



JOHN

VOLUME TWO

How to use this guide

The following pages contain note taking space, questions for discussion and reflection, and a space for "Prayer Focus"

The space for taking notes is for during the sermon portion of our gatherings. We'd encourage you to follow along on Sundays and jot some thoughts down.

The questions for discussion and reflection are the basis for discussion in our Community Groups, or for your own personal reflection on the passage.

The "Prayer Focus" space is for you to take note of specific prayer requests brought up during our gathering times, or Community Group times. It can also be used as a simple prayer journal.

If you're not part of a Community Group, we would love to get you connected to one. Please visit

www.crossridge.church/cg
or email **sam@crossridge.church**

We pray this guide will be an encouragement to you as we work through the Gospel of John, together.

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John, a Jewish, Palestinian fisherman called by Jesus to be one of the twelve who would walk closely with Jesus during His earthly ministry. This Gospel is John's personal account of Jesus' life, deeds, death and resurrection, which John wrote between 75-90 AD in Ephesus (modern-day Turkey)- a vital urban hub of the Roman empire in the first century. John's Gospel account is unique from those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which are referred to as the "synoptic gospels" because their aim is to provide a synopsis (a condensed narrative) of Jesus' life. Matthew, Mark and Luke focus largely on storytelling, encouraging the reader to come to conclusions and implications on their own. John however, writes with a different structure and tone, leaving out many of the details and stories about Jesus that the other Gospel writers include. John also provides themes and includes stories and discourses not seen in the other Gospels, and this is intentional. John chooses key events and conversations from his time with Jesus and presents them in a way that is designed to engage the minds and strike the hearts of his original audience - a Hellenistic culture - That is, a mix of traditionally Jewish and culturally Greek people living in the Roman empire. John presents Jesus as the climax and fulfillment of many Jewish themes (creation and new creation, corporate worship, the expected Messiah, bread, water, shepherd).

The first half of the book is structured around seven miraculous signs and seven "I am" statements of Jesus that reveal his identity as the long-awaited Saviour. John also presents Jesus against the backdrop of the Greek ideas of Stoicism and Gnosticism that permeated the culture - using dualistic symbolism throughout the book such as darkness vs. light, disease vs. health, hate vs. love, temporal vs. eternal, rejection vs. belief, and death vs. life. In his own time and place in history, throughout the ages, and to us here and now- John speaks with power to the devoutly religious, the irreligious, and those steeped in the ideologies of their cultural moment.

Rather than simply story-telling, John stops and explains the deeper spiritual meaning behind what we're seeing. He gives us clear, practical, and powerful theology from the perspective of a disciple and friend who walked closely with Jesus. John wants us not to miss the gravity of who Jesus truly is

and what He accomplished through His words, deeds, miraculous signs, death, and resurrection. For the original readers and hearers, and just as urgently for us today, the intention of John's Gospel is clear:

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. -John 20:31

John wants us to see and believe that the Creator God, the saviour of the human race, the source of true meaning, and the light of the world that we are searching for, has come – and His name is Jesus. That Jesus is the Son of God, and the life that we need is found by receiving Him in faith. John doesn't just want us to know some things about the life of Jesus, he wants to challenge and reshape how we think about God, ourselves, and the life we live. He wants for the living Jesus to become real to us and break into the present pain and darkness of our lives with the light and hope that only He can offer. As we read, study, and reflect on this Gospel, our prayer is that together through the power of God's Spirit, we will know this Jesus personally, experiencing redemption, transformation, and life to the fullest in Him.

In chapters 1-3, we will be introduced to several key images that John will unfold and explain the meaning and significance-of throughout the rest of the Gospel. Already in these early chapters we are introduced to Jesus as the Word, the light of men, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, Rabbi, Messiah, King of Israel, the bridegroom. And we see the development of such symbols, events and concepts as eternal life, belief, grace and truth, the ministry of John the Baptist, baptism with the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church, discipleship, evangelism, new wine, the new temple, new birth, the Kingdom of God, signs and more. We will quickly begin to see the way that John uses signs and symbols, drawing out their deeper meaning to powerfully reveal the different pieces of Jesus' identity and bring home to our hearts the glory of what He came to accomplish.

May the Spirit of God who inspired these words be our guide in studying and applying them – opening our eyes to behold wondrous things (Ps. 119:18).



DATE:

WEEK ELEVEN

JOHN 4:30-32

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. Why is telling others about Jesus the natural response of those who have encountered Jesus? Why are personal testimonies powerful?
3. Notice Jesus' urgency and his resolve to do the will of God and see his work in the world accomplished. What does it mean for the will and mission of God to be our "food" (v.32,34)? Jesus calls his disciples to "lift up your eyes, and see...". How do vv.34-35 challenge and encourage you to refocus and re-prioritize?
4. When was the last time you spoke about Jesus to someone who holds different beliefs and worldviews? What was that experience like?
5. What keeps you from sharing your faith and the testimony of what Jesus has done for you with others? What would help you to do so?
6. How do vv.39-42 give you courage and confidence in the power of God?
7. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK TWELVE

JOHN 4:43-54

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. When have you, like the Official, turned to Jesus in desperation for a miracle? What was the outcome, and how did it affect your faith and the faith of others?
3. Note what Jesus calls out in the hearts of the watching crowd in v.48 (both "you's" are plural, referring to the Galileans gathered, as well as the Official). How were they missing Jesus' true identity and the intent of his signs and wonders?
4. What is the ultimate purpose of Jesus' miraculous signs?
5. Notice the Official's faith in vv.49-50. What is the difference between a faith based on powerful signs, and faith in the actual person and Word of Christ? How will the latter type of faith sustain us and glorify God when, painfully, God chooses not to heal or do what we would like? How can we nurture and cultivate this type of faith?
6. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK THIRTEEN

JOHN 5:1-15

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. Consider the desperation of this paralyzed man, his status as a societal outcast robbed of any dignity, and his complete helplessness to save himself. Note also that healing this man on the sabbath would essentially seal Jesus' death warrant (vv.15-18). What does this passage show us about Jesus and his love? In what ways do you identify with the paralyzed man?
3. In v.7, why do you think Jesus asks what seems to be a painfully obvious question to a man paralyzed for thirty eight years- "do you want to be healed?"
4. How are we each faced with the same question from Jesus today in regard to salvation? As a Christian, what does it mean to experience ongoing, continued healing in Jesus?
5. When we honestly check our hearts, as Christians or non-Christians, why might we actually not want to step into the healing that Jesus offers to us right now?
6. Read v.14. Jesus clearly cares deeply about this man's immediate physical need. However, what does his statement reveal about humanity's deepest, most urgent and ultimately crippling problem? How do we tend to downplay or misunderstand the destructive power that unresolved sin can have in our lives?
7. Is there margin in your life to let God show you your sin and unresolved conflict, and to actively bring these things to Jesus for healing? Why is it important to make this a natural and consistent part of our lives?
8. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK FOURTEEN

JOHN 5:16-47

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. How does Jesus' equality with God the Father help shape your understanding of Jesus' life and ministry? How does this understanding help you see and savour God's love and character, especially as displayed at the cross?
3. What four things bear witness that Jesus is Lord (v.33, 36, 37, 39)? How are these things still bearing witness to the Lordship of Jesus today?
4. What is Jesus saying about the scriptures in vv.39-40, 46-47? Is this realistically your experience with the Bible? How should these verses inform our approach to Bible-reading and inspire our devotional life?
5. What is Jesus saying about living a 'religious' life that actually misses the point? How do Jesus' words here challenge your heart? How can we keep knowing Jesus as the goal, rather than slipping into dead religion?
6. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK FIFTEEN

JOHN 6:1-15

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others and the world around you this week?
2. What is the significance of Jesus performing this miracle at the passover feast of the Jews, miraculously providing bread as sustenance? What Old Testament story would this have brought to the Jewish crowd's minds, and what is Jesus claiming about himself?
3. Notice that Jesus chooses to involve his disciples in the mighty works he is accomplishing. How was Jesus testing Philip (vv. 5-6)? How do you think God might test us in similar ways, and how might our response be similar or different to Philip's?
4. The boy in the story remains nameless, the barley loaves were the cheapest form of bread eaten by the poor, and the fish were two small, dried, pickled pieces. These are the seemingly insignificant things Jesus takes and multiplies exponentially for his purposes. What does this show us about God, and how does this encourage you right now about what you have and what God can do with your life?
5. Notice the abundance of leftover food (vv.11-13). What does this story show us about God- his character, his grace, his power, his provision?
6. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK SIXTEEN

JOHN 6:16-21

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. What do you notice in vv17-19 about the state the disciples were in in the boat? How do you think they were feeling? How can you relate to these disciples right now?
3. When things looked most dark for the disciples, did they move toward Jesus, or did Jesus move toward them? By walking on the water to get to the disciples, what is Jesus showing us about who He is, where He is, and what He offers when we're facing hopeless circumstances?
4. Do you see anything in this story about the storm being stopped or even calmed by Jesus? What is the solution, and why is it significant (v.21)? What point is John making?
5. Why is the presence of Jesus what we need most in our toughest circumstances, even if the circumstances don't change? What does it mean to gladly receive into and experience His presence in the challenging, painful, frightening circumstances of our lives?
6. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?
7. "This is not a story about getting people out of storms. This is a story about getting Jesus in the boat" - John Piper

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK SEVENTEEN

JOHN 6:22-58

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. Why were the crowds following and seeking after Jesus? What should have drawn them instead?
3. What is the difference between coming to Jesus for what you want Him to do for you, and coming to Him because of who He is? Why does it matter?
4. What "food that perishes" (v.27) are you tempted to work for? How have these things ultimately failed to sustain you and give you true life? In what ways have they left you still hungry and thirsty?
5. What was Jesus claiming about Himself when He said, "I am the bread of life"?
6. What does Jesus promise in v.35? How have you experienced the reality of that promise?
7. How can we feed on this bread? Are you satisfied with your walk with God right now- feeling nourished and walking in the power and presence of Christ? What encourages you about who Jesus is from this passage?
8. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK EIGHTEEN

JOHN 6:59-71

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. What did Jesus say that the disciples found hard to hear? Why do some people receive Jesus' words as life-giving and some are completely put off by them?
3. Are there some things that you have found or still find difficult to hear and accept from Jesus' teachings? What should we do when we're confronted and challenged by God's word like these disciples?
4. Why did the disciples, who by all outward accounts appeared faithful up to this point, turn back and no longer follow Jesus? Is this your own story? Have you known anyone who embodies this sobering reality? Why do you think so much deconstruction of personal faith is happening in and out of the Church right now?
5. What caused Judas to turn back and even sell Jesus out in the end? Where do you see potential glimpses of yourself in Judas? How can we know that we are truly walking in the faith and belong to God?
6. What do you hold onto when it is hard to follow Jesus? What does it mean to look to Jesus with the perspective of Simon Peter in vv68-69?
7. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK NINETEEN

JOHN 7:1-13

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. Why did Jesus' brothers want Him to go to the Feast of Booths? What misconceptions did the brothers have about how and when Jesus would choose to display His glory? How did Jesus respond?
3. What are some specific ways that we might share misconceptions about Jesus similar to His brothers? How are you tempted to think that you know how and within what timeline God should act? Why is it dangerous to try to fit Jesus into our own paradigms of who we think He should be and what He should do?
4. How can we know and worship God for who He has revealed Himself to truly be? What does it mean to trust and submit to His perfect ways?
5. When have you had to trust in the goodness and timing of God when it didn't make sense to you? In hindsight, what did you learn about how God was working in that circumstance to ultimately bring about your good and glorify Himself?
6. Consider each of the different opinions about Jesus in v.12. How do you see these ideas embodied today? In what ways do each of these conclusions misunderstand who Jesus is? What is the difference between belief in Jesus as a good man and belief in Jesus as Lord?
7. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK TWENTY

JOHN 7:14-36

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. Throughout this passage, what do the Jews consistently fail to see and believe about Jesus and what He came to do (vv15, 19-24, 29-30, 35-36)? Why are they confused by His teaching? Why are they angered by what He said and did?
3. What does Jesus claim about the source and authority of His teaching? How closely have you read, reflected on, and prayed through the gospels accounts? If Jesus' claims are true, how should they inspire our approach to studying and applying the life and teachings of Jesus?
4. In v.17, what is Jesus claiming will happen for those who align their will to God's will? How have you experienced this reality? What does it mean for our will to be to do God's will?
5. What is Jesus' primary motive for what He is teaching and doing (vv17-18)? What does it actually mean to seek the glory of the one who sent us? In what ways might we convince ourselves and others that we are seeking God's glory, when we are really seeking to lift ourselves up? How can we follow the Master's example here of humility and sincerity in reflecting the glory of God in our lives?
6. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

DATE:

WEEK TWENTY ONE

JOHN 7:37-52

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Where did you see God at work in your own heart, your life, the lives of others this week?
2. How does Jesus communicate his message in v.37? What emotions seem to drive Him and why? What is Jesus showing us about urgency and intentionality in calling the thirsty to Himself?
3. What is the difference between living-out your faith in a way that is passionate and intentional vs. casual and coasting? Which do you honestly think more accurately describes you right now? What would it look like for that to change?
4. What is the thirst Jesus refers to in v.37? What does it mean to come to Jesus to drink and have this thirst satisfied?
5. Think about the imagery Jesus uses in v.38. What did He mean when He claimed that the Holy Spirit will flow out of the believer's heart like rivers of living water? How have you experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart and flowing out of your heart?
6. When it comes to receiving the Spirit, is the emphasis primarily on us and what we actively do, or on the work of God in those who believe (vv38-39)? Why is it important to remember this when it comes to spiritual growth and being refined by the Holy Spirit?
7. What is God asking you to do? How are you going to apply and live out the truth of this passage this week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION NOTES:

For audio/video and more info on this series, please visit:

crossridge.church/john