

*Hope Today*  
*January – April 2022*

## **Daily Study**

**for Program Series**



# **discovering Jesus**

*a study of The Gospel of John*

**Week 4: January 24-30**

The following series of daily readings, questions, and prayers have been designed by Pastor Tom Cullen to lead up to the program for the coming week. There are five daily studies for each week. Allow about 20 minutes a day to complete each one.

A video that will take you deeper into the text is available at [lightnlife.ca](http://lightnlife.ca)

Program Schedule  
*Discovering Jesus*

January 30 - Discovering Jesus in a conversation with a  
Pharisee (John 3:1-21)

February 6 - Discovering Jesus the thirst quencher (John 4:1-26)

February 13 - Discovering Jesus the miracle worker (John 5:1-  
18)

February 20 - Discovering Jesus at a great feast (John 7:37-39)

February 27 - Discovering Jesus with eyes wide open (John 9)

March 6 - Discovering Jesus the good shepherd (John  
10:11-21)

March 13 - Discovering Jesus at a funeral (John 11:1-16)

March 20 - Discovering Jesus in a parade (John 12:12-19)

March 27 - Discovering Jesus in an act of service  
(John 13:1-17)

*More to come ....*

Hope Today Winter/Spring 2022

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## Program Series Study Guide

# discovering Jesus

*a study of The Gospel of John*

### *Monday*

As we study John 3 this week begin by reading the whole chapter at one time.

#### **Read**

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- ❖ John 3

#### **Study**

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1. Follow the progression of the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus. Note any recurring words, phrases, or themes. From these what is the central issue that Jesus is addressing?
  
2. Are there any concepts that you don't understand? Jot them down.

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3. Note the contrast in attitude between Nicodemus and John the Baptist. What do we learn about each? What do we learn about Jesus?

## **Reflect**

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- ❖ What did you learn in this chapter about God the Father?
- ❖ What did you learn in this chapter about God the Son?
- ❖ What did you learn in this chapter about God the Holy Spirit?
- ❖ Is there a promise from God for you to claim?
- ❖ Is there a command from God for you to follow?
- ❖ Is there an attitude in this passage for you to copy?

## Pray

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- ❖ Take time to pray to God with thanksgiving, confession and adoration.

## Memory Verse for the Week

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Choose one: John 3:16-18 OR John 3:30

## *Tuesday*

### Read

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- ❖ John 3:1-9

### Study

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1. What does Nicodemus say about Jesus in verse 2? Do you think there's a question behind his statement?
  
2. Notice how Jesus responds to Nicodemus in verse 3. Does the conversation sound disjointed to you? Read John 2:25 again.

What do you think Jesus knew about Nicodemus and his need? (remember Nicodemus is a Pharisee!)

3. What does Jesus say is a "must" for someone to enter the kingdom of God? Why do you think a new birth is needed and not just an adjustment in our thinking or living?

4. To what does Jesus compare the Spirit? What does this comparison teach us about being born of the Spirit?

## Notes

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- ❖ John 3:3,5 *Kingdom of God* Throughout Scripture there are two kingdoms spoken of. There is the kingdom of this world which is ruled by Satan and driven by selfishness and sin. There is also the kingdom of God which is ruled by God and driven by devotion to God and right living. We are naturally born into the kingdom of this world. To transfer our citizenship into the kingdom of God there needs to be a supernatural occurrence and a willing heart. (see *John 1:12,13; Romans 8:8,9*)
- ❖ John 3:8 *Wind ... Spirit* The Greek word for “wind” and “breath” is the same word for “spirit”, *pneuma*. The first sign of life a paramedic will look for is a person’s breath. Why? Because when the breath is gone so is life. So here, the wind of God and the Spirit of God are synonymous with God’s breath and hence with His life; it is a characteristic of those who are “born from above”; as a result they have life.

## **Reflect**

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Read Ezekiel 36:25-27 and consider how this promise is now realized with the coming of Christ? Has it been realized in your life?

## **Pray**

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- ❖ In Isaiah 55:8 we read, “ ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord.” Give thanks for this fact demonstrated in our text today.

## **Memory Verse for the Week**

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Choose one: John 3:16-18 OR John 3:30

### Read

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❖ John 3:10-15

### Study

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Jesus now shifts the emphasis a bit. He has been speaking of the need for new birth. Now He speaks of the need for belief, that is, the means for new birth to happen.

1. Who do you think the “we” is that Jesus refers to in verse 11?
2. What reason does Jesus give for Nicodemus’ lack of understanding? (*verses 11, 12*)
3. What authority does Jesus have to explain the new birth? (*verse 13*)
4. Read Numbers 21:4-9 to understand the background of Jesus’ words in verse 15.
  - A. Describe the plague.
  - B. What do the people ask of Moses?
  - C. How does God answer their prayer?



D. Was the answer what they wanted?

E. What did God require of everyone?

F. Did the people have to know how it worked in order to get new life?

5. What is the necessary response to the incident described in Numbers 21 and to Jesus?

6. What is being asked of Nicodemus? Are we being asked the same?

## **Reflect**

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Think about the whole idea of being “born again”. If you were just being introduced to Christianity and someone told you, “You must be born again” what would you think? What does it mean to you today?

## **Pray**

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- ❖ Give thanks for Jesus and His willingness to be “lifted up” so that we may be saved.

## Memory Verse for the Week

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Choose one: John 3:16-18 OR John 3:30

### Thursday

### Reading

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❖ John 3:16-21

### Study

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1. What has God done? Why?
2. What do we need to do in order to receive eternal life?
3. Describe the one who believes in the Son and the one who does not believe in the Son.
4. *"Not condemned."* (verse 18) This is the great news of the gospel! All who believe in Jesus Christ are not condemned even though our sins deserve eternal death. When we believe that Jesus died for us and took our condemnation we have salvation. Read John 5:24 and Romans 8:1 and give thanks.

5. Why don't people come to the light of our Lord? As you observe people around you, do you think this statement (verses 19-21) is true? Is it true of you?

## Reflect

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John 3:16 "is a glimpse into the heart of God. This is love that is stronger than death, the love that will not let me go, the love that many waters cannot quench, the love that suffers long and is kind, the love that never fails, the love that passes knowledge."<sup>1</sup> This is the love that God has for you.

## Pray

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- ❖ "Turn you eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face;  
and the things of earth  
will grow strangely dim,  
in the light of His glory and grace."

## Memory Verse for the Week

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Choose one: John 3:16-18 OR John 3:30

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<sup>1</sup> John Phillips, *Exploring the Gospels, John* (Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux Brothers, 1989), 73.

**Read**

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❖ John 3:22-36

**Study**

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1. What kind of person is John the Baptist? List the characteristics you see displayed in him.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is John's picture of the relationship between Israel and Jesus? (verse 29) Between Jesus and John?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is John's supreme joy? (verse 29)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Where does John say Jesus comes from? Who sent Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What has God placed in Jesus' hands?

6. How does verse 36 sum up all that we have read so far in this chapter? Does this add to your understanding of what it means to believe?

## Reflect

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- ❖ “The wrath of God” is a biblical phrase many people find difficult to understand, even though they can readily accept that God is love. Curiously, people seem to avoid admitting that wrath is more likely their due than love when their attitude toward the Creator is concerned.

When we speak of God’s wrath we are, of course, using a human term to describe a characteristic of God. It is hard to understand how a man can be angry and exercise wrath without vindictiveness and even hatred entering in. This is not so with God. Wrath is the reverse side of love. It is a way of describing a loving God’s hatred of sin and evil and disobedience and all that spoils the lives of those He loves ....

The wrath of God teaches us that God does not stand by and condone sin and injustice and evil in the world. <sup>2</sup>

## Pray

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- ❖ Pray the phrase “*He must become greater; I must become less*” back to God.

## Memory Verse for the Week

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Choose one: John 3:16-18 OR John 3:30

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<sup>2</sup> Gordon Bridger, *The Man from Outside* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1969) 40

# *Additional Notes*