

Hope Today
January - April 2022

Daily Study

for Program Series



discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Week 14: April 4 - 8

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

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

Welcome to week of our Discovering Jesus devotional series!

This week we begin the third section of the gospel of John which includes chapters 18 and 19.

Before you begin this study, pause for a moment in prayer and ask God to help you see these events with fresh eyes. They are truly startling.

Pray that we would discover Jesus in His crucifixion on Calvary.

Monday

Read

❖ John 18:1-14

Study

1. Review this scene very carefully in your mind by listing the details:

Who was there (verses 1-11)? (be sure to list all those who came to arrest Jesus)

What was going on? (verses 1-11)

When did it happen?

Who is control? (give reasons for answer)

How did Peter react?

Where was Jesus taken and how? (verses 12-14)

Reflect

- ❖ Place yourself in the disciples' shoes. How would you feel at this time? What attitudes would be present? What quick prayers would you be offering as all this takes place?

Pray

- ❖ Allow this prayer to form the basis of your own prayer today:

"O God, our Father, I thank you this day that you so loved the world that you gave your only Son for me. I give you thanks for Jesus Christ, my blessed Lord, and for His death upon the cross.

That He was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross;

That he loved me and gave Himself for me;

That he came to seek and to save that which was lost;

That He gave His life a ransom for many, a ransom for me:

I give you thanks, O God.

Greater love has no one than this, that they lay down their life for their friends. Help me today to remember and never again to forget, the love of Him who laid down His life for me.

O wondrous love! To bleed and die,
To bear the cross and shame,
That guilty sinners, such as I,
Might plead Thy gracious name!

Hear this my prayer, for your love's sake. Amen." ¹

Memory Verse for the Week

Isaiah 53:4-5

¹ William Barclay, *The Plain Man's Book of Prayers* (Great Britain: Fontana Books, 1959) 98.

Read

❖ John 18:15-27

Study

1. Why do you think Peter denies Jesus in verse 17? Imagine what he feeling.

2. What is the focus of Annas' questions? (verse 19)

3. Put Jesus' answer in your own words. (verse 20-21) Notice how Jesus makes no mention of His disciples in His answer. Why do you think that is?

4. After Jesus is slapped in the face, what is His attitude? (verse 23) Does He back down? What is Jesus asking for?

5. Verse 25 brings us back to Peter at the fire. Notice the contrast between Jesus standing before His accusers and Peter standing before his accusers. Do you see a difference? As Peter denied Jesus the second and third time do you think it got easier or harder for him? Why or why not?

Notes

- ❖ *Annas and Caiaphas.* This section can be confusing as both Annas (verse 22-24) and Caiaphas (verse 24) seem to be identified as the high priest. Annas was high priest from AD 6 until Pilate's predecessor deposed him in AD 15. This foreign intrusion enraged the Jewish people, so Annas had a great deal of popular support and was able to retain influence over the religious authorities. Many Jews considered him the "real high priest" even though his son-in-law was the "official" high priest. (Luke keeps this same tension in his gospel. See Luke 3:2; Acts 4:6). Annas was the power behind Caiaphas. So, the high priest who

questions Jesus at verse 19-24 is Annas. Caiaphas, the official high priest, takes his turn after verse 24.

Reflect

- ❖ Have you ever been in a place where you were afraid to admit that you are a follower of Christ? If so, what did you feel like at the time? What did you feel afterward? How did you experience God in that event?

Pray

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 and allow it to be the starting point of your prayer.

Memory Verse for the Week

Isaiah 53:4-5

Wednesday

Read

- ❖ John 18:28-40

Study

1. It is clear that the Jewish authorities want Jesus dead. Why don't they execute Jesus themselves?

2. When Pilate questions Jesus, what does he discover?

3. What is the nature of Jesus' Kingship? How is it different from Pilate's rule? What does this title tell you about the sin of those who want Jesus dead, and the wonder of His sacrifice? How does Jesus appeal to Pilate? (verse 37)

4. What is Pilate's conclusion about Jesus?

Notes

- ❖ John 18:29 At this time Rome ruled the ancient world. The governor or prefect they placed over Judah was Pontius Pilate. He was in charge of keeping the peace and furthering the ideas and plans of Rome. The Jews hated him, and for good reason. He once provoked them by having his soldiers parading down the street on a Jewish holy day carrying a portrait of the emperor. The Jews saw it as an idol. Believing it to be an act of blasphemy, the Jews rioted, and Pilate was severely reprimanded by his superiors in Rome. So, when the Jewish officials bring

Jesus to Pilate he wants to do two things: he wants to win back their favour, and he wants to avoid any more undo attention from Rome.

Reflect

- ❖ Think about Jesus' Kingship. Is He King of your life? Are there any areas in your life marked "out of bounds" to Jesus?

Pray

- ❖ Use Psalm 24:7-10 to shape your personal prayer:
"Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is He, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty - He is the King of glory."

Memory Verse for the Week

Isaiah 53:4-5

Reading

❖ John 19:1-16

Study

1. Why, after declaring him innocent, does Pilate have Jesus flogged?

2. What do you think Pilate is trying to accomplish by having Jesus wear a crown of thorns and a purple robe?

3. Again Pilate declares Jesus innocent (verse 6). What reason do the Jews give for wanting Jesus dead? What reaction does Pilate have to this news?

4. From verse 8 on we over hear the conversation between Jesus and Pilate. Who is in control? Whose robes seem like a true mockery?

5. How does verse 15 reveal the true heart of the chief priests?

Reflect

- ❖ Read Isaiah 53:1-9 and see how closely Isaiah's prophecy matches the events we have read so far.

Pray

- ❖ Let this prayer of Rev. Peter Marshall guide your prayer today:

"Our Father, we are beginning to understand at last that the things that are wrong with our world are the sum total of all the things that are wrong with us as individuals. You have made us in your image, and our hearts can find no rest until they rest in you.

We are too Christian to really enjoy sinning and too fond of sinning to really enjoy Christianity. Most of us know perfectly well what we ought to do; our trouble is that we do not want to do it. Your help is our only hope. Make us want to do what is right, and give us the ability to do it.

In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen." ²

² Peter Marshall, *Mr. Jones, Meet the Master* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1949) 145.

Memory Verse for the Week

Isaiah 53:4-5

Friday

Read

❖ John 19:17-27

Study

1. Unlike movies that depict Jesus' crucifixion, John's description of the event is restrained. Notice what John does tell us, and tell why you think these facts are important:

Jesus is crucified among thieves.

Pilate places a notice above Jesus' head that reads, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

The soldiers cast lots for the garments of Jesus.

Jesus gives His mother to John's care.

Reflect

- ❖ What verse caught your attention today? Why? What is God saying to you through it?

Pray

- ❖ Express your thoughts to God about what you have learned today. Talk to God.

Memory Verse for the Week

Isaiah 53:4-5