

Hope Today
January – April 2022

Daily Study

for Program Series



discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Week 9: Feb. 28 – March 4

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

Program Schedule
Discovering Jesus

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 Winter/Spring 2022

Program Series Study Guide

discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Monday

Read

❖ John 9:1-7

Study

1. This miracle raises the whole issue of sin in connection with suffering. Do you agree with the disciples and assume that suffering is the result of sin? What does Jesus say?

2. Why do you think Jesus repeats the phrase, "*I am the light of the world,*" here? (see John 8:12) What point is He making?

3. Why do you think Jesus performed the miracle in this way?

Notes

- ❖ John 9:3 The NIV places the purpose clause at the start of this verse. As a result it sounds like this man was blind so that God could be glorified. It is possible, however, to place the purpose clause at the end of the verse so that it is applied to verse 4. We may translate it thus, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus. “But so that the work of God might be displayed in his life, we must do the work of him who sent me while it is still day.”¹
- ❖ John 9:7 the *Pool of Siloam* (this word means “sent”). John’s gospel is always working on two levels. There is the physical level that we can see and touch and feel. But there is always a deeper meaning to much of what is being said and done. On one level the Pool of Siloam is the source of fresh water for the man to wash. But on another level the man is told to wash in a place called “Sent”. Jesus is described as the one who has been “sent” by God (John 4:34; 5:23; 7:28; 8:26; 12:44; 14:24). “In other words, the blind man is being told to go wash in the place called ‘sent’, by the One who was ‘sent’ by God. Jesus, then, is the source of his healing, not the pool.”²

¹ Gary Burge, John, *The NIV Application Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2000), 272. See also G. Campbell Morgan, *The Gospel According to John* (Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company) 165.

² Gary Burge, *Ibid.*, 273.

Reflect

- ❖ The connection between sin and suffering can be difficult to wrestle with. In this text Jesus doesn't deny that there is a connection. Instead He has come to change the cause and hence the outcome. Consider Galatians 4:13 and 2 Corinthians 12:7 and the change Christ brings to our attitude toward suffering.

Pray

- ❖ Let your personal prayer grow out of your study today.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 10:14-15

Read

❖ John 9:8-34

Study

1. Describe the development of the healed man's thinking about Jesus:

Verse 11 _____

Verse 17 _____

Verse 25 _____

Verse 27-33 _____

2. Describe how the Pharisees refer to Jesus throughout this passage:

Verse 16 _____

Verse 24 _____

Verse 28 _____

Verse 29 _____

3. Review the steps of the man's reasoning in verses 30-33. Why do you think they responded to him in such a way? (verse 34)

Reflect

- ❖ Think of the simplicity of the healed man's testimony. What does it teach us about sharing our faith? Do you share the healed man's confidence in answering critics of the faith? If so, write out your testimony and pray for an opportunity to share with another today.

Pray

- ❖ Think of how God has worked in your life. Think of Jesus, "*the light of the world*" and how He has shed light in your life. Allow these thoughts to motivate your prayers.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 10:14-15

Read

❖ John 9:35-41

Study

1. Besides giving him sight, what does Jesus do for the man born blind?

2. Note the progress of the man's confession of Jesus Christ:

He was asked, (verse 35) "Do you believe

He replied (verse 36) "Who is He,

Jesus said, (verse 37)

The result (verse 38) "Lord,

3. Compare the attitudes of the healed man and the Pharisees toward Jesus. Who is in the light and who is in darkness? Who is blind and who is sightless?

4. John 1:14 says that Jesus was full of grace and truth. How does this passage illustrate that fact?

Note

- ❖ Verse 39 “The Light has also come as a symbol of judgment. This motif of light and judgment came out clearly earlier in 3:19-21. The Pharisees and the blind man have each stood in the light, and it has unmasked their spiritual dispositions.”³

Reflect

- ❖ What did you learn about Jesus from this study? Is there a promise from God that you should note? Is there an example for you to follow?

Pray

- ❖ Tell God about all you learned in the study today. Thank Him for His goodness to you. Ask Him to bless all your family members today.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 10:14-15

³ Gary Burge, *Ibid.*, 276.

Reading

❖ John 10:1-21

Study

1. In this picture Jesus paints three word pictures to help us understand who He is and our relationship to Him. All three word pictures are interconnected. In the first word picture list four things you learn about the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep (*verses 3-5*).

2. In the second word picture (*verses 7-10*) what does Jesus call Himself? How is Jesus like a gate? Compare Jesus' purpose as described in verse 10 to that of the thief.

3. What is Jesus' role in the third word picture (*verses 11-16*)? How does Jesus describe a good shepherd? Who are the sheep Jesus speaks of?

4. How are the other sheep integrated into Jesus' one flock? (See also Ephesians 2:13-18)

5. How do people react to what Jesus teaches?

Notes

- ❖ John 10:1-3 In the ancient world shepherds would create a sheep pen in the wilderness using dry sticks and such. They would leave an opening for the sheep to exit and enter. The shepherd himself would be the “door”, laying across an opening.
- ❖ John 10:11 I am the good (*kalos*) shepherd. The word *kalos* (good) suggests nobility or worth: the noble shepherd or the worthy shepherd. ... Jesus is not contrasting himself with temporal types, successful or otherwise, but with hired hands who have no real attachment to the sheep. Over against their self-interest, he is the noble shepherd.”⁴
- ❖ John 10:3-5, 16 Again, in the ancient world the shepherds had names for each of their sheep. Like our pets today (well, the smart ones anyway) the sheep would respond to the calling of their name by their shepherd. Thus, when two flocks intermingled each shepherd could sort out their flock by calling the names of their sheep.

Reflect

The story is told of D.L. Moody and his song leader Ira Sankey as they traveled across England to a revival campaign. Sankey was perusing a magazine when he discovered a poem that caught his fancy. He clipped it out and put it in his pocket, thinking that someday he would compose music for it and turn it into a hymn. That night Moody preached on Jesus as the good shepherd. When he was through, he turned to Sankey and asked him to come and sing something. Sankey

⁴ D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1991) 386.

remembered the poem he had put in his pocket that very day. He set it in front of him on his little portable organ and began to sing, making up the tune as he went along.

“But all thro’ the mountains, thunder-riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There arose a glad cry to the gate of heaven,
‘Rejoice! I have found my sheep!’
And the angels echoed around the throne,
‘Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own.’ ”

That hymn, “The Ninety and Nine,” became an immediate favorite.

“But none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed;
Nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed thro’,
Ere He found His sheep that was lost.”⁵

Pray

Reflect on how Jesus is your shepherd and the distance He has traveled and the obstacles He had to overcome to find you. Begin your prayer with praise.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 10:14-15

⁵ John Phillips, *Exploring The Gospel of John*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1989) 197-198.

Read

❖ John 10:22-42

Study

1. The people ask Jesus directly, “Are you the Christ?” Do you think they would have believed if Jesus had said, “Yes?” What evidence have they been given (*see verses 25,32,37,38*)? Why won’t they believe?

2. What are the two characteristics of Jesus’ “sheep” given in verse 27? What does Jesus promise them in verse 28?

3. According to verses 28 and 29 how can you be sure that you will “never perish”?

4. How true are the words of the people in verse 33? What should have been their response?

5. In verses 34-36 Jesus refers to Psalm 82:6. Here, judges of Israel acting as God’s representatives are called “gods”. How does Jesus respond to their criticism for saying, “I am the Son of God?”

Notes

- ❖ John 10:22 *Feast of Dedication* This feast is not found in Hebrew Scriptures. It is called Hanukkah in our day, the Feast of Lights, and is celebrated every December. The background to this feast is that in 167 B.C. the Syrians invaded Jerusalem and desecrated the temple. In 165 B.C. the Jews revolted, won the city back and cleansed the temple. The rededication lasted for eight days. And it was decreed that a similar celebration be held every year after. It would have strong patriotic as well as religious overtones. Think of a religious Canada Day.
- ❖ John 10:30 *one* The Greek word here is neuter and therefore does not imply that the Son and the Father are one person, but are a unity. They are one in action.
- ❖ John 10:34-36 Jesus is partly agreeing with the crowd's assessment, He does make himself equal with God. But the crowd is partly wrong, He is not creating a competing God.

Reflect

- ❖ Read Psalm 23.

Pray

- ❖ Pray Psalm 23 back to God.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 10:14-15