

21-DAYS IN JOHN:
A DEVOTIONAL

BELIEF
&
LIFE

BRITTANY GREEN

welcome

This devotional is designed for you to spend time in the Gospel of John for the next 3 weeks.

I want to encourage you as you start this devo. Feel free to mark up your Bible with the things God's teaching you!

What stands out? Highlight those things. Don't feel pressure if you miss a day. Just pick up where you left off and keep going. And finally, grab a friend and do this study together. Chat once a week about what God has been teaching you.

Our hope is that as you look at the book of John, you come to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and how you can live out faith in Him.

I'm praying for you as you spend time with God over these three weeks. May you know how sweet and faithful Jesus is.

-Brittany

01

DAY 1
BELIEF & LIFE:
PURPOSE

01

Today, we start our study of John! John is a special book. It's been special in my life, and it's unlike other books in Scripture. Scholars set it apart from the other three Gospels because John's style and perspective are different. John also dwells more on the theological importance of Jesus' words and deeds than the other Gospels do.

Scholars say that the book of John is deep enough for an elephant to swim through but shallow enough for a baby to bathe in. There's something for everyone in this book, no matter where you are in your faith. Whether you've been a believer a very long time or you're just checking things out, Jesus speaks to everyone, and John is one of my favorite places to start getting to know Him better.

Throughout our time together, we'll see the emotion and passion of Jesus. We'll see His miracles and the words He taught to His followers. It's my prayer that the wonder and truth that comes with this book will make you fall more and more in love with Jesus each day. In order to dive in, we're going to start toward the end, with the author's purpose for this book and our lives.

Read John 20:31.

Fill in the blanks:

This book was written that "you may _____ that Jesus is the _____" and that "you may have _____ in His _____."

That's the goal. I think that sums up God's hope for our lives pretty well - that we believe in Jesus and that belief in His Name gives us full life.

Let's dig through what this means. Think it through and write down your answers to the following questions. It's OK if you don't have it all figured out! None of us do. And that's what this study is all about, discovering what it means to have belief and full life in Jesus. But I want you to really think through these questions so that you get an idea of where we're at as we start.

What do you think it means to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

List some things that you believe about Jesus.

What things can hinder you from fully believing that Jesus is the Son of God?

What do you think it means that we have life in Jesus' name?

How does Jesus bring life?

What areas of your life do you need Jesus to bring life into this week?

What's going on in your world that, if you let Him, Jesus can come in and resurrect?

John wrote this book so that people's faith in Jesus might grow stronger. We begin and continue the Christian life by faith. By entrusting ourselves to Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God, we experience life, and John wants his readers to experience life!

Jesus doesn't make bad people good, He makes dead people alive. So take time to pray that during your time in this devotional, you'll learn who Jesus is and how we can experience life in Jesus.

For some homework, read John 1. Then, write down all the things that stand out to you from this chapter. How does John 1 show that God brings life to the fullest?

02

DAY 2
NEW WINE,
NEW LIFE

02

“For from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.”

-Jn. 1:16

Throughout our time in the book of John, we're going to be focusing on Jesus - how He came to be the Messiah and how we receive life in His name.

To do that, we could probably spend a year in John, but over these few weeks, we're going to look at the book of John in three parts: The *Book of Signs*, The *Book of Glory*, and the *Epilogue*.

In the *Book of Signs*, Jesus performs seven miracles to identify Himself and call people to faith.

In the *Book of Glory*, we'll focus on the last week of Jesus' life - often called Passion Week.

And then, the *Epilogue* describes how Jesus appears to His disciples after He is raised from the dead.

As we focus on all of these, we'll view it through the lens of Jesus revealing Himself as the Messiah, giving us life and grace.

In this study, we're going to focus on bits and pieces from John. I encourage you to also read the in-between parts - it'll put everything into perspective.

Check out chapter 2 for today's reading. We're going to focus specifically on verses 1-11.

You (hopefully) read yesterday that Jesus was there at the very beginning. John called Jesus "the Word" and He is one with God. Jesus came and dwelt among us. John the Baptist came preparing the people of Israel for Jesus, and once Jesus came on the scene, He was baptized and called a few disciples.

Jesus eventually called 12 specifically to be the inner circle. Up until this point, Jesus had been living a pretty normal life - no miracles, no declarations that He's God; He was just living a righteous life. And then a wedding happens. Big things always happen at weddings, right?

Weddings are important social customs. This was especially true in the ancient Jewish culture. The wedding ceremony would occur, and then an extended celebration would occur afterward. This celebration would have been joyous, loud, and long - some lasting up to a week.

So Jesus is at this celebration with His disciples and His mother, when the hosts run out of wine, which would have been a major social catastrophe.

Look specifically for a moment at the interaction between Mary and Jesus in verses 3-5. Sounds like a typical mother-son/daughter conversation, huh?

Mary knows Jesus so well, and she knows that He's the Son of God. She asks Him to help with the wine situation.

How did Jesus respond? *Fill in the blanks:*

“My _____ has not yet _____.”

He says that it isn't time to reveal who He is yet. But check it out...what a mom response! She basically pushed Him to do something, telling the servants to “do whatever Jesus tells you.” This would have been a pretty comical movie scene.

So Jesus turned the water into wine. Just like that. And it's apparently very good wine. The bride and groom are honored instead of shamed.

This is the first of Jesus' miracles that He performed to reveal his glory. He does this to encourage people to have faith in Him, and announcing that the Messianic Age has come. No longer are the people waiting for God to speak - God is with them.

And God is with us. Just like Jesus made new wine out of the water, He is making new things out of your life.

Verse 11 says that “His disciples _____ in Him.”

Maybe you're reading this and have heard this story for the millionth time. Jesus is still doing new things in your life. He is still working in miraculous ways and wants you to ask Him to step into your life.

Maybe you're reading this and this is entirely new to you. It seems weird that water could turn into something other than water. It seems weird that this is significant to your life.

Can I encourage you to lean in and keep reading? Just like the wedding banquet would have been significantly lacking without the wine, our lives are significantly lacking without Jesus. So, it might seem new and foreign, but this story is for you and me, wherever we're at.

What are you praying for this week?

What areas can we pray for that Jesus needs to come in and bring life, new life?

Are you seeking out Jesus and allowing Him to do new things in your life?

Spend some time praying that Jesus would continue to make your relationship with Him new every day.

03

DAY 3
REBIRTH

03

Start today by asking God to clear your mind of the things you're worried about. Ask God to speak to you today as you read His Word.

Read John 3, specifically John 3:1-21.

What stands out to you from today's reading?

I love this story of Nicodemus. I love that Jesus reaches people of all ages and places in life. Nicodemus is a "ruler of the Jews," which means he's a prominent leader of the Jewish faith. He is probably older, like in his 50s or 60s, yet he's not high and mighty like many of the other Pharisees we see. He seeks Jesus out for the truth of how to have eternal life.

What does it mean to you to be "born again"?

Focus in on verses 16-21.

God sent His Son into the world to save the world. Since the beginning of time, God has wanted a relationship with His people. He wanted a full community for us, a full life. Unfortunately, humankind wanted to play the role of God, so we distrusted God and fell into sin. This broke the relationship.

But God, in His mercy and grace, couldn't let the relationship stay broken. He is continually seeking His people out. He's continually seeking you out.

So in the olden days, God set up a way for His people to live. He gave them a set of laws to follow for their good. And when those laws were broken, death had to happen. There would be a death in the relationship, but in order to mend it, God set up animal sacrifices to continue the relationship. This is grace - that God would make a way for His people to continue to live in community with Him despite our rebellion.

But still, God wanted a full relationship with His people once and for all, no more animal sacrifices. So what did He do? He sent His Son. Fully God, fully human, Jesus came on the scene.

This is why we love John 3:16-18. Because it explains so fully that Jesus is the way to true life, and what our response to faith must be. God sent Jesus to save the world rather than condemn it, and it all hinges on how people respond. They either experience salvation or they accept condemnation.

Whoever believes in Jesus will not be condemned (Romans 8:1), but those who reject Jesus face condemnation.

Jesus explains it again using the analogy of light and dark. We may sometimes like dreary days, but the sun literally gives light. We can't live without vitamin D, which comes from the sun. In the same way, God wants our lives to be filled with light, with life. Jesus comes in and shines in our dark places to give us life.

So, what are you waiting for? Is this new to you? If so, I want to encourage you to look at your life and your heart. Do you have Jesus in your life? Do you believe in Him? If not, there's no time like now to put your faith in Him.

If this isn't new to you, I pray that it never becomes old news. It's easy to hear the same thing over and over and let it lose impact. The light that Jesus brings never stops shining in our dark places. We've never arrived at a place where this is not exciting.

So, what do you need to do today with John 3? How can you apply it to your life?

Who can you talk to today to help encourage you to seek Jesus more as the Savior of the world?

Who can you talk to today to tell about the good news that Jesus saves?

Don't let this Word sit stagnant without doing something with it.

04

DAY 4
CROSSING
BOUNDARIES

04

It always stands out to me when Jesus interacts with women. Probably because I am a woman, probably because I tend to see a more emotional side to Jesus, and probably because it breaks all sorts of cultural standards. Jesus didn't come to fit into the worldly culture. He came to give all people life.

So, let's look at how Jesus gives a woman life.

Read John 4:1 - 45.

Let's talk about some cultural things that are going on here. Jesus met a Samaritan woman. Today, living where we do, that wouldn't seem very odd. We meet people of different cultures all the time. Men and women interact like it's a normal occurrence. However, during this time, in this place, Jesus is crossing huge social and cultural borders.

The Samaritans were a confusing bunch. The Jews and Samaritans have conflicting views of where they came from. The Jews claim that the Samaritans' ancestors were foreigners transplanted into Palestine by Assyria (as described in 2 Kings 17:24 - 41) who embraced the Jewish faith while keeping some of their pagan religions. However, the Samaritans claim they come from a faithful remnant of Israelites that discarded the defilement of the Israelite faith when the place of worship was moved. Confusing. What you need to know is that most scholars hold that the Samaritans are a conservative form of Judaism that the original Jews hated.

Jews and Samaritans went to great lengths to avoid interacting with each other. In John 4, Jesus was headed from Judea to Galilee. It was common for people to go between the two places, but most Jews would not have gone through Samaria to get there. They would have added a few hours or a day to their trip and gone around. However, Jesus saw these people and stepped outside typical prejudices.

Jesus not only saw these people who had been thrown aside by the Jewish culture, but He acknowledged and spoke to a woman. Women were not held in high regard at this time. But what we see over and over again in the Bible is that Jesus elevated women and children. He placed value on them. He came for people such as this woman at the well.

Jesus came for everyone. He came for women. He came for men. He came for foreigners and Jews alike. He came for the righteous and the unrighteous. He came for this shady woman. And He came for you, wherever you're at. He has come to redeem you. He sees you and loves you.

Do you believe that? Do you live that?

And then, what happened to the woman? God used her to spread the news of the gospel throughout her entire town. He used a woman.

So, what do we do with this? First, we understand that Jesus does not look at the boundaries put on us and others by society. We live in the truth that Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost, to restore His people back to Himself.

Second, we live in the reality that God is using you. God uses His people, and it's a beautiful thing. He is using you to show others that Jesus came to all people. He has you in a unique place for the sole purpose of reaching those around you.

Think about all the groups you're part of: sports, band, choir, gymnastics, and friend group, etc. Whether you believe it or not, you interact with people in a unique way that no one else does.

So don't waste it. Be used by your Creator to do His work.

The woman at the well did not keep this special conversation to herself, although it would have been easy to hold on to the extraordinary experience. No, she immediately told anyone who would listen. And she didn't care that she had a bad reputation. Her pain and struggle actually enhanced God's purposes because she realized His grace.

So what do you need to do with this story today, in your own life?

05

DAY 5
AUTHORITY

05

Start today in prayer, releasing your day to Jesus. Give Him your hopes, your fears, your struggles, your worries, your friends, things that are going well for you - all of it. Ask God to teach you during this time.

Now, read John 4:46 - 5:29.

What stands out to you in this reading?

How did Jesus heal the government official's son?

What were the people doing around the pool?

What day did Jesus go to the pool? The _____

What was the name of the pool? _____

Jesus had the authority to heal just by speaking. He didn't need to see the official's son in order to heal him. He didn't need to touch the disabled man. He simply spoke.

With His breath, God brought about the universe. With His breath, Jesus brings about life and healing. With the breath of the Holy Spirit, life is breathed into our dark places.

Now, this pool was called Bethesda. This pool, which was actually a series of pools, was believed to have healing powers. The crippled and diseased would gather there hoping to be healed. It was a miserable place to see. There would have been a horrible stench, and no sane person would willingly go into a place littered with such wretched and diseased people. According to Jewish custom, it was an impure place. So for Jesus to bring His followers into this place ran the risk of them catching a disease.

It's just like Jesus to go to the most outcast of places. He steps into the messes, into the diseases, and sees the hurt. In this story, He saw the man who had been disabled for 38 years. And check out how Jesus interacted with this man in John 5:6 - 8.

Jesus: *Are you here in this place hoping to be healed?*

Disabled man: *Kind Sir, I wait, like all of these people, for the waters to stir, but I cannot walk. If I am to be healed in the waters, someone must carry me into the pool. So the answer to Your question is yes - but I cannot be healed here unless someone will help me. Without a helping hand, someone else beats me to the water's edge each time it is stirred.*

Jesus: *Stand up, carry your mat, and walk.*

(John 5:6-8, The Voice)

The man recognizes that he cannot be healed unless someone helps him. Jesus is the One who can help.

As we read on, we see that Jesus stirred up all sorts of trouble that day. Remember how it was the Sabbath? Well, this was the Jewish holy day. When God made the earth in seven days, He took the seventh day to rest - a Sabbath. Jews were not allowed to work on this day. They could only walk about a hundred steps, in addition to a list of other rules that supposedly made it a day of rest.

So, healing on this day was forbidden. Asking the disabled man to carry his mat was considered work. Over and over, Jesus turned the worldly standards upside down!

Check out the second half of chapter 5. Jesus talks about His authority.

How does this influence your view of Jesus? Does it change anything for you? Do you see Him in a new way?

Jesus showed His authority through teaching and healings. He established a basis for who He is and what He has come to do.

We all need Jesus' authority in our lives. We sometimes don't like to admit it, but like the old man, we all need help. There are things in our lives that we just can't handle on our own.

It's because of God's grace and mercy that we have breath, that we're able to have fun, that we can do anything in life. God sustains us. It's Jesus' authority and His grace that allows us to do anything. So in both the hard things and the good things, we need God's help.

What do you need help in today? What area of your life can you listen to Jesus saying, "get up, take your mat" and start walking in life?

06

DAY 6
BREAD

06

I love bread. Who doesn't, really? All sorts of bread: sourdough, French bread, normal wheat bread for sandwiches, rolls, tortillas, bagels, cake (is that even a type of bread??). It's all so good. What's your favorite bread?

During this week, we've read through three of Jesus' miracles. The wedding was the first one, and then we looked at two of Jesus' healings. Today, we're looking at miracles four and five. They have to do with bread and water. I think we should all eat a muffin or something as we read this, just for kicks.

Read John 6 to start off our time together. Check out all the mentions of bread as you read.

This story might be familiar, so I hope you don't check out as we study Jesus feeding the 5,000 and walking on water. It's a pretty big deal.

What stood out to you as you read?

This moment is significant for Jesus. He's literally providing the people with sustenance. He's giving them means to live. And he does it with a boy's lunch. The boy was faithful to Jesus to give his lunch, and Jesus blessed him and multiplied his offering.

I think that could apply to our lives, don't you? So often God wants to use what we have and do much with it. Our talents, our time, our passions - God wants to make much of those things.

How can you offer what you have to God today?

What are some ways that God can use you and your gifts?

Let's talk about the bread. Re-read John 6:28 - 40.

How do you think this relates to the people Jesus just fed?

I love that Jesus gives an object lesson and then tells the meaning later. Jesus literally fed the people bread. In the same way, as He explains, God provided Moses and the Israelites with manna in the desert. Manna literally means, “What is it?” The people didn’t know what it was they were eating, but they trusted God for provision. And God continually provided just enough for each day.

So Jesus teaches that He is the bread of life. The people relied on God in the desert, and they relied on Jesus to multiply the bread, but ultimately, we rely on Jesus for salvation. Jesus brings life - not just by providing for our physical needs, but by giving us spiritual life and salvation.

How are you relying on Jesus as the Bread of Life?

Take time to think through the areas of your life that you are not trusting God to provide. Lift them up today.

To finish your time today, read John 7&8. We’re not going to talk about them in this study, but they’re still important.

Write down anything that stands out to you.

07

DAY 7
BLIND

07

We glazed over chapters 7 and 8 yesterday. They're significant, but in this study, we're focusing on Jesus, proving that He is the Messiah and how He brings life, specifically at this point through His miracles. So we've got to keep trekking.

Start this morning by reading John 9.

Write down all the descriptive words that describe how Jesus healed this blind man.

That's pretty strange and incredible. Jesus spit in the dirt to make mud, and then rubbed it on the man's eyes. Crazy.

Once again, Jesus' healing caused the Pharisees to get their robes in a tizzy. Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath. Again. Jesus was breaking down all sorts of boundaries that were set up by the Jewish religion.

Check out how the blind man responded to the Pharisees' questioning in verse 25: "I was blind, and now I see."

Isn't this the story of us all? Once Jesus comes on the scene, it all becomes clear.

I have horrible vision. I'm pretty blind without my glasses or contacts. It drives me nuts, but it also makes me so thankful that I live in a place where eye doctors are available to me. I can't imagine what it must be like to be blind. If you have glasses or contacts, you know what it's like for your vision to be blurry and then put your glasses on. Everything comes into focus.

It's the same with Jesus. The world gives us a blurry view of reality. But once Jesus comes into our lives, we have clarity. That's what happened to this man, both physically and spiritually. Jesus gave Him life and sight.

So how about you? Do you see things through Jesus' perspective? God wants us to have a view that sees through His eyes, not the world's eyes. How can you start to view your reality from God's perspective?

08

DAY 8
SHEEP & THE
SHEPHERD

08

Happy Monday! Feeling a case of the Mondays? Well, let's turn this start of the week around by giving our week to God. Spend some time in prayer for the things going on this week. Spend some time listening for how God might want to use you this week.

Read John 10.

I'm no shepherd, nor have I ever really been around sheep, but I think sheep are pretty interesting. Have you ever noticed that Jesus refers to His people as sheep quite often? How does it make you feel to be a sheep? I don't know about you, but I'm not sure I like being considered a sheep. I've always heard that sheep are pretty dumb. I don't know much about sheep, so I looked up some sheep facts. Check these out:

- There are over 1 billion sheep in the world.
- China has the largest number of sheep in the world.
- Adult female sheep are known as ewes; adult male sheep are known as rams.
- A group of sheep is known as a herd, flock, or mob.
- Baby sheep are called lambs.
- Sheep like to stay close to others in a herd, which makes them easier to move together to new pastures.
- In 1996, a sheep named Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned from a somatic cell.
- A shepherd is a person who tends, herds, feeds, or guards mobs of sheep.
- Sheep have poor eyesight - but an excellence sense of hearing.

I think it's pretty fitting that yesterday, we talked about Jesus healing the blind man and how He gives our life clarity and focus. Today, we're talking about animals that have poor eyesight. We need Jesus in our life to guard and guide us, because we are spiritually blind. Jesus steps in so that our lives have meaning and purpose.

We're not just left wandering aimlessly.

Underline or circle verses 10 and 11.

What do these verses mean for your life?

Who is the enemy or thief _____

What does Jesus say He came for in verse 10?

“That you might have _____ and have it _____.”

In this chapter, Jesus explains that He is the Good shepherd. He is the only way through the gate of salvation. His hope for each and every one of us is that we know Him and trust in Him because he is a Good Shepherd, and He will give us a full, abundant life.

The tricky thing is that there is an Enemy, the Devil, lurking around, trying to “steal, kill, and destroy.” He is sneaky and clouds our already poor vision. He tempts us with distractions and sins that might seem lovely, but only because we don’t have a clear vision.

My challenge to you today is to examine the areas of your life that you have allowed the Enemy to dress up in sheep’s clothing. What is the Enemy and the world tempting you with that is keeping you from having an abundant life in Jesus? Is it too much time on social media or binging on TV shows that aren’t wholesome? What about the way you talk to your parents, siblings, and friends? Are you lacking integrity in your relationship with that boy or girl?

The list could go on and on. What do you need to give to Jesus today?

Are you following the Good Shepherd? Allow Him to give you clarity and clearer vision.

09

DAY 9
LAZARUS

09

Over the past eight days, we've looked at the signs and teachings of Jesus that proved He is the Messiah. Today, we're talking about Jesus' last miracle in the Gospel of John: raising Lazarus from the dead. Lean in today, because this chapter is pivotal to our lives and to understanding who Jesus is.

Read John 11.

What stands out to you in this story?

What does it tell you about the character of Jesus?

Let's dig into this a little bit.

Jesus was very close to Lazarus and his two sisters, Martha and Mary. When Jesus hears of Lazarus' illness, He makes a crazy claim that the sickness will not end in death but will serve to glorify God.

Isn't that a cool thought - that all things can be used to glorify God, even illnesses? So, after this crazy statement about Lazarus' illness, Jesus goes back to Jerusalem, even though it's dangerous for him there. He then gets the message that Lazarus has died, but waits four days to go to see the family.

This is a crazy thing for a family that was so close to Jesus. Mary and Martha are clearly upset. John 11:35 (the shortest verse in the Bible) says that "Jesus wept" for his friends. I love the emotion we see Jesus show. He has feelings just like you and me. And then, what does Jesus do? He tells Lazarus to come out of the grave. And out walked a very much alive Lazarus.

So why is this significant?

Jesus explains in verses 25 and 26 that He is the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believes in Him will live and never die. **Jesus brings life.** The only way to fill the voids in our life, the only way to have salvation, is to believe in Jesus. That's it. We can't work our way to a full life. We can't fill our schedules with good things or achievements. We just need Jesus.

Death has a sting. Lazarus' family and friends were deeply grieved by his death. It's hard to watch a loved one go through illnesses. Because we live in a fallen world, death has a sting. It's messy and sad and hard. But because of Jesus, death no longer has victory over us.

How can we live with that truth? How does that make us live differently?

Jesus wants you to have a full life. He died so that, just as Lazarus was resurrected, we might all be resurrected spiritually right now and physically later. He wants you to walk with confidence because He made you and loves you. He wants you to have the best relationships. He wants you to use your circumstances to glorify Him in all things. That's full life. And nothing can steal that from you - not death, not Satan, not other people's opinions of you.

You have full life. So live it.

Take some time to reflect on today's reading by listening to "Christ is Risen" by *Matt Maher* (<https://open.spotify.com/track/4HC6Jx059H5mAaVMhIIQKQ>)

Write any thoughts you have below.

10

DAY 10
F E E T

10

I always love spring and Easter time. It's good that Easter is in the spring. Rebirth of the trees and flowers, and rebirth in our hearts as we remember Jesus' death and celebrate His resurrection.

Today, we begin what is known as Passion Week in Jesus' life and the book of John. We technically call these chapters the Book of Glory, which describes Jesus' glorification. We're at the point in John where Jesus is getting clearer and clearer about who He is and why He has come. Up until this point, Jesus has shown the people that He is the Messiah through signs, but now we see Him teaching clearly, with purpose leading up to His last few weeks on earth.

I'm not sure what time of year it is that you're doing this study. But as we're studying, there's a week until we hit Easter. Take some time to reflect on how you're preparing to celebrate and remember Jesus' death and resurrection.

I always have great memories associated with Easter, so I pray that the Lord uses the next week or so to refresh you and to remind you of who He is. We've seen Jesus bring about a lot of life in the past few weeks, so my prayer is that that continues to be true of your life this week.

Let's dive into John 12 and 13. Remember that we're hitting the points in John where Jesus shows He is the Messiah and gives life, so don't forget to read the chapters in between ... they're important, too!

Start today's study by reading John 12:12-19.

Is this how you'd picture the Messiah arriving in Jerusalem?

Why do you think that this moment is important to Passion week?

It's crazy that the King of the world, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior came to his people riding a donkey. In fairy tales, the prince always comes in on a magnificent white steed. But donkeys are stubborn and smelly and small.

So, why did He do this? Jesus was establishing that He was not like worldly leaders. He did not come to reform the government, as many Jews wished. He came to redeem His people. He came to show that God's ways are not like man's. He came as a baby to a backwoods town and wasn't liked by most authority. Jesus' ways are not what the world expected.

And yet, His ways were exactly what the world needed. It's exactly how God designed it.

How does Jesus' triumphal entry change your view of Jesus?

This moment is important because it officially ushers in Passion Week. It announces, however humbly, that Jesus is the Messiah.

Let's continue to see how Jesus turns culture upside down. Read all of chapter 12, because it's important.

Jesus rides into town, the crowds praise Him, He preaches a bit to them, and then He retreats. I love that. He knows this time is important for Him and His disciples. The next few chapters begin some of Jesus' longest teachings. It all begins with the Passover.

So to finish out today, read John 13:1-30.

Once again, we see Jesus turning culture and social norms upside down. It's a strange thing, feet washing. Jesus knows each of these men so well. They've done life together for a long time now. He knows their flaws and weaknesses. He knows that He's about to die for them, only to save them, and here He is, bending low and washing their feet.

In this time, men would wear sandals. They walked dirt streets, with no garbage system or donkey bags around the park so that the homeowners association couldn't complain about donkey dung. These streets were grimy. It was customary for guests to have their feet washed by the servants when they entered someone's house. Not a pleasant job, I'm sure.

If you've ever gotten a pedicure, you know that it's a pretty humbling thing to think of these people cleaning your feet, cutting your toenails, and scraping the callouses off your heels. And we don't typically walk around dirty streets.

So, for Jesus to bend low and clean His disciples' feet is huge. It's a precursor to Jesus washing our sins. Although it took more than water to wash our sins.

Take note of verse 8. Jesus tells Peter, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Dang. If that's not convicting, I don't know what is. We cannot wash our own feet. We cannot wash our own sins. Only Jesus saves. So we have to let Him be the salvation we need.

So often, we try to save ourselves. We take our lives—our stresses, our sins, our hurts—into our own hands. We try to be good enough or busy enough. But it's never enough. Only Jesus is enough.

So, my question to you today is this: do you let Him wash your feet and your soul? Or do you try to control your life?

How can you release the things we grasp at to create your own salvation?

Accept the grace that Jesus offers. He didn't have to wash the disciples' feet. He didn't have to die on the cross for you. But He choose to because He loves you.

Spend some time taking deep breaths, releasing the things that you try to do to be good enough to be saved. Reflect on how you can let Jesus step into your life.

And then, read the rest of John 13.

What stands out to you?

11

DAY 11
VINES AND
BRANCHES

11

I'd like to grow plants. I think it would be really neat to have cute little herbs in my kitchen windows or succulents along the porch. How whimsical to have wildflowers in the backyard so that I could put daisies on my table each week. They're the friendliest of flowers. It's a nice thought. But as hard as I try, I typically let anything that I try to grow die. It's pretty sad. Do you remember in kindergarten, when the teachers would send home tiny little seeds to grow? Remember the roots coming through and then the little plant popping through the soil? What a neat process! There's a lot that goes into growing things.

With all the plant-nerdiness you can muster, read John 15.

Does anything that you just read scare you or give you a shock?

These words are pretty abrasive. They're said in love to spur us on, but every time I read them, I get a gut check.

Go back and underline verses 5 and 6.

Let's think this through. If I were to cut a branch off of a peach tree, would peaches grow on the branch anymore? Not a chance. All the soil and water and sun couldn't make it come back to life.

It's the same with us as believers. We can't have life outside of Jesus. We can't grow in our faith if we're not connected to Jesus. Verse 6 says that a branch that is cut off is only good to fuel some fire, and while we could make some good s'mores, that branch is not being productive in growing the fruit that it was created to make.

What does that mean for us?

We were created to be in relationship with Jesus and to be part of His work redeeming the world. We were created to bear fruit, which means disciples. If we don't spend time with God, in His Word, then how are we supposed to know what type of fruit to bear? How can we have a relationship without actually spending time with Him?

I love the word “abide.” The dictionary defines it as “to remain, to continue, to stay.” How do we abide in Jesus? Well, I’d say you’re taking a step by doing this Bible study. We spend time in prayer, listening to God, reading His word, serving and loving His people.

What are some other ways you can abide in Jesus?

Close out your time by reading what Paul writes about fruit in Galatians 5:22-25.

What can you start doing today to be an abiding member of God’s family?

How can you walk through your day abiding in Jesus?

12

DAY 12
THE PRIESTLY
PRAYER

12

Today, we're closing out Jesus' time with His disciples. They have taken the Passover together, He's washed their feet, He charged them to be known by their love (John 13.35), and He explained how to be connected to the life source.

So, then what? Jesus prays for them. And for us. Did you know that Jesus actually prayed for *you* while He was on Earth? Does that send chills through you like it does me?

We're going to look today at Jesus' conversation with God the Father, for Himself and for us.

So read John 17. But as you read it, read it out loud to yourself.

Now, we're going to do something a little different. Re-read John 17 slowly, and as you do, think about and pray the following. (Use the following page to journal any thoughts and prayers)

John 17:1-6: Praise God for Jesus, for the cross, for the goodness that He gives. Adore Him for who He is – Creator of the universe and Savior of the world.

John 17:7-11: Take a moment to think about how good it is that God protects us. Pray for any friends or family members who are in harm's way right now.

John 17:12-13: Think through your joy. Ask Jesus to fill you with His joy. It's not dependent on our circumstances. So, ask the Lord to help you to choose joy today.

John 17:14-15: Reflect on how you're participating in God's work. Ask God to guide you and to use you to advance His kingdom.

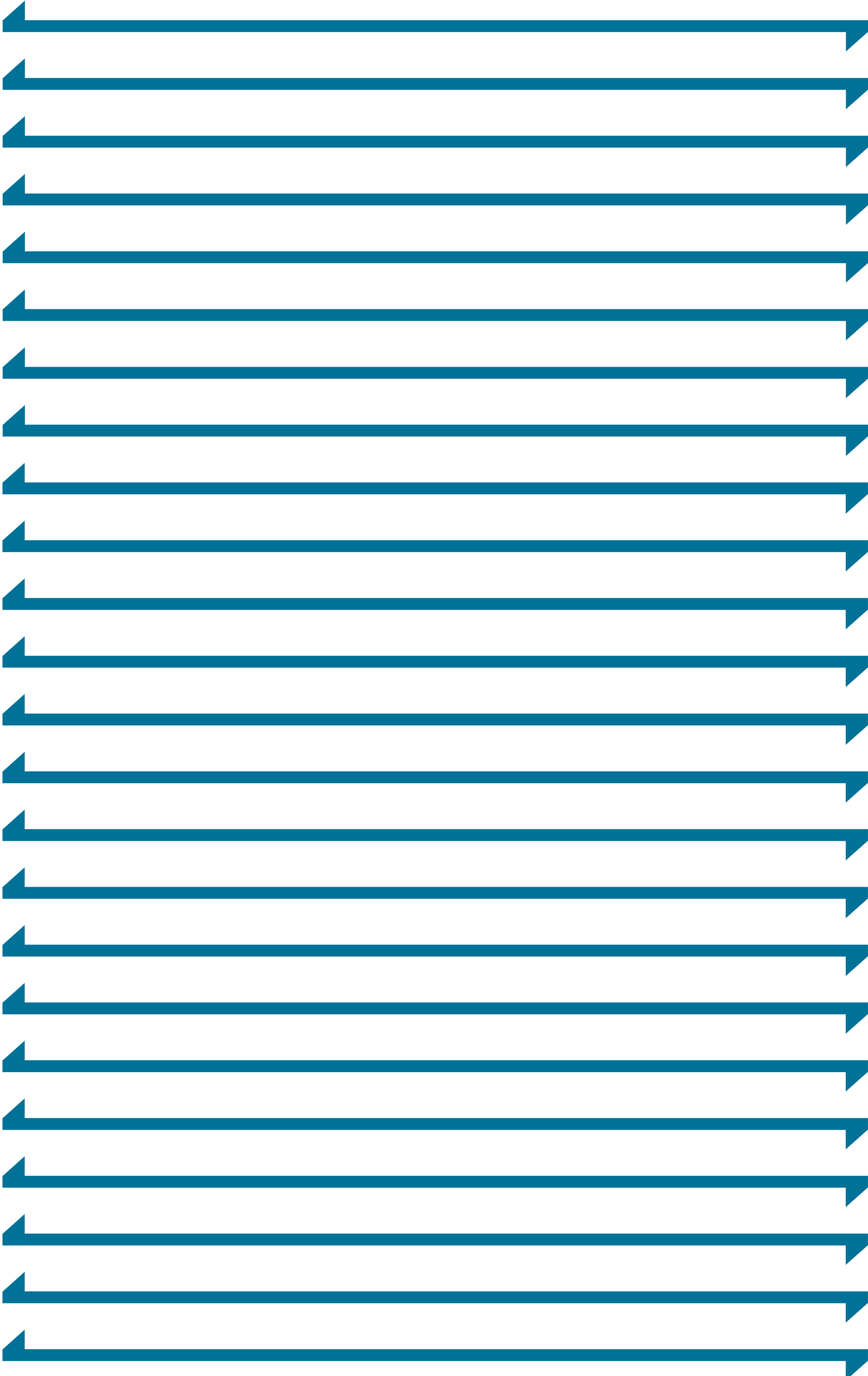
John 17:16-17: Ask God to make you more like Jesus.

John 17:18-20: Think about someone you know who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for that person's salvation, and ask God to open conversations with them. Also, pray for boldness, that He will give you the words to speak.

John 17:21-23: Spend a moment telling God what you love about Him.

John 17:24-25: Praise God that He has made an eternal home for you in Heaven, and ask Him to put a longing in your heart for His will and not earthly things.

John 17:26: Ask God to teach you to love others as Jesus loves us.



13

DAY 13
BOWED

13

Over the next five days, we'll be reading about the road to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Today, we're looking at when Jesus gets arrested.

Read John 18:1-14.

I've read and heard this story a thousand times, and three things stand out to me:

- It never ceases to amaze me that Judas could betray Jesus after having seen and heard all that Jesus did and taught.
- I love Peter's impulsiveness and passion. He cut off a guy's ear! Jesus is calm, He's told the disciples what's about to happen and Peter still does his own thing. And the crazy thing is that Jesus casually just picks up the ear and puts it back on the guy's head. I'm sure there was some screaming and shock that the author left out ... probably even a few glances between Jesus and Peter, and Peter and the other disciples. But that's just my head filling in the gaps.
- I've never noticed verses 4-6 before. This is where we're going to land today.

Go back and look at those three verses.

You may have noticed that throughout the book of John, Jesus says the words, "I AM" several times. This is significant. If we flip over to Exodus 3:14 in the Oldest Testament, we see God revealing His name to Moses.

This is the first time in Scripture that God says His own name. It translates in Hebrew to *Yahweh* (well, technically YHWH, but since Hebrew doesn't have vowels and we can't pronounce that, God's people filled in some vowels). In the Jewish culture, it's blasphemous to claim to be God. However, Jesus claimed to be God several times. This is part of the reason that the Pharisees are having Jesus arrested.

Why do you think that it is significant that Jesus answered with, "I am He," in verse 6?

Why is it significant that the people fell down when He said this?

I mean, how cool is God? He's going to be glorified whether people want to praise Him or not. The people who were coming to betray and arrest Jesus fell down at His feet. Jesus holds ultimate power over His enemies, because He is the one who bears the divine Name.

Philippians 2:10-11

“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

So, even Jesus' enemies fall at His feet. How, then, should we respond as people who love and believe in Him?

Spend some time today bowing at His feet.

14

DAY 14
DENIED

14

Yesterday, we talked about how even Jesus' enemies bow down to Him. But He was arrested. So how did His closest friends and disciples respond?

Before we get started, spend some time in prayer and reflection over how you should respond to others knowing you follow Jesus.

Read John 18:15-27.

Do you know what it means to hit rock bottom? Have you heard that phrase? It's typically used when someone is not living right and finally gets to a point when their lives can't get any worse. For Peter, John 18:15-27 was rock bottom.

Peter was considered one of the three who were in Jesus' inner circle. He was extremely close to Jesus. He was the first to announce and understand that Jesus was the Messiah; he walked on water; only Peter, James, and John were present for Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead; those three were also the only ones there during the transfiguration, when Jesus' face glowed as he met with Elijah and Moses.

It was Peter whom Jesus said he'd build His church upon. Peter was a leader among the disciples. He was always quick to claim that he'd never leave Jesus or betray him.

And yet, Peter denies Jesus—not once, but three times ... just as Jesus said he would. The moment that rooster crowed must have been one of those moments when his stomach dropped, and dread and guilt filled him. I can't imagine what he must have felt. Can you?

Maybe we can.

How many times do we become like Peter? We get scared of our circumstances. We can't see the big picture, even though it's laid out for us, and so we distrust God. We forget that God is still on the throne, and we go into protection mode. And unfortunately, instead of being present in a moment when God could use us, we take the moment back into our own hands. We forget to trust God, and so we miss out on the holy. The rooster crows and we realize that we've missed it.

It might be small things that you deny God with. Do you deny God the opportunity to speak to a classmate that no one else talks to? How about denying God the trust He deserves over where you're going to college or what job to get? So often, denial looks like control and plans. It's clenched fists, keeping everything in our lives in order but denying God the opportunity to show up and be faithful.

So, what is it that you're denying God of today?

He has a master plan. He has overcome the world and is alive and active, working in your life. He has plans to use you in huge ways and in small ways, but you've got to trust Him and quit denying God. So, listen to His voice and know that His way is best. You don't want to miss what He has for you. Spend time listening today.

P.S. We'll pick up Peter's story again in a few days. We'll find out what happens after that rooster crows.

15

DAY 15
NOT OF THIS
WORLD

15

Today is the first day of Easter week. How are you doing? How's your relationship with Jesus this week? I want to encourage you to press into time with Jesus. It always seems that it's during these holy weeks that the Enemy is at work, distracting God's people best. Jesus has overcome the Enemy, so don't let him steal your time and focus. I'm praying for you this week.

Yesterday, we left Peter in denial after Jesus was arrested. Today we're going to look at what Jesus has been doing since His arrest.

Read John 18:28-19:16.

Now, write down as many facts about this passage you can. What observations can you make? You should be able to write down between 20 to 30 facts in these verses.

What truths can you learn from these facts? Anything that can apply to your life?

This passage begins Jesus' trial. The Jews bring Jesus to Pontius Pilate, who governed the area of Judea. The Jews wanted Pilate to give Jesus an execution order. The Jewish rulers had their own set of rules and laws, but they could not take legal action unless a Roman official gave the order. Much of the time, they convinced the Roman authorities to carry out their laws, but here we see Pilate having a difficult time condemning Jesus.

Pilate's biggest problem is fearing what the people think of him and how Caesar views him. Pilate declares no basis for charging Jesus with a crime and tries to release Him. The Jews are desperate at this point, and they would even prefer freeing a thief and leader of a rebellion over freeing Jesus (who is blameless).

So Pilate has Jesus flogged and mockingly puts a robe and crown of thorns on Him, dressing Him up as a king. The Jews then convince Pilate by claiming that Jesus is not a friend of Caesar's, which makes Pilate afraid. It seems that his job is not very secure. And so Jesus is delivered to be crucified.

I think it's significant to look at Jesus' interaction with Pilate. Check out the times that Jesus talks to him: verses 18:33-38 and 19:9-11.

Every time I read about Jesus being crucified, I get angry that Pilate didn't stand up to the Jews or that they didn't choose Barabbas, or that the ending didn't turn out different. I always seem to root for a different ending.

But look at what Jesus says in these few sentences: *“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from this world.”* And, *“You (Pilate) would have no authority over me unless it had been given you from above.”*

What does this mean? It means that this was God's plan. And that's hard, because I want Jesus to win in my worldly way. But His kingdom is not of this world. It's different, other, better. It was God's plan for Jesus to die for our sins and salvation. God gave Pilate the authority, and while people sinned in betraying God, God could have chosen a different way. But in choosing a different way, He wouldn't have been choosing us. You are his first choice, and He knew the bigger plan was for your sake.

In what ways does God's plan of salvation surprise you?

What are some other areas of the Christian life that are “not of this world”?

Thank goodness that God's redemption plan was not left up to you and me, right? His ways are perfect. Even though it stinks that we're reading about Jesus getting arrested, wrongfully accused, flogged, and mocked, we can rest in the promise that redemption was the plan for each of us.

16

DAY 16

IT'S FRIDAY,
BUT SUNDAY'S
COMING!

16

If you started this study on a Monday, and you've been consistent every day, it should be Tuesday. But for the sake of where we are in John, let's take our minds to Friday.

It was the day before the Sabbath (Saturday) of Passover week. This is the holiest week of the Jewish year—the Passover celebration was the most esteemed holiday. Friday was the day that Jesus' trial began in the wee hours of the morning ... probably a little after midnight on Thursday. Friday turns out to be a day of pressure for the Jewish leaders. They've got to get this whole mess done before the Sabbath starts. Legal actions and work cannot happen on the Sabbath, and it completely ceases once Passover begins.

So, let's look at this dark, sneaky Friday. Read John 19:16-42.

How does this reading make you feel? What emotions are you experiencing right now?

Does anything new stand out to you?

What does Jesus say in verse 30? “_____.”

These words have so much meaning behind them. It's one word in the Greek: *tetelestai*.

“It is finished” gives us freedom. When Jesus' life ended, our life began. Because of *tetelestai*, we have freedom and fullness of life. Jesus gave the ultimate value and purpose to your life, because “It is finished.”

What are some things that Jesus finished because of the cross?

The cross replaced centuries of animal sacrifice and rituals taking the place of sin. Because God is holy and perfect, sin separated His people from a full relationship with Him. God made a way to rectify that through a series of rituals and sacrifices. The problem was that these sacrifices never completely satisfied the relationship; each sin required sacrifice. Because of the cross, those religious acts were atoned for once and for all. Grace upon grace.

So, what is finished?

- The religious system.
- Trying to do the right things to get into God's graces.
- The wages of sin - death is over now. Your death happened when Christ died in our place. He brings us to life. Death got one shot, but it picked the wrong guy. Jesus defeated death. Spiritual death is done.
- Shame is finished. You are new because Jesus finished it. No longer does your past define you. Whatever you have been through or done, Jesus covered it on the cross.
- Selfishness - we rally around the Cross, where Jesus was selfless. You're in the story to give God all the glory.
- Insecurities - we've got to live as people freed by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Are you living in the "it is finished"? What are other ways that Jesus has freed you?

Spend some time reflecting on what it means for Jesus to have gone to the grave for you. Take heart that there is hope, even on the Fridays. We live in the ache of a fallen world, redeemed by a Savior, waiting for His return.

What a good day that will be!

17

DAY 17
UP FROM THE
GRAVE

17

Start this morning by writing a list to Jesus of 15 to 20 things you're thankful for. Get your heart in an attitude of gratitude.

Now, read John 20:1-18.

What stands out to you in this passage?

Write down or underline any phrases that describe the disciples' and/or Mary's excitement or emotions.

This passage is the reason Jesus came. It's the reason we have life. And it's the reason that Jesus' life matters—not only to the world but to our very own lives.

The tomb was empty. Praise the Lord!

Death no longer has a sting because Jesus defeated it. Satan doesn't have a hold on this Earth or on our lives.

I love these passages. I love that the disciples enthusiastically raced to the tomb. They saw the empty tomb, and they believed. The complete truths that Jesus had been teaching finally made sense.

I love Mary's emotion. She loves Jesus so much that she weeps over His missing body. She's grieving for His death and then finds His body gone. Searching for closure to her loss, she finds it in the complete person of Jesus' resurrected self.

I love that she asks the "gardener" where they took Jesus. And how does Jesus respond? He simply says her name, and she realizes it's Him. There is so much in that one little exchange.

Jesus knows her name. He knows her. And He seeks her out after He comes back from the dead. He could have gone to anyone, but He knows that she needs the tenderness of Him knowing and saying her name. He also knows how much she could impact the other disciples in telling them of His resurrection.

In the same way, Jesus knows your name. He knows you. And He's come back to seek you, to meet you where you're at and to say your name. He's come for you. And He wants to use you in ways that will impact others in spreading the news that Jesus saves.

What do you love about this passage?

Go back to that list of things you're thankful for. Does that list change after reading today's passage? Spend the rest of your time reflecting on the goodness of Jesus' resurrection.

18

DAY 18
DOUBTING

18

Jesus has risen! What a good day! We're going to finish out the book of John by focusing on the three times that Jesus appeared to His disciples.

Today, we're going to look at a disciple who got a nickname that has stuck with him for centuries. It's also a term that people still use today for skeptics or doubters. What a crazy thing to have your nickname turned into a common phrase. Yikes.

Read John 20:19-29.

I looked up the definition of doubt in the dictionary, and this is what it said:

- to consider questionable or unlikely; hesitate to believe
- to distrust
- be apprehensive about
- to be uncertain about something
- to be undecided in opinion or belief

Do you ever doubt God? Have you ever wondered whether you are actually allowed to doubt things of God? If you really believe in Jesus, can you even do that? Sounds like the opposite, doesn't it?

Maybe you don't believe in Jesus, and this thing called "doubt" is the very thing that is keeping you from Him. I realize that for some of you, doubt is not even a struggle. You believe, and you are all-in when it comes to faith. That's amazing!

Doubts are natural. They will come. Expect them. They will come in many different shapes and sizes. There are people who doubt God and what He has done, and there are people who believe with everything inside of them that God does not exist at all.

Doubt is actually a natural part of faith. Unless you actually push through some real-life, hard-thinking doubts in your faith, you may never really experience the depth of faith that you can have.

So, I want to assure you that it's OK to ask questions. It's OK to have doubts. Because it is through our questioning that strength and assurance of faith come. It's not OK for us to question or doubt and never do anything about it. Doubts are going to happen.

Here is what we need to realize about the claims of the disciples. They claimed that God loved us so much that He did not stay in Heaven, but He came down to Earth to die a death we deserved. He was buried, but He didn't stay in the grave and came back to life.

The disciples and other witnesses state that on the third day, the stone was rolled away and Jesus was not in the grave—He was alive.

And yet, Thomas doubted.

You can't have real faith unless you press through sincere doubts. Doubts are not the end of real faith. For so many people, doubt is the beginning of a solidified, rock-solid faith that will carry you on to glorify God in all that you do. Thomas said, "I want to believe, but I need just a little bit more."

Notice what Jesus didn't do. He didn't condemn Thomas. He never said, "Thomas, how dare you doubt! You call yourself a disciple of mine? Really? How could you ever doubt me?" No, He didn't do that at all. He gave Thomas everything he needed to believe.

Thomas, who meets the risen Christ, begins to REALLY believe. We see that Jesus can take doubts and move them to actionable faith.

Doubting Thomas turns into one of the most outspoken messengers for Jesus in the spread of the early church. For Thomas, doubt was not the end of faith, but the beginning of it. Once Thomas saw Jesus, it's possible that he traveled further than any other disciple in spreading the news about Jesus. Some scholars believe they've tracked him all the way to India because of the life-changing interaction with the risen Christ.

So, as we look at this story, we see doubts arise differently in each of our lives. Sometimes it's doubting in God, in the realness of Scripture, in our faith. But other times, it's doubt that God is going to do something.

This is where the distrust part of the definition comes in. I so often distrust and take life back into my own hands, which in reality is a form of doubt. Sometimes I doubt that God is going to do exciting, adventurous things with my life. We might doubt that our friend group is good enough. Or we might doubt that we'll ever have a boyfriend or girlfriend, or where that girlfriend or boyfriend is enough. We doubt that how we're perceived by others is enough or right. Or we doubt that we'll get into college. We borrow all this trouble and worry, when Jesus gives us His hands. He gives us reassurance if we'll just let Him remind us that the lies that come into our heads are not of God.

So, what do we do with our doubts?

- We don't keep them bottled up. We've got to ask questions and wrestle with our doubts. Often, the root of our doubt is hurt or the desire for independence. So, how can we take those questions and hurt our quest for independence and turn it into wrestling so that we strengthen our faith?
- We seek answers. Ultimately, that is found in the Bible. We can also talk to older people about it. Your small group leader, your parents, people you respect. Talk to them.
- Pray about it. Know that God wants to have conversations with you about your doubts. And even in the midst of doubt, if we pray about them, God will take that tiny seed of doubt or trust and turn it into faith if we let Him. And I find that praying about my doubts or "distrusts" lets me voice them, which is a relief to get them off my chest.

Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the assurance of things you have hoped for, the absolute conviction that there are realities you've never seen.

If Thomas, the most famous doubter in the New Testament, could turn around and do so much with his life after his doubt, can't we also be people who take our doubt and reach out to our friends to invite them to come to church with us to hear about Jesus? Could we not have conversations about our faith and our doubt?

When we press into God, He reveals Himself to us in a way that moves through our doubts into a faith that believes the tomb is empty and that He has risen.

It is what we do with our doubts that matters. So, I encourage you to take a moment to talk to Jesus about your doubts and give them to Him.

What are things you doubt?

What actions will you take to figure out the truth in those doubts?

Tell someone and act on your doubts today.

19

DAY 19
FISHING

19

I always love Jesus' disciples. I relate so well to them because I'm such a mess like they are. So, I love studying their reactions, because it is often how I react, too. And then, Jesus is just so patient with them. And us. How often do we try and do something, live a certain way, and when things get a little too tough, we give up?

Today's passage reveals that the disciples, even after walking with Jesus for three years, after having seen Him doing amazing things, having declared He is God in the flesh, and witnessing that Jesus was crucified and now risen—they went back to their normal lives.

Read John 21:1-14.

We see here that they went back to what they knew, to what was familiar. We can't leave God's calling when things start falling apart. So often, we're anxious to hear from God, but hearing God and following through on what He says are two different things. Direction, not intention, determines our destination. We often intend to listen to God ... we ask Him to speak to us and lead us. But do we really follow through? Are we willing to take the steps forward when He gives the word?

We tend to be forgetful creatures. If we don't see something happening right now, we forget to be patient, and we move on. If we don't think God is working, we forget all the good things He has already done in our lives. We tend to think that if He's not answering now, we'll go back to our old way.

That's what's happened to the disciples. They were maybe a bit discouraged and confused, thinking that Jesus' life and ministry were over. So they went back to what they knew and what was familiar. They were fishermen, so they went fishing.

But when you encounter Jesus, you can't go back to the way things used to be. You can't go back to normal.

So let's be honest ... this is what many of us do, not just the disciples. We have a DNow weekend or an incredible church experience, and then after a while, we go back to our normal lives and think we're back on our own again.

Sometimes it feels as if Jesus, who revealed Himself so clearly, is no longer with us. It might feel like He is only available at camp or on Sundays. But Jesus defeated death! This is the greatest accomplishment ever! Because of this, we can trust that He can overcome any situation we are going through. We've got to keep our eyes on this and not miss Jesus. He also promised that He's with us until the very end of the age.

This passage is an invitation to you and me to step into the life Jesus offers us. Don't give up. We have to keep pushing forward, trusting God at His Word and for His accomplishment in overcoming death.

The disciples almost missed that promise, because they gave up and went back to their regular life. As Peter puts it, “I am going fishing.” He gave up on his calling and went back to the old life.

Sometimes in life, we have to reconnect with a past experience to remember what God has done. We got lost in trying to be older, in moving to the next grade, in finding the next accomplishment; and in turn, we forget to live in the now. We forget that the same God who has worked in our lives before is still with us today and is able to move in mighty ways in our lives.

“There are no shortcuts for long-term effectiveness in the kingdom of God.” - Beth Moore

So here’s your challenge: to do the work of the kingdom and to be reminded of what God has done.

I often need this reminder, that I have to keep doing what I’m supposed to be doing.

Do you need to take a moment to be reminded of what God has done for you?

How are you going to live differently because of what God has done?

How can you live and not miss Jesus?

20

DAY 20
RECONCILIATION

20

Remember what happened with Peter a few days ago? Write down what you remember about Peter's story.

Now, read John 21:15-24.

What three things did Jesus ask Peter to do?

What's the significance of Jesus asking Peter these questions three times?

This moment was huge in Peter's life. His darkest moment was denying Jesus three times. So, Jesus sought him out and forgave him three times. He then clearly involved Peter in the work of the kingdom.

It is Peter, "the rock," that the church is built on. Peter spread the news of Jesus and brought the disciples together—even though he had messed up in a huge way.

The difference between Peter's denial and Judas' betrayal is that Peter openly repented.

Jesus' grace was abundant and extended to even Peter. Peter was longing to have a real relationship with Jesus. He wanted restoration with His Savior. So Peter repented and walked, literally, in obedience with Christ.

So how about you? Do you need to repent?

What do you need to do repent of?

In what areas of your life are you denying Jesus? Are you fully trusting and obeying Him with every aspect of your life?

Spend time reflecting on repentance.

21

DAY 21
LIFE!

21

We've made it to the last day of our study!

As we close out our study, I want us to reflect on who Jesus is in our life. Go back to John 20:31.

We've seen the emotion and passion of Jesus, we've seen miracles showing He is the Christ, we've studied His teachings—and I hope that you've fallen in love with the wonder of Jesus. Jesus doesn't make bad people good, He makes dead people alive. We've seen this happen throughout our time in the book of John.

Take some time to reflect on how Jesus has brought you life and shown you that He is the Lord in your life this week.

How has your understanding of Jesus changed over the past three weeks?

How can Jesus continue to breathe life into your life?

Spend today praising Jesus and marveling at His salvation. If that means spending time in solitude, re-reading parts of John, writing down things you're thankful for, being in nature, or anything else that connects you with Jesus, do it. Make this day about Him. Then, resolve to continue growing in your relationship with Him daily.

And finally, tell someone about what you've learned and what God has done!