



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

In addition to questions for discussion and reflection, we've included some simple tools to help you study John and the rest of the Bible more fruitfully, pray more intentionally, and walk in the presence of God with a deeper awareness and devotion.

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. For more info, 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. In the second half of the book (chapters 12-21) John slows down and gives us an in-depth look at the last three months of Jesus' life. An extensive portion of this half of the book is devoted to Jesus' final words of instruction to the new Messianic community, as well as His final prayer.

In this, the final section of our study, John carefully walks us through the narrative and theology of Jesus' betrayal and arrest, His trials, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. John will end his account with Jesus' appearances to His disciples, followed by the pouring out of His Spirit onto them and sending them into the world to carry on the mission that He began.

John 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 storytelling, 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.

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).

3 SKILLS FOR READING THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John's Gospel presents a persuasive portrait of Jesus so that you will acknowledge him as Lord and follow him. How can we learn to pay attention to the design and intention of the author? Here are three skills that will help you.

1. Discover the Significance of Repeated Words and Ideas

The Gospel authors have woven their large-scale stories out of dozens of smaller stories about Jesus' teachings or miracles. They have linked them all together by means of key repeated words to highlight their themes. There are two steps that are helpful in discovering the significance of this feature.

Step 1: Look for the repeated words and ideas that connect the stories together.

Step 2: Ask, "What does John want us to know about Jesus through these stories?"

2. Pay Attention to How Characters in the Story Respond to Jesus

Instead of telling you how to respond to Jesus, the Gospel authors use people's diverse reactions as a way of showing you how to—or how not to—react. For this reason, we recommend pausing after each short story to ask yourself two sets of questions:

1. How do the people in this story react to Jesus? What are their motivations? What are the results?

2. Do I see my own response to Jesus mirrored in these characters?

3. Read, Reread, and Reread Some More!

The Gospel accounts were designed to be read many times and eventually memorized. There are insights about Jesus and the author's message about him that you will only pick up after reading through this account multiple times and paying attention to repeated words and themes. Read slowly, then read fast, then slow again. You cannot immerse yourself in this Gospel too much!

7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING

Here is a simple Bible-reading method you can apply whenever you read any verse or passage to help you be a faithful student of scripture, hear from God, and grow closer to Him.

What does this passage **say**?



What did this passage mean to its **original audience**?



What does this passage tell us about **God**?



What does this passage tell us about **man**?



What does this passage **demand of me**?



How does this passage change the way I **relate to people**?



What does this passage prompt me to **pray to God**?



PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

We are integrated, holistic beings - physical as well as spiritual - and our physical posture is deeply connected to the state of our hearts. Consider starting the day with this prayer and mirroring your prayer with your hands as a symbol of how you're committing to live this day.

Surrender - Hands Up

I choose to hold my hands up as a symbol of surrender.

My life is not about me.

I surrender to your Lordship.

I surrender my preferences, prejudices, and position to you.

I surrender my fears, finances, friends, and family to you.

Generosity - Hands Open

I choose to hold my hands open as a symbol of generosity.

What I have is not mine.

I am only a steward of all that you have entrusted to me.

I want to mirror the way that you opened your hand to us and lavished your life and love upon us.

I want to live an open-handed life in a closed-fist culture.

Mission - Hands Forward

I choose to hold my hands forward as a symbol of mission.

I want to live for something greater than myself.

I want to embrace and join you in your mission.

To the lost, the least, the last, the lonely.

To the poor, powerless, persecuted, and the privileged.

I entrust this day, my life, and my whole being to you. All that I am and all that I have is yours, oh God. May your Spirit fill me and your hand guide me to be light in the darkness, and to bring you glory in all that I think, say, and do today.

PRAYER OF EXAMEN

A reflective prayer-practice that helps us to be more aware of God's presence in our lives. With the Psalmist, we pray,

*"Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting."*

-Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

We invite God to search the depths of our heart and reveal the areas that need cleansing, purifying, and healing. This practice can be done at the start of the day, in the middle, or at the end before you go to sleep. It involves praying Psalm 139:23-24 and thoughtfully engaging 5 simple steps:

1

Become aware of God's presence

Look back on your day with God. The day might be a blur, jumbled, or a struggle. Where was God present with you through people, places, and things?

Pay attention to the details and small things (conversations you had, experiences, thoughts, emotions). Ask God to help you understand the day and glean what He wants you to learn from it with clarity.

2

Review the day with gratitude

Look for the good in your day. How were you blessed by people, places, and things? Again, pay attention to the details. How did you experience God's grace in big and small ways (food you ate, beauty you saw, pleasant interaction with someone). Thank God for as many things as you can think of.

3

Pay attention to your emotions

What were you feeling throughout the day? (Happiness, sadness, boredom, frustration, confidence?) What might God be saying to you through these feelings and emotions experienced in different situations?

4

Choose one feature of the day and pray from it

Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a positive or negative feeling, an encounter you had, or a moment of pleasure or peace. Look at it, and pray about it.

5

Look toward tomorrow

What situations, tasks, encounters, and challenges face you tomorrow? Ask God to give you light for what tomorrow brings. Seek God's guidance, help, and understanding. Pray for hope.

DATE:

JOHN 18:1-14

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: "what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?")
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
 - Was there anything that confused you?

Living it out...

- In the face of His betrayal and arrest, Jesus shows that He is God, with the power and authority to defeat hundreds of armed soldiers by simply speaking His name (6). Yet, He willingly steps forward to give Himself, peacefully to the most horrific fate, in order to protect His own (4, 8-9, 11).
 - What do Jesus' actions teach us about trusting the sovereign plan of our good God?
 - What do Jesus' actions show us about the heart of God?
 - Jesus demonstrates that as the Good Shepherd and Great High Priest, He is fiercely FOR US. He will not let a single one of those who truly belong to Him be taken from Him, no matter what we go through. How does this reality encourage your heart right now in the midst of whatever you're facing, have faced, or might lay ahead?

- Judas walked with the disciples, heard Jesus' teaching, and saw Jesus' works, yet he didn't truly love Jesus or bow to Him as Lord. Access to Jesus and activities alongside His followers did not equal knowing Jesus. This became evident when Judas handed Jesus over to His enemies for his own benefit when it suited him.
 - As people with unprecedented access to Christian teaching and church involvement, what cautioning or wisdom should we receive from the example of Judas?
 - What do you think is the difference between being in close proximity to Jesus vs. actually belonging to Jesus? What are some ways that we can focus on cultivating a deepening relationship with Jesus as we learn about Him and participate in the life of His church?

- Peter misunderstand the salvific plan of God, and his passion was wrongly channeled into violent aggression toward Jesus' opposition.
 - Have you ever resembled Peter (hopefully not literally!) in your attempts to "defend" Jesus, stand firm on your beliefs, or spread the gospel? How?
 - What is Jesus teaching us about how God's gospel and Kingdom will go forward on the earth? What could it look like for the Church to take Jesus' posture in our current cultural moment? What could it look like for you to embody this in your context?

- In light of the truth of this week's passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

PRAYING FROM THIS PASSAGE

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **PRAISE**:

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**PRAYER REQUESTS - THIS WEEK, I AM SPECIFICALLY
PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

DATE:

JOHN 18:15-27

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: "what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?")
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
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Living it out...

- Is there anything about Peter, his life, and his struggles to follow Jesus that you relate to?
- Notice Peter's confidence in his ability to remain faithful under pressure, even after Jesus tells Peter he will deny him: *"Even if all fall away, I will not...Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."* (**Mark 14:29,31**).
 - What can we learn from Peter about pride? What is the difference between living in our own strength and doing things FOR Jesus vs. relying on Jesus, living with Him, and following Him where He's going?
- Have you, like Peter, ever found yourself tempted to take the easy way out, quietly blend into your surroundings, or choose the comfort of the moment over witnessing to who/what you believe in?
 - Why was Peter weakened and unprepared for this moment? (Hint: Read **Matt.26:41-43**)
 - What does this teach us about the power of prayer in shaping and preparing our hearts?
 - How can we begin to live, speak, and act out of the overflow of a heart firmly planted in Jesus vs. a more pragmatic, reactive life?

- Jesus **restored** and **shaped** Peter into the man who would go on to lead thousands of people to faith in Jesus, write 2 powerful books of the New Testament, and be one of the key players in establishing and leading the early church.
 - What does this tell us about the grace and the power of Jesus in our inevitable sin and failure?
 - When we sin, how can we respond in order to be restored like Peter, rather than crushed by guilt?

- Although he continually misses the mark, what do you notice about Peter's faith that we should try to emulate?
 - How can we posture our hearts in order to be used by God despite our failures?
 - Do you think it's better to have a faith that is passionate and results in action, but is imperfect... or a faith that doesn't result in as many mistakes because it doesn't move us to action or risk? Which more accurately describes your relationship with Jesus right now? What is one area that you need to put your faith and knowledge into action right now?

- If not for his earlier failures, Peter would not know what it means to lead with humility and dependence on God. How has God used your sin, failure, and pain to shape your character? To humble you? To prepare you for challenges and tasks ahead?
 - How can your past sins be used as a 'weapon' - a testimony of grace - in God's hands to point people to Jesus?

- In light of the truth of this week's passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS - THIS WEEK, I AM SPECIFICALLY
PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

DATE:

JOHN 18:28-40

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: "what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?")
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
 - Was there anything that confused you?

Living it out...

- The Jews refused to enter Pilate's residence because they believed it would ceremonially defile them, while at the same time handing over the Son of God to be crucified (28).
 - What is John teaching us about the danger of religion without faith?
 - How can we intentionally check our hearts to ensure that we don't make this mistake- paying attention to every detail of the law with hearts far from God?
- Read Jesus' response to Pilate in **v.33-34**. Who do you yourself find Jesus to be? How much of what you think and know about Jesus is shaped by other people's thoughts, opinions and messages you've consumed, and how much is through your own personal knowledge and experience of Him?

- Jesus' kingdom is not of this world (**36**)- He came to establish something completely different than we often want or expect. His kingdom is not built on power, violence, influence, politics, or money, like the kingdoms of this world.
 - Think about the life and teachings of Jesus. What kind of kingdom did He come to establish?
 - In what ways is it tempting for you to walk in step with the pursuits and ethics of the world's kingdoms (*the way of the **dragon*** in Revelation). What would it look like for you to walk in step with Christ's eternal kingdom (*the way of the **lamb*** in Revelation) here and now? What would it look like for you to join Jesus in bringing heaven into the worlds you exist within?
 - In what way(s) is it easy for your focus to stray from building and expanding God's kingdom, to building your own? What is the difference?
- The Jews shout for the release of Barabbas, who was a rebel against the state, rather than for the release of Jesus (**40**). They were still wrongly expecting their Messiah to lead a political revolt against the Romans.
 - In what ways have you been tempted to try to fit Jesus into your own expectations? How might you be in danger of trying to use Jesus for your own social, economic or political agenda?
 - What does it mean to receive Jesus on His own terms, bow to Him as Lord, and live to serve Him rather than Him existing to serve you?
- In light of the truth of this week's passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS - THIS WEEK, I AM SPECIFICALLY
PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

DATE:

JOHN 19:1-16

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: "what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?")
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
 - Was there anything that confused you?

Living it out...

- Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth is ironically "judged" by the sinful people He was dying to save, and who He will judge eternally (6-7,10,13).
 - In what ways can we, like Pilate and these Jews, sometimes put ourselves on the judgment seat and try to put God on trial for who He is and what He does?
 - What heart-issue does this reveal in us? What remedy does Jesus provide?
 - Read v.18:38, 19:4,6, 10-11. How can both the **perfection** and **authority** of Jesus shape our response to situations we don't understand and things we want to question God about?
- Hear the broken and lost cry of the chief priests (15): "We have no king but Caesar". We are made to worship God. We either bow to the Perfect King Jesus and find life; Or we'll inevitably bow to false gods – ourselves, material wealth, a leader, a person or relationship, pleasure, achievement, comfort, acceptance, etc., to our own destruction.

"The human heart is an idol factory" (John Calvin).

- What does it mean to worship? Think about times when you have chosen to worship things above Jesus. What kind of fruit did that produce in your life? What did that ultimately do in your heart and mind? (Read **Psalm 135:15-18**).
- When you don't acknowledge Jesus as King of your heart and life, what in your life are you in danger of worshiping as "king"? What are you tempted to look to for help, blessing, or guidance besides Jesus? Is there a pursuit that you think will fulfill you? Anything you're willing to compromise your beliefs for? Anything you're putting above Jesus with the adoration of your heart, attention of your mind, or action of your hands? What needs to be surrendered?
- Reflect on what Jesus willingly endured for you. The suffering, shame, and mockery (1-3). To free you from the destruction of false worship. To make true life, fulfillment, peace, and freedom available to you at infinitely great cost to Himself. How does the gospel reorder the love and worship of your heart?

"If we are deeply moved by the sight of his love for us, it detaches our hearts from other would-be saviors. When you see him dying to make you his treasure, that will make him yours." (Timothy Keller)

- In light of the truth of this week's passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

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PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

DATE:

JOHN 19:17-27

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: “what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?”)
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
 - Was there anything that confused you?

Living it out...

- In His crucifixion, Jesus bore “His own cross” (17). He chose to carry the unbearable weight of your sins and mine on His shoulders so that we would never have to carry and be crushed by it.
 - What does that reality stir up in your heart?
 - The bible talks about sin as a weight on us (**Hebrews 12:1**), a snare trapping us (**Proverbs 5:22**), and slavery controlling us (**Romans 6:15-23**). How have you experienced sin’s effects in these ways?
 - When He bore His cross, Jesus was bearing these effects of sin for you. What does it mean to walk in complete freedom from the weight, snare, and slavery of your sin?

- Read **v.19-20**. The message, “Jesus is King” was inscribed in Aramaic for the Jews who gloried in the law, in Latin for the Romans who gloried in power, and in Greek for the Greeks who gloried in wisdom – Showing that the gospel is for everyone, of every race, culture, age, gender, and social status. God speaks to us in a way that He knows we’ll understand.
 - How did God make the message of His love understandable, accessible, relatable, and powerful to you in your context?
 - How does Jesus continue to speak to you about following Him through the unique interests, pursuits, passions, work, and culture you’re immersed in? What could it look like for you to intentionally listen for where God might be speaking to you in the tangible parts of your everyday life?

- One of the last things Jesus does, from the cross, is make sure that His mother will be taken care of. Jesus declares John to be Mary’s son now, and declares Mary to be John’s mother, and John takes Mary into his own home (**26-27**).
 - What is Jesus teaching us about how His Church is meant to function as a new family?
 - What are some ways that we, as a church body, can work to reflect Jesus’ vision of Church as family vs. Church as an institution, or Church as a place to use and consume?
 - In all the busyness, stress, and time-constraints of real life, how might this type of care look for you in the church circle(s) God has placed you (and perhaps your family) in right now?

- In light of the truth of this week’s passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS - THIS WEEK, I AM SPECIFICALLY
PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

DATE:

JOHN 20:1-28

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: "what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?")
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
 - Was there anything that confused you?

Living it out...

- Read **v.11 & 15**. What is Mary doing in the midst of her incredible grief? What happens in **v.16**?
 - What is John showing us about Jesus as "comforter" in our grief? Why do you think Mary recognizes Jesus once He says her name?
 - Has there been a time when Jesus has met you with His voice and His presence in the middle of overwhelming grief? How did the peace of Jesus make a difference?
 - If you are in the middle of sorrow right now, through this story, where is God encouraging you to look?
- As the disciples are devastated, overwhelmed, and frightened after the crucifixion of their Lord, Jesus shows up in His resurrected body to bring them **PEACE (19, 21, 26)**. Reflect on everything you can think of that Jesus accomplished for us (in this life and eternity) through the cross and resurrection.

- List all the ways that Jesus' accomplishment at Easter can bring perfect peace to all who receive it.

- Which of these different aspects of the gospel is shining as most beautiful and powerful to you personally right now?

- Read and think about the implications of **v.21-22**.
 - Read **Genesis 2:7** & **Ezekiel 37:9** about God breathing life/new life into man. John uses the same word for *breath* to describe Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit onto the disciples (**22**). What connection is John making?

 - By believing in Jesus, we are filled with the same Spirit that empowered and enabled all Jesus' words and works in His life and ministry in the world. What significance does this amazing truth have for our lives?

 - For what **purpose** does Jesus give His disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit? Why is it essential for disciples of Jesus to be filled with the Spirit in order to carry out the mission Jesus gives them?

- How does hearing about the PEACE, PRESENCE, PURPOSE, and POWER of the resurrected Jesus through His Holy Spirit fill you with faith, hope, and life this Easter?

- In light of the truth of this week's passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

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TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **INTERCESSION**:

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**PRAYER REQUESTS - THIS WEEK, I AM SPECIFICALLY
PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

DATE:

JOHN 20:29-31

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: "what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?")
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
 - Was there anything that confused you?

Living it out...

- It is always encouraging when we get to see God move in ways that are obvious, clear and especially visible. What do you think Jesus means when He says that "those who have not seen and yet have believed" will be blessed (29)?
 - Do you ever find it hard to believe when Jesus seems silent or absent in your circumstances? What can we do in these times?
 - What kinds of demands might we be tempted to make of Jesus, that could keep us from experiencing the blessing He speaks of?
- John clearly states his purpose for including what he wrote in this book: "...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" (31).
 - Throughout the gospel, Jesus conquered sickness, sin, death, and sorrow...and now with Thomas He has conquered *unbelief* (28). How has looking at the life, teachings, and signs of Jesus in this book ignited or strengthened your belief in Him as the Christ, the Son of God?

- If you don't believe that, or aren't sure, has anything in this book made you think or caused you to consider more deeply who Jesus is and why He came? What has been the most interesting or challenging thing you've learned about Jesus?
- What is one new insight or perspective about Jesus that you have gained from John that has helped grow or strengthen your relationship with Jesus in this season?
- What do you think John had in mind when he repeatedly invited us to have LIFE in Jesus (in both a temporal and eternal sense)?
 - If you're a follower of Jesus, how would you explain to someone what it has been like for you personally to experience life in Jesus?
 - Having studied Jesus' life and teaching, what do you think it means to live a life of eternal meaning and significance?
 - What is the most life-giving thing about believing in and following Jesus for you right now?
- John is clear that Jesus did many other signs that are not in this book (30). He only included what he did in order to introduce us to the person of Jesus and the life that is in Him, trusting that we will continue to learn and grow through our own personal relationship with Jesus.
 - Where do you feel that you most need or want to grow deeper in your knowledge of Jesus?
 - Where do you feel that you need or want to grow in actively living-out the truths you're learning about Jesus?
- In light of the truth of this week's passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

PRAYING FROM THIS PASSAGE

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **PRAISE**:

→

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **CONFESSION**:

→

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **GRIEVING**:

→

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **THANKSGIVING**:

→

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **ASKING**:

→

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **INTERCESSION**:

→

**PRAYER REQUESTS - THIS WEEK, I AM SPECIFICALLY
PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

DATE:

JOHN 21:1-25

SERMON NOTES:

**THIS WEEK, THROUGH HIS WORD BY HIS SPIRIT, GOD IS
SHOWING/TEACHING ME:**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

God at work...

- How did you see God, in big or small ways, at work in your heart, your life, and the world around you this week?

Grasping the passage...

- In your own words, how would you sum up the main point(s) of this passage in 1 or 2 sentences? (Think: "what is this saying about God, what is it saying about people, what it is saying about or demanding of me?")
 - Were there any commands, corrections, or encouragements that struck you? Why?
 - Was there anything that confused you?

Living it out...

- Here at the end of our study of the Gospel of John, what are some of the most impactful things God has taught you through this book?
 - Has anything changed or grown in your understanding of the character of God?
 - Did anything specifically strike you in a new way about who Jesus is and what He cares about?
- A major focus of John is the "sent-ness" of Jesus from the Father and the "sent-ness" of the disciples from Jesus.

- What have you learned or thought freshly about the mission for which Jesus was sent into the world?
- What have you learned or thought freshly about the mission for which Jesus has sent His Church into the world?

- Jesus' call to His disciples remains the same now in His resurrection and departure as it was at the beginning of His ministry: "Follow me" (**19, 22**). Through your study of John, what is your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus?
 - How have you been challenged and/or encouraged in what it means for you personally to start, continue, or grow in following Jesus?

- Read **v.25**. The depth and magnitude of Jesus' life, teaching, and accomplishment for us are inexhaustible!
 - How has your study of John stoked curiosity or hunger to learn and experience more of who Jesus is?
 - What questions do you want to explore further? What concepts do you want to study deeper?
 - What ways of experiencing God are you excited to pursue?

- In light of the truth of this week's passage, what next step is God calling you to? Is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing? Be specific, and set action steps in place.

PRAYING FROM THIS PASSAGE

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **PRAISE**:

→

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **CONFESSION**:

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TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **GRIEVING**:

→

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→

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→

TURN SOMETHING FROM THIS PASSAGE INTO **INTERCESSION**:

→

**PRAYER REQUESTS - THIS WEEK, I AM SPECIFICALLY
PRAYING IN FAITH FOR:**

Special thanks to:

Beulah Alliance Church (Edmonton, AB), for inspiring the Prayer of Submission.

(beulah.ca/practices)

Practicing The Way, for inspiring the Prayer of Examen.

(practicingtheway.org)

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(Bibleproject.com/explore/video/how-to-read-gospel)

7 Arrows Bible Reading, for the 7 Arrows Bible Reading Method.

(sevenarrowsbible.com)

St. John's Anglican Church (Vancouver, BC), for the guidance in turning our passages into prayer.

(stjohnsvancouver.org)



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