

John's Gospel - A Study Guide

Introduction: The Invitation to Come and See

Welcome to a journey of discovery. This series began as a three-and-a-half-year exploration through the Gospel of John, originally shared with a church community to provide a steady, chapter-by-chapter encounter with the life of Christ. The intention was simple but profound: **to challenge the lifestyle in order to change the heart**, creating a spiritual thirst to know the truth in its fullness.

As you begin this devotional and study aid, you are invited to move beyond "hear-say" and intellectual investigation. Throughout these pages, you will find that **everything is spiritual**; our physical well-being and our spiritual well-being are inextricably intertwined. Whether you are seeking answers like Nicodemus in the quiet of the night or standing like the disciples on the shore of a confusing day, this guide is designed to help you find your security in the "I AM".

How to Use This Guide

This study is structured to lead you through the Gospel not just as a historical text, but as a living conversation. Each section includes:

- **The Scripture Path:** Focused readings from John to ground your heart in the Word.
- **Thematic Insights:** Reflections on the nature of Jesus—the Lamb of God, the True Vine, and the Bread of Life.
- **Reflection & Response:** Direct questions to help you "do business with God" on His ground.

A Note on Honesty

To get the most from this journey, you are encouraged to be **practically and honestly attentive**. When you encounter the searching questions of Jesus in these pages, respond with total honesty, knowing that God does not condemn us; He wants us to be "real" so that we can be effective for Him.

The Three-Fold Challenge

As you turn the page to Day 1, remember the promise Jesus laid down for every seeker:

- **ASK**, and it will be given.
- **SEEK**, and you will find.
- **KNOCK**, and it will be opened.

Don't just read about the Messiah—**come and see** for yourself. Let the "Voice in the Garden" call you by name and restore you to the life the Creator always intended for you.

Week 1: The Invitation

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This first week focuses on the transition from curiosity to commitment. It explores how Jesus identifies Himself and how we, in turn, find our own identity and purpose in Him.

Focus: Moving from intellectual curiosity to a personal encounter with Jesus.

Day 1: The Search for Identity

- **Core Reading:** [Part 1: Who are you? \(John 1:19-51\)](#).
- **Theme:** Like John the Baptist, we must find our voice in the "wilderness of life" to prepare the way for others. John understood that unless the heart is changed, the life remains the same.
- **Reflection:** In the "wilderness" of your current life circumstances, can you hear a spiritual voice calling you to "make straight the path" for God?. When asked "Who are you?", can you give an answer that points to a spiritual truth rather than just your social role?.

Day 2: Behold the Lamb

- **Core Reading:** [Part 2: Behold the Lamb \(John 1:19-51\)](#).
- **Theme:** True mission is not saying "look at me," but pointing to Jesus as the one who takes away the sin of the world. Testimony is powerful when based on what we have personally witnessed.
- **Reflection:** Do the things you say and do create a thirst in others to follow Christ, or are they only interested in following you?. What have you seen and witnessed concerning Jesus lately?.

Day 3: What Do You Seek?

- **Core Reading:** [Part 3: What do you seek? \(John 1:19-51\)](#).
- **Theme:** Discipleship begins by engaging Jesus in conversation and asking, "Where are you staying?". We move from being disciples of a "good man" to being disciples of Jesus through personal revelation.
- **Reflection:** Are you willing to move from being a disciple of a man to becoming a disciple of Jesus through personal revelation?. Are you willing to spend the necessary time to find out the truth for yourself?.

Day 4: The Power of "Come and See"

- **Core Reading:** [Part 4: Come and See \(John 1:19-51\)](#).
- **Theme:** Philip didn't argue with skepticism; he simply offered a walk toward the truth. Faith is a deep sense of knowing in the heart that compels us to follow Christ.

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- **Reflection:** Instead of trying to "bash" people into the kingdom, are you walking with your friends and encouraging them to "come and see" for themselves?.

Day 5: The Nicodemus Experience

- **Core Reading:** [Part 7: The Nicodemus Experience \(John 3\)](#).
 - **Theme:** Spiritual awakening happens when we move beyond intellectual statements to a spiritual cry for truth.
 - **Reflection:** Does your "intelligent investigation" of God motivate you to quietly and bravely stand up for Him in your daily life?. Are you willing to say, "I must decrease so that Jesus can increase" in my life?.
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Week 2: Miracles and Revelation

This week focuses on how Jesus manifests His glory through everyday needs and impossible situations, revealing Himself as the source of all supply and the Lord over life and death.

Focus: Seeing God's glory manifested in everyday needs and desperate situations.

Day 1: Turning Water into Wine

- **Core Reading:** [Part 5: They have no wine \(John 2\)](#).
- **Theme:** Mary demonstrated that even when resources run out—your joy, energy, or hope—pointing to Jesus is the ultimate solution.
- **Reflection:** When your "wine" runs out, to whom or where do you turn first?. Are you willing to say to others, "Whatever He says, do it"?

Day 2: Fill the Water Pots

- **Core Reading:** [Part 6: Has your wine run out? \(John 2\)](#).
- **Theme:** We must be "soaked" in the Word (filled water pots) so that we have something for Jesus to turn into wine for others.
- **Reflection:** Are your water pots filled and ready to be drawn from, or are you trying to share from an empty vessel?.

Day 3: From Blindness to Sight

- **Core Reading:** [Parts 16a-16d: Seeing Jesus \(John 9\)](#). (See also [Part 16c](#) and [Part 16d](#)).

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- **Theme:** Our challenges often exist so that "the works of God should be made manifest" in us. Faith is the action we take after Jesus engages us.
- **Reflection:** Now that your eyes have been opened, is your response one of public worship and declaration?. Are you obedient enough to see the miracle through?.

Day 4: The Timing of Lazarus

- **Core Reading:** [Parts 18a-18b: Raising Lazarus \(John 11\)](#) (see also [Part 18b](#)).
- **Theme:** Jesus waits to show that death has no power in God, reminding us that his timing is of absolute importance.
- **Reflection:** Are you putting obstacles in the way of God moving you toward a place of "great change and great blessing"?.

Day 5: Abandoning Control

- **Core Reading:** [Parts 18a-18b: Raising Lazarus \(John 11\)](#) (see also [Part 18b](#)).
- **Theme:** Martha sought answers for her loss, while Mary fell at Jesus' feet in a state of "hid with Christ in God".
- **Reflection:** Are you still trying to control your life circumstances, or have you abandoned control to His omnipotence?.

Week 3: The Nature of Jesus

This week focuses on the "I AM" statements of Jesus, helping readers understand His divine identity and the security we find when we align our lives with His nature.

Focus: Understanding the "I AM" statements as the foundation of our spiritual security.

Day 1: The Bread of Life

- **Core Reading:** [Part 12: Where is the food? \(John 6\)](#).
- **Theme:** Following Jesus is not for physical gain, but for life transformation for God's glory. Jesus takes our insignificance and turns it into a resource to sustain others.
- **Reflection:** Are you following for what you can get, or are you willing to recognize that all you have is from God alone for the benefit of others?.

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Day 2: The Truth that Sets Free

- **Core Reading:** [Parts 15a-15b: The Truth that Sets Free \(John 8\)](#). (See also [Part 15b](#)).
- **Theme:** Freedom is found by "continuing in the Word" and yielding ourselves as instruments of righteousness.
- **Reflection:** Are you making daily choices to yield to God so that you can live in the truth that has set you free?.

Day 3: The Door and the Shepherd

- **Core Reading:** [Parts 17a-17b: The Door and the Shepherd \(John 10\)](#). (See also [Part 17b](#)).
- **Theme:** The "sheepfold" is a place of sanctuary and abundant life in the present moment, not just for the afterlife.
- **Reflection:** Have you entered through the "Door" (Jesus) to find your security, or are you still trying to scramble into the fold by some other means?.

Day 4: The True Vine

- **Core Reading:** [Part 22a: The True Vine \(John 15\)](#). (See also [Part 22b](#)).
- **Theme:** Abiding is not about striving; it is about remaining indistinguishably joined to the root so His life flows through us.
- **Reflection:** Do you recognize the "pruning" in your life as the Father's way of making you fit for a higher purpose?.

Day 5: The Way to the Father

- **Core Reading:** [Part 21a: The Way to the Father \(John 14\)](#). (See also [Part 21b](#)).
- **Theme:** Jesus is the only access to the Father, revealing the steadfastness and reliability of the "I AM".
- **Reflection:** Do you believe that the completeness of God is interested in the "insignificance" of you?.

Week 4: The Path of Discipleship

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This final week explores the practical, often challenging reality of living as a follower of Christ, focusing on servant leadership, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the restoration found in a personal relationship with Jesus.

Focus: Living out the call to love, serve, and testify through the power of the Spirit.

Day 1: Servant Leadership

- **Core Reading:** [Part 20a: Commitment \(John 13\)](#).
- **Theme:** Christianity is about service, not ritual; we must allow Jesus to wash the areas of our lives that touch the world.
- **Reflection:** Are you in a place of submission where you allow Jesus to perform his acts of service on you?.

Day 2: The Cost of Commitment

- **Core Reading:** [Part 20b: Betrayal \(John 13\)](#) (see also [Part 23a John 16](#)).
- **Theme:** Laying down our life involves giving up all rights to ourselves and accepting that life is first and foremost spiritual.
- **Reflection:** Can you honestly say you are ready to follow Jesus "now," or do you need the indwelling power of the Helper to do so?.

Day 3: The Gift of the Paraclete

- **Core Reading:** [Part 23a: The Gift of the Paraclete \(John 16\)](#). (See also [Part 23b](#)).
- **Theme:** The Holy Spirit is "the one who comes alongside" to restore us to the place of completeness intended at creation.
- **Reflection:** Are you operating in your own strength, or are you relying on the "Spirit of truth" to convict and guide you?.

Day 4: Joy Fulfilled

- **Core Reading:** [Part 24a: Joy Fulfilled \(John 17\)](#). (See also [Part 24b](#)).
- **Theme:** Jesus' prayer for his disciples is that we would be kept in the Father's name and have His joy fulfilled in us.
- **Reflection:** Do you know God and Jesus well enough to experience a "joy unspeakable" even when the world is hostile?.

Day 5: The Shoreline of Experience

- **Core Reading:** [Part 28: The Shoreline of Experience \(John 21\)](#).

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- **Theme:** Even when we feel "lost and rudderless" and return to our "day jobs," Jesus meets us on the shore to provide a fresh vision.
 - **Reflection:** When you encounter Jesus on the shores of your experience, do you answer his questions honestly and act obediently?.
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Final Challenge: Ask, Seek, Knock

Our journey through the Gospel of John has led us from the wilderness of the Jordan to the empty tomb and the shores of Galilee. We have seen Jesus as the Lamb of God, the Great "I AM," and the Voice in the Garden calling us by name. But this journey does not end here. To find Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life is a continuous pursuit.

To move forward, you are invited to take up the three-fold challenge Jesus laid down for every seeker:

- **ASK and it will be given:** Do not be afraid to be honest with God about your needs. Like the disciples on the shore who honestly admitted they had no food, we must ask for what we lack. **Keep asking God for a fresh revelation of Himself**, and He will not disappoint you.
- **SEEK and you will find:** Be like Nicodemus, who was not content with intellectual theories but sought out the truth for himself. **Seek out the "I AM"** in your daily life, looking for the spiritual reality behind your natural circumstances.
- **KNOCK and it will be opened:** Faith requires action; it is not just a sense of knowing in the head, but a deep conviction in the heart that compels us to move. When you hear the "Voice in the Garden" or see Jesus on the shoreline of your experience, **be prepared to act obediently to His requests**.

A Final Reflection

As you close this book, let these three questions remain in your heart:

1. Have you sought this man, Jesus, with all your honest questions?
2. When He finds you in your need, will you point Him out to others in the crowd?
3. When you encounter Him in your daily work, will you answer Him honestly and act obediently?

May God bless you and give you hope as you find your permanent security in Him.