

READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

John

READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- **SESSION 1:** JOHN 1–3
 - GOD'S WORD IN THE FLESH
- **SESSION 2:** JOHN 4–6
 - THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS
- **SESSION 3:** JOHN 7–9
 - THE IDENTITY OF JESUS
- **SESSION 4:** JOHN 10–13
 - JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD
- **SESSION 5:** JOHN 14–17
 - THE WAY, THE TRUTH, + THE LIFE
- **SESSION 6:** JOHN 18–21
 - THE DEATH + RESURRECTION OF JESUS

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEW ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: John](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: New Testament Gospels](#)
- [The Bible Project: John Overview Video](#)

GENRE OVERVIEW: NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL

The four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – document the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. These accounts were written to share the good news that through His death on the cross, Jesus provided a way for people to be reconciled with God and have eternal life. The Gospels encourage readers to place their faith in Christ as the Son of God to experience the freedom, grace, and love that God offers.

Each gospel focuses on a different aspect of Jesus, who was a humble servant and a powerful ruler while simultaneously being fully human and fully divine. Matthew focuses on Jesus as King, Mark focuses on Jesus as a servant, Luke focuses on Jesus as a man, and John focuses on Jesus as God. Another aspect that makes each gospel unique is their intended audience. Each narrative of Jesus was written to share with a specific group of people, which influences the tone and focus of each account.

BOOK OVERVIEW: JOHN

The Gospel of John is attributed to one of Jesus' closest disciples, John. Throughout the account, John referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:7), emphasizing his intimate relationship with Christ. Because John witnessed more of Jesus' life than the other gospel writers, John's account contains unique stories that only a close follower of Jesus could recall.

Instead of focusing on a specific readership, John wrote so that all people would know that Jesus is the Savior. The book highlights Jesus' divine nature, showing His deity as the Son of God and Word of God. John emphasizes the importance of belief and argues that Jesus alone is the way to eternal life with God.

MAIN IDEA: KEY EVENTS + KEY PEOPLE

The other three Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – are often referred to as the "synoptic gospels" because of their many similarities. Although John does contain some similar accounts, John is the most unique of the four Gospels.

John was a disciple in Jesus' innermost circle and witnessed miracles that the other disciples did not. Only the book of John records the resurrection of Lazarus, one of Jesus' close friends, and Jesus' humble act of washing the disciples' feet. John also uniquely recalls Jesus' statements about His character, including His claims to be the "true vine" (John 15:1) and "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

SESSION ONE: JOHN 1–3

GOD'S WORD IN THE FLESH

- In John 1:1–18, how did John describe Jesus? What does it mean that “the word became flesh”?
- How did John the Baptist display humility and reverence towards Jesus? What did John the Baptist proclaim upon Jesus’ arrival at the Jordan (John 1:19–34)?
- Why was Nathanael hesitant to follow Jesus? How did Jesus respond (John 1:43–51)?
- Before turning water into wine, what did Jesus tell His mother? What did this mean for Jesus’ ministry? How was this miracle significant symbolically?
- Why did Jesus drive the merchants out of the temple? How did Jesus compare Himself to the temple?
- In John 3:1–21, what instructions did Jesus give Nicodemus? What wisdom did Jesus share with him?
- In John 3:14–15, Jesus referenced Moses and the bronze serpent (see Numbers 21:4–9). How did this event foreshadow Jesus’ death on the cross?
- How does John 3:16–21 summarize the entire message of John’s gospel?

SESSION TWO: JOHN 4–6

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

- To what was Jesus referring when He offered the Samaritan woman at the well “living water”?
- How did Jesus convince the woman at the well of His identity as the Messiah? What did the woman do in response?
- In John 5:6, why did Jesus ask the man by the pool if he wanted to be healed? How did the man reply?
- In John 5:18–24, what did Jesus teach about His relationship with and proximity to God?
- How did Jesus compare His words to the teachings of Moses (John 5:44–47)?
- After feeding the five thousand, how did the crowds perceive Jesus? Why did he withdraw from them (John 6:1–15)?
- After seeing Jesus perform many miracles, why would the disciples be surprised or afraid when seeing Jesus walk on the water?
- What is significant about Jesus’ claim to be the “true bread of life”? How did He compare Himself to the manna in the wilderness (see Exodus 16)?
- When Jesus asked if the disciples would abandon Him, how did Peter respond (John 6:60–71)?

SESSION THREE: JOHN 7–9

THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

- Why did Jesus remain in Galilee? How did people disagree about His identity and character?
- How would you summarize Jesus' argument regarding healing on the Sabbath?
- In John 7:25–30, people argued that no one knows from where the Savior will come. How does this idea contradict the prophecy of Micah 5:2?
 - What realization did the people come to in John 7:40–44?
- In John 7:37–39, how did Jesus repeat the idea He shared with the woman at the well in John 4?
- Read John 8:3–11. What does it mean to “cast the first stone”?
- How did Jesus display trust and obedience to God's will in John 8:28–30?
- What did Jesus mean when He said that “the truth will set you free”? What was Jesus implying that the people were enslaved to?
- How did Jesus compare himself to Abraham? Read Exodus 6:13–14. How is the name “I AM” significant?
- According to John 9:1–12, why was the man born blind? After healing the blind man, Jesus warned against a different kind of blindness. How would you define spiritual blindness?

SESSION FOUR: JOHN 10–13

JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

- In what ways did Jesus compare Himself to a shepherd? What does it mean to know the voice of Jesus (John 10:1–6)?
- Read John 10:10. What does the Enemy want for your life? What does Jesus provide instead?
- How did Jesus describe his relationship with the Father (John 10:22–39)?
- When Jesus heard about Lazarus’ death, how did He respond (John 11:1–4)?
- Compare Jesus’ interactions with Martha and Mary. If Jesus knew that Lazarus would be raised from the dead, why did He weep?
- Why did Judas criticize Mary’s act of humility with Jesus and the ointment?
- Read John 12:32. What did Jesus mean when he said that he would be “lifted up”? Why might this be confusing to the disciples?
- According to John 12:42–43, why did the people have disbelief?
- In John 13:1–20, how did Jesus instruct the disciples to serve with humility?
- How does Jesus’ new commandment to the disciples both summarize and fulfill the Old Testament Law?

SESSION FIVE: JOHN 14–17

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, + THE LIFE

- Jesus taught that He is the way, the truth, and the life. What does it mean that no one comes to the Father except through Jesus?
- In John 14:15–17, how did Jesus describe the Holy Spirit?
- Jesus described Himself as the true vine. What does it mean to abide in Christ (John 15:1–17)?
- Read Psalm 69:4 and 35:19. How do these verses foreshadow Jesus' teaching in John 15:18–16:4?
- According to John 16:7–15, how would Jesus' death benefit believers?
- What was Jesus foretelling when He explained that sorrow would turn into joy? How did He use the analogy of childbirth?
- What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus? How does God answer prayers that align with His will?
- Read John 16:25–33. In verse 33, what did Jesus say that believers will experience in the world? Despite this, how did Jesus offer hope?
- Read Jesus' prayer in John 17. How did Jesus display trust in God's authority and obedience to His plan?

SESSION SIX: JOHN 18–21

THE DEATH + RESURRECTION OF JESUS

- After Jesus was betrayed, Peter wanted to protect Him. How did Jesus choose trust in God's plan over resistance to His arrest?
- What did Jesus mean that His kingdom is "not of this world" (John 18:33–40)?
- When Jesus was mocked, why did the soldiers call him "King of the Jews" and place a crown of thorns on his head?
- Read John 19:12–16. How did the people see Jesus as a threat to Caesar and the Roman Empire?
- Read Zechariah 12:10. What specific aspects of Jesus' crucifixion did this verse predict?
- When Peter arrived at the tomb, what did he find? How do Jesus' folded linens discredit the theory that His grave was robbed?
- After the resurrection, how did Jesus revive Thomas's faith (John 20:24–29)?
- How many times did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love me?" Why is this number significant (John 21:15–19)?
- What did John state was the purpose of his writing (John 20:30–31)? How did John describe the magnitude of Jesus' life (John 21:25)?