

*Hope Today*  
*January - April 2022*

## **Daily Study**

**for Program Series**



# **discovering Jesus**

*a study of The Gospel of John*

**Week 3: January 17 - 23**

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 video that will take you deeper into the text is available at [lightnlife.ca](http://lightnlife.ca)

Program Schedule  
*Discovering Jesus*

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)

February 27 - Discovering Jesus with eyes wide open (John 9)

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)

*More to come ....*

## Program Series Devotional Guide

# discovering Jesus

*a study of The Gospel of John*

Welcome to week 3 of the Discovering Jesus series!

As we move from chapter 1 to chapter 2 we notice that we are beginning a new section of the gospel, often referred to as “Jesus’ public ministry.” This section runs from John 2:1-12:50. (See the outline of the book of John below.)

Throughout this section we will witness seven signs (called “miracles” in the other gospels) that Jesus performed to demonstrate that He is the Christ, the Son of God. Of course, we know that Jesus did many more signs (see John 20:30) but John chose these seven as being representative of all the signs Jesus performed.

### Outline of the gospel of John

Introduction - John 1:1-1:51

Discover Jesus in:

- the signs He performed in public – John 2:1-12:50
- the words He spoke in private – John 13:1-17:26
- His crucifixion on Calvary – John 18:1-19:42
- His resurrection from the grave – John 20:1-21:25

## *Monday*

This week we will be reflecting on John 2. Before we examine the chapter in detail take time to read the chapter and think of it as a whole.

### **Read**

---

- ❖ John 2

### **Study**

---

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How do you see the truth of this verse realized in this chapter? What old things pass away? What is the newness that Jesus brings in this chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe all the different reactions that people have to Jesus in this chapter.

His mother Mary (*v. 3, 5*)

His disciples (*v. 17, 21-22*)

the Jews (*v. 18*)

people (*v. 23*)

If you lived at that time, what do you think your reaction would be to Jesus? What is your reaction to Jesus now?

## Reflect

---

Think about how Jesus Christ has made you new. Thank God for the newness of life that He brings through faith in His Son. Are there some attitudes, habits or behaviors that you have not allowed Jesus to change? If there are, give those over to God and ask Him to truly make you new.

## Pray

---

- ❖ Let your prayer time flow out of your reflection time. Are there blessings for which to give thanks? Are there attitudes that need correcting? Pray through them.

## Memory Verse for the Week

---

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Tuesday*

## Read

---

- ❖ John 2:1-11

## Study

---

1. Jesus, his mother Mary and the disciples are invited to a wedding. It has been suggested that Mary is “catering” the event. Notice our Lord’s response to Mary’s statement at verse 4. What do you think He means? Look up the following verses for further understanding: John 12:27, John 13:1, John 17:1.

2. Signs (otherwise called miracles) have two purposes: 1) the immediate purpose, and 2) the truth that is highlighted by the miracle. What are the two purposes of this sign? What particular truth about Jesus does it tell us - His character, His mission, His identity?
  
3. Look at the immediate result of the miracle, verses 9-10. How do you think the wine tasted?
  
4. Think about Jesus turning the water into wine - has Jesus acted this way in your life (metaphorically)? Have you experienced Jesus in this way? How?

## Notes

---

- ❖ John 2:3 “A wedding celebration could last as long as a week, and the financial responsibility lay with the groom. To run out of supplies would be a dreadful embarrassment in a ‘shame’ culture; there is some evidence it could also lay the groom open to a lawsuit from aggrieved relatives of the bride.”<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ John 2:4 When we read these words it sounds like Jesus is disrespectful toward his mother. But when these words are read in the Greek, the form of address is perfectly courteous. Jesus is making it clear that he depends only on God. He is awaiting no one’s instructions except for His Father’s.

---

<sup>1</sup> D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According To John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary*. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991) 167.

- ❖ John 2:6 John's detail is important. There are six stone water jars which hold between one hundred and one hundred and fifty gallons (between 500-750 litres.) They are made of stone because they could be washed and therefore be "clean". They were perfect for ceremonial washing.

## **Reflect**

---

Juan Carlos Ortiz suggests that Mary gives us a great example of prayer. He points out that when we come to God in prayer we make all sorts of demands. But Mary never makes a demand on Jesus saying, "Make wine."

Juan Carlos continues and asks us: "Suppose the Son had decided not to make wine. After all He did say, 'Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come.' Suppose Christ had said, 'No I will not make wine?' "

Poor Mary she would have cried, as we sometimes do when God does not answer our prayers, "How ungrateful, after all I did for Him and He would not give me this favor." Or she could have thought, "Maybe He doesn't love me." Or she could say, "Maybe I have a hidden sin." Or perhaps, "Maybe I don't have enough faith."

No. She didn't ask him to make wine. She brought the problem to Jesus and said, "Son they have no wine." And to the servants she said, "You do whatever he tells you."

Instead of dictating the solution she gave him the problem. She said, "They have no wine. Now you (to the servants) do whatever ... If he decides not to make wine, that's his problem, not mine."

Juan Carlos concludes: "Scripture says, 'Be anxious for nothing.' Mary was not anxious. She was not thinking, 'I have no faith, I have a hidden sin, he doesn't love me ...' She simply brought him the problem and left it with him to solve it or not - it's his prerogative."

Consider your own prayer life. Are you dictating to God how He should act or are you leaving the situation with Him and trusting Him with the solution. (And then are you willing to accept the solution and give Him praise for it?) <sup>2</sup>

## Pray

---

- ❖ Thank God for His ability to do more than we ask or imagine. Is there a situation that you need to leave with Him? Is there a prayer of trust that you need to offer to God?

## Memory Verse for the Week

---

2 Corinthians 5:17

### *Wednesday*

Ancient Christians used to practice “Holy Reading”. The idea is to be still, to listen and to hear God speak through His Word.

Having spent a little time with John 2:1-11 it would be good for us to “pray it back to God.”

If you’ve never experienced Holy Reading, here is how it works.

In Holy Reading there are four stages:

1. First read a passage of Scripture and as you read it listen for a word or a phrase that captures your attention. You may even project yourself into the story and try to view all the events from that point of view. Allow yourself to experience the feelings that would possibly be present if you saw all this first hand.

---

<sup>2</sup> Juan Carlos Ortiz, His second message on prayer. At the 2001 Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. c. 2001 Crystal Cathedral Ministries.



2. Second meditate on the text. If God has given you a word or phrase, ask God, “How does this word connect to my life? What does this have to do with me? How does it apply to my life?” If you have connected with a character, think of how Jesus is speaking to you and your response to Him.
3. Third, then offer that word back to God. Pray - you might offer thanksgiving for a word of correction or encouragement, or you might confess, or you might offer a prayer of supplication.
4. Lastly, contemplate. Ask yourself, “What should I do in light of what I have received?” Leave your prayer time with an attitude of gratitude and praise because you have heard God speak.

Don't let your mind think that there's something “weird” or “wacky” about the exercise. It simply is a way to get us to reflect on what we are reading.

Read John 2:1-11 slowly.

What word or phrase captured your attention?

How does that word or phrase connect with your life?

Write out your prayer:

What does God want you to do today?

## Memory Verse for the Week

---

2 Corinthians 5:17

### Thursday

#### Reading

---

❖ John 2:12-17

#### Study

---

1. The Passover Feast was *the* feast in the Jewish calendar. To understand the background for this festival read Exodus 12:1-14. What is happening in the temple when Jesus arrives (verse 14)?
2. Why does Jesus react the way He does (verse 16)?
3. What authority does Jesus claim for Himself in verse 16?
4. What do Jesus' actions say to you about holiness and discipleship?
5. Look up Malachi 3:1-3. How does Jesus answer this passage?

## Note

---

- ❖ John 2:14 *Temple* This temple, halfway under construction at the time, was surrounded by courts, but the outer court was the only one accessible to Gentiles, and it was from here most likely that Jesus drove out the merchants. While their trade was necessary (people who'd traveled hundreds of miles likely couldn't have brought sacrificial animals with them, and foreign coins had to be exchanged for proper currency), it shouldn't have been taking place inside the temple, where the noise and disruption would have made it impossible for Gentiles to meet with and worship God.<sup>3</sup>

## Reflect

---

Are there some things you need to ask God to clear out of your life so that you can freely approach Him in worship and prayer?

## Pray

---

- ❖ Praise God for the way He purifies us and makes us holy through faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God for the strength to be what He has created you to be.

## Memory Verse for the Week

---

2 Corinthians 5:17

## Friday

## Read

---

- ❖ John 2:18-25

---

<sup>3</sup> *John, a Double-Edged Bible Study* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2006), 32.

## Study

---

1. Describe the conversation that takes place in these verses. What is happening?
2. When the Jews asked for a sign, what sign did Jesus say would be given?
3. What temple was Jesus referring to?
4. What event does all this point to? Does this give Jesus' actions in chapter 2 verses 14-16 greater meaning?

## Reflect

---

Why do you think Jesus did not trust the "belief" expressed in verse 23-24? (see John 4:48; John 6:26; Matthew 13:14.) Is your faith the kind that pleases God?

## Pray

---

- ❖ Reflect on how God has revealed Himself to you in the person of Jesus Christ and through His Word. Give thanks to God for His graciousness toward you.

**Memory Verse for the Week**

---

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Additional Notes*