

Hope Today
January – April 2022

Daily Study

for Program Series



discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Week 8: February 21 - 25

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

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

❖ John 8:1-11

The NIV rules this passage out from the rest of the text. The RSV relegates it to a footnote. And so they should. Details cannot be given here, but suffice it to say that this story does not appear in any of the earliest manuscripts that we have.

However, there is **little reason to doubt** that this event actually took place. The whole story is true to the gospel of John, the character of Jesus, and the message of the gospels.

Study

1. How is this whole situation a trap set for Jesus? If He refuses to uphold the law, what would the religious leaders say? If He insists on capital punishment, what will the Roman authorities say who hold power over such actions?

2. How does Jesus get out of the trap? What do the men learn? What does the woman learn?

3. Looking back on the incident how do you think the woman would have described the whole event?

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

Reflect

We all sin. How can we imitate the character of Jesus when we fall into sin? When we meet others who have fallen into sin?

Pray

❖ Pray this verse back to God, *“A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out.”* (Isaiah 42:3)

Memory Verse for the Week

John 8:12

Reading

❖ John 8:12-30

Study

1. Read the note below. What do you think Jesus means when he says that He is the *“light of the world”*?

2. What does Jesus say about:

His origin (verses 16, 18, 23)

The difference between Himself and the people He is speaking to (verses 14, 15, 23)

His relation to God (verses 16, 26, 28, 29)

His relation to the world (verse 23)

The crowd’s predicament (verses 21, 23,24)

The solution to the crowd’s predicament (verse 24)

3. In verse 28 Jesus states that all will be made clear, when?

Notes

- ❖ 8:12 Even though days have passed in our study of this text we need to remember that Jesus is still at the Feast of Tabernacles (see 7:2,14). This is important as it helps us understand His words in this verse. It could be that Jesus says these words during the final evening of the Feast. Gary Burge describes what happens at that time:

“Four large stands each held four golden bowls; these were placed in the heavily-used Court of the Women. These sixteen golden bowls (reached by ladders) were filled with oil and used the worn undergarments of the priests for wicks. When they were lit at night (so the rabbis said), all Jerusalem was illumined. In a world that did not have public lighting after dusk, this light shining from Jerusalem’s yellow limestone walls must have been spectacular.”¹

Reflect

Place yourself in the audience. Jesus is speaking to you. What is he demanding of you today?

¹ Gary Burge, John, *The NIV Application Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2000) 256.

Pray

- ❖ “Lord I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance,
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me. Shine on me.”²

Memory Verse for the Week

John 8:12

Wednesday

Read

- ❖ John 8:31-38

Study

1. Describe the mood of this dialogue. What kind of attitudes do you think the people were feeling as they heard Jesus speak? What do you think Jesus' attitude was when He heard the crowd's response?

2. The ESV translates Jesus' words in verse 31 as follows, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.” Skip ahead to John 15:1-4. How would you define the word “abide” given that passage?

² Graham Kendrick, *Shine, Jesus, Shine*, 1987 Make Way Music

3. What is does Jesus say is a mark of true disciple? Does this definition mesh with what you think is a true disciple? Do you need to adjust your thinking?

4. If freedom could be depicted as a process – like climbing a step ladder – what steps need to be taken to realize full freedom? (verses 31-36). The Jews claim to be free, how? Are you free?

Notes

❖ Verse 37, 43-47 Notice the progression of this. People make “no room” for Jesus’ words, they “believe lies” they are “slaves”. Verse 37 could be translated, “My words have no free course in you”. “The idea of the truth having no freedom to run in a person’s life is an interesting metaphor. Think of a rushing river where the water is free to flush out hidden corners, to sweep through an area and do what it will. Jesus says that a disciple lets his word “do what it will” inside him and thus knows the cleanness and freedom truth brings.”³

³ Gladys Hunt, *John: Eyewitness*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1971), 47.

Reflect

List the things you need to do to strengthen your abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray

- ❖ “Dear God help me to rest in you this day. Keep me from striving, trying and stressing. Release me from the burden of “performing” to win your favour. May the peace of knowing that you saved me completely and fully - wash over me today. Thank you for setting me free.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 8:12

Reading

❖ John 8:39-47

Study

1. From verse 39 on, the discussion focuses on parentage.
Why were the Jews not children of Abraham?

Why were they not children of God?

Why were they children of the devil?

2. What does Jesus say about the devil and his character?

3. What does Jesus say about himself?
The source of his message? (verse 40)
-
-

Where he came from? (verse 42)

Notes

- ❖ 8:46 “The first rhetorical question of verse 46 must not be misunderstood. Jesus does not ask whether anyone *thinks* he is guilty of sin. Clearly, many did (see 5:18). The question, rather, is whether anyone can *prove* him guilty of sin. ... This is not because he has been sinning with a wonderful degree of underhandedness, but because he has never been guilty of sin. ... If the best theological minds, however much they may dislike Jesus’ claims and dispute his teachings, find it impossible to marshal convincing reasons that would convict him of sin in (the heavenly) court, should they not begin to question themselves? Perhaps he is telling the truth, truth that is identified both with what Jesus says (verse 43) and with what God says (verse 47). And if he is, why do they not believe him? The reason is that only the one who *belongs to God hears what God says*. The conclusion is inevitable: *The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.*”⁴

⁴ D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1991) 355.

Reflect

Jesus makes it plain that actions reveal our true alliances. What do your actions reveal about your love for God?

Pray

“Be calm my soul, faint not with care
Though burdens deep our hearts would tear;
He is the Lord, all He commands,
He holdeth me safe in his hands.

Be calm my soul, rest in Him sure.
No wave of doubt His words endure;
My longing soul is satisfied,
He now leads forth, my Strength and Guide.”⁵

Memory Verse for the Week

John 8:12

⁵ Gloria Roe, *Be Calm My Soul*, 1959, The Rodeheaver Co.

Read

❖ John 8:48-59

Study

1. What kind of slur do you think is meant when the Jews call Jesus a "Samaritan" and "have a demon?"

2. How does Jesus respond to their accusations?

3. What is the promise that Jesus gives in verse 51? What "death" is he speaking of?

4. What evidence does Jesus give for being the Son of God? Why were the people unable to see this?

Notes

- ❖ Verse 58 “Jesus again links Himself with God in His eternal, timeless existence by saying I AM. Refer back again to John 8:24 and 28 and Exodus 3. The Jews had a clear understanding of the present perfect tense and the eternal nature of the one who was I AM – which accounts for their action in verse 59. Blasphemy was a capital offense.”⁶

Reflect

- ❖ Read the promise Jesus makes in 8:51. This is not the first time Jesus has said this – see John 5:24 and John 8:24. Reflect on these passages. What does this promise mean to you?
- ❖ The people in John 8 are holding on to tradition instead of listening to the words of Jesus. Can this be a danger for you? Consider.

Pray

- ❖ Talk to God about your study today. Give thanks to Him for truths revealed. Ask Him any questions you have about the passage. Let your study be a catalyst for your prayer.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 8:12

⁶ Gladys Hunt, *John: Eyewitness*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1971), 49.