

**PURSUE**  
HIM DAILY  
**BIBLE READING PLAN**

# HiStory

A six-week study of the Gospel of John

We would like to thank  
X Church of Canal Winchester, OH  
for allowing us to share this plan with you!



March 24

DAY  
16

## READ John 10:22-42

### FURTHER CONFLICT OVER JESUS' CLAIMS

<sup>22</sup> Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

<sup>31</sup> Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, <sup>32</sup> but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

<sup>33</sup> "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods"?' <sup>35</sup> If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— <sup>36</sup> what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?" <sup>37</sup> Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. <sup>38</sup> But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." <sup>39</sup> Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, <sup>41</sup> and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true." <sup>42</sup> And in that place many believed in Jesus.

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## DEVOTIONAL

### "Knowing His Voice"

Have you ever thought about how strongly Jesus feels about you? As a shepherd would care for and protect his sheep, so Jesus desires to watch over and protect us.

We see in verses 27-28 a beautiful picture of how Jesus feels about His sheep—His people. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

Do you recognize God's voice? How often do you take time to pray and listen for His voice?

Take a moment to pray and then sit quietly for a little bit and allow God to impress something upon your heart. If you can block out enough noise, you could learn to recognize His voice.

March 25

**DAY**  
**17**

# READ John 11:1-57

## THE DEATH OF LAZARUS

<sup>1</sup> Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)

<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

<sup>8</sup> “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

## JESUS COMFORTS THE SISTERS OF LAZARUS

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had

been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

### JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

<sup>39</sup> “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

### THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

<sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

<sup>49</sup> Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all!

<sup>50</sup> You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

<sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, <sup>52</sup> and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

<sup>54</sup> Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

<sup>55</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. <sup>56</sup> They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the festival at all?” <sup>57</sup> But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.

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## DEVOTIONAL

### “You Are Not Alone!”

This passage so wonderfully depicts the compassion of Jesus. Take another look at verse 33...

“When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.”

Jesus knew everything that was about to happen... but He cared about the way that his people felt. He shows us in this scenario that he is a God of Compassion! Have you ever felt that God doesn’t really care about the way you feel? Maybe there is something in your past that deeply troubles you and you aren’t sure if God even cares. We see in this passage that God shares in our sorrows. He wants to be our comforter. He wants to show us compassion. He wants us to run to Him in our times of struggle.

Think about some of the hardest situations that you have ever endured. Have you ever considered handing these struggles over to God? Have you ever allowed Him to comfort you in the midst of your pain?

Jesus is always there for you. He is ready to comfort you wherever you are!

March 26

DAY  
18

## READ John 12:1-19

### JESUS ANOINTED AT BETHANY

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

<sup>4</sup> But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, <sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." <sup>6</sup> He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

<sup>7</sup> "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, <sup>11</sup> for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

### JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM AS KING

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

<sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;  
see, your king is coming,  
seated on a donkey's colt."

<sup>16</sup> At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

<sup>17</sup> Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. <sup>18</sup> Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

# DEVOTIONAL

## “The Power of a Story”

We see in this passage that the word about Lazarus spread very quickly! People saw and heard that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. We see the ripple effect of the miraculous works of Jesus that is found in verses 17-19.

“<sup>17</sup> Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. <sup>18</sup> Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, ‘See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!’”

The people shared this miraculous story with others! They then chased after Jesus to see these works for themselves!

Not only does this crowd have an awesome story to tell, you have one too! How do we share our story or “testimony” with others? One of the hardest things to do as a Christian is learning how to share your faith. Even though you have experienced an incredible transformation in your life, how do you share it with others? Not only is it difficult, but at times it can be scary. We fear what people are going to say. We fear they might think we are strange.

This passage shows us that there is power in simply sharing your faith experience with others.

What has Jesus done in your life? What miracles have you seen Jesus perform? How has your life changed because you know Jesus?

Answer these questions and think about how you can share your story with others.

March 27

DAY  
19

## READ John 12:20-50

### JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>34</sup> The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man?’”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.

<sup>36</sup> Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

### BELIEF AND UNBELIEF AMONG THE JEWS

<sup>37</sup> Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

<sup>38</sup> This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

<sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

<sup>40</sup> “He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their hearts,  
so they can neither see with their eyes,  
nor understand with their hearts,  
nor turn—and I would heal them.”

<sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

<sup>42</sup> Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved human praise more than praise from God.



<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me.

<sup>45</sup> The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

<sup>47</sup> “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

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## DEVOTIONAL

### “A Life with Jesus”

In this passage, Jesus is talking about what it means to be “close” to Him. He says that if you want to experience eternal life, then you must first hate your life. Jesus said these words in John 12:25, “<sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

When Jesus talks about hating your life, he is speaking in relative terms (because he is also the giver of life). He wants you to love your life with Him and hate your life without Him. The more we understand God’s love for us, the more we can experience the fullness of life with Christ.

Unfortunately, so many distractions in this life tend to lead us further away from Jesus. Take a look at the things that you strive for in life. Do you desire those things above being close to Jesus? If so, confess them to Christ and ask Him to draw closer to you.

March 28

**DAY  
20**

## **READ** John 13:1-17

### JESUS WASHES HIS DISCIPLES' FEET

<sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

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## **DEVOTIONAL**

### "Love Your Enemies"

This passage is a beautiful portrayal of how we are called to love our enemies. Jesus knows that Judas is about to betray him—and what does he do? Jesus washes his feet! He assumes the position of a servant. Would you ever do that to one of your enemies?

Modern society teaches concepts of revenge and self-promotion when dealing with those we would consider our foes—that is, people that have wronged us. When we follow Jesus, we are called to no longer take part in these activities. Jesus tells us to follow Him, and assume the position of a servant, just as He did with Judas. When we do this... we will experience His blessing as it reads in verse 17.

<sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

This is not an easy concept to put to practice! We need God’s help if we are going to respond His way when dealing with our enemies.

Examine your relationships... Is there a person that you despise? How could you serve them even if you do not think that he or she is deserving?

### **PRAY THIS PRAYER...**

Jesus, today I lift up to you my enemies. Shine in their darkness. Reveal your truth to them. Clear my heart of the grudges and offenses that I hold onto. I want to follow your example and serve my enemies like you did Judas. Help me be a reflection of your unfailing love every day. Amen!

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## **OPTIONAL REFLECTION** *for WEEK 4*

What did you learn about Jesus this past week?

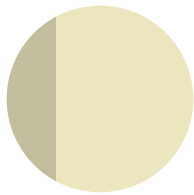
Did your view of Jesus change through something you read?

What did you discover about yourself as you read this past week?

How can you become more like Jesus in your life every day?



### **OPTIONAL VERSE TO MEMORIZE** *for WEEK 4*



John 11:25-26

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.

The one who believes in me will live,  
even though they die;

<sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me  
will never die.”

March 31

DAY  
21

## READ John 13:18-38

### JESUS PREDICTS HIS BETRAYAL

<sup>18</sup> “I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’

<sup>19</sup> “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. <sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

<sup>21</sup> After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

<sup>22</sup> His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. <sup>23</sup> One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

<sup>25</sup> Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” <sup>28</sup> But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup> As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

### JESUS PREDICTS PETER’S DENIAL

<sup>31</sup> When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

<sup>33</sup> “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

<sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

<sup>36</sup> Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

<sup>37</sup> Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!



# DEVOTIONAL

## “The Pain of Betrayal”

This is such an emotional passage. Jesus knows he is going to be betrayed and is telling His disciples that He is going to leave them very soon. Even Jesus' closest friend, Peter, pledges his dying support to the very end. It's in this moment that Jesus predicts that Peter is going to even deny knowing him.

It is never easy to be betrayed. It is never easy to have a friend turn on you, or even worse, a family member. Yet, Jesus is our model of how to love in spite of being betrayed. Jesus declares his unconditional love, even knowing that He will be betrayed.

Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you? How did it make you feel? Can you identify just a little with how hurt Jesus must have felt knowing his closest friends would betray Him?

Peter made a promise he could not keep—that he would lay down his life for Jesus. Have you ever made a promise to God that you did not keep? Even if you have, you can know that God's love for you is unconditional. Receive His grace today and return to Him!

April 1

**DAY  
22**

## **READ** John 14:1-14

### JESUS COMFORTS HIS DISCIPLES

<sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

<sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.”

### JESUS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

<sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY

## **DEVOTIONAL**

### “The ONLY Way!”

Jesus describes to us that He is the only way to the Father. If we have seen Him, we have seen the Father, and it should be enough for us! One of the major differences between Christianity and all the other religions in this world is the exclusivity that comes with Jesus. Jesus is declaring that all roads don’t lead home. Only one road leads to eternal life... and that road is through Jesus!

Have you encountered people that believe all religions or faiths will lead to eternal life? What do you believe about eternity? What do you think it means that Jesus is the ONLY way to the Father?

Do you know Jesus personally? Have you confessed him as your Lord and Savior? Has everything you’ve read so far convinced you that Jesus really was sent from heaven to rescue us from our sin? Consider inviting Jesus to show you who He is and what it means to surrender your life to Him completely.

April 2

DAY  
23

## READ John 14:15-31

### JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

<sup>28</sup> “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. <sup>30</sup> I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, <sup>31</sup> but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

“Come now; let us leave.

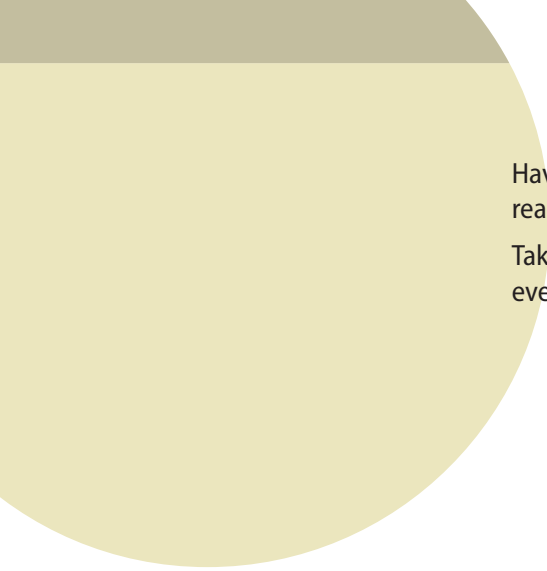
PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY

## DEVOTIONAL

### “The Holy Spirit”

Just before Jesus was arrested, He comforted His disciples by letting them know that His Father would send another “advocate” to help them. Jesus was referring to the Holy Spirit. So many people are confused about the Holy Spirit. Perhaps they have run into someone who made God’s Spirit seem weird. Jesus said that the “world cannot accept him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him.” To those who have never experienced the presence of God, the Holy Spirit might not make sense. But for those who have felt the very near presence of God, the Holy Spirit is desired.

Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will “teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said.” One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit is to make Jesus known and real to us.



Have you ever felt the presence of God in church or at some other time? Did you realize that it was the Holy Spirit making you feel that way?

Take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit of God to fill you today and make Jesus even more real than He has been.



April 3

DAY  
24

## READ John 15:1-27

### THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

### THE WORLD HATES THE DISCIPLES

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’

### THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

<sup>26</sup> “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

# DEVOTIONAL

## “Remain in Him”

Jesus describes himself as a vine and us as branches. In other words, He is the source of our life. Everything we receive comes from Him and is about Him. Jesus also describes our Heavenly Father as a Gardener. One of the things that a gardener does is prune back the branches so they can become even more fruitful.

Sometimes God needs to prune us before we can bear fruit for Him. This might mean God has to cut away some things we are holding on to for security and safety. It doesn't feel good to have God prune or remove things that have stopped our growth. But in the end, it will produce something even better through us.

The real key to sustained growth is learning to “remain in Him.” Jesus said that apart from Him we can do nothing. Sometimes we are so busy doing things that we lose sight of just remaining connected to Him. Don't overlook the importance of remaining connected to Jesus through His Word and prayer. Make it a daily rhythm in your life and something fruitful will come out of it.

April 4

DAY  
25

## READ John 16:1-33

<sup>1</sup> “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

<sup>12</sup> “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

### THE DISCIPLES’ GRIEF WILL TURN TO JOY

<sup>16</sup> Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

<sup>17</sup> At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’”

<sup>18</sup> They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’?”

<sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

<sup>25</sup> “Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. <sup>30</sup> Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

<sup>31</sup> “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. <sup>32</sup> “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

<sup>33</sup> “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

# DEVOTIONAL

## “True Joy”

I can imagine that at this time the disciples are feeling worried, confused, and anxious. Jesus acknowledged this and assured them that His joy was coming. He acknowledged that we will have troubles, but assures us that He is greater than all our troubles! Whatever you are facing today, know that His joy and peace can carry you through it.

Do you realize that even in the midst of struggles, that you can still have joy? Even in the midst of a great storm, Jesus gives us His Spirit so we can experience peace during the storm. In the same way that the eye of a storm is calm, so our hearts can be at peace when we face terrible storms.

Do you have a joy that isn't defined by your circumstances? If not, ask God to give you His Spirit and His peace in the middle of your situation.

## PRAY THIS PRAYER...

God, I need your peace right now. My world feels so uncertain right now, but I know that you are my anchor. Please give me joy and peace in the midst of this storm. Amen.



# OPTIONAL REFLECTION

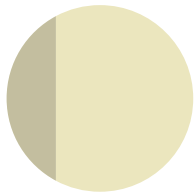
## *for* WEEK 5

What did you learn about Jesus this past week?

Did your view of Jesus change through something you read?

What did you discover about yourself as you read this past week?

How can you become more like Jesus in your life every day?



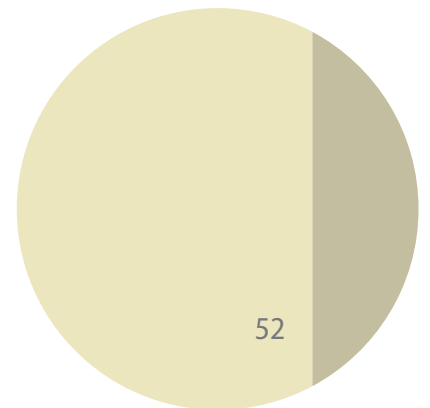
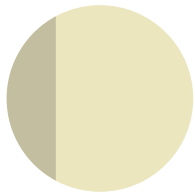
## OPTIONAL VERSE TO **MEMORIZE** *for* WEEK 5

John 14:6

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered,

“I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.”



April 7

DAY  
26

## READ John 17:1-26

### JESUS PRAYS TO BE GLORIFIED

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

<sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

### JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

<sup>6</sup> “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

<sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup> “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

### JESUS PRAYS FOR ALL BELIEVERS

<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

# DEVOTIONAL

## “Jesus Prays for Unity”

How amazing it is to think that right before Jesus was arrested, we were on His mind and in His prayers! He prayed that we would have unity as believers, the kind of unity that He has with the Father. As you think about how divided the global church has been at times, it's no wonder this is what Jesus prayed.

So often we tend to focus on the things that make us different (style of worship, theology, or methods). Perhaps what we need to do is focus on what unites us. The greatest force that unites us is the work of Jesus on the cross. Let's not allow minor differences to become a major disruption in our unity as fellow believers.

Have you ever found yourself looking down on others because they believed something different than you? If so, ask God's forgiveness and do something to build a bridge to other believers.

How can a unified church have a greater impact on the world for Christ?

April 8

**DAY  
27**

## **READ** John 18:1-40

### JESUS ARRESTED

<sup>1</sup> When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

<sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

<sup>5</sup> “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” <sup>9</sup> This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

<sup>11</sup> Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

<sup>12</sup> Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him <sup>13</sup> and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

<sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

### PETER’S FIRST DENIAL

<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard, <sup>16</sup> but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

<sup>17</sup> “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter.

He replied, “I am not.”

<sup>18</sup> It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

### THE HIGH PRIEST QUESTIONS JESUS

<sup>19</sup> Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

<sup>20</sup> “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

<sup>22</sup> When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

<sup>23</sup> “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

### PETER’S SECOND AND THIRD DENIALS

<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?”

He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

<sup>26</sup> One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” <sup>27</sup> Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

### JESUS BEFORE PILATE

<sup>28</sup> Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

<sup>30</sup> “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. <sup>32</sup> This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

<sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup> But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

# DEVOTIONAL

## “Peter’s Worst Moment”

Peter was not doing well. First, he is rebuked by Jesus for cutting off the high priest servant’s ear and then he denies knowing Jesus three times. He has one of those days when he simply failed his Savior.

Although we may never be in a situation like Peter, we all can have days when we fail God. We might not speak up at work for Christ when we know we should. We might back down when someone is getting picked on at school because of their faith.

Jesus knew that Peter would betray Him and yet He still loved him. Jesus also knows when we are going to fail Him and yet He still offers us His love and forgiveness. Don’t carry the guilt around with you but rather confess it to Him and receive His mercy.



April 9

DAY  
28

## READ John 19:1-42

### JESUS SENTENCED TO BE CRUCIFIED

<sup>1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe <sup>3</sup> and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

<sup>4</sup> Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

<sup>6</sup> As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

<sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup> and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

<sup>12</sup> From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). <sup>14</sup> It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

<sup>15</sup> But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

<sup>16</sup> Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

### THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

<sup>24</sup> “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment.”

So this is what the soldiers did.

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

## THE DEATH OF JESUS

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup> The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup> The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” <sup>37</sup> and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

## THE BURIAL OF JESUS

<sup>38</sup> Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away.

<sup>39</sup> He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup> Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup> At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.

<sup>42</sup> Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

# DEVOTIONAL

## “It Is Finished”

Jesus easily could have called down angels to free Him from the Roman authorities. However, Jesus wasn't resisting the inevitable. In fact, it was the primary reason He came to this earth. He came to die for the sins of the world. Jesus knew His purpose was through the cross and it was His love for us that kept Him on it.

As Jesus hung on the cross, He uttered the three most important words ever spoken...“It is finished.” What was finished? The penalty for our sins was paid. When Jesus uttered these three words, everything changed for us. Do you realize that even if you were the only person that ever existed, Jesus still would have died just for you? He loves you that much.

Have you ever contemplated what Jesus experienced during the crucifixion? Take some time to reflect on the abuse Jesus endured for your sins and thank Him for taking the penalty for your sin.

## LET'S PRAY TOGETHER...

Jesus, I owed a debt I could not pay. You took upon yourself the penalty for my sin. I am overwhelmed by your love for me. Thank you for dying in my place. I pray that I can live my life in a way that honors your sacrifice for me. Amen.

April 10

DAY  
29

## READ John 20:1-31

### THE EMPTY TOMB

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

### JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

## JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

## THE PURPOSE OF JOHN’S GOSPEL

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY

# DEVOTIONAL

## “Resurrection Day”

It was unbelievable! When Mary showed up and told the disciples that they had seen Jesus alive, it was unbelievable. Most of Jesus’ disciples didn’t even believe the good report, even though Jesus had predicted this moment would come.

Peter and John ran to the tomb to verify it for themselves. They didn’t see Jesus at this point, but they did see the empty tomb. It was later that Jesus appeared to His disciples and many more after that.

What a glorious day this was! Sorrow turned to joy! Doubt replaced by belief! All of Christianity hinges on this one fateful day. The day Jesus proved once and for all that He truly is the Son of God. You can rest assured that your faith is not based on a myth, but rather on an empty tomb. He is Alive!

Are you like Thomas, needing to see proof before you will believe?

What evidence has Jesus already given that you might believe in Him?

What is holding you back from fully surrendering your life to Jesus?

April 11

DAY  
30

## READ John 21:1-25

### JESUS AND THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

<sup>1</sup> Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

<sup>6</sup> He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

<sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

<sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

<sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### JESUS REINSTATES PETER

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”



<sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) <sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

<sup>23</sup> Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup> Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY • PURSUE HIM DAILY

# DEVOTIONAL

## “A Second Chance”

John concludes his narrative of Jesus’ ministry by showing us the saving grace of Jesus. Peter decides he is going back to his old profession of fishing. Peter carried his guilt of betrayal with him, even after Jesus appeared to him after His resurrection. Peter figured that Jesus was done with him.

But in this closing chapter, Jesus restores Peter to his purpose. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. Although Peter gets offended by this repetitive inquiry, it seems that Jesus wants to completely remove the guilt of Peter’s repetitive denial. In this moment, Jesus not only forgives Peter, but he restores him to the ministry of leading his people (feeding his sheep).

Aren’t you thankful that Jesus offers us a second chance... and a third and a fourth and so on? All of us have fallen short, but God’s love is so great and His grace is so deep that He isn’t done with us. No matter what you have done, God’s grace is bigger. All you need to do is answer Jesus’ question, “Do you love me?”

As you have read through the entire HIStory that John records for us, you have been exposed to the beauty and majesty of Jesus. Perhaps now you are ready to confess Him as your Savior and begin a life with Him as your Lord.

If you are ready to begin this journey,

### **PRAY THIS PRAYER...**

Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God, who came and died for my sin. I do love you and thank you for your grace. I ask you to forgive me of my sin and to give me a new life. I turn my life over to you and by faith receive you as my Savior! Amen!

# OPTIONAL REFLECTION

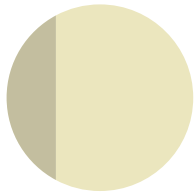
## *for* WEEK 6

What did you learn about Jesus this past week?

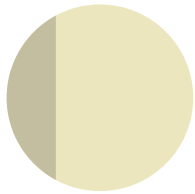
Did your view of Jesus change through something you read?

What did you discover about yourself as you read this past week?

How can you become more like Jesus in your life every day?



## OPTIONAL VERSE TO **MEMORIZE** *for* WEEK 6



John 20:29

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him,

“Because you have seen me, you have believed;  
blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed.”

