both running, but the other follower ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down and looked in. He saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in.

⁶Then Simon Peter finally reached the tomb and went in. He saw the pieces of linen lying there. ⁷He also saw the cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. It was folded up and laid in a different place from the pieces of linen. ⁸Then the other follower went in—the one who had reached the tomb first. He saw what had happened and believed. ⁹(These followers did not yet understand from the Scriptures that Jesus must rise from death.)

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹⁰Then the followers went back home. ¹¹But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. While she was crying, she bent down and looked inside the tomb. ¹²She saw two angels dressed in white sitting where Jesus’ body had been. One was sitting where the head had been; the other was sitting where the feet had been.

¹³The angels asked Mary, “Woman, why are you crying?”

Mary answered, “They took away the body of my Lord, and I don’t know where they put him.” ¹⁴When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

She thought he was the man in charge of the garden. So she said to him, “Did you take him away, sir? Tell me where you put him. I will go and get him.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and said in Aramaic, “*Rabboni*,” which means “Teacher.”

¹⁷Jesus said to her, “You don’t need to hold on to me! I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my followers and tell them this: ‘I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the followers and told them, “I saw the Lord!” And she told them what he had said to her.

Jesus Appears to His Followers

¹⁹The day was Sunday, and that same evening the followers were together. They had the doors locked because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them. He said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰As soon as he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the followers saw the Lord, they were very happy.

²¹Then Jesus said again, “Peace be with you. It was the Father who sent me, and I am now sending you in the same way.” ²²Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven. If there is anyone whose sins you don’t forgive, their sins are not forgiven.”

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴Thomas (called Didymus) was one of the twelve, but he was not with the other followers when Jesus came. ²⁵They told him, “We saw the Lord.” Thomas said, “That’s hard to believe. I will have to see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe it.”

²⁶A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Jesus said to him, “You believe because you see me. Great blessings belong to the people who believe without seeing me!”

Why John Wrote This Book

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs that his followers saw, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you can believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through his name.

1. **Adoration.** What is something in this chapter for which you love Jesus?
Jesus, I think it's great that you ...

2. **Confession.** What in this chapter reminds you of a sin you have committed? *God, forgive me for ...*

3. **Thanksgiving.** What in this chapter reminds you of reasons you have to be thankful? *God, thank you for ...*

4. **Supplication.** Is there something in this chapter that makes you think God will respond when you ask Him for things? *God, please meet these needs ...*

□ Day 21:

Before you begin reading, think about the things that get in the way of spending time with God. Ask God for help in overcoming these "walls."

Jesus Appears to Seven Followers

21 ¹Later, Jesus appeared again to his followers by Lake Galilee. This is how it happened: ²Some of the followers were together—Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers. ³Simon Peter said, "I am going out to fish."

The other followers said, "We will go with you." So all of them went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

⁴Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. But the followers did not know it was Jesus. ⁵Then he said to them, "Friends, have you caught any fish?"

They answered, "No."

⁶He said, "Throw your net into the water on the right side of your

boat. You will find some fish there.” So they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

⁷The follower Jesus loved very much said to Peter, “That man is the Lord!” When Peter heard him say it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself. (He had taken his clothes off to work.) Then he jumped into the water. ⁸The other followers went to shore in the boat. They pulled the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. ⁹When they stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire and some bread there too. ¹⁰Then Jesus said, “Bring some of the fish that you caught.”

¹¹Simon Peter got into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish—153 of them! But even with that many fish, the net did not tear. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and eat.” None of the followers would ask him, “Who are you?” They knew he was the Lord. ¹³Jesus walked over to get the bread and gave it to them. He also gave them the fish.

¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his followers after he was raised from death.

Jesus Talks to Peter

¹⁵When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these other men love me?”

Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Take care of my lambs.”

¹⁶Again Jesus said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Then Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷A third time Jesus said, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was sad because Jesus asked him three times, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep. ¹⁸The truth is, when you were young, you tied your own belt and went where you wanted. But when you are old, you will put out your hands, and someone else will tie your belt. They will lead you where you don’t want to go.” ¹⁹(Jesus said this to show how Peter would die to give glory to God.) Then he said to Peter, “Follow me!”

²⁰Peter turned and saw the follower Jesus loved very much walking behind them. (This was the follower who had leaned against Jesus at

the supper and said, “Lord, who is it that will hand you over?”²¹ When Peter saw him behind them, he asked Jesus, “Lord, what about him?”

²²Jesus answered, “Maybe I want him to live until I come. That should not matter to you. You follow me!”

²³So a story spread among the followers of Jesus. They were saying that this follower would not die. But Jesus did not say he would not die. He only said, “Maybe I want him to live until I come. That should not matter to you.”

²⁴That follower is the one who is telling these things. He is the one who has now written them all down. We know that what he says is true.

²⁵There are many other things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I think the whole world would not be big enough for all the books that would be written.

1. **Adoration.** What is something in this chapter for which you love Jesus?
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Continuing the journey

You have spent 21 days with Jesus. You've talked to Him each day by praying, and you've listened to Him by reading the things He says in John's book.

Are you ready to keep going? John's gospel is just one book of the Bible. You can learn more about God by reading more of the Bible! Set your next goal now. Consider reading through the whole New Testament next—on your own, as a family, or with friends.

Whatever goal you set, it will help if you come up with a specific plan. The following questions can help you:

1. What Bible or New Testament will you use for listening to God? Do you have one already, or do you need to get one? If you need help choosing a Bible, who will you ask?

2. Each day, how much time will you spend reading the Bible and praying?

3. Who is going to support, encourage, and challenge you in these new habits?

4. Who do you know that you can encourage to read through the book of John like you did?

5. When will you contact these people?
