

*Hope Today*  
*January – April 2022*

**Daily Study**

**for Program Series**



# discovering Jesus

*a study of The Gospel of John*

**Week 13: March 28 – April 1**

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*

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)

**Program Series Study Guide**

**discovering Jesus**  
*a study of The Gospel of John*

*Monday*

**Read**

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❖ John 15:1-17

**Study**

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1. Jesus paints a word picture of the relationship that exists between God, Himself, and His disciples. What role does each play?

Jesus = \_\_\_\_\_

God = \_\_\_\_\_

Disciple (you) = \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the relationship that exists between Jesus and His disciples?

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3. Describe the goal of the relationship. How will God help make it happen? What are we to do make it happen?

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**Reflect**

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❖ Is there anything in your life that needs “pruning”? What fruit do you see yourself bearing for Christ in the last number of weeks? (*See Galatians 5:22,23*)

**Pray**

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❖ Search me, O God, and know my heart today,  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray;  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.  
Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine;  
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine;  
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.

**Memory Verse for the Week**

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John 15:5

## Tuesday

### Read

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❖ John 15:18-16:4

### Study

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1. Jesus speaks of the “world” in this text. (*see note below*) Why do we not belong to the world? (*verse 19*) To whom do we belong now? What is the difference between a disciple of Christ and the world?

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2. We know that “sin” means to fall short of the mark. What additional thoughts does Jesus give us about sin? (*see verses 22-24*)

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3. In verses 26-27 Jesus gives us more insight into the person of the Holy Spirit. What do these verses teach us? (How will the Holy Spirit arrive? Who will send Him? What will He do?) What duty do we share with the Holy Spirit? Define, “testify”.

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4. What does Jesus warn the disciples about? Have you ever experienced this kind of persecution? What are some ways that you have experienced the world’s hatred? In the midst of that have you experienced the presence of Christ? How?

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**Notes**

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❖ John 15:17 *world* “... as commonly in John, refers to the created moral order in active rebellion against God. The ultimate evil (7:7). Christ’s followers will be hated by the same world, partly because they are associated with the one who is supremely hated, and partly because as they increase in the intimacy, love, obedience and fruitfulness

depicted in the preceding verses, they will have the same effect on the world as their Master. They, too, will appear alien. The world loves its own: this is not a sociological remark about inborn suspicion of strangers, but a moral condemnation. The world is a society of rebels, and therefore finds it hard to tolerate those who are in joyful allegiance to the king to whom all loyalty is due.”<sup>1</sup>

## Reflect

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❖ How do you testify about Jesus?

## Pray

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Ask God “*that whenever [you] open [your] mouth, words may be given [you] so that [you] will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel for which [you] are an ambassador.*” (Ephesians 6:19,20a)

## Memory Verse for the Week

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John 15:5

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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) 525.

**Read**

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❖ John 16:5-16

**Study**

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1. Why is it good for Jesus to “go away”?

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2. What will the Holy Spirit do in the world? (*verses 8-11*)

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3. What will the Holy Spirit do in the lives of the disciples?  
(*verses 13-15*)

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4. Do you know the voice of God (the Holy Spirit) when He speaks? How can you distinguish between God’s voice and your own personal desires?

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## Notes

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- ❖ John 16:5 If you have been carefully reading the text you will notice a contradiction here. We have heard Peter and Thomas ask Jesus, “*Where are you going?*” (13:36 and 14:5) yet Jesus says, “... *none of you asks me ‘Where are you going?’*” There are many theories to explain the contradiction, too many to explain here. If you are interested, D.A. Carson’s commentary outlines many of the theories. He offers his own solution and suggests that up to this point the disciples have not really been interested in where Jesus is going. It’s like a kid who is told by his dad he can’t make an expected baseball date and asks, “Aw, Dad, where are you going?” The boy doesn’t care about the destination. “The question is a protest; the unspoken question is “Why are you leaving me?” The disciples have been asking several questions of that sort; they have not really asked thoughtful questions about where Jesus is going and what it means for them. They have been too self-absorbed in their own loss. Moreover, the drift of all four Gospels assures us that none of the inner ring of disciples entertained the idea, before the cross, that the Messiah would simultaneously be conquering king, suffering, dying servant and resurrected Lord. So how much of Jesus’ talk about his departure to the Father did they understand at this point?”<sup>2</sup>

## Reflect

- ❖ Do these verses help you answer the often asked question? “How can I distinguish between God’s voice (the promptings of the Holy Spirit) and my own personal desires?” If so, how?

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<sup>2</sup> D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1991) 533.

## Pray

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❖ *A prayer of a young Ghanaian Christian:*

“On your last days on earth you promised to leave us the Holy Spirit as our present comforter.

We also know that your Holy Spirit blows over this earth. But we do not understand Him.

Many think He is only wind or a feeling.

Let Your Holy Spirit break into our lives. Let Him come like blood into our veins, so that we will be driven entirely by Your will.

Let your Spirit blow over wealthy Europe and America, so that men there will be humble.

Let Him blow over Africa, so that men here may understand what true freedom is.

There are a thousand voices and spirits in this world, but we want to hear only Your voice, and be open only to Your Spirit.”<sup>3</sup>

## Memory Verse for the Week

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John 15:5

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<sup>3</sup> George Appleton, (editor) *The Oxford Book of Prayer* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988) 153.

**Reading**

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❖ John 16:17-33

**Study**

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1. Trace the emotions that the disciples will experience at news of Jesus' death and resurrection. What will be the end final state of the disciples? (*verse 22*)

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2. What does Jesus teach His disciples about prayer? Why do disciples pray in Jesus' name?

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3. Do the disciples understand Jesus? What confidence does Jesus have in His disciples? (*See verses 13-15*)

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4. In what two environments will Jesus' disciples live? (*verse 33*) What is the foundation of our courage and hope?

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### **Reflect**

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- ❖ Think about the peace that Jesus offers. (see John 16:32,33; 14:27). Is this kind of peace yours? If not, how do you find it?

### **Pray**

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- ❖ Meditate on these words of the Psalmist, "*I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.*" (Psalm 4:8)

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

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John 15:5

**Read**

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❖ John 17:1-26

**Study**

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1. How does Jesus define eternal life? (*verse 3*) Is this different than what you usually think of eternal life?

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2. What do verses 1-5 tell you about the relationship that exists between Jesus and the Father?

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3. In verses 6 through 14 list all things that Jesus has already done for the disciples.

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4. What does Jesus ask the Father to do for His followers?

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5. Think of the relationship between Jesus' followers and the world. What is the world's attitude toward them? What is their relationship to the world? Where is Jesus sending us?

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## Notes

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- ❖ Verses 16-18 “God does not want us to be either holier-than-thou or worldier-than-thou. He wants us to be like Jesus, who came into the world to save the world. And this demands an attitude both of separation from the world in its sin, and identification with the world in its need. Without separation – the difference Christ makes – we have an audience but nothing to say. Without identification we have something to say but no audience.”<sup>4</sup>

## Reflect

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- ❖ How do you react to Jesus sending you into the world? Are you in the world but not of the world? How?

## Pray

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- ❖ Ask God to deepen your love for the world, even as He loves the world. (see *John 3:16*)

## Memory Verse for the Week

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John 15:5

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<sup>4</sup> Leighton Ford, *The Christian Persuader* (San Francisco: Harper and Row Publishers, 1976) 72.