

Read through the Bible



John Week 1



A Ministry of the Live Love Nation

Monday, February Twenty-Second

Welcome to our six-week journey through the book of John! This booklet is laid out to help you walk through a portion of the events in John every day. Whether you start off your day with this, find some time during your lunch break, or sit down with it before you go to bed, the hope would be for you to engage with the Bible on a consistent basis as God engages you and calls you into His story. May your journey be filled with newfound perspective as you reflect on the life, ministry, and work of our Savior during this season of Lent! – Pastor Chris

Read: John 1:1-18

Reflect: Use the passage in John to work through these questions

- Who is the Word? (see verses 1-5, 14, and 17)

John's Gospel begins very similarly to that of Genesis – "In the beginning." He proclaims to his readers an important point: the Word (Jesus) was there from the beginning because He was with God and is God (v. 1). Jesus wasn't an afterthought, and neither are we – His creation.

- How was the Word received? (see verses 10-11)
- What does the Word offer to those who receive Him? (see verses 12-13)

Imagine going to your own art show and nobody recognizing you as the creator of that artwork. Imagine the few who do recognize you turning away from you when you go up to talk with them. Jesus was invisible to many and rejected by others, but to those who received Him, He offered something great – the opportunity to become children of God!

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Take a moment to go to God in prayer and thank Him for His infinite wisdom in sending His Word to make you His child.

Tuesday, February Twenty-Third

Why does it always seem to be the case that you know too many people with the same name? You work with two Larrys, your child has four classmates named Lindsey, and you have three neighbors on your street all named Dan. As a result, it can oftentimes be pretty confusing in determining who someone is referring to in conversation. In this passage today, the “John” we will focus on is not the same John who wrote this Gospel. Instead, this “John” is often referred to as John the Baptist.

Read: John 1:19-34

Reflect: Use the passage in John to work through these questions

- Who does John the Baptist say he is? (see verse 23) Who does he say he is not (see verses 19-21)?

Back in Jesus’ time, it was customary for Gentiles (non-Jews) who converted to Judaism to be baptized as a symbolic cleansing of their old Gentile ways. When John the Baptist arrived on the scene, he changed the narrative. In addition to these converted Jews, he was also calling natural-born Jews to repent and be cleansed. The Pharisees at the time identified this practice as a sign of the coming Messiah, and they set out to determine if John was indeed the Savior they had been waiting for.

- Look again at verse 20. What did John confess?

Verse 20 says that John the Baptist “did not fail to confess, but confessed freely” that he was not the Christ, but rather a witness to the coming Christ. How easy or difficult is it for you to “confess freely” that you are a follower of Christ to others? Why do you think that is the case for you?

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Thinking like John the Baptist, what is one simple way that you can be an authentic witness to someone in your life? How might they see Christ in you in a simple thing you say or do for them?

Wednesday, February Twenty-Fourth

People like to be a part of something new. When a new restaurant opens up, we try it out and let our family and friends know what we think. When we see a new movie in the theater, we post on social media whether it was worth our time. When we visit a vacation spot, we leave feedback for future adventurers to see what we thought of the place. In our reading today, when John the Baptist points out the “Lamb of God” to some of his followers, they want to find out for themselves who this “new” person was all about. What would they tell others about this intriguing person?

Read: John 1:35-51

Reflect: Use the passage in John to work through these questions

- How did John the Baptist’s two followers begin following Jesus? (see verses 35-36)
- How did Peter begin following Jesus? (see verses 41-42)
- How did Nathanael begin following Jesus? (see verses 45-46)

Notice the pattern that John presents in each of the above situations. In the calling of Jesus’ first disciples, God models for us a pattern in which followers invite people to “come and see” Jesus and the salvation He offers to us. Sometimes when we invite others to hear truth proclaimed at our church, we feel responsible if they reject that truth. The reality is that we can try with all our might to keep our friend or neighbor in church, but ultimately it is the Holy Spirit who works in their hearts to create a sustaining faith in Jesus. Our task is to be authentic and faithful witnesses who point them to Christ as we ourselves are pointed to Him.

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Take some time in prayer to thank God for the people in your life (parents, friend, teacher, coworker, etc.) who invited you to “come and see” Jesus for yourself. Consider how you might do the same for others.

Thursday, February Twenty-Fifth

If you haven't tried it yet, hosting a party can be a great motivator to clean your home! Nobody likes to feel embarrassed by a messy home with dishes piled up in the sink and clothes strewn all over the place. In our passage today, Jesus does the impossible - He turns water into wine. In the ancient East, it was extremely embarrassing (even contemptible) for the host to not sufficiently supply the elements necessary for a wedding feast. What would Jesus show his disciples by saving this host from embarrassment?

Read: John 2:1-25

Reflect: Use the passage in John to work through these questions

- How does the master (host) describe the timing of the wine that was brought in by the servants? (see verses 9-10)

The host commented to the bridegroom that when it came to the wine for the banquet, he had "saved the best till now" (v. 10). In the same way, by sending Jesus, God had saved the best till now. His perfect Son would ultimately transform the hearts and minds of His people, and this miraculous sign would serve to set Jesus apart as someone the world had never seen or experienced before.

- It was customary for people in Jesus' time to sell sheep and cattle in the temple. Travelers could purchase these livestock to use as sacrifices to atone for their sin. What might Jesus be saying about Himself by throwing these people and their sacrificial system out of the temple? (see especially verse 19 in relation to this idea of a "sacrifice")

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Why do you think Jesus chose turning water into wine as His first miraculous sign (v. 11)? Think beyond a simple answer. In addition, consider whether or not you would have responded like His disciples did (v. 11).

Friday, February Twenty-Sixth

You get a message from your boss that she wants to see you in her office immediately. Your mind starts racing. "What did I do? Did I miss a deadline? Am I not performing up to the standards of the organization?" You walk into her office afraid you will be condemned, possibly fired. She sits you down and then proceeds to thank you for all your hard work this past month. You give a huge sigh of relief and welcome the good news from your boss. When Jesus came into the world, His mission was not to condemn the world, but to save it. Pharisees like Nicodemus sought to clarify who this Jesus was and what He had come to do.

Read: John 3:1-21

Reflect: Use the passage in John to work through these questions

- How does Jesus tell Nicodemus a person can enter the kingdom of God? (see verse 3) What does it mean to be 'born again?' (see verses 5-8)

If you watch football or hockey on TV, you've probably seen someone holding up a sign with the words 'John 3:16.' This verse, arguably the most quoted in our modern era, very plainly tells us God's intention in sending Jesus to His people. For Nicodemus, a learned teacher, this truth from the mouth of Jesus was likely difficult to grasp. The path toward understanding begins in verse 17 – Jesus is not Condemner but Redeemer.

- Who is afraid to come into the light and why? (see verses 19-20) Who comes into the light and why? (see verse 21)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Take some time to consider the ways in which you are hiding in darkness, and the ways in which you are walking in the light (make a list if it helps). Ask God to fill your life with truth to expose your shortcomings, and to instead walk in the light with Jesus.

Saturday, February Twenty-Seven

Comparing ourselves with others is a natural reality we experience every day. Who is better dressed? Who makes a meaner chili? Who has a nicer car? Who is more level-headed? Who is a better speller? Who is the most devout? Oftentimes when others comment on these comparisons, we express ways of either welcoming or deflecting their comments. But what happens when you are compared to Jesus? In our passage today, John the Baptist tackles this issue head on as he addresses concerns from some of his followers.

Read: John 3:22-36

Reflect: Use the passage in John to work through these questions

- According to John the Baptist's marriage metaphor, who is he and what is his role? Who is Jesus? (see verse 29)

We all have roles to play in various parts of our lives. Some of us are husbands. Some of us are mothers. Some of us are teachers. Some of us are caregivers. All of us are God's children. In this passage today, John the Baptist makes clear his role in the story of Jesus. In doing so, he proclaims to his followers that he is not comparable to Jesus. Consider the humility he expresses in fulfilling this role!

- John the Baptist says in verse 31 that Jesus must become greater and he must become less. What do you think he means by that?

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

As we approach the end of our first week in John, take some time to think about what is meaningful in your life right now. What are you thankful for? What are you concerned about? What are you looking to cut out or get rid of? In what ways are you looking to grow? Take some time to pray through these things with your heavenly Father. He's listening!

Sunday, February Twenty-Eighth

There's an episode from 'Boy Meets World' in which a bunch of kids are eating lunch at the elementary school. The scene focuses on two main tables – the cool kids and the nerds. The cool kids look down on the nerds, and the nerds do their best to ignore the glares of the cool kids. Cory, the main character of the series who sits at the cool kids table, shocks his friends one day when he walks over to the nerd table and begins to engage them in conversation. In our passage today, Jesus engages with a Samaritan woman at a well. In doing so, He proclaims the scope of who salvation is for.

Read: John 4:1-26

Reflect: Use the passage in John to work through these questions

- In comparing well water to living water, how does Jesus compare what the world offers to what He offers? (see verses 13-14)
- What causes the woman to call Jesus a prophet? (see verses 16-18)

Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman shows us why He came "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). His message wasn't just for the law-abiding Jews; it was also for people like her who were weighed down by their sin and were longing to be freed from it.

- How does Jesus explain to the Samaritan woman that this living water He offers is also for her and not just for the Jews? (see verses 21-24)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Think about somebody who has wronged you recently. How might you demonstrate *both* grace and truth in addressing how that person wronged you?

Questions? Comments? Contact Pastor Chris at chris.futch@oursaviorfl.org or (727) 344-2684.