

## **John's Gospel** [\(3\) Gospel of John Summary: A Complete Animated Overview \(Part 1\) - YouTube](#)

We have a very different telling of the story from the three synoptics. Lots of sevens as this close friend of Jesus (most likely John of James and John, but possibly John the Elder). We see this person as within Jesus' inmost circle and called the disciple whom Jesus loved. There are only 7 miracles highlighted in the gospel, but with allusions to many kidsmore. The discourse in chapters 13-18 give us a very detailed picture of Jesus last days with his disciples with lots of last minute input important last scenes. It also contains a very detailed description of the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit. And the post-resurrection restoration of Peter is a true picture of the compassionate heart of God. A different way of looking to Jesus, well worth in-depth study.

### **Chapter 1 - verses 1-18**

In this opening chapter John immediately gives us the feel of his understanding of Jesus, and parallels the Bible's opening verse, making sure we understand Jesus' participation in the creation. And rather than include any sense of his nativity, we are drawn in to understand his eternity (verse 14) and his inclusion of ordinary men to assist him in introducing the Kingdom of God from a whole new perspective.

1. Verses 1-3 - What parallels does John paint for us here as he ties Old and New Testament together?
2. Verses 6-8 - What role does John the Baptist play in God's plan for bringing Jesus to our world?
3. Verses 9-13 - What does John see as the world's varying reactions to Jesus' coming?
4. Verses 14-18 - How is the goodness of God revealed in Jesus' coming?

### **Chapter 1 - Verses 19-34**

John wants us to understand more about John the Baptist and then the relationship between the two cousins, John and Jesus. In this section we get to see interaction between the Baptist and some Pharisees as well as having some of his understanding of Jesus.

1. Verses 19-23 - What do you learn about John the Baptist's understanding of his own role concerning Jesus?
2. Verses 24-31 - What more do we learn about John's understanding of who Jesus is and the purpose of his own baptisms?
3. Verses 32-34 - John keeps revealing more about Jesus. What two significant facts are revealed to us here and why are they important?
4. What is the particular significance of John referring to Jesus as the Chosen one?

### **Chapter 1 - verses 35-51**

John begins to give us a feel of what Jesus' ministry might look like as he shares how some of the earliest disciples are chosen. It is significant to pay attention to the type of men he chose

and his ministry style of informal interaction, yet marked with declarative action, changing names and speaking prophetic revelation.

#### Chapter 1 - Verses 37-52

1. Verses 37-39 - What do you learn about Jesus in these few verses?
2. Verses 40-42 - What do we learn about "testifying" in these 3 verses?
3. Verses 43-46 - What do we learn about sharing gospel truth here?
4. Verses 47-52 - What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

In chapter 2 we see Jesus perform the first of his miracles (signs) at the wedding feast in Cana, which leads his disciples to "believe in him and then returning to Capernaum. From there he decides to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem and antagonizes the Jewish leaders by cleansing the Temple as a demonstration of his authority.

#### Chapter 2 Verses 1-12

As we watch Jesus interacting with different people we learn more about how he deals with introducing himself in words and actions, here with his mother and attendees and servants at a wedding.

1. Verses 1-5 - What do you learn about Jesus in this interaction with his mother?
2. Verses 6-10 - What lessons can you derive by seeing what happens in this passage?
3. Verses 11-12 - What do you learn about signs and wonders and their significance?
4. Recall a situation where you either witnessed or were told about a miraculous sign. How does that impact your understanding of God and how you relate to him?

#### Chapter 2 verses 13-25

In this section we learn more about how Jesus will relate to the traditions of Jewish practice which he will be continually challenging and see how he is not afraid to speak and behave in ways that would be considered offensive. He is also giving strong hints about his total objective in ministry. Question 4 would be good for each team member to consider.

1. Verses 13-17 - How do you see Jesus when you read these 5 verses?
2. Verses 18-22 - What do you learn about Jesus and his interactions with people here?
3. Verses 23-25 - How do you feel about what these verses tell us and why?
4. Trusting the truth of verse 25, prayerfully ask Holy Spirit if there is anything "in you" that is keeping you from trusting him fully.

#### Chapter 3 Verses 1-21

This is the longest one on one interaction Jesus has with a Jewish leader and again we gain wisdom and understanding how he deals with questioners. It is important to note this interaction took place at night, probably so Nicodemus could meet with Jesus so as not to be seen.

1. Verses 1-4 - What do we learn about how Jesus interacts with interested questioners?
2. Verses 5-8 - What insights do you gain from Jesus' answer to Nicodemus' question?

3. Verses 9-16 - What means does Jesus use here to help inform Nicodemus?
4. Verses 17-21 - What important lessons does Jesus share in this section, particularly regarding judgment?

### **Chapter 3 Verses 22-36**

We again have John the Baptist share more about his understanding of Jesus. He also fills us in more regarding his role in preparing the way for Messiah.

1. Verses 22-26 - What is the significance of John's baptism versus being baptized as a follower of Jesus. And why are John's disciples concerned about Jesus baptizing?
2. Verses 27-30 - How does John see himself with respect to Jesus and his ministry?
3. Verses 31-36 - What does John tell us about the differing roles within the Trinity?
4. Verse 36 - What are some ways we can communicate the truths of this verse to folks who aren't saved and even perhaps adversarial to the gospel?

### **Chapter 4 Verses 1-15**

The bulk of chapter 4 is a dialog between Jesus and a Samaritan woman (identified as Photini by Eastern Orthodox tradition. She is considered to be the first evangelist and was elevated as a saint). This is the longest personal interaction recorded between Jesus and a single person in the gospels. We should pay attention to how he interacted with her and consider the outcome.

1. Verses 1-6 - We should consider why he felt the need to leave Judea and why the need to go through Samaria.
2. Verses 7-9 - How does this interaction begin and what makes it unusual? Are there any prejudices that would limit you from associating with certain individuals or groups?
3. Verses 10-12 - How does Jesus keep the discussion going? What is the result?
4. Verses 13-15 - How might you use a similar technique as Jesus to keep the interest of an enquirer?

### **Chapter 4 Verses 16-30**

Jesus continues his dialog with this woman, speaking to her prophetically regarding her life, (don't make assumptions about her here) then progressing to speak about worship and ultimately to a full revelation of his identity.

1. Verses 16-18 - How does Jesus use his gift to open up the discussion further? How might you do the same in speaking with an unbeliever?
2. Verses 19 - 22 - Perhaps uncomfortable with the topic she appeals to her heritage of worship. What do we learn about the location of worship and its meaning?
3. Verses 23-24 - What does Jesus reveal to us here about worship and the Trinity?
4. Verses 25-26 - What do we learn about Jesus and people's perception of Him in these verses?

## **Chapter 4 Verses 27-42**

The disciples return to witness this interaction with the woman and Jesus turns it into a teaching moment with them. And the impact of the woman's testimony becomes obvious as many townspeople (Samaritans!!) respond by asking him to stay longer and become believers in Him.

1. Verses 27-30 - Why do you think the disciples were reluctant to ask Jesus about his interaction with this woman? Does her reaction to Jesus surprise you?
2. Verses 31-34 - What understanding do you gain from his discussion regarding food with his disciples?
3. Verses 35 - 38 - How does Jesus describe the task of evangelism and how does it apply to us?
4. Verses 39-42 - What further lessons do we learn regarding reaching others with the gospel and its impact in these verses?

## **Chapter 4 Verses 43-54**

Jesus returns to Galilee and a royal official (most likely from Rome and not a Jew) seeks him out on behalf of his son. Jesus challenges him and yet the man persists and acts on faith, with the end result of a family coming to trust in Jesus.

1. Verses 43-45 - What point do you believe Jesus is making by returning to Galilee?
2. Verses 46-48 - What assumptions are people making about Jesus through his ministry thus far?
3. Verses 49-52 - According to these verses what is one of the best ways for us to demonstrate faith?
4. Verses 53-54 - From this passage what do we come to understand about signs and miracles?

## **Chapter 5 Verses 1-15**

At the start of chapter 5, Jesus performs another "sign" by healing a crippled man at the pool of Bethesda and then again challenges the Torah traditions applied to Sabbath rest. We see the mix of reactions to his ministry, some very positive attracting more followers and strong negativity leading some religious officials to finding reasons to accuse him of blasphemy.

1. Verses 1-6 - What do we learn about Jesus' approach to praying for the sick?
2. Verses 7-8 - What more do we learn about how Jesus prays for healing?
3. Verses 9-11 - What do we come to understand about Jesus' thinking regarding restrictive religious traditions? Do we have similar limitations in our day?
4. Verses 12- 15 - We learn more about Jesus following up after ministry. How can we apply this when we minister to people?

## **Chapter 5 Verses 16-30**

In this section Jesus again shows his disapproval of religious interpretations of the Torah. Mercy trumps judgment. And we understand more about his view of himself within the Trinity and his dependence on the Father's leading. There is strong teaching about obedience and following him as believers here as well?

1. Verses 16-18 - Why would Jesus make such claims when it seems he is only provoking the religious leaders?
2. Verses 19-23 - What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with the Father in these few verses?
3. Verses 24-27 - There are some key points here to understanding Jesus' saving work. Describe what you see and feel here.
4. Verses 28-30 - What do we learn about Jesus' sense of self worth here and how might that apply to us?

## **Chapter 5 Verses 31-47**

Here Jesus goes back a bit to remind his hearers of his relationship with John the Baptist and their differing roles within God's plan. He then calls us to understand that relationship with him is the key to understanding the full gospel and not a mere dependence on Scripture. He also challenges his hearers to consider why they believe what they believe.

1. Verses 31-35 - Why do you think Jesus once again focuses on the role of John the Baptist here?
2. Verses 36-40 - What makes Jesus' testimony more important and why is that even an issue?
3. Verses 41-44 - What do you understand as the importance of the glory of the Father from what Jesus says here?
4. Verses 45-47 - What do you understand about the importance of Old Testament truth from this portion?

## **Chapter 6 Verses 1-15**

Jesus decides to get away from the busyness his ministry is attracting perhaps to have a more intimate setting with his disciples, only to find great crowds are now following them, mostly due to the healing signs they are witnessing. Here on a secluded mountainside, he performs another type of miracle, again showing people evidence of who he really is.

1. Verses 1-6 - Jesus spends some time with his disciples but again asks a challenging question. What is his purpose in "testing" them? Have you ever felt tested by Him, and if so how did you respond?
2. Verses 7-10 - We feel the helplessness the disciples are experiencing in these verses. While the number of men is given, the crowd size could easily been 3 or 4 times

bigger counting women and children. Do you think Andrew has any idea what might happen when he asks his question?

3. Verses 11-13 - Describe how you think this miracle unfolded and why Jesus has them gather the leftovers. What messages is he communicating here?
4. Verses 14-15 - What conclusions are people drawing concerning Jesus' identity (See Deut. 18:15 and 18) and why would they want to make him King?

### **Chapter 6 Verses 16-29**

Here again we have Jesus demonstrating his dependence on the power of the Spirit, miraculously walking across the storm driven lake, arousing questions among the many who gathered to hear him. Jesus turns that into an important teaching moment by emphasizing what should always motivate us in following Him (vs. 27).

1. Verses 16-21 - Jesus continues to reveal aspects of his character. What do we learn about him in these verses?
2. Verses 22-24 - How do we see the crowd reacting and what observations are influencing their responses? How do you find yourself responding to Jesus' words and actions in prayer situations?
3. Verses 25-27 - How does Jesus use his response to their question to further reveal his heart and purpose?
4. Verses 28-29 - How do you understand Jesus' response to their question. What do you believe is his full meaning?

### **Chapter 6 Verses 30-42**

Again we see the crowds asking for signs with Jesus responding in a way indicating that he represents the single most important sign, declaring he is the bread of life and the son of the one true God, thus clearly implying that he is one with God and the arbiter of eternal life.

1. Verses 30-33 - In typical fashion, Jesus gives a fresh understanding to Old Testament revelation. What is he showing them (and us) here?
2. Verses 34-37 - What is Jesus further revealing about His mission and purpose in these verses?
3. Verses 38-40 - An important Kingdom principle is revealed here. How does it speak regarding us in our situations?
4. Verses 41-42 - Are there times when we react as the Jews did here, wondering about the truths spoken by Jesus? If so, how should we deal with those doubts?

### **Chapter 6 Verses 43-59**

Jesus continues to challenge his listeners with very different understandings of who God is and who he is, even declaring again that eternal life is totally dependent on faith and trust in him.

Some of what he says causes many to turn away as they completely misunderstand his meaning.

1. Verses 43-46 - What is Jesus telling us about the Father's roles in salvation?
2. Verses 47-51 - What do you come to understand about Jesus in these verses?
3. Verses 52-56 - How does what Jesus says here influence how you understand the practice of communion?
4. Verses 57-59 - What would Jesus have us believe about our "life" in these verses?

### **Chapter 6 Verses 60-71**

Finishing this very hard teaching, we see Jesus further challenging his followers and particularly his disciples to see what their response will be. We learn more about his self understanding and his purpose, and Peter makes a revealing declaration. And we find out about the traitor in their midst.

1. Verses 60-63 - How does Jesus respond to the crowd's negative response to this teaching? And how do you react to his statement that the flesh counts for nothing?
2. Verses 64-65 - What more do we learn about how the Godhead is involved in our salvation?
3. Verses 66-69 - How does Jesus react to people leaving him after this message and why is Peter's response important for us to consider?
4. Verses 70-71 - What insight does Jesus reveal here and what do you feel that reveals to us about him and his mission?

### **Chapter 7 Verses 1-24**

After changing his mind about going to attend the gathering celebrating the Feast of the Tabernacles, we learn more about people's reaction to his ministry as well as an explanation of his healing ministry, even on the Sabbath.

1. Verses 1-8 - Up to now Jesus has ministered in fairly rural areas, avoiding big cities. Discuss why he felt it important to keep his ministry secret.
2. Verses 9-13 - To what can we attribute the confusion in people's opinion of Him?
3. Verses 14-19 - What rationale does Jesus use here to verify his teaching and authority?
4. Verses 20-24 - How is Jesus using scripture to defend the legality of his actions on the Sabbath?

### **Chapter 7 Verses 25-36**

Jesus uses this more public setting to reveal more about himself, his message and his objective, but many in this crowd are confused by rumors and false assumptions. We begin to see more of how he uses parabolic speech to veil his messages which only become clear to those who are truly following him.

1. Verses 25-27 - Mixed messages are being circulated concerning Jesus. How can we clarify mixed messages when we hear them in our day?
2. Verses 28-31 - What truths concerning his identity does Jesus reveal in veiled fashion here?
3. Verses 32-34 - In spite of his detractors' efforts Jesus continues sharing about what is to come. What is he revealing here (again in veiled fashion)?
4. Verses 35-36 - People are making assumptions about his meanings. What source might they have used to clarify his statements (similar to us)?

### **Chapter 7 Verses 37-52**

Jesus gives us a first insight to understanding the Holy Spirit here which leads to greater confusion among the crowds regarding his identity and purpose. We also get some details regarding his detractors' reasons for trying to get rid of him. It becomes obvious that no one has diligently researched his origins and therefore have reached wrong conclusions about who he really is.

1. Verses 37-39 - What insights do we gain here about the Holy Spirit and His role? Note the interpretation variant in your passage footnotes.
2. Verses 40-44 - How could this mistaken identity problem have been solved for them? How willing are you to investigate seeming contradictions regarding Him?
3. Verses 45-49 - Why is the rationale used by the Pharisees here faulty and how would you address it given the chance?
4. Verses 50-52 - Should Nicodemus be written off so quickly here? How would you respond to his comments?

### **Chapter 8 Verses 1-11 (Actually 7:53-8:11)**

This particular passage, as noted in your Bible footnotes, does not appear in the earliest manuscripts of John's gospel and it appears in several other locations (following John 7:36, John 21:25 and in some Luke manuscripts after 21:38 or following 24:53). Regardless of where it appears, it definitely has the look and feel of a Jesus interaction and so we will consider it canonical for study purposes.

1. Verses 1-4 - What do we learn about Jesus and his methods of teaching here?
2. Verses 5-6 - What do we understand about the teachers of the Law and Pharisees here and how do we understand Jesus' initial response? (See Deut. 22:22)
3. Verses 7-9 - What insight does Jesus offer us here with regard to judging others?
4. Verses 10-11 - How do you feel about Jesus' response to the woman and the inclusion of this "floating" pericope in your New Testament?



## **Chapter 8 Verses 12-20**

Jesus continues his teaching which challenges the religious leaders and their religious practices. Here again He speaks of the Father in ways which are considered blasphemous but as we learn, nothing comes of it since the time of his sacrifice has not yet come.

1. Verses 12-13 - Jesus gives us another way of identifying him but is challenged because he is speaking on his own behalf. Is there reason for the Pharisees to trust his testimony at this point?
2. Verses 14-16 - What do we learn regarding Jesus' origin and his understanding of his mission?
3. Verses 17-18 - What means does Jesus use to defend his testimony about himself and how do you think you would have reacted to his defense?
4. Verses 19-20 - What is Jesus stating about himself to these naysayers as well as how he sees them?

## **Chapter 8 Verses 21-33**

Jesus continues his interaction with the Pharisees, challenging them again regarding their beliefs and traditions He then gives them several veiled statements about his origin, his mission and his ultimate purpose. There is as well a clear statement regarding what happens when people believe his teaching,

1. Verses 21-23 - What truths do we discover regarding Jesus in what he says here?
2. Verses 24-26 - Jesus unfolds more about himself here/ What speaks to you most?
3. Verses 27-30 - What do you understand to be the obstacle keeping these leaders from understanding what Jesus is telling them?
4. Verses 31-33 - Many are in search of "freedom". What is the difference in what Jesus is offering here?

## **Chapter 8 Verses 34-47**

There are several important truths regarding the influence of the powers of darkness in this section. We can get insight in dealing with those issues from how Jesus answers the leaders' reaction to what he has to say to them. Be looking and listening for those as you reflect on what Jesus teaches here.

1. Verses 34-38 - Why does Jesus choose to focus on sin in these verses and what conclusions is he attempting to draw them to?
2. Verses 39-41 - What is the point of Jesus comparing their belief to that of Abraham and why is that important?
3. Verses 42-44 - What conclusions can we draw from Jesus' statements here regarding the influence of darkness in "believer's" lives?
4. Verses 45-47 - What important spiritual lesson do we learn from Jesus here?

## **Chapter 8 Verses 48-59**

Jesus' discussion with the religious leaders takes an ugly turn here as they label him with insults particularly hateful in their culture. Jesus however, ignores the name calling and continues to maintain his emphasis of the purpose of his mission, namely bringing people into relationship with the Father, leading to everlasting life. The section closes with his most definitive statement regarding his true identity.

1. Verses 48-51 - How does Jesus turn these insults around in his response to their name calling?
2. Verses 52-53 - What false assumptions are the leaders making here and what do you understand to be the real truth?
3. Verses 54-56 - What do you understand Jesus to mean in what he states in verse 56?
4. Verses 57-59 - Why is what Jesus says here so significant that they considered it worthy of a death sentence? (See Exodus 3:14)

## **Chapter 9 Verses 1-16**

Here we see Jesus continuing to teach both in word and by demonstration. In this case healing a man born blind. To perform this miracle was one which was considered to be a sure sign of the true Messiah (Mishnaic law), but we can see from the reaction of the leaders and others in the crowd, again Jesus is instead considered a law breaker.

1. Verses 1-3 - What does Jesus' answer to their question tell us about the source of sickness and disease?
2. Verses 4-7 - What do we learn about the "how to's" of ministering healing from what Jesus does here?
3. Verses 8-11 - Why do you think there is so much confusion here about what actually happened with this man?
4. Verses 12-16 - What do we learn here about Jesus' understanding of Sabbath regulations?

## **Chapter 9 Verses 17-34**

The controversy continues regarding this miracle of a man born blind receiving his sight. The religious leaders go to great lengths attempting to discredit both the miracle giver and the miracle receiver. The man who now sees tries to turn the tables back on them suggesting they might consider becoming disciples of Jesus too.

1. Verses 17-19 - What do we learn about the Pharisees' mindset by these questions they are asking?
2. Verses 20-23 - What do we learn here about the dangers of a religious spirit?
3. Verses 24-29 - What is the significance of the leaders' appeal to following Moses?

4. Verses 30-34 - How would you invalidate the responses of the leaders to this man?

### **Chapter 9 Verses 35-41**

Jesus wraps up his time with the healed blind man inviting him into true belief and then very poignantly speaks a word challenging the Pharisees regarding their resistance to believing Him to be who He says He is.

1. Verse 35 - What do you understand to be the significance of Jesus referring to himself as the Son of Man? (See Daniel 7:13-14)
2. Verses 36-38 - What is this man's understanding of Jesus' declaration?
3. Verses 39-40 - How do the Pharisees understand Jesus' rather cryptic statement about sight and blindness?
4. Verse 41 - How do you understand what type of "seeing" Jesus is referring to here and how does it infer guilt not being dealt with?

### **Chapter 10 Verses 1-10**

Jesus begins here an explanation of his role in taking care of the flock, which is a veiled reference to the church, those who will be following him as believers. He is using the analogy of a shepherd caring for his sheep, a poignant illustration, perhaps foreshadowing our need for constant oversight and direction.

1. Verses 1-2 - Who might you consider a thief and a robber in his story?
2. Verse 3 - Who might the gatekeeper be and how does this verse speak to our relationship with Jesus?
3. Verses 4-6 - With Jesus leading them (us) who might the strangers be and how should that speak to the Pharisees?
4. Verses 7-10 - Who might Jesus be referring to as those who came before and how should we understand the thief spoken of in verse 10?

### **Chapter 10 Verses 11-21**

Jesus continues his analogy of shepherding sheep. If you study these animals you'll quickly discover that they are not very smart and regularly get themselves in all kinds of messes, often requiring outside assistance to rescue them. Hmmm. Maybe that's enough about that, but aren't you grateful we have such a great Shepherd (Psalm 23)?

1. Verses 11-13 - What's the difference between the good shepherd and the hireling, and who does the hireling represent?
2. Verses 14-16 - Jesus speaks of two sheep pens. Of whom is he speaking and how does he plan to bring them together?

3. Verses 17-18 - What events is Jesus alluding to here and why is he so intent on them happening?
4. Verses 19-21 - On what basis are the crowds reaching these conclusions and how can they perceive real truth?

### **Chapter 10 Verses 22-30**

Questions about who Jesus is continue to arise wherever he goes, mostly people wondering if he is the Messiah. It should be noted that for many the Messiah was not just a spiritual leader but also a political one, mostly seen as one who would take charge and free Israel from the oppressions of Roman rule. That understanding mixed with a variety of Old Testament prophetic misunderstandings show up in this passage.

1. Verses 22-24 - In what ways has Jesus already made clear his identity as the Son of God? (See especially Chapter 8, verses 56 and 58).
2. Verses 25-26 - In what ways is Jesus demonstrating his Messiahship and what is the major obstacle to people believing Him?
3. Verses 27-28 - What does Jesus say are characteristic of those who believe in him and what is the result of their belief?
4. Verses 29-30 - What truth do we gain regarding the Godhead and why is it important to us?

### **Chapter 10 Verses 31-42**

The continuing misunderstanding regarding Jesus, his ministry, role and identity comes to the forefront with the assertion that his claims should lead to his death. Jesus continues to maintain, however, that they should determine his veracity based on the evidence demonstrated by his miraculous works. The field is still divided as this passage reveals, some believing and some wanting him gone for good. (For more info on question 2, watch Divine Council and Spiritual Beings videos on Bible Project.)

1. Verses 31-33 - Why would the crowd consider his words more condemning than His actions. Is this a misunderstanding of Messiahship?
2. Verses 34-36 - Here Jesus references Psalm 82:6-7. What is your understanding of this reference to “gods”, especially given the way the Psalm describes them as “sons of the most High”?
3. Verses 37-39 - Does this claim of Jesus to believe on the basis of his “works” possibly influence how we share the gospel through testimonies of signs and miracles?
4. Verses 40-42 - What has caused some in the crowd to shift in their thinking?

### **Chapter 11 Verses 1-16**

We come to a passage which reflects an important turning point in how the people and leaders perceive Jesus, the resurrection Lazarus. It's important to see in these early verses how Jesus

responds to what might be considered as a crisis situation. We should pay attention to his words and the course of action he chooses.

1. Verses 1-4 - Given the sense of a potential crisis looming, how do you best explain Jesus' actions?
2. Verses 5-8 - The disciples cannot understand why Jesus is taking this course of action. What is their greatest concern?
3. Verses 9-11 - Jesus uses these moments to do some teaching. What lessons do we derive from his interaction here?
4. Verses 12-16 - Again the disciples are confused. Do you think Jesus is trying to give a kingdom perspective on death here? And why is Thomas drawing such a wrong conclusion?

### **Chapter 11 Verses 17-27**

Jesus now travels back to Bethany to the home of Mary and Martha. He first encounters Martha who has come out to greet him and we get a taste of the grieving household and how their understanding of who Jesus really is has impacted their faith.

1. Verses 17-20 - How does the passage of time reflect on what has happened?
2. Verses 21-22 - What do you believe is implied by Martha's response?
3. Verses 23-24 - How is Martha's understanding of resurrection impacting her thinking?
4. Verses 25-27 - What is Jesus' point here and do you think it is helping Martha's understanding?

### **Chapter 11 Verses 28-37**

Now the scene shifts as Mary comes into the picture and we see her reaction to the death of her brother which has also caused other witnesses to raise questions about who Jesus really is. Without more evidence it seems they will question whether He can actually be the Messiah.

1. Verses 28-30 - Why has Jesus waited outside the village?
2. Verses 31-32 - Mary reacts in similar fashion to her sister. What assumption has she made about how Jesus might have handled the situation?
3. Verses 33-34 - What do we learn about the nature and character of Jesus here?
4. Verses 35-37 - Why do you suppose Jesus is expressing emotion here?

### **Chapter 11 Verses 38-45**

The situation intensifies as Jesus makes it clear he intends to open the grave. He does so with great certainty and we should notice him saying in verse 41, I thank you that you have heard me, a strong indicator he has been praying about this situation already (probably the reason

there is no evidence of bodily decay when Lazarus steps out). And the miracle serves as further evidence He is who they have been waiting for.

1. Verses 38-39 - Do you think Martha's declaration exhibits a lack of faith on her part, given her earlier declaration?
2. Verses 40-41 - How would you react to Jesus statement here. How do you perceive the glory of God?
3. Verses 42-43 - In light of what Jesus says in verse 42, what do you personally consider as proof that the Father sent Jesus?
4. Verses 44-45 - Placing yourself in this story, watching it unfold, how do you react both mentally and emotionally to this story?

### **Chapter 11 Verses 46-57**

After raising Lazarus the feelings for and against Jesus have raised to critical levels. Interestingly, one of the high priests ends up speaking prophetically about Jesus and that leads to the determination that Jesus must be killed. Jesus the wisely withdraws from public view and waits for the right opportunities to be seen again.

1. Verses 46-48 - What do you see as the consequences of blending the political and religious spirits here and what does it look like in our nation?
2. Verses 49-53 - How can we explain the high priest speaking this prophetic word concerning Jesus?
3. Verses 54-55 - What might we see as the significance of Jesus choosing to be near the wilderness?
4. Verses 56-57 - What do you see as the significance of the Passover feast being the backdrop to the imminent arrest of Jesus?

### **Chapter 12 Verses 1-8**

As the Passover feast draws near, Jesus travels to be closer to Jerusalem. Jesus stays in Bethany again and we learn some more details about what is happening with the disciples. And there is a very meaningful interaction between Lazarus' sister Mary and Jesus.

1. Verses 1-2 - Imagine for a moment having Jesus come to dinner and chat a bit about what that might have felt like. What would you want to talk about?
2. Verse 3 - The value of this offering was great, what do you think inspired this gift to him?
3. Verses 4-6 - What do you think about this revelation concerning Judas and why he wasn't corrected?
4. Verses 7-8 - Jesus shifts the meaning of Mary's offering, referencing his coming death. How does verse 8 touch your feelings for him?

## **Chapter 12 Verses 9-19**

We come to understand both political and religious strategies for and against Jesus as Passover approaches. The chief priests have determined they want to be rid of him altogether and now are adding Lazarus to the list because his resurrection has added so much understanding to who Jesus really is. And then crowds begin thinking of him as a new king coming to free them from Roman oppression.

1. Verses 9-11 - What is the motivation the religious leaders are using to defend their decision to kill Jesus and Lazarus and how do you think they can justify this given the teachings of the Torah?
2. Verses 12-13 - What meanings can we derive from the response of the crowds to Jesus coming into the city?
3. Verses 14-16 - What significance can be associated with Jesus' actions here, given that John chooses to refer us back to a passage from Zechariah (9:9) and how does this speak to the disciples after the fact?
4. Verses 17-19 - How is the popularity of Jesus now beginning to influence further the religious leaders and what actions might they take?

## **Chapter 12 Verses 20-29**

As even more people are expressing interest in Jesus, including some foreigners, Jesus reveals some additional meaning to all that is happening and expresses that all is happening according to God's plan, which is verified by a supernatural revelation from heaven. Interestingly, the message is not fully perceived by those in the crowd.

1. Verses 20-22 - What do you perceive to be the significance of this request by the Greeks?
2. Verses 23-25 - As you read these verses unpack the meaning of what Jesus is truly saying.
3. Verses 26-27 - How is Jesus further revealing what is unfolding and how he truly feels about it? How do you react to what Jesus says?
4. Verses 28-29 - What is your reaction to how God responds to what Jesus asks and why do you think there is confusion in the crowd?

## **Chapter 12 Verses 30-36**

Jesus continues explaining to the crowd what is going to unfold but in ways they feel is contradictory to what they know, thus again questioning his identity. Jesus further explains the difference between walking in darkness and light and what will result from belief in the light.

1. Verses 30-32 - What do we learn here regarding the meaning of Jesus dying and its effect on culture and humanity?

2. Verses 33-34 - Jesus has revealed his manner of death. Why does that leave the crowd in a state of confusion? See Daniel 7:13-14.
3. Verse 35 - How does Jesus help us here to understand the operation of the two kingdoms?
4. Verses 36 - What lesson does Jesus give us here regarding faith?

### **Chapter 12 Verses 37-50**

As we come to the end of chapter 12, Jesus has continued to show his power, but John explains why many continue to question him based on several prophecies from Isaiah. And the chapter ends with explanations as to why some are not believing him and then Jesus clarifies the intent of his message and emphasizes again the plan of salvation has its source in the Father and it is his words which must ultimately be heeded.

1. Verses 37-41 - How do you understand these particular passages from Isaiah and how do they make you feel?
2. Verses 42- 43 - Can you apply Jesus' teaching about new wineskins (Luke 5:37-39) to this passage to help us understand it better? Do you hear reasons why people won't believe in Jesus?
3. Verses 44-46 - What do we learn about a deeper meaning resulting from believing in Jesus?
4. Verses 47-50 - What do we learn here further about what the Father's role is in the salvation experience and our relationship with Jesus?

### **Chapter 13 Verses 1-16**

This is a fairly well known passage as Jesus prepares to share his last meal with the disciples and in this case it is Passover. But before they recline to eat together Jesus models what true servanthood looks like as he washes the disciple's feet for them.

1. Verses 1-2 - What important aspects of Jesus' character and nature do we learn in these two verses?
2. Verses 3-5 - What do you understand to be the true significance of Jesus' actions here?
3. Verses 6-9 - What do we learn about Peter's understanding of Jesus in these few verses?
4. Verses 10-17 - What critically important lessons do we learn about our need for obedience in what Jesus says here?

### **Chapter 13 Verses 18-30**

In this section describing the imminent betrayal of Judas, Jesus reveal that he knows what is coming and actually reveals to John (see verse 23) who the actual betrayer will be. And we see the extent of Judas' actions as the text tells us Satan "entered" him. The rest of the disciples have no idea what is actually happening.



1. Verses 18-20 - What more do we understand about how Jesus sees this betrayal and why do you feel he adds his comments in verse 20?
2. Verses 21-24 - Do you think the disciples had any idea who it might be and why might Peter think John should ask? (Assuming John is the disciple whom Jesus loved).
3. Verses 25-27 - Is there particular significance in the way Jesus chooses to reveal Judas?
4. Verses 28-30 - If you were there do you think you find it peculiar that Judas was leaving during their mealtime and what do you think about the excuses given in the text?

### **Chapter 13 Verses 31-38**

In a few short verses, Jesus packs in some heavy theology, gives what he considers a new command to them, again predicts his coming death and then shocks Peter by predicting that he will deny him.

1. Verses 31-32 - Do your best to unpack the full meaning of what Jesus says here so it can be more simply understood.
2. Verses 33 - Why is Jesus so adamant about stating they can't go where he is going?
3. Verses 34-35 - What is different about this command that makes it new?
4. Verses 36-38 - In typical Peter fashion we hear words from him that don't actually fit the situation and he receives a heavy word from Jesus? How do you react to it?

### **Chapter 14 Verses 1-14**

This chapter begins the final long discourse between Jesus and the disciples. Since he knows his death is imminent, he gives some of the most important teaching in this gospel up through what is called the high priestly prayer in chapter 17. We will probably slow our progress slightly here to enable us to full unpack how to apply these truths in our own lives and in our lives together as a church family.

1. Verses 1-4 - What sort of feelings do you experience as you read these 4 verses and what do you learn about Jesus and your future.
2. Verses 5-7 - What do you come to understand about one of Jesus' roles in the Trinity?
3. Verses 8-10 - What further do we learn about the nature of the Trinity and its intrinsic relationships?
4. Verses 11-14 - What do you come to understand about the benefits of your relationship with Jesus and how are you living those out?

### **Chapter 14 Verses 15-30**

Throughout this passage we have Jesus speaking about his leaving. But he begins a very descriptive discourse regarding the Holy Spirit, here referred to as an Advocate for us. Pay

close attention to the ways he is committed to help us, keeping in mind he is always available. So we can ask for help as often as needed..

1. Verses 15-17 - What important characteristic of Holy Spirit is a take away from these verses and how does that impact your life?
2. Verses 18-19 - In what ways does Jesus come to us and in what ways do we see him?
3. Verses 20-21 - What do you understand the commands of Jesus to be so you can seek help to keep them?
4. Verses 22-23 - What assurance do we have that we are “home” with the Father and the Son?

### **Chapter 14 Verses 24-31**

Jesus finishes this piece of his farewell address with some assurances for his followers before again emphasizing his fulfilling of his mission through a final confrontation with the enemy. Even so, he wants them to know it all fits within God’s purposes.

1. Verse 24 - Why does Jesus feel a need to stress the source of what He is saying and how does that speak to you?
2. Verses 25-26 - What aspect role of Holy Spirit is emphasized here and why is that important to us?
3. Verse 27 - What is the importance of knowing and experiencing the source of peace in our lives?
4. Verses 28-31 - Hearing these words must have resulted in mixed emotions within the hearers. How do you feel about each of the revelations he shares here?

### **Chapter 15 Verses 1-8**

In this famous Jesus’ pericope, it will do us good to focus on the word “remain”, an extremely important aspect of our maintaining growth in our walk with him. And hear his repeated promise that he is always hearing our prayers and requests with the full intent of responding to us. There is much in these next few sections for us to absorb and revisit often, especially when we encounter difficult situations, opposition and attacks of darkness in our lives.

1. Verses 1-2 - What is the purpose of “pruning” and what does that look like in your walk with the Lord?
2. Verses 3-4 - The word remain appears 4 times in verse 4. What does remaining involve and how do you practice it?
3. Verses 5-6 - What does bearing fruit look like for you and what do you think helps us grow in that capacity?
4. Verses 7-8 - What are the full implications of Jesus’ promise in verse 7 and how do you see that working out for you?

### **Chapter 15 verses 9-17**

Jesus takes the notion of remaining in Him and expands it to greater application for us, by challenging us to consider how love should characterize our relationships and what that love can look like. He then goes on to repeat his promise not only to hear us, but that the Father will act on our behalf.

1. Verses 9-10 - When Jesus speaks of his commands here, which ones come first to mind for you and in what ways are you “keeping” them?
2. Verses 11-13 - What does laying down your life for a friend look like to you and if you can, share an example.
3. Verses 14-15 - Understanding Jesus as our friend has important implications for us. How has that shown up in your walk with him?
4. Verses 16-17 - Jesus here repeats a weighty promise. Are there times when you question how that applies to you?

### **Chapter 15 Verses 18-27**

As chapter 15 winds down, we come to understand there is a cost of following Jesus, since the gospel message is so contrary to the worldliness in which we find ourselves. The message of repenting and turning away from sin is not understood as good news by many since it asks them to give up what are perceived as pleasurable lifestyles. This is just Jesus reminding us that to fully understand the good news, we must deal with the bad news first.

1. Verses 18-19 - What do you understand him to mean by “belonging to the world”?
2. Verses 20-21 - How would you describe persecution in our day and how do you deal with it when it occurs?
3. Verses 22-25 - How does Jesus relate miracles to conviction of sin, and do you see evidence of today?
4. Verses 26-27 - In what ways do you see the Holy Spirit testifying about Jesus?

### **Chapter 16 Verses 1-11**

Chapter 16 introduces much more information regarding the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants his followers to understand that his imminent death is necessary to fulfill his purpose and preface the release of the “promise of the Father”. Tests of their faithfulness will prepare them for all they have yet to accomplish in expanding the good news mission.

1. Verses 1-3 - Jesus questions whether certain individuals actually have a relationship with the Father. How is that possible given who his audience is at this point?
2. Verses 4-6 - There is confusion and misunderstanding about his comments regarding his leaving. Why do you suppose no one is asking about where he is going?
3. Verse 7 - How do you think those in the crowd may have understood his comments in this verse. Would they have understood what he meant by “advocate”?

4. Verses 8-11 - What was wrong about people's understanding of sin, righteousness and judgment and how do we understand the Spirit's role in bringing these to light?

### **Chapter 16 Verses 12-18**

In this section, Jesus continues to unpack more of the many roles Holy Spirit fulfills and then adds some additional confusion to his listeners by describing when his leaving will take place. We need to remember as we read these portions we have the advantage of knowing what actually happened, so we shouldn't be quick to judge their misunderstandings.

1. Verses 12-13 - What do we learn concerning the Holy Spirit's influence in these two verses?
2. Verses 14-15 - How do these verses explain the unique relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit and how does that impact you?
3. Verse 16 - Why do you suppose Jesus is being quite so cryptic in what he seems to be revealing here?
4. Verses 17-18 - When we have questions about biblical meaning, do we have a tendency to wrestle amongst ourselves as the disciples? What might be a better option?

### **Chapter 16 Verses 19-24**

In speaking mysteriously about his soon departure, Jesus now further delineates what will change once he is no longer around in Person. And he makes some astounding promises which will result because of his leaving.

1. Verses 19-20 - What do we learn concerning Jesus' leaving here and its possible emotional impact on his followers?
2. Verse 21 - What's the purpose in Jesus using an analogy of a woman's childbirth experience here?
3. Verse 22 - How do you think the disciples would have interpreted what Jesus is referencing in this verse?
4. Verses 23-24 - How are we to apply the truths Jesus speaks of here in how we make requests when we pray?

### **Chapter 16 Verses 25-33**

Jesus continues to teach in this passage about how prayer can be addressed to the Father, further emphasizing the love of the Father for us. One wonders if their declaration of understanding is really true or if it's more a reflection of them beginning to put some puzzle pieces together. Jesus ends this teaching with some disturbing predictions for them, but follows those with a very reassuring promise.

1. Verses 25-26 - How does Jesus want us to understand the relationships within the trinity, in this case particularly between him and the Father?
2. Verses 27- 28 - What does Jesus want us to understand here as he describes the end result of his impending death?
3. Verses 29-30 - Is this a true moment of clarity for the disciples or are they assuming too much in their response?
4. Verses 31-33 - How do you think the disciples would have understood what Jesus tells them here about their abandonment of him and further regarding other coming troubles?

### **Chapter 17 Verses 1-5**

Here we come to the longest single prayer of Jesus recorded in scripture. Since we have an opportunity to learn more about praying the way Jesus prayed, we will slow our progress slightly through this chapter so we can slowly absorb what he says and pay close attention to what he is praying and for whom.

1. Verse 1 - What do you understand Jesus to mean in asking the Father to glorify him and then for Jesus to glorify the Father?
2. Verse 2 - What can you unpack from this verse about the relational interaction between Father and Son in the trinity?
3. Verse 3 - Describe your understanding of what it means to “have” eternal life and how that influences how you live.
4. Verses 4-5 - As Jesus says he is finishing the work he has been given, what do you understand that to mean?

### **Chapter 17 Verses 6-10**

In this portion Jesus focusses on his disciples and yet we also get a sense that all believers are in his mind as well. We need to listen carefully to what he is asking and how the unity within the Trinity is emphasized repeatedly. Holy Spirit, teach us to pray with the heart of Jesus.

1. Verses 6-7 - What do we come to understand about the relationship between the Father and the Son here.
2. Verse 8 - What evidence is there that showed Jesus what he says that “they knew with certainty” he was sent by the Father?
3. Verse 9 - How do we see the humility of Jesus revealed in what he prays here?
4. Verse 10 - What do you think Jesus has in mind when he says glory has come to him through them? Can you cite examples and how may that apply to us?

### **Chapter 17 Verses 11-13**

Jesus continues praying for the disciples asking for protection for them, hinting at the future struggles they will face. He also mentions the fate of Judas being the fulfillment of prophecy. He goes on to explain where their joy will be coming from.

1. Verse 11 - Can you think of other Scriptures that speak of the protection which the Names of God provide?
2. Verse 11 - What is one of the main sources of unity among believers which Jesus reveals here? How does that work?
3. Verse 12 - Does the doctrine of God's foreknowledge help you understand what happened with Judas? Discuss if you can.
4. Verse 13 - What does this verse say about where our joy should originate and how lasting it can be?

### **Chapter 17 Verses 14-19**

Jesus begins focusing on what will be coming next for them in his absence. Now he wants them to see the need to continue growing in their dependence on him, especially as they face the challenges of bringing the Kingdom to a less than receptive world.

1. Verse 14 - What do we learn here regarding the challenges we face in disciple making and how might we overcome them?
2. Verses 15-16 - What is the key tactic we learn here to overcome the powers of darkness?
3. Verse 17 - What are some of the specific ways we can apply this teaching in our lives?
4. Verses 18-19 - Since the purpose here is kingdom growth, what further can we do to grow spiritually?

### **Chapter 17 Verses 20-23**

In this closing section of his prayer Jesus now prays specifically for future believers, including us. For anyone familiar with his teachings and his ways, it should not be surprising his two main requests are for love and unity to be major influences in our lives and ministries.

1. Verses 20-21 - What is the chief ingredient in our walk of faith that should bring us into more unified relationships with other believers?
2. Verse 22 - Beside our unity how would you describe the glory which Jesus has given to us and how is it revealed?
3. Verse 23 - How is the unity in the Trinity supposed to impact our unity and how is that playing out?
4. Verse 23 - Can you describe how the world can best be impacted by what Jesus says here?

### **Chapter 17 Verses 24-26**

Jesus closes his prayer for the believing church by committing to bring his glory into clear view and provide full assistance to revealing the goodness of the Father to the world. He will also continually empower us with his love as he resides within us.

1. Verse 24 - What sort of future is Jesus praying for us to experience?
2. Verse 25 - How is the world to understand that Jesus was sent by the Father?
3. Verse 26 - Jesus again promises ongoing support for believers. What is promised here?
4. All group members - Full chapter - Reflect on the most dramatic ways this prayer has impacted you, especially knowing it was prayed by the Son of God?

### **Chapter 18 Verses 1-11**

Since we have finished with his prayer, we will pick up our pace a bit. After praying, Jesus and his disciples crossed the Kidron Valley to Gethsemane, where the events of his final night on earth continue to unfold. The Synoptics add more detail here but John brings us quickly to the scene of Judas' betrayal. Again, we should pay close attention to these familiar scenes to see and hear what the Spirit would have us learn.

1. Verses 1-3 - What can we learn from these details about the nature of Judas' betrayal?
2. Verses 4-6 - Why do you think Jesus asks who it is they want and what might their reaction reveal about Jesus?
3. Verses 7-9 - How might we explain the leaders' decision to freely release the rest of the disciples?
4. Verses 10-11 - Putting yourself in Peter's place, how do you think you would have reacted and then how does Jesus' word here impact you emotionally?

### **Chapter 18 Verses 12-24**

The night continues to unfold as Jesus is taken away to the place of the high priest. It is quite significant to realize all that happens next is well outside of acceptable Jewish practice. All of it is occurring well after sundown and so all that transpires is against the law of the Torah. Yet the leaders are so anxious to be done with Jesus they seem comfortable to get it done as quickly as possible.

1. Verses 12-14 - What do you understand to be the importance of involving the Jewish high priest in Jesus' arrest?
2. Verses 15-17 - Peter is turned away at the door of the high priest's house initially, but after being allowed in, when asked, he denies being a disciple. What might his motives be here?
3. Verses 18-21 - Putting yourself in Jesus' place, why do you think he answered in the way he did?
4. Verses 22-24 - As we see the animosity deepen further, Jesus remains resilient, so what can be the explanation for him being sent to Caiaphas? Remembering that there are actually two high priests involved, also a violation of Torah.

### **Chapter 18 Verses 25-35**

As the evening continues we first hear Peter denying the Lord for the third time and then Jesus is brought before Pilate, the Roman governor for further interrogation. This leads to quickly to a confrontation with the Jewish crowd about how Jesus should be punished for his “crimes”.

1. Verses 25-27 - Putting yourself in Peter's place for a moment, what sort of thoughts and emotions may he have been experiencing?
2. Verses 28-29 - How are the Jewish leaders manipulating the situation so they might maintain their ability to celebrate Passover without “breaking the Law”?
3. Verses 30-32 - Why are the leaders bringing Jesus before Pilate and what does this say about their motivations?
4. Verses 33-36 - What do we learn here about the politics of this “trial” and questioning and how does Jesus' response about the Kingdom speak to you?

### **Chapter 18 Verses 37- 40**

Pilate continues to struggle, trying to understand what to do in this situation, especially since he is convinced Jesus had done nothing worthy of a death sentence. But he is also aware of the potential for some sort of uprising occurring, so he keeps on trying to keep the peace.

1. Verse 37 - How does Jesus react to being dubbed a king and what does that response tell us about him?
2. Verse 38 - How is Pilate trying to deflect responsibility for this situation?
3. Verses 39-40 - Again trying not to further inflame this conflict, what method does Pilate use and how does that affect how you feel?
4. Verse 39 - Have you ever been in a situation where you tried to shift blame and how did that end up working out?

### **Chapter 19 Verses 1-7**

Pilate as a shrewd political leader wants to rid himself of the potential fallout of having Jesus killed and so continues his struggle with the religious leaders and their followers who have become aware of the situation. The back and forth intensifies as this mock trial continues.

1. Verses 1-3 - What feelings and reactions rise up in you as you read these three verses and how does that reflect on how you perceive Jesus?
2. Verse 4 - What do you understand to be Pilate's motivation here?
3. Verses 5-6 - Do you feel Pilate is seeking to play to the crowd's emotion here? And then how are the leaders trying to get their way?
4. Verses 6-7 - As Pilate tries once more to reject their request, the leaders use a new tactic to respond. Why do you feel this might have a stronger impact?

### **Chapter 19 Verses 8-12**



Feeling increasingly uncomfortable with where these interactions are headed, Pilate asks Jesus for more information about his background, then reaching the conclusion it would be best to let him go. But the religious leaders now point out the political dangers in such a choice.

1. Verses 8-9 - Why would knowing more about Jesus' origin make any difference for Pilate?
2. Verses 10-11 - How does exerting political power in this situation potentially change things?
3. Verse 11 - What point is Jesus making in his response and how might that influence Pilate?
4. Verse 12 - As Pilate attempts to free Jesus, what tactic is used here to change his mind?

### **Chapter 19 Verses 13-18**

The political versus spiritual struggle reaches its dramatic conclusion as Pilate relents and Jesus is given over to be crucified.

1. Verses 13-14 - What do you suppose was going on in Pilate's thinking as he says, "Here is your king."
2. Verse 15 - How do you react to the answer of the chief priests and more importantly does that answer seem consistent with their faith?
3. Verses 16-17 - What do these two verses show us about the relationship between the political and spiritual leadership?
4. Verse 18 - Putting yourself into this scene, how do you feel yourself reacting as you think and consider what's going on?

### **Chapter 19 Verses 19-27**

In these few verses we get more details about what is happening with the people involved in the crucifixion as well as who some of the eyewitnesses were.

1. Verses 19-22 - Why do you suppose Pilate has this notice prepared the way he did?
2. Verses 23-24 - What do you sense going on here with respect to the sovereignty of God and these soldiers?
3. Verse 25 - What do you sense is the significance of the presence of these four women?
4. Verses 26-27 - What do we learn about Jesus in what he does here and how does that speak to you?

