

*Hope Today*  
*January – April 2022*

## **Daily Study**

**for Program Series**



# **discovering Jesus**

*a study of The Gospel of John*

**Week 7 : February 14 - 18**

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*

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

February 27 - Discovering Jesus with eyes wide open (John 8)

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)

April 3 - Discovering Jesus at Prayer (John 17:1-8)

April 10 - Discovering Jesus on Trial (John 18:28-40)

April 17 - Discovering Jesus in the resurrection  
(John 20:1-18)

April 24 - Discovering Jesus in second chances (John 21)

Hope Today Spring 2022

## Program Series Devotional Guide

# discovering Jesus

*a study of The Gospel of John*

***Monday***

### **Read**

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❖ John 7:1-24

### **Study**

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1. List all the opinions about Jesus:

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 4, 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 20 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Jesus say about Himself?

Who sent Him?

Whose words does He speak?

Given this, what authority do you believe Jesus has?

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3. What does Jesus call the people to do? (*verse 24*)

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## Notes

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❖ John 7:1 *the Jews* Throughout his gospel John refers to “the Jews”. This is not a derogatory word. It is not spit out of his mouth with hatred and bigotry toward Jewish people. If the gospel is read carefully we see that John uses the term to refer to a variety of people. D.A. Carson explains:

“Sometimes the expression is rather neutral, explaining a ritual for readers removed from Palestine (e.g. 2:6).

Elsewhere the expression bears decidedly positive overtones (“salvation is from the Jews”, 4:22; Jesus Himself is a Jew, 4:9). Some Jews believe (11:45; 12:11); others, unfortunately, seem to come to faith, and then turn away again (8:30 ff). In 7:1 the expression takes on geographical colouring: the people of Judea. Most commonly it refers to the Jewish leaders, especially those of Jerusalem and Judea (1:19), and usually they are cast as those who actively oppose Jesus, fail to understand Him, and who finally seek His death. Pre-eminently, they constitute the focal point of opposition to Jesus, the concretization of the “world”. Not all Jewish leaders, however, are presented negatively: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea fare much better (3:1ff; 7:50; 19:38-42).”<sup>1</sup>

## Reflect

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❖ In verses 4-9 Jesus has a conversation with His brothers about the proper time to go to the feast. Jesus makes the

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<sup>1</sup> D. A Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1991), 142.

assertion that for the brothers any time is right because they are not under the rule of God (verses 6,7). They are separate from God's divine appointments. How about you? Are you sensitive to God's timing? Are you rushing ahead of Him? Or are you keeping step with the Spirit? (see Galatians 5:25)

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### **Pray**

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- ❖ Ask God to rescue you from judging Him and the world by "*mere appearances*" (7:24). Pray that you would have spiritual insight.

### **Memory Verse for the Week**

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John 7:37,38

**Read**

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❖ John 7:25-31

**Study**

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1. There is much confusion surrounding the person of Jesus in these verses. How does Jesus speak of His identity? What does He say His identity has to do, if anything, with His hometown? His birthplace? With is relationship with God?

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2. In Verse 27 the people seem to have forgotten the prophecies that state that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. What happens when they latch onto a false premise?

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3. Verses 28 and 29 echo Jesus' words in 5:36-38. Compare the two portions of Scripture. What is Jesus saying about Himself?

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## Reflect

- ❖ “When the Jewish leaders heard our Lord teaching with such ability and authority, they were quite amazed. “How does this Man know so much? Where did He get His learning skills? He never studied in any of our schools! Is is self-taught! He is only giving His opinions, no the opinions of the rabbis or the schools!”

He is not offering people His opinions, nor the opinions of the schools, His source is greater than the schools, His teaching was given Him from the Father in heaven, and He was sent to impart it to the people. Christ’s wisdom was the wisdom of God! The Jews were more interested in Christ’s training than His teaching.

How can we be sure, and understand that Christ’s teaching is the truth? (See verse 17) <sup>2</sup>

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## Pray

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- ❖ It has been suggested that the Christian life can be summed up with the words “trust and obey.” We are to trust who God is and obey what God says. Pray that your trust would be deepened and your obedience broadened today.

## Memory Verse for the Week

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John 7:37,38

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<sup>2</sup> John Moore, *Plug into Power*, (Stouffville, Ontario: John Moore Evangelistic Ministries Association, 1996) Study number 23.

**Read**

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❖ John 7:32-36

**Study**

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1. The religious leaders of the day unite in their opposition to Jesus. They send officers of the temple to arrest him (verse 32). Jesus then speaks of going back to the one who sent him. Why do you think Jesus continues to emphasize the “one who sent” him? (verse 18,28,29,33)

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2. Jesus speaks of going where the religious leaders could not find him. Clearly their unbelief made it difficult for them to “find him” when he was physically present, it would make it impossible for them to find him when he returned on high. How does unbelief block people from “finding” Jesus?

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3. Skip ahead and read what happens in verses 45 and 46. Why didn't the officers arrest Jesus? They were sent to arrest him, but he arrested them. They were sent to lay hands on him, but he paralyzed them with the majesty of his speech. What was it in Jesus' words, do you think, that stunned them?

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## Reflect

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Jesus is unofficially on trial in this chapter. It is similar to the age in which we live. As it was at the time of Jesus, so in our day – people are deeply divided about what they think about Jesus. Some appear to be open, yet others are filled with cynicism and outright hostility. Notice Jesus' calm certainty in the midst of it all.

Gary Burge makes this point... “Nearly every commentator assumes that this passage recounts the conflicts of Jesus in order to encourage those who likewise experience trial and persecution... But there may be another message, a more difficult message, that we are reluctant to see... Can Christians become religious debaters? Can they ever oppose a new thing God may be doing? Are they genuinely affected by the sinful impulses that permeate the audiences of John 7?”<sup>3</sup> What do you think? How is it with you?

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## Pray

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- ❖ Consider what God is saying to you today, pray to him out of your study.

## Memory Verse for the Week

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John 7:37,38

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<sup>3</sup> Gary Burge, John, *The NIV Application Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2000) 232..

**Reading**

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❖ John 7:37-39

**Study**

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1. Read the note below on John 7:37. Given these facts how would you explain Jesus' words in John 7:37-38?

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❖ What are the two qualifications that Jesus gives for receiving this "water"? Does this help you understand verse 34 at all?

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3. Think of a stagnant pool and a flowing stream. What are the differences? How does this help you understand Jesus' description of the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life?

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**Reflect**

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❖ John 7:37 During each day of the feast of Tabernacles the priests would pour water onto the altar while a crowd would circle him and sing Psalms 113 -118. On the seventh day, the last day of the festival this event took place seven times. The ceremony spoke to people on several levels. On one level it was a plea to God to send rain. On another level it had rich spiritual symbolism.

- ❖ Gary Burge explains:  
“In the desert, God brought water from a rock (Numbers 20:8,10), and here water was flowing from the sacrificial rock altar of the temple. Zechariah and Ezekiel had visions of rivers flowing from the temple in a miraculous display of God’s blessing (Ezekiel 47:1; Zechariah 14:8). In a drought-stricken land, it was a spectacular vision of water, life-giving water flowing from God’s life-giving temple.”<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ John 7:38 The whole idea of God living in a believer is an awesome concept. Verse 39 tells us that it could not happen until Jesus was glorified – i.e. die on the cross and rise again. For a deeper understanding of this whole concept look ahead at John 14:16, 17 and 14:26. “The mystery of the Trinity is not easily understood, but the Bible declares that God the Father sent God the Son to deal with humanity’s sin problem on the cross, so that every one who believes might have God the Spirit dwelling in them.”<sup>5</sup>

## Pray

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- ❖ Consider Isaiah 55:1-2 and respond to God’s invitation in prayer.

## Memory Verse for the Week

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John 7:37,38

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<sup>4</sup> Gary Burge, John, *The NIV Application Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2000) 227.

<sup>5</sup> Gladys Hunt, *John: Eyewitness*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1971) 43.

**Read**

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❖ John 7:40-52

**Study**

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1. How do people respond to Jesus' words in verses 37,38?

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2. Notice that there are those who hinder the message of Jesus with an argumentative spirit and there are those who hated the message of Jesus Christ (verse 44). But there are those who defend the message of Jesus. What is the defense that is given? See verses 46, 51.

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3. How did you think Nicodemus felt in this moment? (verse 51)

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## Notes

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- ❖ The anger and opposition toward Jesus in this chapter is intense (it will only grow worse). But notice also how the message and person of Jesus is being *accepted*. It's like a mustard seed ... starting very small at first but growing with intensity as you read. The Pharisees and chief priests send officers to arrest him but they come back testifying to his complete otherness (verse 46). The Pharisees mockingly say, "Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?" (verse 48) And immediately one of their own, Nicodemus, stands up to defend him. The Gospel is powerful and is moving forward, don't despair.

## Reflect

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- ❖ Think of Nicodemus' defense of Jesus. How hard do you think that was for him to do this? Have you ever had to take a similar stand? If so, how did you experience God in the midst of it?

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## Pray

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- ❖ Ask God for the opportunity to speak a word of him today. Think of possible times to share your faith and ask God to give you the words, the attitude and the courage to speak plainly about your faith.

## Memory Verse for the Week

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John 7:37,38