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INTRODUCTION

Leon Morris compared John's Gospel to a "pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim." The Gospel speaks to those inquiring about Christian faith as well as to those who have embraced it. Years of close study of this Gospel will not leave one with the feeling of having mastered it.

John summed up his purpose for writing the Gospel by saying: *"These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name"* (John 20:31). Christ's miracles, his words and the testimony of witnesses who knew him are used by John to prove his deity.

Matthew wrote for the Jews, Mark for the Romans, and Luke for the Greeks. John had the whole world in mind when he wrote and frequently used the word *world*. But he alludes to the Old Testament over one hundred times, showing that he was mindful of his Jewish readers.

The Gospel of John invites us to *come and see* that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and Savior of the world.

WEEK ONE: John 1:1-28

OPENING QUESTION: *What were your beginnings? Where were you born and what kind of family were you born into?*

READ John 1:1-28

Note: Matthew and Luke begin their Gospels with Jesus' birth. Mark begins with His baptism.

1. How did John, the author of this gospel, begin the story of Jesus?
2. Read Genesis 1:1-5. How are the two beginnings similar?

Note: To a Jew *Word* was "God's spoken communication" and to the Greeks *Word* was the "Reason" that guided the universe.

3. Write down everything John said in 1:1-18 about the *Word* (Jesus).

What He is:

What He does:

Note: John, the author of this gospel, never named himself. The name "John" always referred to "John the Baptist", Israel's first prophet in 400 years.

4. Who was John the Baptist and what was his purpose? (vv.6-8)
5. How did John describe himself and his purpose? (vv.19-23)?
6. How was John different from Jesus? (vv. 8, 15, 20, 26, 27)
7. How would you answer someone who asked, "who are you" and "what is your purpose in life?"
8. How does John the Baptist's example challenge you?

9. In the opening verses of this gospel John introduced Jesus by using some words that will reappear throughout our study.
How do the following verses help you to understand the meaning of these words?

LIFE:

John 5:24-26

1 John 5:11-12

LIGHT:

John 3:19-21

1 John 1:5-7

FLESH:

Galatians 4:4

Hebrews 2:14-15

GLORY

Exodus 40:34-35

John 2:11

GRACE

Romans 3:21-25

Ephesians 2:4-8

TRUTH

John 14:6

John 8:31-32

10. What personal insights have you received as you looked at Jesus this week?

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

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, dwell with us as grace and truth.

WEEK TWO: JOHN 1:29-51

OPENING QUESTION: *What difference does it make to you to be known by someone?*

READ JOHN 1:29-51

Note: The phrase “Lamb of God” was revealed by God to John the Baptist to show that Jesus would be the fulfillment of the whole Jewish sacrificial system from daily offerings to the yearly Passover.

1. How did John the Baptist describe Jesus when they met? What do you think he meant?

2. What additional insights about the sacrifice of the Lamb are provided in these verses?

Exodus 12:1-13

Isaiah 53:4-12

Romans 3:22-26

1 Peter 1:18-19

Revelation 5:11-14, 7:17

3. How did John know that he was encountering the Son of God? (vv.33-34)
4. What set Christ’s baptism apart from others? (see also Luke 3:21-22)
5. How did John lead his own disciples to follow Jesus? What human struggle might it have been for him?
6. What question did Jesus ask those who followed him? (v.38)
How would you answer this question if Jesus asked it of you today?

7. What drew each follower to Jesus?

Andrew and the other disciple (vv. 35-41)

Simon (vv. 40-42)

Philip (vv. 43-45)

Nathanael (vv. 45-50)

What draws you to Jesus?

8. How did Jesus reveal a personal knowledge of men who had never met him before?
What impact did it have on these men?

9. How well does God know you? Read Psalm 139:1-18 and John 10:14-15, 27-28.

10. What difference does it make to you to be known so well by God?

11. Who have you seen Jesus to be this week from your study?

Memory Verse: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" *John 1:29b*

Prayer Guide: Lamb of God, take away my sin.

WEEK THREE: JOHN 2:1-25

OPENING QUESTION: *Share a memory of a time when you ran short of something while extending hospitality to others.*

READ JOHN 2:1-11

Note: John, throughout his gospel, speaks of the miracles of Jesus as *signs* that attest to His identity as the Son of God.

Note: In biblical times, wedding feasts could last as long as a week. Gracious hospitality was extremely important and wine was essential at such a joyous occasion.

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to begin His ministry with such a quiet miracle in a small village in Galilee?
2. How were the servants involved in the wedding miracle? (vv.5-8)
What did they understand about Jesus that the banquet master did not? (v.9)
3. How does this move you to be Christ's servant?
4. What do you learn of Christ's character and purpose from this wedding incident?
5. What were the results of this sign? (v.11)
6. In what area of your life do you long to see water turned into wine? How does Jesus' first miracle encourage you to trust God for such provision?

7. Read John 20:30-31. What is the purpose of signs in the Gospel of John?

READ JOHN 2:12-25

8. Why was Jesus angered? (see also Mark 11:15-17)
9. What questions or insights about anger are raised by this passage?
(see also Ephesians 4:26-32)
10. Are there things you need to remove from your life in order to worship?
11. How did Jesus say His authority would be revealed? (v.19)
What did He really mean by this and how were His words proved true (Luke 24:5-8)
12. Why didn't Jesus entrust Himself to the people at the Passover feast? (vv.23-24)
13. How might Jewish leaders have been offended by Jesus even at this early point of His ministry? (vv.13-23)

Memory Verse: "He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him." *John 2:11b*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, strengthen my faith.

WEEK FOUR: JOHN 3:1-36

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever witnessed the miracle of a physical birth?*

READ JOHN 3:1-21

1. Who was Nicodemus? Provide as complete a profile as possible from this passage.
2. As you reflect on all you know of him, why do you think he sought out Jesus and why did he come at night?

Note: "Born again", the ancient word translated *again* (another), can be also translated "from above."

3. Why do you think Jesus brought up the subject of *new birth* since it had nothing to do with Nicodemus' statement in verse 2?
4. Why is it necessary to have a spiritual birth? (vv. 3, 5; see also Deuteronomy 30:6)
5. How is one born spiritually? (vv. 5-8, 16-18)
Explain this in your own words. (see also Ezekiel 36:25-27)
6. How did the story of Moses lifting up the snake in the desert (vv.14-15) illustrate Christ's work for you? (see Numbers 21:4-9)

Note: *Eternal life* is an abundance of joy and blessing in the presence of God forever.

7. What was God's motivation in doing this for you? (see also 1 John 4:7-10)

8. What happens to those who choose life with Christ?
What does this mean? (vv. 16, 17, 36; see also John 5:24, 17:3)

9. Why is such a life rejected and with what consequences? (vv.18-20)

10. Have you personally experienced such a spiritual birth?
If so, what difference has it made in your life?

If not, what keeps you from seeking such a birth?

11. Who did John the Baptist understand Jesus to be? (vv.27-36)

12. Who did John the Baptist understand himself to be?

13. How is such an understanding of one's self contrary to present culture?

14. Personalize verse 30 by writing it out with your name in it.
What can you do this week "to make Jesus greater" in your life?

Memory Verse: "He must become greater; I must become less." *John 3:30*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, become greater in me.

WEEK FIVE: JOHN 4:1-42

OPENING QUESTION: *What difference has a stranger's kindness made in your life?*

READ JOHN 4:1-42

Note: After King Solomon died in 931 BC, Israel split in two. The northern tribes called themselves Israel and made Samaria their capital city. The southern tribes were called Judah and kept Jerusalem as their capital. In 723 BC Assyria destroyed Israel, deported most of its population, and resettled the land with other conquered people. The whole region was now called Samaria. Most of the new mixed population began to practice a religion that worshiped the God of Israel in a corrupt fashion. This resulted in hatred between Samaritans and Jews.

1. Why do you think this woman went alone at the sixth hour (noon) to draw water from the well? (read through the entire passage) Reflect on her possible emotional and spiritual condition as she encountered Jesus.
2. How did Jesus show kindness to the woman and in what ways was this a radical departure from the treatment she expected?
3. How did the woman refer to Jesus in each of the following verses?
John 4:9
John 4:12
John 4:19
John 4:29
4. What did Jesus say about living water? (vv.10, 13-14)
5. What spiritual truth was Jesus trying to teach with his talk about water? (see also Jeremiah 2:13 and John 7:38-39)
6. How has this truth touched you and others through you?
7. How did Jesus reveal His knowledge of the woman's pain? (vv.16-18)
What do you understand of Him through His words to her?

8. What do you do with your sin? How does God respond to repentance?

Psalm 51:1-17

1 John 1:9-10

9. How might God free you today from guilt?

10. How did the woman try to divert Jesus from her sin to another subject?

11. In your own words, what important truths did Jesus share as He graciously responded to the woman's diversionary tactic? (vv.21-24)

12. How did Jesus clearly reveal the truth of His identity to the woman? (vv.25-26)

13. What was the result of this encounter in the woman's life and in the lives of others in the community? (vv.28-30; 39-42)

14. What hope does this encounter provide in your own life?

15. How did Jesus model for you the way to treat others? (see also Luke 19:1-10, John 8:3-11)

16. What fears or prejudices might He help you overcome to reach out to others this week?

Memory Verse: "Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." *John 4:14b*

Prayer Guide: Lord, satisfy my thirst with Your living water.

WEEK SIX: JOHN 4:43-5:15

OPENING QUESTION: *How has your faith been deepened through times of sickness or healing?*

READ JOHN 4:43-4:54

1. Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus and what did Jesus say about this? (vv.45, 48)
2. Why did Jesus perform miracles? (John 2:11, 4:48, 14:11, 20:30-31)
3. How can an over-dependence on miracles become a stumbling block to mature faith? (John 20:29)

4. How was a royal official led to faith? Outline one man's spiritual journey.

John 4:47a

John 4:47b & 49

John 4:50

John 4:52-53a

John 4:53b

Reflect on any parallels to your own journey.

5. Which step in his faith journey do you find the most impressive and why?

READ JOHN 5:1-15

6. Use your imagination to describe smells, sights and sounds that Jesus would have encountered around the pool (vv.1-8)
7. What question did Jesus ask the invalid and why do you think He asked it?
8. How did the invalid respond to Jesus' question and what might have been behind such a response?
9. What words of instruction did Jesus give the invalid? (vv.8, 14)
10. What are the similarities between the healing of the official's son (John 4:43-54) and the healing of the invalid? (John 5:1-15) What are the differences?

Similarities:

Differences:

11. What do you learn of Jesus from these two passages? (see also Isaiah 35:3-5)
12. How do these passages challenge you as you consider needs for healing or change in your own life?

Memory Verse: ...Jesus asked him: "Do you want to get well?" *John 5:6b*

Prayer Guide: Gracious God, heal me.

WEEK SEVEN: JOHN 5:16-47

OPENING QUESTION: *In what ways are you like your father?*

READ JOHN 5:16-47

1. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus?
2. What additional insights about God's purpose for the Sabbath do you receive from these verses?

Exodus 20:8-11

Isaiah 58:13-14

Mark 2:27-28

3. How are the Father and Son connected?

John 5:17

John 5:19

John 5:20

John 5:21

John 5:22-23

John 5:24

John 5:26-27

John 5:30

4. How did Jesus bring eternal life? Write out John 5:24 and reflect on the meaning of His words for you personally.

5. What is Christ's role as judge? (vv.22, 27-30)
6. Who will be condemned? (see John 3:18b)
7. Who will be released from condemnation? (vv.24-25, 29; see also Romans 6:23, 8:1-2)
8. What does it mean that "a time has now come when the dead will hear and live"? (v.25)
9. What will happen in the future? (vv.28-29, see also Philippians 2:10)
10. Jesus is "on trial" because of His claim to be God and requires witnesses. Who testifies?
John 5:33-35

John 5:36

John 5:37

John 5:39

John 5:46
11. What testimony do you give when you are called upon to give witness to Jesus' deity?
(see also Colossians 1:15-16, Hebrews 1:3)
12. Why did Jesus rebuke His Jewish accusers? What did He want from them? What do you think He wants from you?
13. What difference does knowing *Jesus is God* make in your life?

Memory Verse: "I tell you the truth, those who hear My word and believe Him who sent Me have eternal life and will not be condemned; they have crossed over from death to life." *John 5:24*

Prayer Guide: Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.

WEEK EIGHT: JOHN 6:1-71

OPENING QUESTION: *What does bread mean to you?*

READ JOHN 6:1-15

Note: John leaves out events that other gospel writers include. From the other gospels we learn that many events took place between the healing of the invalid and the feeding of the 5,000. (see Luke 6:1-9:10 and Mark 3:1-6:30)

1. What motivated the crowd to follow Jesus?

What motivates you to follow Jesus?

2. How had God previously provided bread for His people?

Exodus 16:12-16

1 Kings 17:7-16

1 Kings 19:3-9

3. What question did Jesus ask Philip and why did He ask it? (v.5)
4. What was Philip's response to the need he saw and why?
5. What was Andrew's response to the need he saw and why?
6. What can you ask Jesus to multiply in your life to meet needs in the lives of others?

READ JOHN 6:16-24

7. What difficulties faced the disciples as they journeyed to Capernaum?
8. How did Jesus comfort His disciples? How did this increase their understanding of who He was?

9. How do you respond when storms hit your life?

Where can you invite Jesus into the places of anxiety and fear in your life?

READ JOHN 6:25-71

10. What is the most important work you are called to and what is challenging in this for you personally? (v.29)

11. How do people satisfy spiritual hunger and thirst according to Jesus?

John 6:37

John 6:40

John 6:45

John 6:47

John 6:51-57

John 6:68-69

12. In what ways are you satisfying your spiritual hunger or in what ways would you like to? (see also Isaiah 55:1-3)

13. What did Jesus teach about *true bread*? (vv.32-35, 48-59)

Memory Verse: "Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.'" *John 6:35*

Prayer Guide: Bread of Life, satisfy my hunger.

WEEK NINE: JOHN 7:1-53

OPENING QUESTION: *What makes a great teacher?*

READ JOHN 7:1-53

Note: the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebration during which people lived in booths made of branches, commemorated God's past care of Israel during years of desert wandering and celebrated God's goodness in the present bounty of harvest. Each day of the feast there was a water ritual and prayers for rain to nourish the land during the coming year. The ritual was especially stressed on the eighth and final day of the celebration.

1. How did God ordain the Feast of Tabernacles to be celebrated?
(Leviticus 23:33-36, 39-43; Deuteronomy 16:13-17)
2. Why did Jesus' brothers want Him to attend the Jewish Feast and why was their thinking flawed?
3. Rewrite 7:24 in your own words. How can you practice this verse?
4. How did Jesus reveal His concern about the right "timing" in this chapter?
(see also John 2:4; 7:6-8, 30; 17:1)
5. Why was Jesus able to teach so well? (v.16)
6. Who could receive the truth of His teaching? (v.17) Why do you think this is so?
(see also John 8:31-32; 15:7-11)

7. Throughout this chapter there is a diversity of opinion about Jesus. What are people saying about Him?

Person or group speaking:

What they are saying:

John 7:12a

John 7:12b

John 7:15

John 7:26

John 7:27

John 7:31

John 7:40

John 7:41-42

John 7:46

8. What insights or questions are raised as you reflect on their understanding of Jesus?

9. What do you say about Jesus when asked who He is?

10. What invitation did Jesus extend to people on the last day of the feast? (v.37)

11. What promise did He make and what did it mean? (v. 38, see also Isaiah 55:1-11)

12. Compare and contrast Christ's words about *water* in John 4:13-14 with His words in John 7:37-38.

13. Are there things in your life preventing God's Spirit from flowing freely through you?

Memory Verse: Jesus said: "If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them." *John 7:37b-38*

Prayer Guide: Savior, make me a channel of Your living water.

WEEK TEN: JOHN 8:1-59

OPENING QUESTION: *How do you feel about darkness?*

READ JOHN 8:1-59

1. What did the teachers of the law reveal about their own hearts through their treatment of the woman caught in adultery?
2. What did the law say about adultery? (Leviticus 20:10)
3. What do you learn of Jesus from His response to the religious leaders and the woman?
4. Why do you think the accusers went away without stoning the woman?
5. Imagine yourself in the woman's place. What would you have been feeling and thinking throughout this incident? How might you have responded to Jesus?
6. What personal challenge does this incident provide as you consider your own sinfulness or your judgment of others caught in sin?
7. How did Jesus' unconditional love encourage repentance and change?

8. What claims did Jesus make about Himself and His word?

John 8:12

John 8:19

John 8:23

John 8:29

John 8:31-32

John 8:51

John 8:56, 58

9. How does Jesus dispel darkness? (v.12, John 5:24, 8:31; Ephesians 5:8-14)

10. How specifically have you seen God at work dispelling darkness in your life?

11. How have you sought freedom in your life and what have you learned along the way about what brings real freedom and what doesn't?

12. How does Christ provide true freedom to live in His light? (vv. 24, 31-32, 34-36)

13. How have you seen Him provide such freedom for you or how would you like Him to?

14. What leads to continued slavery? (vv.24, 37, 43-46, 47)

Memory Verse: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, dispel my darkness and guide me into Your light.

WEEK ELEVEN: JOHN 9:1-41

OPENING QUESTION: *What experience have you had with your own eyesight to help you appreciate vision?*

READ JOHN 9:1-41

1. Describe as fully as you can the man Jesus healed.
2. What did Jesus ask the blind man to do and why do you think He asked this of him?
3. What misconception about sin did Jesus clarify?
4. Have you ever seen a person's weakness or disability used for God's glory?

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

What encouragement do you find regarding your own weakness in these verses?

5. How had the prophet Isaiah predicted that the coming Messiah would usher in a new age by bringing light into the world? Read Isaiah 29:18, 35:3-5, 42:5-9.
6. For Jews who knew such prophecies, what questions must they have had about Jesus?
7. As you read through the entire passage, what do you see blinding the Jewish leaders to the truth about Jesus?

8. The blind man came gradually “to see” who Jesus was. Who did he understand Jesus to be in each encounter?

John 9:11

John 9:15

John 9:24-25

John 9:30-33

John 9:35-38

9. What role did repeated questioning have in the man’s spiritual journey?
10. What role have questions played in your spiritual journey? How might questions aid in your spiritual growth or in the growth of family and friends?
11. Who were the parents and how did they respond under questioning?
12. How did Jesus define true blindness and its result? What did He mean by this? (vv.39-41)
13. What evidence for the deity of Jesus do you find in this chapter?
14. In what particular areas of your life are you blind to the claims of Christ? How have you sought to restore your vision?

Memory Verse: “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” *John 9:25b*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, remove my blindness.

WEEK TWELVE: JOHN 10:1-42

OPENING QUESTION: *What qualities are important to you in a good leader?*

READ JOHN 10:1-42

1. Jesus spoke to people who had practical as well as spiritual knowledge of shepherds. What do the following verses teach you about shepherds and shepherding?

Genesis 48:15

2 Samuel 5:1-2

Psalms 23:1-2

Psalms 28:9

Isaiah 40:11

Jeremiah 23:1-4

2. When Jews heard Jesus speaking of Himself as the *good shepherd*, what would they have understood Him to be claiming about Himself?
3. Jesus called His followers *sheep*. What pictures come to mind when you think about sheep (positive or negative)?
4. What are the qualifications of a good shepherd? (vv.1-30)
5. What is the good shepherd able to provide for His sheep?
As you list His provisions, explain in your own words the meaning of each.

Which do you need to experience afresh today?

6. What does a lamb do in order to receive the benefits of the good shepherd?

7. Are you able to hear the Good Shepherd's voice? How are you listening and learning to distinguish between His voice and others?
8. What are the characteristics of thieves and robbers?
9. How does a hired hand behave and why? (vv.12-14)
10. What does Jesus mean when He describes Himself as the *gate*?
11. How far does Jesus' flock extend and what do you think Jesus wants you to do? (v.16; Ephesians 3:6)
12. What does John 10:17-18 say about Jesus' identity and mission? Why do these verses embody an important truth?
13. Who are the "sheep" in your life and how are you to shepherd them?
14. Why did many reject Christ? (vv.25-33)
15. What led others to believe in Jesus? (vv.40-42)

Memory Verse: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
John 10:11

Prayer Guide: Good Shepherd, keep me close to You.

WEEK THIRTEEN: JOHN 11:1-57

OPENING QUESTION: *Has God ever revealed Himself to you in the face of pain, death or danger?*

READ JOHN 11:1-57

Note: According to Jewish superstition, a soul stayed near the grave for three days hoping to return to the body. After four days, there was no hope.

1. Where was the home of Lazarus and what was Christ's relationship with the family?
(see also Luke 10:38-42)

2. What fear might have kept the disciples from going to Lazarus? (vv.8, 16)

3. What kept Christ from going immediately to Lazarus and what lessons about timing did He give?

4. How long had Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus arrived and what were the physical realities?

5. What did Christ's "late" arrival lead people to say? (see entire passage)

6. What do you learn about Jesus in this encounter
concerning His *love*?

concerning His *power*?

7. What encouragement do you receive about God's ability to enter into the place of your greatest pain and need?

8. How does this passage help you respond to those who believe that grief is incompatible with real faith?
9. What claim did Jesus make about Himself in John 11:25? Do you believe this? If so, what difference does it make?
10. What is the “life” that Christ is and gives? (see also John 1:4, 3:16, 10:10, 14:6)
11. What steps did Jesus take in bringing Lazarus back from the dead?
12. How did Lazarus look when he came from the tomb? How was this different from Christ’s appearance following His stay in the tomb? (John 20:3-16)
13. How did Jesus enlist the help of others to release Lazarus (v.44b)
14. What have you done with the “grave clothes” of your life? How might God use others to help release you?

Memory Verse: Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.” *John 11:25-26*

Prayer Guide: Almighty God, my hope is in You.

WEEK FOURTEEN: JOHN 12:1-50

OPENING QUESTION: *How do you celebrate? What keeps you from celebrating?*

READ JOHN 12:1-11

1. Where had Jesus been before the dinner party and why? (John 11:53-54)
2. Describe the celebration and the reason for honoring Jesus.
3. What did Mary do and why was it a radical act of love?
4. How might this passage encourage you to show extravagant love to Jesus or His people?
If possible, reflect on a specific example or opportunity.
5. What was Judas' objection and the reason behind it?
6. How did Jesus affirm Mary and allude to His death?

READ JOHN 12:12-50

7. How did people respond to Jesus as His ministry neared its conclusion?

John 12:9

John 12:10

John 12:11

John 12:12-13

John 12:17-19

John 12:37

John 12:42-43

Note: The word “hosanna” literally meant “save now” and was a term of praise to God and of greeting to kings.

8. How did the crowds echo the words of Psalm 118:25-26 with their shouted greeting of Jesus? What words of their own did they add?
9. What were the crowds expecting when they greeted Jesus? What misconceptions did they have?
10. What misconceptions do people have of Jesus today?

Note: A king rode a horse into war, but a donkey when he came in peace.

11. What kind of king was Jesus claiming to be? (see Zechariah 9:9-11, Zephaniah 3:14-17)
How might this understanding of Jesus comfort you today?
12. Why did the religious leaders want to kill Lazarus?
13. What was Jesus’ death going to accomplish?
14. What human temptation did Jesus face and what focus helped Him overcome it? (vv.27-28)
How might such focus help you?
15. What is the parallel between a kernel of wheat and your life? Is Jesus calling you to let go of anything? (vv.24-26)
16. How did Jesus again claim His connection with God? (vv.44-50)
17. How can Jesus’ words lead either to life or to death? (vv.47-50)

Note: Jesus turns from teaching the public to teaching His disciples from this point on.

Memory Verse: “I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” *John 12:24*

Prayer Guide: Gracious Savior, deliver me from my selfishness.

WEEK FIFTEEN: JOHN 13:1-38

OPENING QUESTION: *How has another's service impacted you?*

READ JOHN 13:1-38

1. Describe the setting. (see Luke 22:7-16)
2. What motivates you to serve others?
3. Why did Jesus serve His disciples? List as many reasons as you can from the text and reflect on the significance of each.
4. Is there a place in your life where you are currently experiencing blessing because of service? Is there a place where you are struggling?
5. How does Jesus challenge you to serve and what does He promise if you do? (vv.12-17)
6. Woven into this encounter with His disciples was a personal interchange with Peter. What wrong ideas did Peter have and how did Jesus correct them?

John 13:6-11

John 13:36-38
7. In what ways are you like Peter? If Jesus wanted to wash your feet, what would you say to Him? If Jesus asked you to lay down your life for Him, how would you respond?

8. What role does humility play in effective giving and receiving of service? (Philippians 2:3-8)
9. What did Jesus tell His friends about His betrayal and death?
10. Who do you see Judas to be throughout this encounter? Describe Judas as fully as possible and reflect on his behavior. (see also John 12:4-6)
11. Knowing what Judas and Peter were about to do, Jesus gave His *new commandment*. (vv.34-35) Read Leviticus 19:18 which contains the *old commandment*. What was new in Christ's words and why is this command so important?
12. What does such love look like? (1 Corinthians 13)

How might such love make a difference in your life today?

13. As you reflect back over the chapter, who does Jesus show Himself to be in the last hours of His life?
14. Are there any changes you feel God wants you to make in your relationship with Him or the others He has placed in your life?

Memory Verse: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved, you so you must love one another." *John 13:34*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, help me to love others as you love me.

WEEK SIXTEEN: JOHN 14:1-15:17

OPENING QUESTION: *What helps you say a difficult good bye?*

READ JOHN 14:1-31 and 16:5-16

1. What are Christ's promises and how do they comfort you today in an area of trouble? (John 14:1-4, 27)

2. What did Jesus say to alleviate Thomas' fear of getting lost? (John 14:6-7)

What do these words mean to you?

3. How had Jesus already shown Phillip the Father? (John 14:9-14)

4. Why would the Holy Spirit be sent when Jesus left for heaven? (John 14:16-18)

5. What was the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of people then and now?

John 14:16

John 14:17

John 14:26

John 15:26

John 16:8

John 16:13

John 16:14-15

6. How do people receive the Holy Spirit today? (see Acts 2:38-39)

7. Read Galatians 5:22-23. What spiritual fruit is produced in the lives of those with the Holy Spirit?

8. What enables people to bear such fruit?

John 15:1-17

Psalm 1:1-3

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Isaiah 58:10-11

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Do your lifestyle choices promote fruitfulness?

9. How does Christ love? (John 15:9-17)

10. How are you commanded to love?

John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10

John 15:12-13

In what situation in your life do you need God's strength to obey this command?

11. What is love's role in bearing fruit and what challenge does that provide for you?
How does it enable you to be a fruit bearer rather than a fruit inspector?

Memory Verse: "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."
John 14:26

Prayer Guide: Holy Spirit, make my heart Your dwelling place.

WEEK SEVENTEEN: JOHN 15:18-16:33

OPENING QUESTION: *What do you do when warned of danger?*

READ JOHN 15:18-16:4

1. Why does the world hate believers? In what areas of your life have you experienced this as true? (John 15:18-21)

2. Because of the world's "hatred" what specific kinds of persecution did Jesus warn His disciples to expect? (John 16:2)

3. Why did Jesus warn His disciples of the coming persecution? (John 16:1)

4. How did the early disciples experience this persecution?
Acts 7:54-8:3

Acts 9:1-2

Acts 26:9-11

5. What benefit are Christ's warnings to believers today? (see also 1 Peter 4:12-14)

6. What role would the Holy Spirit play with the evil of the world? (John 16:8-11)

7. What are the dangers for people who take on the role of the "Holy Spirit" in the lives of others?

8. What confused the disciples about Christ's departure? (John 16:17-19)
9. How did Christ focus not on Himself, but on the immediate and ultimate future of His friends as He addressed their confusion?
10. What promises for joy did Christ give His disciples in the face of sorrow?
- John 16:7
- John 16:22
- John 16:23-24
- What hope do these promises provide?
11. What failure in His disciples did Jesus predict and what happened?
(Matthew 26:56b)
12. What was Christ's great reassurance in John 16:33? What does this mean?
In what specific situation do you need to remember this today?
13. How does this lesson help you respond to people who believe that Christians will be protected from suffering?

Memory Verse: "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *John 16:33*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, bring peace in the midst of my trouble.

WEEK EIGHTEEN: JOHN 17:1-26

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever received a going-away gift that you still treasure?*

READ JOHN 17:1-26

1. What are the prayer requests you make for departing friends?
As you read through Christ's prayer, reflect on His requests.
2. What phrase did Jesus repeat when He described His disciples (vv.2, 6, 9, 24)
3. What is eternal life? (v.3)

What does it mean to you to "know" God? (see also Philippians 3:8-10)

Jesus prays for Himself (vv.1-5)

4. In the face of impending suffering and death, what was Christ's personal prayer request?
5. How do these verses help you understand what He was requesting?

Isaiah 42:8, 48:11

John 1:14

John 12:23-28

John 13:31-32

6. What did Christ affirm about Himself and His mission as He prayed?

Jesus prays for His disciples (vv.6-19)

7. What did Jesus affirm about His disciples?
8. What difficulty did Jesus acknowledge as He looked to the future?
9. What were Christ's specific requests for His disciples? What does each mean and why do they remain so important for disciples today?

Jesus prays for all believers (vv.20-26)

10. What did Jesus affirm about those in coming ages who would become His children?
11. What were His prayer requests for all believers?
12. Describe the unity Christ wishes us to experience.
13. What is the purpose of unity and what makes it possible?
14. How would Christ's prayer have been different if He had focused on short-term needs? What changes might His example cause in your prayer life?

Memory Verse: "Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You sent." *John 17:3*

Prayer Guide: Gracious God, overflow Your love through me.

WEEK NINETEEN: JOHN 18:1-27

OPENING QUESTION: *What is most devastating about a betrayal?*

READ JOHN 18:1-27

1. What preceding incident do the other gospels include that John leaves out of His gospel? (Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:40-46)
2. What had been Christ's last encounter with Judas in John's Gospel? (John 13:21-30)
3. Why do you think Jesus went to the place where He knew He would be found by His betrayer?
4. Describe the betrayal scene on the Mount of Olives as fully as you can. Imagine what the disciples might have been thinking and feeling as the scene unfolded.
5. How did Peter try to fix things for Christ when the guards arrived? What dangers are there for us in trying to fix things for Him?
6. What did Jesus reveal about Himself in this encounter? (vv.1-11)
7. What did Jesus mean when He spoke of drinking "the cup the Father had given Him?" (v.11, see also Matthew 20:22-23, 26:27-28)
8. Who escorted Jesus to Annas?
9. What were the conditions as Peter waited for Jesus?

10. Why do you think Peter denied Jesus? How do you account for the difference between the Peter of verse 10 and verse 17?

11. Where in your life is it difficult to let people know you are a believer?
Reflect on the conditions that increase your temptation to deny Jesus.

12. How do these verses encourage you to resist such temptation?

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Mark 14:38

Hebrews 2:18

James 4:7-10

Note: Jewish legal procedure required the testimony of two independent witnesses before a person could be considered guilty and put on trial. The accused was not required to testify for himself.

13. What concern might have led Annas to question Jesus as he did?
(see Deuteronomy 13:2-6)

14. What do we learn about Jesus from His encounter with Annas?

15. The Gospel of John says nothing about Jesus' appearance before the Jewish leaders.
(read Mark 14:53-65) What accusations were made against Jesus? Why did they consider Him worthy of death?

16. How would such charges sound in a Roman court of law?

Memory Verse: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." *Mark 14:38*

Prayer Guide: Holy Father, deliver me from temptation

WEEK TWENTY: JOHN 18:28-19:16

OPENING QUESTION: *How do you respond to people who question your faith?*

READ JOHN 18:28-19:16

1. Who was Pilate and why was his judgment sought?
2. Why did the Jewish leaders try to rush the trial and how was their hypocrisy revealed in their treatment of Jesus?
3. Why do you think a specific charge wasn't initially brought against Jesus?
4. What questions did Pilate ask Jesus and what does each one reveal about him?
John 18:33
John 18:35
John 18:37
John 18:38
John 19:9
John 19:10
5. As Jesus responded to Pilate's questions, what important truths about Himself did He reveal?
6. How did Pilate show his disregard for truth?
7. Where in your life are you tempted to disregard truth? How does this passage challenge you?
8. How was Jesus mistreated? (see also Matthew 27:26-31, Mark 15:16-20)

9. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. What was the reason for Christ's suffering? What example did He leave us in the way He faced that suffering?

10. How does Christ's example challenge you to respond to unfair accusation?

11. How did the Jews pressure Pilate to condemn Jesus? Reflect on each of their ploys.

12. How did Pilate defend Christ's innocence?

John 18:38

John 19:4

John 19:6

13. Why did Pilate send Jesus to His death? What did he reveal about himself by this action?

14. Why did Jesus die on the cross when the Jewish death penalty called for stoning?

John 3:14

John 8:28

John 12:32-33

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Galatians 3:13

15. What is most personally compelling about Christ in this lesson?

Memory Verse: "I came into the world to testify to the truth. Anyone on the side of truth listens to Me." *John 18:37b*

Prayer Guide: Christ My King, open my ears to Your truth.

WEEK TWENTY-ONE: JOHN 19:17-42

OPENING QUESTION: *What do you do when a friend or family member is suffering?*

READ JOHN 19:17-42

1. Many witnessed the events surrounding Christ's death who were not mentioned in John's account. What were the attitudes or actions of these people?
(Mark 15:16-43, Matthew 27:27-56, Luke 23:26-50)

Simon of Cyrene

The people who followed

Thieves

Passersby

Centurion
2. How did John describe the scene at the cross?
3. What controversial notice did Pilate place on the cross and why do you think he did it?
Why do you think it was written in three languages?
4. Why do you think the Jews objected to the notice?
5. What prophecies were fulfilled?

Psalm 22:18

Numbers 9:11-12

Zechariah 12:10-12
6. Why do you think John left out many of the physical aspects of Christ's suffering that other gospels included?
7. Reflect on Mary's pain as she, the mother of Jesus, stood by the cross.
(Luke 1:30-33, 2:25-35, 2:41-52, John 2:1-11)

8. How did Jesus reveal His great love for His mother in the midst of His suffering and with what result?
9. What final words of Jesus did John not include in his account and what does each reveal about Jesus?

Luke 23:34

Luke 23:43

Luke 23:46

Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34
10. What final words of Jesus did John include and what do they reveal about Jesus?
(see also John 4:34)
11. How did John describe the actual moment of Christ's death and what did it mean?
(see also John 10:18)
12. What evidence did John give that Jesus really died and why was it so important to establish that fact?
13. Where were Christ's followers and why do you think this was so? (Mark 14:50)
14. Describe the men who came for Jesus' body.
(see also Matthew 27:57-58, John 3:1-9)
15. How did these men show their love for Jesus?
16. What was accomplished for you on the cross? (Romans 5:6-11) What difference has this made in your life?
17. What touches you most deeply in this passage?

Memory Verse: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." *Romans 5:8*

Prayer Guide: Lord Almighty, thank You for Your great mercy.

WEEK TWENTY-TWO: JOHN 20:1-31

OPENING QUESTION: *How do you respond to news that seems too good to be true?*

READ JOHN 20:1-31

1. What might Mary have been thinking and feeling as she went to the tomb?
2. What questions was Mary asked and what did her answers reveal about her?
3. What finally caused Mary to recognize Jesus? (see also John 10:3-4)
4. Reflect on times you have failed to recognize Christ's presence in the midst of your struggles and grief. How has He made Himself known?
5. Why do you think Mary was chosen to see Jesus first?
6. List as fully as possible the evidence of Christ's resurrection in this chapter.
7. What do you rely on for evidence that Jesus rose from the dead?
8. Why is Christ's resurrection important for believers? (1 Corinthians 15:14-19)
9. What difference has the resurrection made in your life?
10. How did Christ's resurrection appearance impact Mary?

11. How did Mary's witness to the resurrection impact the other disciples? (Luke 24:9-12)
How does this speak to the difficulties of your own witness to the resurrection?
12. Where were the disciples and why were they there when Jesus appeared? (v.19)
13. What indicated that Christ's body had taken on a new form?
14. How did Jesus meet the needs of His disciples when He greeted them for the first time?
15. What were they to do and what did this mean for them and for us?
16. What kept Thomas from believing?
17. How did Jesus graciously lead Thomas to faith? How might this help you at points of doubt?
18. What was the purpose of all that John wrote in this gospel?

Memory Verse: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." *John 20:31*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, reveal Yourself.

WEEK TWENTY-THREE: JOHN 21:1-25

OPENING QUESTION: *Share a reunion memory.*

READ JOHN 21:1-25

1. Who went fishing and why do you think they went? (vv.1-3)
2. What failure had the disciples experienced by the time Jesus came and what might this have meant for them?
3. How did Jesus greet them from the shore and what did He ask of them?
4. What did they learn about Jesus when they obeyed Him?
5. When had Jesus made a similar request and with what results? (Luke 5:4-11)
6. Is there an area of failure in your life where Christ might be asking you to persevere in obedience? How does this example help you?
7. Describe the breakfast with Jesus. Why would such a breakfast fill them with joy?
8. What memory of previous failure did Peter bring to his private conversation with Jesus? (see John 18:15-18, 25-27)

9. What questions did Jesus ask Peter and why do you think He asked them?
10. How did Peter respond to the questions and what might he have been thinking as he did?
11. How would you respond to Christ's questions today?
12. How was Peter to care for Christ's sheep, and in your own words, what does that mean?
13. How are you to care for the sheep in your life?
14. What question did Peter ask Jesus? How did this reveal a distraction that could have fatally sidetracked Peter from being what Christ wanted him to be? How can you avoid this distraction?
15. What was Christ's response to Peter's question and why is it still key to faithful living?

Memory Verse: "You must follow Me." *John 21:22b*

Prayer Guide: Risen Jesus, help me follow You.

REVIEW LESSON I

1. What verses have been most important to you?
2. What did you learn from John the Baptist's example?
3. What will you remember from the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus?
4. What evidence leads you to believe that Jesus is God?
5. What key questions from Jesus or others have shaped your spiritual journey?
6. One truth that has transformed you:
7. One thing you are thankful for:

REVIEW LESSON II

1. Which verses do you most want to take with you from this study?
2. As you reflect on the signs that John included in his gospel, which one touched you most? What did it teach you about Jesus?
 - Changing water into wine
 - Clearing temple vendors
 - Healing the official's son
 - Healing the paralytic
 - Feeding the five thousand
 - Walking on water
 - Healing the blind man
 - Raising Lazarus
 - Being crucified and resurrected
3. How did these signs help you "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" as John hoped his readers would? (John 20:31)
4. How has your knowledge of Jesus increased by understanding Him as the
True Bread of Life? (John 6:1-59)
Light of the World? (John 1:9, 3:19-21, 8:12, 9:1-41)
Gate (John 10:7, 9) and Way? (John 14:6)
Good Shepherd? (John 10:11, 14)
Resurrection and Life? (John 11:25)
True Vine? (John 15:1, 5)
Truth? (John 14:6, 8:31-32)
5. Who have you seen Jesus to be?
6. What have you learned from another person in the gospel?
7. How has Christ changed you through the study?
8. How has God answered prayer?