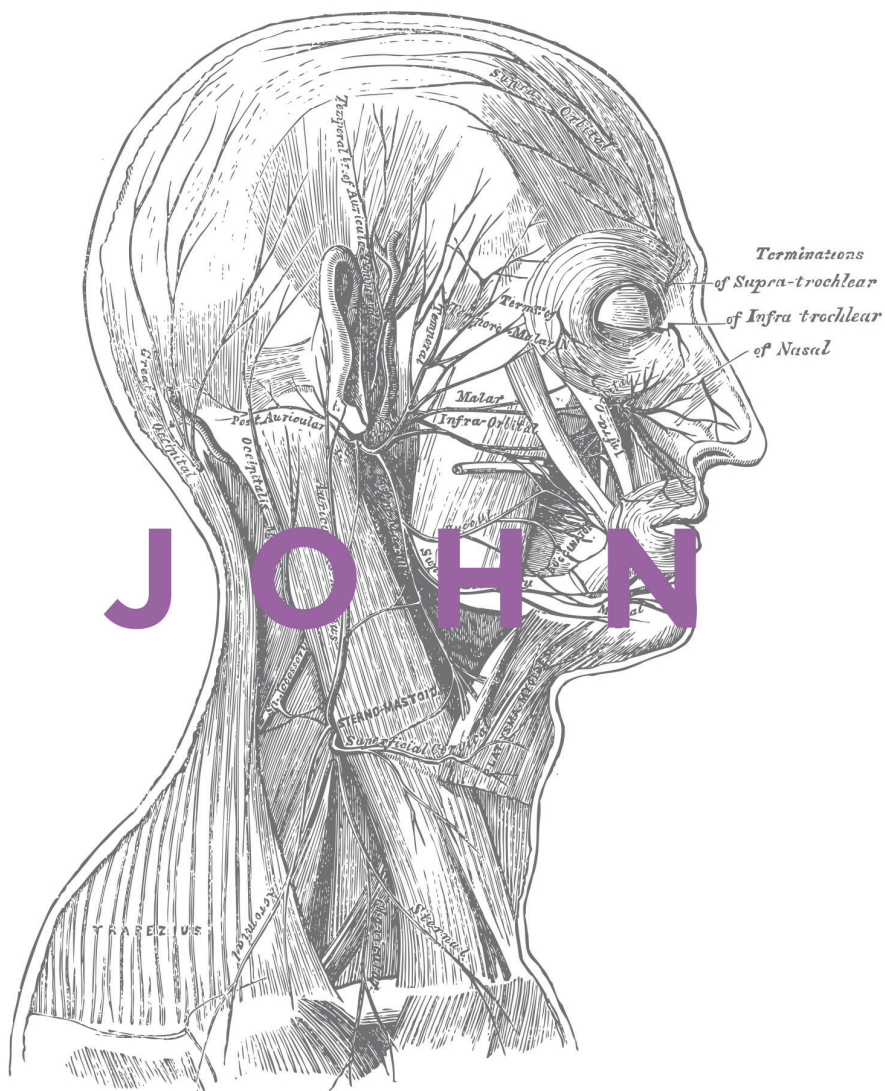


T H E G O S P E L O F



63 DAY DEVOTIONAL

VERSES ARE EITHER IN THE NIV OR ESV
TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE

DAY 1

READ JOHN 1:1-18

The Gospel According to John is a poetic narrative of the life death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth that explores the claims of Jesus, and allows the reader to experience for themselves who this carpenter from Galilee is. The first few verses sets the stage for the entire Gospel by letting us in on a little secret about Jesus that no one else in the Gospel knows. Jesus is the embodiment of the Creator God. He is the flesh and blood God. To understand this verse better it would help to go back to Genesis 1. In Genesis, it shows God speaking creation into existence, and John 1 is showing that the Word is what God used to create everything. John is saying that Jesus is the creative person behind the creation of the whole cosmos. This verse is a way of saying that everything in creation has been waiting for the moment when Jesus arrives as “God with us.”

We are shown that the God who created the entire universe is radically personal. He does not just want to rule over his creation, but join in his creation to save it. Jesus shows us that God is a powerful and personal God who does not forget us, or leave us. Jesus is God in pursuit of man.

DO you see God pursuing you in your life? Why or why not?

DAY 2

READ JOHN 1:19-28

In our second day of reading, we witness the John's great story telling abilities. We learn about Jesus being the Word of God, and that this story is about him, but then we jump right to a random scene about a guy named John the Baptist. John is showing us that there is something related between John the Baptist and Jesus. But, the verse above is John explaining his identity to the Pharisees. John the Baptist is having a huge following by the Jordan River, and the Pharisees (religious elite leaders) are hoping that he is not the coming King, because he is undermining the power of the Pharisees. John the Baptist is quoting the prophet Isaiah saying that he is the messenger of God's return to his people as King. As we know from the reading before, Jesus is God incarnate. He is God with us, so John is supposed to be announcing the coming of King Jesus. But, as we read further, Jesus will not seem like he is the coming King Israel hoped for.

Take some time to read about the Messiah in the Old Testament to better understand how Jesus will begin to reveal himself as the Messiah.

- Psalm 110

- Psalm 109

- Psalm 2

- Isaiah 7

- Psalm 22

- Isaiah 53

- 2 Samuel 7

DAY 3

READ JOHN 1:29-42

This passage is John revealing Jesus as “the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.” This is very much an explicit reference to Jesus being the embodiment of the Creator God of Israel. Only God can baptize people with the Holy Spirit, because it is God’s own presence. John now knows that Jesus is the coming of the King of Israel, and in turn the King of the whole world. This section of the book is helping us understand Jesus’ identity, but keep in mind through the rest of the book that most of the rest of the people in John’s Gospel do not know Jesus identity. We have a very unique vantage point, and the book is about how people are reacting to Jesus claims of who he is.

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to the kind of people who accept Jesus’ message, and the kind of people who oppose his message.

DAY 4

READ JOHN 1:43-51

This is probably one of the very first times that Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man, a title that will end up being used over and over again throughout the Bible. Jesus is truly showing them greater things, saying that He will lead His disciples onward and upward, for He is Himself the ladder of ascent to God. This particular verse even ties into the Old Testament in Genesis 28:10-17 when Jacob experiences a promise of God's blessing in a dream, and he calls the place where he had that dream "the very gateway to heaven." Jesus is essentially the bridge in the seeming gap between God and man, and He will continue to prove this throughout His years of ministry. Even after Jesus' crucifixion, He offers hope to the world that He truly is the connector between heaven and earth.

Today, **LOOK** for where Jesus is acting as the connector between heaven and earth in your life.

DAY 5

READ JOHN 2:1-12

This is the first miracle Jesus performs in his public ministry. We often get caught up in the fact that Jesus turns water into wine, and think that it means he is divine. The miracles in any of the Gospels are not there to show us that Jesus is God, but to show us that Jesus is the Messiah. This term Messiah really just means King of Israel, and is also the same thing as the term “Son of God.” John wants us to see that this is the first act of the King who is bringing his Kingdom. But something that is striking is Jesus mother response to the servants about her son. She knows who Jesus is, and has faith in what her son can do. When she tells the servants to “do whatever he tells you,” she is outlining the biggest attribute one can have in Jesus Kingdom. Obedience. Jesus love language is obedience. This passage is teaching us the response of those who love Jesus to his commands.

THINK today about how you can love Jesus by obeying a command that he gives in one of the Gospels.

DAY 6

READ JOHN 2:13-25

Now, Jesus is making a huge claim about the temple. To say the temple was going to be destroyed in Jesus day was almost considered blasphemous. The temple was where God's presence dwelt, and now Jesus says it will be destroyed, and he will rebuild the temple in three days. Everyone is thinking that Jesus is saying he will build a brick and stone temple in three days, but Jesus is talking about himself. In our earlier readings, we saw that Jesus was depicted as the house of God, and that he made his dwelling among us. Each of those are references to Jesus being the living temple of God. Jesus is saying that in three days, he will be lifted up and become God dwelling in every believer. This is Jesus claim that all who follow him, will be filled with the presence of Jesus.

HAVE you asked Jesus to give you more of his presence?
Have you been acting as the temple of the living God as
a follower of Jesus?

DAY 7

READ JOHN 3:1-15

Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus is a very important story in understanding Jesus worldview on the Kingdom of God. Jesus is saying that no one can enter the Kingdom unless they are born again. Nicodemus' response is usually laughed at in the church, but this is actually a brilliant response to what Jesus said. Nicodemus is saying that even if one were reborn in their mother's womb they would come out still affected by the sin that runs a muck in this world. Nicodemus, whom Jesus calls the "teacher of Israel" later in the chapter, is asking how does one be born again. Jesus response is that he is the way to be born again. To make Jesus King is the way to enter into the Kingdom of God.

IS Jesus actually King over your life? What area of your life has Jesus not become King over yet? How can you change that?

DAY 8

READ JOHN 3:16-21

Sometimes we lose the significance of this passage, because it is the most popular verse in Christianity. Most people who have been following Jesus for any period of time can recite this verse on command without even thinking. But, this passage is so powerful for many reasons. Jesus has been talking to Nicodemus, and this is his summary of what it means to be born again by the Spirit of God. To Jesus, God's love is so fierce, and powerful, that even death itself cannot stop God from being with his people that he loves. This is why Jesus is here. Jesus came to earth out of God's immense amount of love for his creation. God took on the human condition so that he could conquer it and allow his people to overcome it through Jesus as well.

KNOW that right now, Jesus has overcome the sin and corruption in your own personal life, so that you will not have to deal with the devastating affects of sin on the other side of resurrection.

DAY 9

READ JOHN 3:22-36

Prior to John the Baptist saying this, many of his disciples came running up to him and told him that Jesus, the one whom John referred to as the Messiah, was baptizing people. While his disciples are expecting John the Baptist to be upset that people were going to Jesus instead of him, he replies with words that paint a beautiful picture of the connection between Jesus and the Church. The Church is the bride and Jesus is the bridegroom, and John the Baptist is filled with absolute joy to witness the two coming together in the beautiful altercation of baptism.

Make verse 30 your prayer today: “He must become greater and greater, and I must become less, and less. Amen.”

DAY 10

READ JOHN 4:1-30

When Jesus is saying this to the woman at the well, we miss the massive implication with this statement. We often are so focused on the conversation between the woman and Jesus, that we miss what Jesus is saying. He is alluding to passages in Isaiah when it says that God will bless and renew all of creation by allowing his Spirit to indwell his people. Jesus is claiming that through him this living water, or the Spirit of God will be accessible to all who come to him. Remember that Jesus call is to no longer be thirsty of the presence of God, but to be filled with his presence everyday. This is the call to Jesus throughout the entire gospel.

ARE you thirsty? Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and allow him to fill you with the empowering presence of God. Read Joel 2:28-29 this came true for the church and Pentecost, and is still true for us today.

DAY 11

READ JOHN 4:31-45

Yesterday's reading and today's reading are some of the most subversive writings in ancient history. The Samaritans and the Jews had one of the most racist rivalries in ancient history. Jews and Samaritans had a very strong hate for each other, and racism was sown deep within these two cultures, so when John writes that Samaritans asked Jesus to stay with them that was the most earth shattering thing that could have happened. Samaritans and Jews come together under Jesus, and find life in him. Jesus overcomes our racist barriers, and brings in his all encompassing love to allow people to join him at his dinner table for the great feast with Jesus at the head of the table.

WHAT steps can you take to invite and bring the unlikely people to the center of Jesus' dinner table? Who needs to hear the invitation Jesus gives to those on the margins of society?

DAY 12

READ JOHN 4:46-54

In this section of our reading, Jesus calls out an inherent lack of faith in this man for wanting Jesus to be physically there to heal his son. Jesus isn't only calling out the man's faith, but our own lack of faith. Countless times we ask Jesus to physically manifest himself to us so we can believe more. Jesus in this story tells the man that his son is already healed, and that Jesus has the power to do that even not physically being there. Jesus manifests himself through his Spirit, and we are called to trust the character of our King, and have an expectation that Jesus will heal us and make himself known to us.

Today, **HOW** can you trust Jesus and who he says he is?

DAY 13

READ JOHN 5:1-17

As weird as this verse may seem to be the devotional verse for the reading today, there is a lot going on here that we can pick up on. Jesus just healed a man, and restored him to the way he was supposed to be. But, it was a Sabbath, and the Jewish elite had made rules that you cannot walk with your cot in your hand. When they say it is unlawful, they do not mean the law that God gave Moses, but the tradition that the Jewish leaders put in place. The only command for the Sabbath is to not do work, but the religious leaders decided to tell the people what constituted work, and it was absolutely ridiculous. Jesus is restoring creation back to its proper place when he heals people, and that is in line with what Sabbath is. Sabbath is supposed to be a life-giving day given to God, and Jesus is doing exactly that by healing this man who was lame for 38 years. This is why Jesus gets controversial. He does the Sabbath right, but still gets the religious people nervous.

HOW can you start to Sabbath, and what life giving, and healing activities can you take on a weekly Sabbath. It doesn't have to be Sunday, but a day you can be fully devoted to Jesus.

DAY 14

READ JOHN 5:18-29

John 5 paints a vivid picture of the world's hate for him, but His purpose for them. Prior to this, the Jewish leaders were looking for a way to kill Jesus, but He stops them in their tracks with a beautiful explanation of His purpose. In this verse, Jesus is explaining to the very people that want to kill Him that all they have to do is listen and believe, and they can enjoy eternity in His kingdom. Wow. If a group of people were trying to kill you, would you say, "Hey, just listen to me and believe what I am saying. If you do that, I will forgive you for wanting to kill me and let you stay in my house for years and years to come." That is absolutely crazy, but what Jesus does is absolutely crazy. He seeks everyone, regardless of our feelings towards Him.

REMEMBER that if your life is under Jesus' authority, then you are no longer condemned for sin, but brought into eternal life with Jesus. Rejoice and give thanks for that truth!

DAY 15

READ JOHN 5:30-47

John is a brilliant author, and is doing something very intentional here with what Jesus is saying to the Pharisees. He is not only showing that the Pharisees need to look at Jesus' works to realize that he has come from the Father. John is also calling the reader to take a close look at Jesus' works. He is saying, "look at what Jesus' is doing, and decide for yourself if he is the Messiah. John is challenging us during this reading to take a close look at who Jesus, the Jewish rabbi from Galilee is. Today sit and put Jesus works on earth to the test.

FIND OUT if he was who he claimed to be. John is calling us to do that today.

DAY 16

READ JOHN 6:1-24

Jesus is constantly performing miracles, and the people are receiving him well. They believe that he is the Messiah, and they want him to be king, and overthrow the oppression of the Roman Empire. They are right about one aspect of Jesus, that he is the Messiah. But, they are very wrong about the kind of Messiah that Jesus is. They want him to be the king that overhauls power, and establishes God's kingdom over the entire world right there. Jesus knows that this is not the kind of king he is, and that is why he has to retreat from the crowd. They don't get the kind of king Jesus is, and he will not be the king who gains power by lording it over people.

Jesus is now going to start **REVEALING** to us throughout the rest of John's Gospel how he is going to become king, and it is very different to what anyone thinks.

DAY 17

READ JOHN 6:25-59

Today, we are reading about Jesus claim that he is the bread of life. This is a weird image for us today, and it was even a weird image for the people of Jesus time. One of the best ways to understand what Jesus is saying is by looking at his reference to Manna. This was the bready goo that the Israelites ate everyday in the wilderness to live for 40 years. Jesus is contrasting that with himself. Jesus claims that he is the bread of life, like the manna, but even more. He is referencing so many Old Testament quotes, that it is hard to understand what he is saying. Ultimately Jesus is saying three things. He is the predicted greater than Moses figure, he is God himself, and he is the tree of life. Whoever eats his flesh and drinks his blood will have eternal life. Jesus is life, and those who come to him will take part in that eternal life.

Each time you take communion with a community, **REMEMBER** the fact that Jesus is the bread of life, and that in him you have eternal life.

DAY 18

READ JOHN 6:60-71

People do not like the teaching that Jesus is the bread of life, and many leave him because of this teaching. When Jesus asks the disciples if they will leave as well, Peter gives one of the greatest answers you can give Jesus. He is pretty much saying that there is literally no other way to go. They know that Jesus is the ultimate goal, and know that if Jesus is not who he says he is, then no one can be. This is the perfect example to follow in our relationship to Jesus. To be able to say that no matter what, we have to go with Jesus, because there is no other way to go.

Today we should be thinking about **HOW** we are living out our discipleship to Jesus in that way. Where are we saying, “There is no other way to go, but to follow Jesus?”

DAY 19

READ JOHN 7:1-24

Prior to this particular verse, Jesus left the festival and began teaching in the Temple. The people were confused when Jesus began teaching, saying things like “How does he know much when he hasn’t been trained?” Jesus comes back with a clear response, saying that it is the Father’s words, not His. This is a clear example of following the Father’s will and not depending on our own understanding. A life of purpose comes from God. Faith in the Gospel does not come by logic, but as a result of obeying the highest truth that you know.

Jesus is the highest form of truth. He is the truth. **OBEDIENCE** is the overflow of faith in the Gospel of Jesus.

DAY 20

READ JOHN 7:25-36

This was another question people had about Jesus. He was born of Joseph and Mary, and we know that he grew up in Nazareth. Since we know where he grew up, we know where he is from. Jesus later in this passage answers the questions they are asking, and he says that they really don't know where he really comes from. Sure, they know where he grew up, but they do not know that he came into this world by the power of God's Spirit. This is where Jesus is clearly making it known to those who doubt him that they really don't get it. They are looking at the things that don't matter. Jesus is from the Father, and these people obviously do not know the Father if they do not believe Jesus' works attest to the fact he is from the Father.

This is setting us up for the sections to come where Jesus proves himself through his works even more today. **PAY ATTENTION** to what Jesus is revealing to us during the rest of the Gospel. Ask him to do the same in your life.

DAY 21

READ JOHN 7:37-52

Today, we are reading a powerful passage about the Holy Spirit. All throughout scripture, there is a theme of referring to the Spirit of God as water. The Spirit was hovering over the water at creation, God says he will pour out his Spirit in the book of Joel, and Jesus is now saying that living waters will come out of those who believe in him. This term, “living waters” is loaded with imagery and metaphor that makes it hard to fully understand. But, the picture you are supposed to get is that through those who believe in Jesus, living water will be running from them for others to come to and get life. We, as followers of Jesus, are called to have life flow out of everything we do. This is a promise that Jesus is giving to all of creation. Once he is glorified, and raised from the dead, his Spirit will be poured out over all those who belong to the kingdom of God.

As a follower of Jesus, you have these rivers of running water pouring out through you. This is the Spirit of God flowing out of you, and manifesting the power of God to those around you. Just like Jesus, **START** drawing the thirsty people on the margins of society to come drink from the water that comes from the Holy Spirit.

DAY 22

READ JOHN 8:1-11

One of the most famous lines Jesus ever said. This story of the woman caught in adultery is a powerful example of how Jesus confronts sin, and it is also drenched in irony for the religious leaders. Jesus is the God of Israel in the presence of Israel, so to him, the religious leaders are being the biggest hypocrites of them all. Israel was committing adultery against God by giving into false gods. Israel was the women who they are now about to stone. Now, God is doing the greatest act through Jesus by rescuing Israel from their adultery, but they can't even recognize it. They are too busy calling out someone else's adultery, that they can't even recognize their own. Jesus is calling the religious leaders to account for the history of the nation they feel like they are leading as Pharisees. Jesus then tells the woman to go and sin no more. He brings her out of her condemnation, and calls her to something even greater.

TRY to think about how you can be slow to call out other people's sin, but quick to recognize your own.

DAY 23

READ JOHN 8:12-38

To abide in Jesus word sounds a little funky to us today. A lot of the time I think that it means to just read my Bible more. Now, that's true, and doing that will help us know what Jesus said better, but it is that plus a whole bunch more. We need to know Jesus' words, but once we know them, we have to live them out. To abide in the words of Jesus means to live a life saturated with the way of Jesus. Whenever you wake up in the morning, Jesus is the first thing on your mind, and how you can live out his way that day. This is the mark of his disciples. People should know we follow Jesus by the way we live, and not by our social media, or the words we refuse to say. We should be known for living a full life that is overflowing with the love of Jesus.

HOW can you be showing people the full life that comes from the overflow of the love of Jesus?

DAY 24

READ JOHN 8:39-59

Jesus is getting into one of his most heated debates with the Pharisees in this section. They are trying to get Jesus to say he is better than Abraham, but Jesus takes it a step further. Abraham is the father of Israel, and is viewed as the highest human in the faith, but Jesus is saying that even Abraham was waiting for the one who would fulfill the job that God gave Abraham. Jesus says that Abraham was waiting for him, but then he makes the greatest claim that anyone ever has. Jesus says, "Before Abraham was born, I am!" This is a verbatim quote of God revealing his personal name to Moses at the burning bush. This is the only time in any of the Gospels that Jesus explicitly states that he is The God of Israel in the flesh. This is why people wanted to stone him. This was blasphemy for any man to say, but Jesus isn't any man. Now we have to see if this claim that Jesus makes is true.

START digging, and searching for the answers about Jesus' claims about himself. By the end of the devotional, you will be faced with this question again, and this is a good time to be searching for the answers to these questions.

DAY 25

READ JOHN 9:1-12

So many times, this passage is viewed as God was the one who caused this man to be blind so that Jesus can heal them so that people might believe in him. But, that is not what Jesus is saying. Jesus actually makes no claim as to how this man was born blind. Jesus doesn't say that it is from God, or from Satan. All Jesus says is that by healing this man, the glory of God will be made known to everyone. Jesus knows he lives in a world that is messed up, and that when he brings God's justice and mercy into this world, then God's glory will be shown through that. This is what Jesus is trying to say. Whenever Jesus brings healing in your life, or in your family, or in your community, then the Kingdom of God is present in each of those places.

WHERE can you manifest the Kingdom of God through healing in your family, school, work, or in your own personal life?

DAY 26

READ JOHN 9:13-34

Jesus always tends to bring division between people, and the Pharisees are always the number one example for this. John is using this section of the Gospel as a thought experiment for you, the reader, to participate in. When they say, how can a man who is a sinner do these signs, John is also asking you that question. You are supposed to sit there and think about that question. How could Jesus be not from God if he did all these things? Read through this story, and look at the people involved in this story. What are they saying, and who do they think Jesus is?

LET all that sink in, and step into that story with Jesus, and make your own decision on that question.

DAY 27

READ JOHN 9:35-41

There was one miracle that defined the Messiah from any other biblical figure in the scriptures, and that was the healing of a blind man. All the other Prophets did similar things to Jesus. The Prophets had healed the sick, brought people back from death, and even walked on water. No Prophet had ever made a blind man see again, and this was the mark of the Son of God. Jesus is revealing himself as the Messiah, and this man is asking who he is, so he can “believe” in him. He isn’t saying he just wants to believe he exists, but that he wants to know who is King is to follow and give his life to. That is the response we should all have when it comes to Jesus. We believe in him by coming under Jesus’ rule and authority.

Today, **TRY** to figure out how you come under the authority of your Messiah.

DAY 28

READ JOHN 10:1-21

Throughout John 10, Jesus illustrates His purpose once again. Jesus is essentially saying that he calls to us, bringing us back to him from the places where we've wandered. Just like sheep, we don't always display the brightest behavior either, but that doesn't matter if we recognize the voice of our shepherd. Just as Jesus will explain many more times, His time on earth will come to an end and He will do whatever it takes to explain His purpose on earth.

HAVE you recognized the fact that your shepherd, Jesus, sacrificed his life for you?

DAY 29

READ JOHN 10:22-30

Do you know Jesus' voice? Think about that for a little bit. Can you hear when Jesus calls you to something? Do you know when Jesus calls you to talk to your classmates, or to go talk to that homeless person? This is a requirement Jesus has to be his sheep. You need to hear his voice, and know when he is speaking to you. Also, Jesus has to know you. I think this might be the hardest one of them. So much time we don't allow Jesus to get into our lives at a deep level. Of course Jesus knows us all, but at some level we start to live for Jesus, and not live life with Jesus. When you live life for Jesus you miss out on letting Jesus into your life, but life with Jesus allows you to live for him without forgetting to live with him.

Today, **START** living life with Jesus. Talk to him throughout the day, and listen to him throughout the day. Practice trying to hear the voice of Jesus.

DAY 30

READ JOHN 10:31-42

The Pharisees are in another confrontation with Jesus, and say that he is blaspheming God's name by claiming equality with God. This is the best, because when you try to pick a fight about scripture with Jesus, you lose. Jesus performs biblical Judo on the Pharisees, and ends with the scripture above. This is Jesus heart for anyone who is seeking to find out who Jesus is. Jesus is telling us to test what he did. Examine everything Jesus does, and come to a conclusion based off that. When we examine the works of Jesus, then we have to confront the fact that he is either the King of the world, or he is a nutcase. He cannot be both. Jesus is inviting us to live inside that tension, and come out the other side with a better understanding of who he is.

WILL you accept Jesus' invitation today? Will you live in the tension Jesus calls us into?

DAY 31

READ JOHN 11:1-27

Martha is sharp as a whip, but still can't understand what Jesus is doing. Lazarus is already dead, and sure he will be resurrected on judgment day, but it doesn't change the fact that he died, and Jesus could have saved him. This is where Jesus starts letting them in on a secret. Jesus is the current resurrection, and the future one. He is alluding to his own resurrection, but everyone in the story can't understand that, because no one will be resurrected during the middle of time.

This is setting us up for what will happen next to Lazarus, and also to Jesus on Easter.

DAY 32

READ JOHN 11:28-44

Through the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus is essentially answering the question of “Why do bad things happen?” Lazarus of Bethany is sick—he is one of Jesus’ best friends. After Lazarus’ sisters send an urgent cry for help, Jesus still decides to wait two days before setting out for Bethany, which confuses the disciples. But Jesus is ultimately setting out to turn something big and ugly into something big and beautiful. You see, bad things happen in our lives to create open doors for Jesus to do what he does best—re-create us into lovers who trust him with our lives.

WHERE in your life can Jesus enter into the ugliness and turn you into a lover who trusts Jesus with your life?

DAY 33

READ JOHN 11:45-57

Caiaphas, the high priest, says his most prophetic word about Jesus in a way that he had no idea. Saying that Jesus should be killed, so that the whole nation does not perish is exactly what Jesus was sent to earth to do. Jesus had to be the suffering servant that gives up his life for the people of Israel, but also for the entire earth. Caiaphas thinks he is saying it in reference to a revolt in the city, but Jesus is showing us Caiaphas is write, but not in the way we think. This is where we see that God has his hand over the entire situation leading up to the cross. This is God's plan, and it is being fulfilled in Jesus.

Today, just **SIT AND MEDITATE** on the fact that the entire plan of God is being revealed in Jesus.

DAY 34

READ JOHN 12:1-19

This is what is called Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. Usually, in the ancient world, a king would come to his city, and the crowds would meet him out there and lay palm branched in front of him, and escort him back to the city. This is exactly what is happening to Jesus as he is riding up to the city of Jerusalem. He sits on a donkey instead of a horse to show that he is coming in peace, and not as a conquering empire like Rome. This is the entry of the king of Israel, and now we get to see how the King of Jerusalem (and also the world) acts inside his very own city. The King is here, and his name is Jesus.

BE READY for how Jesus acts inside the city as the King of the world. Compare this to how most kings would act inside their own city.

DAY 35

READ JOHN 12:20-36

Jesus is brutally honest in this section of our reading. He knows his purpose for coming into the city. He knows that he does not have much time left before he will be killed by the religious leaders. And here, Jesus is moved to the point of grief. I love how honest the scriptures are about Jesus. He was troubled, and admits it to everyone. But, Jesus also shows us the perfect response to your emotional troubles. Go straight to the Father. Don't ignore your emotions, and don't try to hide them. Go to the Father, and sit with the Father, and allow him to give you strength to get over your grief. Jesus isn't stoic. Jesus feels just as much as you and I feel, but he was emotionally mature enough to take his pain to his Father and allow Him to help Jesus get through it.

Whatever you are going through right now, **TAKE IT** to the Father and watch what he does with that pain through his Spirit. Make this a practice for everyday. This is how we become emotionally mature like Jesus.

DAY 36

READ JOHN 12:37-50

This is Jesus' last big claim about himself in his public ministry to the crowds. It is almost his last ditch effort to give the unbelieving people in the crowds a chance to understand who Jesus really is. Jesus is saying that there is literally no separation between him and the Father here. Jesus and the Father literally have one goal, and what Jesus does is what the Father would do. He is trying to get this into the heads of the people in the city. This is also John's way of inviting the reader to make that stance for Jesus before the cross. He wants to see if you are going to join Jesus in being persecuted, or if you are going to wait and see what happens.

Today is a call to **TAKE THAT STEP** with Jesus. Will you follow him to the cross everyday, or are you going to wait until it starts working out for you?

DAY 37

READ JOHN 13:1-20

The disciples truly had no idea what Jesus' purpose was for. Despite all the metaphors and colorful words that Jesus said to try to explain his ministry, the disciples were always a step behind and wondering "why?" The disciples had some of the strongest faith ever, yet they still asked questions. To answer the questions, Jesus always answered in the most suspenseful way possible. His answers weren't vague to confuse the disciples, but simply to strengthen their faith in who He is and what He is about to do on the cross.

REFLECT on how Jesus' actions have been confusing you on who you thought Jesus was compared to who he actually is in the Gospel.

DAY 38

READ JOHN 13:21-30

Can you imagine knowing that someone is going to betray you? Especially knowing one of your best friends is going to betray you? This moment is so powerful in how the prophecies of the Old Testament come converging on to this moment. Not only that, but Jesus is going through the greatest betrayal that someone could go through. When you are in that moment of feeling betrayed by a family member, a friend, a coach, etc. know that Jesus says “me too.” Not only does Jesus get that feeling of being betrayed, but betrayed by a best friend that he knew would betray him. This moment is also the start of the countdown clock to Jesus crucifixion. The end is near, but there is so much more that Jesus needs to do. These next few chapters are Jesus farewell to his friends, and their mission after he dies. Little do they know what they are about to be prepared for.

Jesus has been betrayed, and that led to his death. **KNOW** that if you are feeling betrayed, Jesus says, “me too.”

DAY 39

READ JOHN 13:31-38

A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

When Jesus gives his followers a new commandment, he expects them to follow that commandment. Jesus knew that he wasn't going to be with his disciples for much longer, and that he would soon be with the Father, and only present with them through the Spirit. This is why he gives them this command. Jesus wanted them to know that other people will tell that they follow Jesus, because they love one another like he loved them, which meant dying for them. This is how we are supposed to be with other followers of Jesus. No matter how much we don't like someone we are called to love them to the point of death. It sounds drastic, but our God went to drastic measures to rescue us.

WHAT is a daily act of sacrificial love you can do for your community? Practicing doing that everyday from here on out.

DAY 40

READ JOHN 14:1-11

Most of the time, people talk about how we get to God, and what we need to do, or not do to get to Him. We try to find the path to God, but that isn't how Jesus views God. There isn't a path anyone can take to get to God. When Jesus says he is the way, he is not saying he is a path you take to God, but the path God took to get to his creation. Jesus is God come to us, not us come to God. No one can come to the Father except through Jesus, because the Father comes to us through Jesus. Our God is the pursuing God, and Jesus is the embodiment of the pursuing God in action.

WHERE is God pursuing you in your life? Is it to recognize him for the first time, or a call into a deeper relationship, or to take that job? Wherever it is, follow him in his pursuit.

DAY 41

READ JOHN 14:12-24

Jesus is doing two things in this piece of scripture: First, He is promising the Holy Spirit to His disciples and second, He is once again foreshadowing the cross. Though His time on earth is running out, He will always be available to those that love and obey Him, for He is always with us. He may seem dead to the world, but He is alive and well in those who believe in Him. Our God truly reigns.

Jesus says in verse 18, "I will not leave you as orphans." If you are a follower of Jesus, this is true for you! **SPEND SOME TIME** thanking Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to live in us and to be with us.

DAY 42

READ JOHN 14:25-31

In the reading today, we see Jesus telling the disciples that he is sending the Holy Spirit to be their guide and helper. Jesus then says this right after talking about the receiving of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is telling his disciples that they will only understand what Jesus is doing right now when the Holy Spirit comes, because the Father and Son interact with the Holy Spirit in a constant state of understanding. Although Jesus still feels the weight, pressure, anxiety, and fear as a fully human being, he is also tapped into the life of the Holy Spirit, and knowing the Father completely through that. This is one of the most powerful promises from Jesus. That one day we would have the Holy Spirit to drive our communities and relationship to God.

We find ourselves in the middle of that promise from Jesus. We have the Spirit of God dwelling within those who put their lives under submission to the way of Jesus. Now we have to **BEGIN** trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us even today. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you today.

DAY 43

READ JOHN 15:1-11

One of the hardest things is knowing how to be a full time follower of Jesus. We always say that we should live like Jesus, and follow him everyday, but what does that look like? What does it look like to live a Jesus saturated life? Well, Jesus says the way to prove that you follow him, as a disciple is that you will “bear much fruit.” This is how we know we are following Jesus. Once you say yes to the authority of Jesus over your life, then you have the Holy Spirit take up residence inside of you. The way you know that the person of the Holy Spirit is working through you is when you see the results of that. This is what is called the fruit of the Spirit, and Paul, the Apostle, lists out the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. These are results of the Spirit working through you, and what happens when you abide in Jesus’ love.

LOOK for the fruit of the Spirit in your life each day. This is a sure sign that Jesus is present in your life.

DAY 44

READ JOHN 15:12-17

In today's reading, Jesus elaborates on what it means to follow him to his disciples. Jesus is letting us know that by following him, we become his friends. This is incredibly controversial to the world Jesus lived in. He was always called master, and a master would never call his servants his friends. The problem is that Jesus isn't like most masters. Jesus calls his disciples friends, because they obey him, and live in a 24/7 relationship with him. But, Jesus is not saying that if you do these things then he will become your friend. He is saying that because I am your friend, you will do what I tell you to do. For Jesus, this is what friendship with God looks like.

HOW are you becoming friends with Jesus? Are you doing it by following what he says, or are you trying to win his love? How you answer that question is where your heart is.

DAY 45

READ JOHN 15:18-27

Jesus is feeling the hate of the world as His time on earth dwindles, but he wants to comfort us through the hate. He wants us to know that whatever we feel, He has felt. This verse draws comfort in times of persecution. Just as Jesus has said many times, He is always with us. Wherever we go, He has gone before. In times of deep persecution, take comfort in knowing that Jesus is before us and with us.

This is something to hold close to you. **WHEN** you feel that the world is against you, Jesus knows what that is like, and he overcame that for you.

DAY 46

READ JOHN 16:1-15

In today's section of your reading, Jesus is talking again about the Holy Spirit, or also known as the Helper. Jesus is wrestling with the fact he has to face a physical human death, but he also knows that he will be with the Father. To Jesus, this is better, because now those who follow him will have the Holy Spirit to guide them anywhere they go. Jesus can only guide them in his physical body whenever he is present, but once he goes to the Father, he can be present with every disciple anywhere on earth. This shows us that sometimes we don't see what God is doing behind the scenes. When the disciples are so concerned about what Jesus is saying, Jesus is trying to tell them that they don't get it. Jesus knows something they don't.

This theme will continue throughout the rest of this chapter, and you will **BEGIN** to notice that something bigger is going on through the way Jesus communicates through these figures of speech.

DAY 47

READ JOHN 16:16-24

The disciples are now getting worried about what Jesus has been saying to them about his impending death and resurrection. They don't understand what he is saying, so Jesus gives them this analogy to help them. He is comparing his incoming death to childbirth. He says that it will be horrific, and even he will be sad and in anguish over his own death, but with his resurrection that pain and sorrow will be forgotten when he is raised to a new life. This is the hope that Jesus gives his disciples, and in turn gives us. We have the hope of resurrection in the midst of all the horrific birthing pains this world is experiencing. This hope is what allowed the disciples to continue the way of Jesus after he left the earth to send his Spirit.

ALLOW this hope to sink deep into your soul, and give you the hope you need to do the work Jesus is calling you to do.

DAY 48

READ JOHN 16:25-33

Jesus was never alone, and is never alone. He, even in his earthly ministry, was always in perfect relationship with the Father, and never had a moment of separation from the Father. He is telling his disciples that they will leave him, and be afraid, but Jesus knows that he will never be alone. This is a big thing to keep in mind as you read through the rest of the Gospel. We will be lead to Jesus' arrest, and ultimate crucifixion, and need to keep in mind that throughout all of this Jesus is never alone. This is the relationship that is also offered to us through Jesus resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Father has offered us a relationship that will make us never feel alone when Jesus returns to put the world back to rights.

ASK the Father to have that same relationship with you that Jesus had with him on earth. The curtain has been torn and now God's presence is available to everyone through Jesus. Everyday you can tap into that relationship. Start today.

DAY 49

READ JOHN 17:1-5

The entire chapter of John 17 is what is called the high priestly prayer. Today we are reading the short, but powerful part of the prayer that Jesus is praying for himself and the Father. Jesus is asking for glory, but it is with the intent to glorify the Father even more. This prayer is something that every follower of Jesus should learn. Any time we petition to have more influence or authority on something, we tend to think of making ourselves more popular. Jesus should be the model for how we pray. When we pray for more influence it should be with the Father's own glory in mind. The second thing is that Jesus and the Father do not do anything separate from each other. It gives us a peek behind the curtain to what the relationship of the Trinity is like. Jesus' own glory is the Father's glory.

WHAT work is on your plate today? Ask the Father to show you how to do that work well, in a way that will bring glory to Him.

DAY 50

READ JOHN 17:6-19

This part of Jesus high priestly prayer is very dense. Jesus is praying to the Father about his own disciples, because Jesus and the Father are one, so both share the disciples. This is Jesus' last formal prayer setting, and he is revealing to us some of the deepest truths about himself. Here, we learn about the heart behind Jesus' ministry and life. Everything he did was from the Father. Jesus couldn't do anything unless the Father said for him to do it. Jesus knew the Father's will perfectly, so what he did was what the Father would have done. This is why we say Jesus is the complete Revelation of God. A challenge for this section would be to learn to wait until God moves.

WHAT if we refused to move until God tells us to?

DAY 51

READ JOHN 17:20-26

This is the last part of Jesus high priestly prayer, and me be the most confusing part of the whole book. There are a few important things to understand about what Jesus is saying to God. The first is that Jesus is asking the Father that all followers of his way are to remain in him, and be able to join in on his glorification. The second part is that Jesus is giving us insight into his divine identity. Jesus says that he and the Father existed in love before he even made the earth. This shows us that Jesus and the Father existed together before the earth was even created. Jesus is peeling back the curtain of the divine drama, and inviting us into the story of cosmic redemption.

SPEND TIME today figuring out your place inside the divine drama. This is where you will find the call Jesus has placed on your life.

DAY 52

READ JOHN 18:1-14

The clock has now begun, and the countdown to Jesus ultimate death by the cross has started. Jesus knows that this is the Father's will, and that he is to now be fully obedient to the Father's plan, and allow having what happens to him to happen. There is almost a sense of confidence in Jesus words, and I think it is because Jesus knows that he is completely in the hands of the Father. This is where we see the childlike trust Jesus talks about. Jesus himself goes into a situation of fear, and scariness, but knows that if the Father has him in his hands, then he will be okay. This is something all followers of Jesus should get better at. Each disciple of Jesus should learn to know that if they are completely in the hands of the Father, then we have nothing to fear. That is what our rabbi did, so that is what we must do.

Even in the depths of our fear and doubt, the Father has us in his hands, and we need to learn to run into the arms of our Father, and allow his overwhelming presence to hold us. If this is where you are in life, then **ASK** the Father to hold you in his presence.

DAY 53

READ JOHN 18:15-32

Jesus is now at a time where things are seemingly falling apart. He has been arrested, betrayed by one of His disciples, and now being intensely questioned by the high priest. Despite the circumstances, Jesus holds true to His word. He openly admits His ministry to the very ones that are persecuting Him, stating that He has nothing to hide. The word of God cannot be hidden and should never be a secret. It is to be openly reached despite the most unfavorable circumstances. Later in this passage, Jesus asks the high priest what is wrong and states that since all that He is teaching is true, there shouldn't be an issue. Jesus is firm in His Father's will.

Again, we **TAKE ANOTHER LOOK** at Jesus asking us before he is killed to look at what he has done for his testimony. Jesus doesn't have to say anything; all we have to do is look at what he has done. Have you been looking at Jesus ministry?

DAY 54

READ JOHN 18:33-40

One of the most Christian clichés is to be in the world and not of it. The problem with that is most people think that this verse means that Jesus kingdom is off somewhere else in a far off place. That is not at all what Jesus is saying. When Jesus uses the word “world,” he is saying the fleshy sinful nature of the world. Jesus kingdom is not dependent on the fleshy-ness of this world, but on the Spirit of God. Jesus kingdom will one day encompass the world, but through means that are so different from how our world thinks a kingdom should work. As people inside Jesus’ kingdom, the Spirit, and not the “world” define us. Our home is the earth, and this is where Jesus’ kingdom is coming, but it will be animated by the spirit, and that is why Jesus kingdom is not of this world.

WHERE in your life, can you allow the Spirit to animate? Where can heaven and earth meet in your work, family, or life?

DAY 55

READ JOHN 19:1-16

John is writing brilliantly here in his Gospel. We are experiencing the horrible mockery people are making of Jesus, and the violence and injustice that is being placed on him. But, John is also writing about how even though to everyone else this is a joke; this truly is Jesus enthronement as “King of the Jews.” This is how the true king of the world is enthroned. Jesus is given a crown, and a robe, and will eventually be lifted up on his cross above everyone. To most people this looks like a colossal failure, but to God, this is where he becomes king of the world. When God wants to save the world, he doesn’t send in a warlord like king to conquer, but a meek rabbi from the town of Nazareth to exhaust the power of evil and death on himself. This is Jesus’ royal enthronement, and the whole world thinks it is one big joke. But this is our God, the God who turns the foolishness of our world upside down and makes something beautiful out of it.

Our God is a God of redemption. **DO YOU** have a place in your life that you need victory? Something that feels like a colossal failure? Remember what Jesus did on the cross, and ask God for victory over that area of your life today.

DAY 56

READ JOHN 19:17-30

God died. Let that sink in. The God who created the universe was hung up on a pole, spit on, laughed at, and finally died. The one who is life became lifeless. This is the most powerful moment in human history. Jesus is saying that the entire human story is being summed up with him. That is why it is finished. This statement is not about our personal salvation. This is Jesus saying that Jesus is the beginning and the end of the story. Now God's plan for the entire cosmos can begin, because the only person to obey God's law was Jesus, and he was crucified for it. Jesus died.

DON'T pass this by. Sit in the grief that we should all feel that our God died on a cross outside the city. Let the fact that Jesus died a physical death sink in.

DAY 57

READ JOHN 19:31-42

There is no coincidence that Jesus is placed in a garden to be buried. We are to look back at the creation story, and the conversation between God, Adam, Eve, and the serpent. God says that the seed of Eve will be bit on the heel by the serpent, but the seed of Eve will crush the head of the serpent. Right here, we are seeing the first part of that prophecy taking place. Jesus, the true seed of Eve was just bit on the heel, and now we are waiting to see if Jesus will crush the head of the serpent. We are supposed to be waiting on pins and needles at this point to see what happens next.

READ Genesis 3:15. Thank Jesus today for being obedient, for fulfilling prophecy and for dying on the cross for us. Reflect on how beautifully the Old and New Testament relate to each other.

DAY 58

READ JOHN 20:1-10

Jesus had just endured the most painful death in the world and it seemed everyone had lost hope. The three days that followed were dark and messy. But on the third day, Hope had risen. To the disciples, Jesus' time on earth was a giant puzzle. Through each interaction, Jesus was slowly leading the disciples into a radically different world. Time and time again, the disciples were confused by His words, but it had all finally come together when they realized Jesus had risen, just as He said it would. Despite all the trials and tough interactions, Hope had won and this Hope is Jesus.

Celebrate the fact that the new world that Jesus has been talking about through his entire ministry is finally here in the resurrection of Jesus. **CELEBRATE** that our savior is risen!

DAY 59

READ JOHN 20:11-18

One can only dream about what it would be like to be present on the day of the resurrection. These accounts give us a real and authentic understanding of the emotions that are running through people's minds when Jesus is raised from the dead.

Mary doesn't even recognize the rabbi she has been with for the past three years. No one was expecting this! John is a brilliant storyteller, and when Mary mistakes Jesus for the gardener, John is also saying something very powerful. This image is to bring everyone back to the Garden of Eden. Jesus is the New Creation bursting forth into the old one. The resurrection is the beginning of a strange new world that Jesus has been telling us about from the beginning of John's gospel.

You, as a follower of Jesus are called to live in this brand new world in the middle of the old one. **TAKE THAT STEP**, and enter into Jesus kingdom right now by allowing his Spirit to guide you through every step of your day.

DAY 60

READ JOHN 20:19-23

When Jesus appears to his disciples, he says, “Peace be with you.” The word that Jesus would use would be shalom in Hebrew. This is the same word that is used to describe the rhythm and goodness of creation. Jesus then breathes on his disciples, which is kind of gross since they didn’t have dental care back then, and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Jesus is now fulfilling everything he said he would. This is the commissioning of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, and later, at Pentecost, to the rest of the world. New Creation is on its way to every tribe, tongue, and nation. Today, sit and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit from Jesus.

ASK God to speak to you, and listen to what God is calling you to do.

DAY 61

READ JOHN 20:24-31

John finally steps into the story to stop it, and show you his purpose for writing the Gospel. This was all written that we would believe that Jesus was who he said he was. Jesus is the Messiah, the king of the world. He proved it with his life, death, burial, and resurrection. Thomas, who doubted Jesus resurrection just before this verse is not a bad example of faith. Thomas is the reason this book is written, because at some level we all doubted Jesus. We either doubted his existence all together, or we doubted what we were told about Jesus at church, or we just doubted in general. John is showing us who Jesus claimed to be, and what he did so that we can decide for ourselves if Jesus really is the Messiah. And now by the end of this book we can see that Jesus proved that he was who he said he was.

TAKE SOME TIME to really think through who you believe Jesus is. Do you truly believe He is who He said He was? Have you made a decision to follow Him? If not, you can right now. Pray this prayer: Dear Jesus, I believe you are who you said you are. I know that I've messed up and that I've tried to live life my way. But I know that you died for me and rose again. Please forgive me of my sins and give me a future with you. Help me to follow you and your way for me. Thank you, Jesus! Amen.

DAY 62

READ JOHN 21:1-19

Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?” Three times, because that is the amount of times Peter had denied Jesus before he was crucified. This is Jesus’ way of showing how he redeems those who trust in him. Even one of his closest followers denied him, and Jesus forgave him, and made him the leader of the disciples. Jesus is the best at redeeming everything that we are ashamed of, as long as we love him. But, when we love Jesus, he calls us out of our shame and into a deeper, and more committed relationship with him.

LAY YOUR SHAME at the feet of Jesus every day, and you will start to see him redeem those things in your life.

DAY 63

READ JOHN 21:20-25

John is almost congratulating us on the fact we have journeyed with Jesus through this entire Gospel. He is letting you know that this is a reliable source of information, because these words are coming from the Apostle John himself. Take some time after this reading, and think about everything you have read. Soak in everything you have learned, and let it resonate with you. Hopefully by now you have been able to make that decision on if Jesus was who he said he was. John is saying it is time to live out your decision about Jesus.

Thanks for joining us on this incredible journey through the Gospel of John, and we can't wait to see what this does to our community from here on out.

Go from here and **LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH** in the confident assurance of who Jesus is and who we are in Him. If you prayed the prayer on Day 61, we would love to know about it so we can come alongside you and give you next steps! Email ColtonH@saddleback.com.

