

Hope Today
January - April 2022

for Program Series



discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Week 1 and 2: January 3 - 16

The following series of daily readings, questions, and prayers has 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 deeper video study is available at lightnlife.ca

IMPORTANT NOTE: Because Pastor Tom will be spending two weeks on chapter one this study guide is meant to be used during a two week period covering January 3-14

January and February Program Schedule
Discovering Jesus

January 9 - Discovering God in the flesh (John 1:1-18)

January 16 - Discovering the exalted Jesus (John 1:19-34)

January 23 - Discovering Jesus in a holy place (John 2:12-25)

January 30 - Discovering Jesus in a conversation with a
Pharisee (John 3:1-21)

February 6 - Discovering Jesus the thirst quencher (John 4:1-26)

February 13 - Discovering Jesus the miracle worker (John 5:1-
18)

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

More to come

Hope Today Winter/Spring 2022

Program Series Study Guide

discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Do you like to discover new things? Perhaps you love to discover new back roads to your destination. Or maybe you like to discover new ways to decorate your home. You thrill at the idea of new color schemes and new patterns. Maybe you get excited about new ways to improve the look of your car; or new ways to use social media. Or if it's not discovering something new maybe it's the fun of rediscovering things long forgotten that you enjoy. Perhaps you came across some old family photos that you remember seeing at one time and with the passing of the years you thought they were lost. But there they are in an old box and what joy is yours in going through them again.

During the next 16 weeks we will be experiencing the thrill of discovery as we study the life of Christ in the Gospel of John. For some of us we will be discovering things about Jesus that we never knew before and there will be times of wide eyed amazement. For others these weeks will be a time when we rediscover the person and words of Jesus and there will be joy and thanksgiving.

Whether we are discovering the person of Christ for the first time or rediscovering old truths long forgotten I pray that these weeks will be a time of blessing and growth for us all. I trust that you will join with me in this prayer and that all of us will fall ever more deeply in love with our Saviour and Lord.

Read

❖ John 1:1-18

Study

1. How does John describe the Word? (*Note especially who He is, where He is from and what He does. All these questions will be asked of Jesus, again and again, in the chapters that follow.*)
2. List all that Jesus brings.
3. How did John the Baptist respond to Jesus?
4. What happens to those who receive and believe in His name?
5. In verse 14 John uses a peculiar verb only found in his gospel. The verb is translated "tabernacled, fixed", or "had His tabernacle". So the verse 14 literally reads ... "*The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us.*" Understand that as soon as a Jew read this he/she would immediately have thought of the Exodus event. Look up the informing theology in Exodus 25:1-11 and Exodus 40:33-38. What parallels do you think we

are to draw between the tabernacle of the Old Testament and Jesus?

Note

- ❖ John 1:1 *Word* “John uses the word Logos here to describe ‘the Word,’ a term which the Jews used to describe how God created the universe, guided the prophets, delivered His people, and accomplished His will. Gentile readers understood it as the eternal impersonal, deity-like Reason (or Intelligence) that pervaded and directed everything in the universe. Either way, Logos carried a lot of powerful theological implications.”¹

Reflect

What did you learn from your study of this passage?

Is there a verse that especially spoke to you? What is God saying to you today?

Pray

- ❖ Thank God for the truths that you have been studying and ask Him for grace to incorporate the lessons you learned into your life.

¹ *John, a Double-Edged Bible Study* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2006), 23.

Read

❖ John 1:19-28

Study

1. We have already been introduced to John the Baptist in the previous day's study. What do we learn about him in John 1:6-9?
2. In Luke 1:36 we learn that John was born at least six months before Jesus. Given this, how do we make sense of John 1:15? (*hint: see John 1:1,2*)
3. What does John say about himself in verses 19-28? What does he say is his task? How does he compare himself to Jesus?

Notes

- ❖ John 1:24 *Pharisees* "This name means 'separated ones,' as the Pharisees separated themselves by focusing on strictly following the Law of Moses, down to the letter. Where the Sadducees were considered the party of the aristocrats and chief priests, the Pharisees were more interested in the common people and were the real moral authority of the Jews. Many Pharisees saw themselves as experts on God's system, so when

John the Baptist showed up preaching and baptizing, they just had to know what he was really up to.”²

Reflect

Consider the witness of John the Baptist. How is your witness like his? How is it different? Are there qualities of John the Baptist that we could emulate?

Pray

- ❖ Take time to give thanks to God for those who have been faithful in their witness to Jesus Christ in your life.

Wednesday

Reading

- ❖ John 1:29-34

Study

1. How does John describe Jesus in this passage?

2. Again, as soon as a Jew heard John’s testimony in verse 29 he would understand what he was saying. Look up the background to this in Isaiah 53:4-8. What does the Lamb of God accomplish?

² Ibid, 25.

3. What does the name “Lamb of God” tell us about Jesus?

4. What did John learn about Jesus at His baptism?

5. What name does John use of Jesus after His baptism? What does this name mean to you?

Reflect

Read Hebrews 10:8-18 and consider what Jesus has done for you.
Do you know Jesus as the Lamb of God?

Pray

- ❖ Thinking of Christ’s sacrifice for us brings us to confession. Ask God to forgive you of your sin and to forgive you of wrong doing and impure thinking. Know that when we have faith in Jesus, the Lamb of God, and confess our sins to God He is *“faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)



Thursday

Reading

- ❖ John 1:35-42

Study

1. In this text we are told of two followers of John who become followers of Jesus. Only one of them is named – Andrew. Some speculate the other disciple was John, the writer of this gospel. The conversation (verses 38-39) between the two disciples and Jesus is plain on one level. But do you think there are other meanings that can be understood by what Jesus asks and states?
2. What is the first thing Andrew did after meeting Jesus?
3. How does Andrew describe Jesus?
4. What does Jesus do when He meets Peter? Why do you think Jesus does this?

Note

- ❖ John 1:41 *Messiah* The title means “anointed one”. In the Old Testament it denotes the king of Israel. John translates the term for his Greek readers *christos*. The first time we read this term - “the Christ” - is not so much a name, but a title. He is the anointed one.

Reflect

List all the names that are attributed to Jesus in John chapter 1.

Verses 1-3, 14

Verses 7-9

Verses 29, 36

Verse 41

Verses 34, 39

Verse 49

Verse 51

Which is your favorite? Why is it meaningful to you?

Pray

- ❖ Praise God for the way He is always inviting us to Himself, “*to come and see*”. Pray that you would have eyes to see Jesus in the face of those you meet, in the situations you find yourself today.

Read

- ❖ John 1:43-51

Study

There is a repeated phrase throughout the passages we have been studying recently, “*the next day*” (verses 29, 35, 43). Things are obviously moving quickly after John’s identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God and the Son of God.

1. Describe Philip and how he tells Nathanael about Jesus. How does Nathanael react?

2. In verses 48 and 49 why does Nathanael respond this way to Jesus? (see *John 2:25*) What do we learn about Nathanael’s character in this passage? Does his character resonate with you at all? If so, how?

3. Verse 51 is a picture that every Jew would understand. Look up the background scripture for this in Genesis 28:10-13. What does this image tell us about Jesus?

Note

- ❖ John 1:51 *Son of Man* “Jesus often referred to Himself this way, and it most likely came from Ezekiel 4:1-5:17, where God called the prophet Ezekiel “son of man” and then commanded him to bear Israel’s sin symbolically. The odds are good that Jesus used

this term because it didn't have political implications, like Messiah did."³

- ❖ John 1:51 You will notice that the NIV has a small note telling us that the "you" in this verse is plural. That means that it wasn't spoken to Nathanael only, but to all who follow Jesus. It is revealed that Jesus is the true and final Mediator between God and fallen humanity.

Reflect

- ❖ John Moore writes, "God has numerous ways of bringing people to Christ. But Jesus Christ is the only way to God, (see John 14:6). There is something unique about each person's conversion to Christ. There is something special about the way you were brought to Christ!"⁴

Think about the special way you were brought to Christ. Think of a person you can share that story with - and then do it.

Pray

- ❖ Thank God for the truths that you have been studying and ask Him for grace to incorporate the lessons you learned into your life.

³ Ibid, 25.

⁴ John Moore, *Plug Into Power*, (Stouffville, Ontario: John Moore Evangelistic Ministries Association, 1996), 5.

Additional Notes