



LENT

A LENTEN JOURNEY THROUGH JOHN

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



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Riversiders,

During Epiphany, we emphasized the glory of Christ and the discovery of who He is, His miracles, and His teachings. Looking at story after story of people interacting with Jesus and discovering who He is! Epiphany is a season of light in the church calendar.

During Lent, we continue to walk with Jesus, but it is through a time of darkening. Hostile enemies, Jesus' somber words about His impending suffering, and the heaviness of His spirit as He looks over Jerusalem and mourns. During Lent, we have the opportunity, as did Jesus to say "yes" and "no". We say "no" to every voice that would drive us from the path that God has for us. His path of holiness. It takes time and space to discern what those voices are saying and how we are distracted from the good path. Traditionally during Lent, we exercise some form of fasting. This fasting allows us to set aside distractions and focus our attention on Jesus and what He is saying to us. We say "yes" to accepting God's plan and path for us, we say "yes" to obedience to His word and His commands. We say "yes" to the Holy Spirit's conforming us into the likeness of Jesus.

For this devotional during Lent, we are going to work through the Gospel of John. We spent the last weeks of Epiphany in Matthew, Mark, and Luke (the synoptic gospels). John has some particular differences in style and in the stories told.

As we finish each chapter, we are going to work to write a one sentence summary. This always helps me remember the main points as I read. You will find, starting on **page 62**, space to write a summary for each chapter in the Gospel of John.

Love you all!

Keith

Pastor/elder



WEEK 1

SUNDAY (3/1/20) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (3/2/20)

Ahhh, Lent.

If you are similar to me, perhaps you heard about Lent as something that your Catholic friends did. Perhaps you don't know much about Lent at all except that it was preceded by Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras in New Orleans. *Read more on Mardi Gras on page 6.*

During Lent, we are going to work through the Gospel of John. You can listen/watch the **Bible Project's** video here (it walks through the first 12 chapters):

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8>



❓ Did anything pop out to you as you watched the video?

❓ What are you anticipating as you walk through the Lenten season?

Continued on the next page...



MONDAY CONTINUED... (3/2/20)



WHAT IS MARDI GRAS?

Mardi Gras is a tradition that dates back thousands of years to pagan celebrations of spring and fertility. When Christianity arrived in Rome, religious leaders decided to incorporate these popular local traditions into the new faith, an easier task than abolishing them altogether. As a result, the excess and debauchery of the Mardi Gras season became a prelude to Lent, the 40 days of fasting and penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Along with Christianity, Mardi Gras spread from Rome to other European countries, including France, Germany, Spain and England. *Mardi* is the French word for Tuesday, and *gras* means “fat.” In France, the day before Ash Wednesday came to be known as *Mardi Gras* or “Fat Tuesday.” Traditionally, in the days leading up to Lent, merrymakers would binge on all the rich, fatty foods—meat, eggs, milk, lard, cheese—that remained in their homes, in anticipation of several weeks of eating only fish along with other types of fasting.

TUESDAY (3/3/20)

Read John 1

The epistle of John varies drastically from the other three gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. It starts off just as the whole Bible starts off in Genesis 1:1 with “In the beginning.” Yet notice the difference if you compare the two. In Genesis, it continues by saying, “God created the heavens and the earth.” In John, there’s no mention of creation but instead “In the beginning, was the Word.” The Word was not created.

❓ What questions do you have about God always being?

The Word is God and with God. This can be a bit confusing as it may sound like two different beings. The word “with” in Greek is *pros* and means toward or in relation. Kind of like in Genesis 1 when God says “let us” referring to the Trinity: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.

❓ What draws you to believe that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us?

❓ How is it different and significant that Jesus did not just visit, but experienced humanity?

Continued on the next page...



TUESDAY CONTINUED... (3/3/20)

 Write out verse 12:

- ② How would you explain to someone the difference between being created “in the image of God” and “becoming a son or daughter of God?” What happens here?

NOW WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS “WORD”?

In Greek, “Word” is *logos*. The idea is that one’s words are an expression of oneself. My words have told you what I am like, and my body language and my actions have likewise told you what I am like. Thus, these expressions of myself have given you an idea of what I am like. Never have you had a chance to scan my heart and soul directly. Rather, you have only gotten to know me by the expressions of myself that you have seen and heard. The word *logos* carries with it this idea of expression. It is said that the ancient Greeks realized that there must be a God, but they also believed that He was far and away beyond human comprehension. They could not reach Him, could not reason Him out, could not get to know Him by any means that they had. Thus, they yearned for some sort of “expression,” some *logos* of God, some person or thing that could express God to them and show them what He is like. They called this theoretical expression of God the *Logos*. And John starts out his book with the startling fact that he is going to set forth this very *Logos* to us!

- (Bible Teacher Nathan Johnson)


WEDNESDAY (3/4/20)

② Reread John 1

Jesus being “the Lamb of God” is a theme throughout John. In the second half of the chapter, Jesus meets John the Baptist, two of John’s disciples, as well as Andrew, Simon, Phillip, and Nathanael.

② What do you think draws the people to investigate Jesus?

② What do you think moves them to follow Him?

 Flip to **page 62** and write out a one sentence summary of this chapter.



THURSDAY (3/5/20)

🔗 Read John 2:1-12

Oh, how it's the way of the Lord to save the best for last!

The way of man is many times the opposite of God's. As we see here, the good wine was thought to be served first by the host so that the cheaper wine would be unnoticeable when the guests had too much later (v.10), yet Jesus' was even better! Jesus filled the water pots because they were empty and needed replenishing (v.7). Then, verse 11 states, "*and His disciples believed in Him.*" This wasn't the first time they believed in Jesus, but the meaning of this phrase here is more that they **grew in faith**.

- 🔗 How has your faith grown as you've seen a miracle of God that astonished you?

- 🔗 How often in the beginning in our walk with the Lord are our eyes and ears more astounded at God's working! Why does our excitement sometimes fade?

- 🔗 In what areas are you feeling empty and needing replenishing by Jesus right now?


FRIDAY (3/6/20)

Read Luke 2:13-25

(For history on Passover read Exodus 12)

② Why do you think Jesus gets so angry?

② God institutes the yearly Passover Festival to help the Jewish people remember His faithful protection and provision of them. When have you seen the Lord provide and protect you in this past year? What can you do to help remember?

 Flip to **page 64** and write a one sentence summary of Chapter 2.



PASSOVER

The book of Exodus tells us how Moses was sent by God to be the deliverer of His people out of the land of Egypt where they had become enslaved. Pharaoh does not agree to let the people leave, and thus begins a showdown between the gods of Egypt and the one true God. The tenth and final plague that would descend was a terrible judgment of death upon the firstborn. The only houses that would be spared were those that painted the blood of an unblemished lamb on their doorposts. This festival was to be celebrated yearly to help the Israelites **remember** how the Lord had saved them out of slavery. Passover occurs in the first month of the Jewish religious calendar, the month of Nisan, corresponding to March, April, or May on our calendar. Think about this imagery each time you read throughout this book when Jesus is referred to as “the Lamb of God.”

SATURDAY (3/7/20)

Read John 3

- ② If you could give one gift to the world that everyone would benefit from and enjoy what would it be?

Food wouldn't work for everyone (yes for those starving but not for those that already have it). Money wouldn't work either (as it would eventually be gone and spent on things that could make life worse). The value of money would also go down (with everyone having so much), so prices on food and shelter would increase.

Salvation unto everlasting life is the only suitable gift and the best gift that could be given to every single person in the world and only bring benefit.

The most well known verse in all of scripture: **John 3:16**

And there's a reason for that. The book of John was written to produce believers in Jesus Christ and this is how simple it is: believe in Him, believe in who He is --> God.

God gave His Son to the world. Why? Because God loves the world.

He doesn't love the sin or the fallen state that it's in, but He loves the way it was always meant to be and loves the people who are in it. So much so that He gave His Son.

② Do you believe Jesus is God? What leads you to believe or not believe that?

② Do you believe that God loves the world?

② Do you believe that God loves you individually, knows your name, reaches towards you?

 Write a one sentence summary of Chapter 3 on **page 62**.

SUNDAY (3/8/20)

Read John 4

In our last series of devotions, we spent a week looking at encounters Jesus had with women. We clearly see that Jesus values women, He values outcasts, He values foreigners, and He values those who are despised.

Can you imagine just “bumping” in to Jesus on just any ordinary day not even thinking your life was about to change forever? Even more amazing about this woman is that she is the first person Jesus tells that He is God! He first reveals Himself to a woman, to an outcast (see the box on page 15 “Samaritans”). One can not say God is chauvinistic or doesn’t care for the outsiders.

Now after their long conversation together and her realizing she’s talking to the Messiah, she runs to tell everyone in the city about Christ and brings them out to Him.

❓ How hard would that be to share Christ with those who despise you or don’t care about you?

Yet the amazing encounter with Jesus can’t keep her quiet or keep it to herself. She desires to share with everyone she knows, whether good or bad relation. I even appreciate that they listened to her and at least went to go check Him out - you never really know how someone will respond.

- ② Because you are reading this, you have “bumped” into Jesus. How has He changed your life so far?

- ② How has your encounter with Him caused you to share Him with others that you would least expect?

- ② What holds you back from sharing it with those who are hard for you in your life?

 Turn to **page 62** and write out a one sentence summary.

SAMARITANS

During the ministry of Jesus, there was contact with a group of people known as the Samaritans. The Samaritans were half-Jew, half-Gentile. The race came about after the Assyrian captivity of the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. Certain people from the nation of Israel stayed behind. These people intermarried with the Assyrians producing the Samaritans. The Samaritans had their own temple, their own copy of the Torah - the first five books of the Old Testament - and their own religious system. There was an issue among the Jews and Samaritans as to where was the proper place of worship.

WEEK 2

SUNDAY (3/8/20) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (3/9/20)

Read John 5

Just for fun, keep track while reading through John how many times Jesus does something “wrong” on the Sabbath - I love watching these encounters and seeing Jesus’ responses.

② In the first half of the chapter, how does Jesus describe Himself?

② John 5:24 seems clear that, at some point, we decide to cross from death to life. Who, around you, has not passed from death to life? Spend time praying for them right now and asking how you can be a witness to them.

TUESDAY (3/10/20)

Read John 5

A fourfold witness of Jesus as God! It's hard enough to find two witnesses to testify to find the truth, but here we have four witnesses that testify to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah. It's even a Biblical principle to have two or three witnesses for any establishment of truth (Deuteronomy 19:15).

First, we have the book of John as a written witness to us.


Second is John the Baptist who preached of Jesus before His manifestation so that even many of the Pharisees believed for a time. I love the way Bible Teacher Nathan Johnson explains the use of John's witness:

“Christ here assures them that the testimony of John was not what made up His mind that He was the Messiah. The Lord did not need to figure this out on His Own. He was not trying to ‘find himself’ and His mission in life and at last hit upon it when He heard John speak. The Lord always knew Who He was and what He was to do. The reason He is appealing to the witness of John is so that those who heard Him could be saved.”

Third is the witness of His works, the miracles that Jesus performed were not just some magic, no one else could even repeat or attempt them.

And the **fourth** witness is the Father Himself. How has the Father witnessed? In verse 38, the answer is through the scriptures. His word testified about Jesus, but these words were not abiding in the Pharisees, so they didn't receive the witness of the Father. They trusted in Moses, yet they didn't believe Moses' words of the coming Messiah.

- ② Which of these witnesses speaks loudest to you of Christ and which one is harder for you to believe?

 Write out a one sentence summary for this chapter on **page 62**.

WEDNESDAY (3/11/20)

Read John 6

After the 5,000 were miraculously fed, they desired to be fed continuously. They seek Jesus because He provided immediate fulfillment of food, but Christ challenges them to labor for food that endures to everlasting life. Those who desired to do God's work asked Jesus the question, "What should we do?" (v. 28b) Jesus' answer is the best ever: "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent." (v. 29) BAM! The only thing they must do for this eternal life is to believe.

② Who are the various people and groups called on to believe in this chapter?

② How would you explain verse 40 to someone?

② Where do you see each member of the Trinity at work in this chapter?

- Father?
- Son?
- Holy Spirit?

 Think about a one sentence summary and write it out on **page 62!**

THURSDAY (3/12/20)

Read John 7

(see the Feasts of Tabernacles on page 22)

The scriptures are so powerful - they reveal God's will. Many people say they desire to do God's will, yet they don't search the scriptures to find out His will.

In verse 17, "what Christ means here is that if anyone truly wants to do the will of the Father, then he will choose to get to know the Lord's doctrine so that he can figure out if it is really a teaching that comes from God or not. This was true then, and it is still true today. Many there are who claim to want to worship God, and yet they never take the time to get to know and to examine the words of Jesus Christ to see if they are from God or not." - Nathan Johnson

② In Hebrews 4, Keith spoke about Hebrews 4:12 - the word of God being sharp and penetrating. How have you seen God's word speak to you in the recent weeks?

② What is one way that you have discerned God's will through His word?


Continued on the next page...



THURSDAY CONTINUED... (3/12/20)

 Read John 7:37-38 and John 4:13-14

 Where are you thirsty? Where are you dry?

 Write out your one sentence summary on **page 62**.

THE FEASTS OF TABERNACLES

There were three primary feasts that the Jewish people celebrated yearly: Passover (the Feast of Unleavened Bread), Tabernacles (the Feast of Booths), and Pentecost (the Feast of Weeks). We read earlier about the Passover Feast and what it was meant to help them remember. Today we see Jesus heading to the Festival of Tabernacles. The Feast of Tabernacles is prescribed in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16. The festival is a week long feast that begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month Tishrei, roughly late-September to mid-October on our modern calendar. The feast begins with a collection of palm and willow branches to be used as a symbol of rejoicing before the LORD (Lev 23:40). All of Israel would camp out in tents for the entire week (23:42), offering all types of sacrifices as burnt offerings to the LORD (Lev 23:37-38). The prescription in Deuteronomy extends participation in the festival not only to male Israelite citizens but also to priests, orphans, widows, immigrants, and both male and female children and slaves (Deut. 16:14). The purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles was to remember the giving of the Law and to renew the covenant made between Israel and the LORD (Duet. 31:10-13).

FRIDAY (3/13/20)

Read John 8:1-11

As they were trying to trap Jesus, He turned the trap on them with a brilliant response to their question: “Let anyone of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (v. 7b, NIV). The Lord did not act like what this woman had done was okay. In the presence of Jesus, in fact, not one person in the crowd claimed to be without sin. Jesus both forgave people and warned them not to return to sin.

- ② What do you think this woman learns about who Jesus is?


- ② If the Lord said to you today, “neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more”, what sin would He be referring to?

- ② What steps can you take to walk away from that sin?




SATURDAY (3/14/20)

 Read John 8:12-59

 What does Jesus tell the people about themselves?

 What does He proclaim about Himself?

 Is there anything perplexing or confusing?

 Remember your one sentence summary on **page 62**.

SUNDAY (3/15/20)

This morning we are going to spend just some time in rest and quiet. Close your eyes and picture yourself sitting with Jesus in a place that feels comfortable, safe and welcoming.

Just sit with Him there, perhaps tell Him some things that you appreciate about Him and the way that He cares for you. Perhaps just sit seeing in your mind how He holds you tightly and loves you.

Spend some time praying and listening to your favorite worship song preparing your mind and heart to be soft for this morning's worship service.



WEEK 3

SUNDAY (3/15/20) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (3/16/20)

Read John 9

The miracle of the blind seeing! This is the first time, at least recorded in scripture, of a person being born blind and then receiving sight. Surely this blind man had no hope of ever seeing, so when the miracle was performed he couldn't deny this was someone sent from God. Genesis 2:7 says we're "made of dust;" how fitting is it that Jesus uses dust to open the blind man's eyes. Truly, the Creator was standing before this blind man.

The sad truth of *blindness of sight* versus *blindness of the heart* is what seems to be the point of this chapter. The blind man knew he was blind and needed help, yet the Pharisees did not know the blindness of their hearts to see the truth that was right in front of them.

Recently, I sat at lunch with a friend who has been a follower of Jesus for a while. He had recently been in a relationship that involved a lot of sexual sin. He was now out of that relationship and said that the pressing question on his mind was, "How is it that in my mind I know that Jesus has the best path for me, and yet I woke up day after day deciding to disobey in the area of sexuality?" Our areas of disobedience often point to hard or blind areas in our hearts.

❓ Are there areas of your heart that you might be blind to? Ask the Spirit to show you.

 Don't forget your one sentence summary.



TUESDAY (3/17/20)

Read John 10

Let's do the *Know, Be, Do* method for the whole chapter. While I am reading, I like to put a light "K,B,D" right over the text so that I can immediately see the different areas.

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Write out your one sentence summary!

WEDNESDAY (3/18/20)

Read John 11

- ② Imagine that you are Martha in this scene. What is going through your mind? Are you angry? Hopeless? Frustrated?

- ② What does it say about her relationship with Jesus that she speaks so strongly to Him?

- ② How about you? Can you speak openly to the Lord in your anger or frustration about a person or situation?

“Lazarus is dead” Jesus said flat out in verse fourteen. He wasn’t just asleep as the disciples thought.

Jesus wept. He wept at death. The sting of sin is death.

There’s death because of the fallen world we live in. Death isn’t a happy thing for anyone, including Jesus. After He mourns with the sisters, Jesus tells them that He is the resurrection & the life. Lazarus is called back to life in an amazing miracle that proves who Jesus is and that His Kingdom is a Kingdom of forever life.

When believers die, we can say with confidence that “_____ will rise again!” because Jesus is our resurrection.



THURSDAY (3/19/20)

Reread John 11

Today we are going to ponder some “feeling” types of questions. Spend some time in prayer and reflection.

- ② When have you felt disappointed in Jesus because of a response or a lack of response to prayer?

- ② Think about Lazarus being raised from the dead. What seems impossible in your life right now that you need to cry out to the Lord over?

- ② Not everyone was excited that Lazarus was raised from the dead. Has there been a situation where you see the Lord’s answer and it made you angry?

Spend some time in prayer just sharing your feelings with the Father.

 Turn to **page 63** and write out your one sentence summary.

FRIDAY (3/20/20)

 **Read John 12:1-11**

Remember our last study through the weeks of Epiphany? We discovered Jesus through the eyes of those he encountered. Today we are going to do just that. What a beautiful scene!

① What do you think Mary learns about Jesus during this scene?

② How do you think the events from John 11 impact Mary and Martha during this scene?

③ How does Jesus demonstrate value for her?

④ What do you discover about Jesus from this passage?



SATURDAY (3/21/20)

 Read John 12:12-50

Secret believers: “People who believe in who Jesus is, yet they choose not to let others know.” Many rulers and well-educated leaders believed but kept their belief a secret. These believing rulers knew that if they confessed Jesus, they would be kicked out of the synagogue - no more friends, no more community support system. They not only feared loss but they also loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Years ago, I was in a discussion with a group of other believers. When the question arose, “Is it evident to those around us that we follow Jesus?” One young man said, “I hope not, people think Christians are weird.” He worked at a machine shop. I wound up there a couple weeks later and just asked if he was working that day. The person behind the counter asked how I knew “Chris.” I said that we attend church together, and the man at the counter said, “Chris goes to church; you’re joking?” Chris was a secret believer.

❓ If those who work or go to school with you asked about you, would being a follower of Jesus be on their list of things? In what ways do you want the praise and affirmation of people around you versus the praise of God?

❓ Do you see leaders around you at work or school that you know are believers? Are they open about this or secretive?

 Flip to **page 63** and write out that one sentence!

SUNDAY (3/22/20)

Today we are going to spend some time relaxing and just sitting in the presence of the Lord. Put in your earbuds, turn on the speakers, and find some worshipful music. Just prop your feet up and “be” in His presence.



WEEK 4

SUNDAY (3/22/20) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (3/23/20)

 Read John 13

Here is the link for the second half of the book of John from **The Bible Project**:

 https://youtu.be/RUfh_wOsauk



Jesus washes the disciples' feet. Such a humbling act today, even more so back then.

Try to picture it: There were no paved roads and where they lived was desert, so you can only imagine how dusty it was. They wore sandals. If you've ever walked around in sandals outside, you know how dirty your feet can get—even if you don't live in a desert. Everyone's feet would be dirty. Upon entering a home, a slave would wash the feet of guests. Some commentators compare it to taking a coat when greeted at the door.

So when Jesus starts to wash their feet, which was usually the lowest slave's task, Peter is bewildered and protests. When Jesus responds firmly that this washing must happen, Peter answers with another robust statement to not only wash his feet but his hands and head also.

Continued on the next page...

MONDAY CONTINUED... (3/23/20)

Peter was no doubt passionately all in for the Lord. He thought that his dirty feet were too lowly for Jesus to cleanse, but he didn't realize that this washing went way beyond grimy feet. Jesus was also washing away the disciples' spiritual dirt and was headed to the cross to wash away the sins of all who let him cleanse them.

- ② What are some of the hard things Jesus has to say to Peter in this chapter?

- ② Jesus allows space and hospitality to welcome Judas, his betrayer, to this intimate family gathering. How is this example of “making space” convicting to you today?

- ② Is there a person or place that you need to create hospitality in your heart for?

 Flip to **page 63** and write the one sentence summary.

TUESDAY (3/24/20)

Read John 14:1-14

Many depend on different routes to everlasting life: Buddha, reincarnation, being “good enough,” or that everyone gets to heaven.

Jesus isn't just one possible way to heaven. No, Jesus is THE way, THE truth, THE life. He is the only way. There is only one truth. Jesus is the creator and sustainer of physical life, abundant life, and forever life.

② There's only one way to God and that's through Jesus Christ. Do you believe this?

② Have you asked Jesus to pay the penalty for your sins and become the Lord of all of your life? What is stopping you if you have not? Keith, Benji, or any of the Elders would love to have coffee and talk if you are unclear about this message. Please reach out!

② How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is preparing a place for you?



WEDNESDAY (3/25/20)

 Read John 14:15-31

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)


Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

② When you think about the gift of the Holy Spirit what are you most thankful for?

 Write out your one sentence summary!

THURSDAY (3/26/20)


Read John 15:1-17

Jesus' words have the power to cleanse!

It can be confusing why this verse is in the middle of this illustration of the vine and the branches. But, oh, this is one of my favorite illustrations! A plant is cleansed by pruning off defects so that it can grow more fruit. A branch on its own cannot bear fruit; it will shrivel up and die. The only way to bear fruit is to be connected to the source of nutrients: the vine.

Throughout the Old Testament, Israel is referred to as a vine (Psalm 80:8, Isaiah 5:7). They were a people connected to God. All the power the disciples had from Jesus to perform miracles and speak His words was because they were connected to Jesus.

Judas Iscariot, however, broke away from the vine. He didn't trust in the vine; instead, he turned to the Pharisees for provision, but that path led him to despair and death. Just as plants need water daily, so we need God daily to be nourished.

 What are you doing to ensure that His words remain in you?

Continued on the next page...



THURSDAY CONTINUED... (3/26/20)

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

FRIDAY (3/27/20)

 **Read John 15:18-16:4**

② How does it make you feel to know that you were chosen specifically?

② How would we know if the world hates us?

② Are there ways that you definitely do not feel a part of the world?
Ways that you do feel a part?

② How does the truth of knowing that Jesus chose us out of the world
(once we have become a part of His family) impact daily life?




SATURDAY (3/28/20)

 Read John 16:5-33

② Jesus promises the Counselor and promises that we will have trouble in this world. What troubles you in this season of life?

② Meditate and ask the Spirit, the Counselor, to show you what peace in Jesus looks like in the midst of troubles?

② I think often that understanding peace and hope are challenging for me when circumstances don't change, a diagnosis brings grief, and my heart just aches in the pain of the moments that seem to never have an end. What does it look like to have peace?

 Write out your one sentence summary for chapters 15 and 16 on page 63.

SUNDAY (3/29/20)

 Ahhhh, another Sunday to rest and sit in His presence. Enjoy!




WEEK 5

SUNDAY (3/29/20) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (3/30/20)

 **Read John 17:1-5**

 Describe the relationship Jesus has with the Father.

② What do you think Jesus means when He talks about bringing the Father glory here on earth? How did He do that?

 Describe eternal life from this passage:

TUESDAY (3/31/20)

Read John 17:6-19

Do you at times desire to leave the world? The Lord wanted the disciples to know that they'd face persecutions and difficult situations, and the same is true for us.

Verse 17 is one of my favorites. It is the answer to Pilate's question in John 18:38, "What is truth?" God's word is truth. The more we know the Word, the Bible, the more we know truth. Truth sanctifies a person. Sanctify means to set apart. Jesus is asking that His disciples would be set apart from the world by His truth.

- ② How do you see the Bible helping you change your actions to be more "set apart" as a son or daughter of the King?

- ② What is Jesus praying for specifically in this passage?

- ② Read the passage aloud picturing Jesus praying for people that He loves. What is most meaningful for you?

WEDNESDAY (4/1/20)

 Read John 17:20-26

Read it aloud several times.

② When Jesus prays that we will be completely unified, what do you think that means or looks like?

② Where do you see a lack of unity around you? Is there some way that you can work towards unity?

② What is most meaningful to you in what Jesus prays for?

 Write out that one sentence summary!



THURSDAY (4/2/20)

Read John 18:1-11

Judas takes the soldiers to a place familiar to him because He had spent time there with Jesus and the other disciples. I picture it being an intimate setting, a “family “ place.

② Is there someone that God wants you to create space for? Someone that needs His radical hospitality?

② What about Judas... What do you think motivates Him to turn away from this radical hospitality and space to betray Jesus?

② Has there been a time when Jesus so angered, frustrated, or disappointed you that you wanted to turn away? Have you had a chance to share that with someone and allowed them to walk alongside you?

FRIDAY (4/3/20)

Read John 18:10-27

Peter acted too quickly (We've seen him respond too quickly before). We can clearly see that Peter was not a trained soldier. He was a fisherman and he cuts off an ear (I don't think that's what people aim for when they want to hurt someone), but I'd guess he was aiming to cutting off his head. I like that the man's name is given, Malchus. I wonder why... In Luke 22:51, we see a little more detail because Jesus restores the man's ear whole again. Perhaps Malchus then believed having witnessed this miracle on himself? He was the last person Jesus healed while on earth.

- ② Peter is bold in taking the man's ear off, but soon after, as Jesus had warned him, denies even knowing Jesus three times. Why do you think Peter stays close to the scene and yet does not own up to knowing Jesus?

- ② In Luke 22, as Jesus is being led away, He looks directly at Peter. This causes Peter to weep bitterly. How do you think Jesus looked at Peter? What was in His gaze?


- ② Peter and Judas had both betrayed Jesus. What is different in their responses?

SATURDAY (4/4/20)

 **Read John 18:28-40**

Pilate again brings up the topic of “truth” asking “what is truth?” Yet there he is, standing in front of the person who had said “I am the Truth.” Jesus is kind and wants people to repent and to know truth, but Pilate is hard to the truth.

② Is there truth in your life that you are hard to? That you are ignoring?

 Sit and ask the Holy Spirit to sift through your heart and reveal areas of hardness. He wants to show you.

 One sentence in the back please!!

SUNDAY (4/5/20) - PALM SUNDAY

Today is Palm Sunday. In **Matthew 21** & **Luke 19**, we see Jesus enter Jerusalem to crowds of people cheering for Him.





- 🏠 Spend some time just sitting with Jesus in whatever way you enjoy being with Him. Reflect on ways you are thankful for Him and His presence.



WEEK 6 - HOLY WEEK

SUNDAY (4/5/20) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (4/6/20)

-  **Read John 19:1-27 aloud to yourself.**
-  Sit quietly and just “be” with the scene as you read.
-  Spend some time praying and asking the Lord to make this week, Holy Week, one of reflection for you on your relationship with Jesus.
-  Write out anything you are thinking or feeling:

TUESDAY (4/7/20)

 Read John 19:28-42

How could God die? A question asked by many, yet we make the answer harder than it is. Jesus didn't die by crucifixion. He died because He gave up His spirit once His mission was completely fulfilled. Jesus knew that the scriptures in the Old Testament had to be fulfilled before He died, so--in his last moments--he asks for a drink: "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!'" v.28. Once He drinks, He says, "It is finished!" Jesus did not stop short and die before getting hung on the cross or even before the last simple requirement of drinking sour wine. He endured to the end. He fully fulfilled every word, every prophecy. I don't have that kind of endurance, but--thank the Lord--He does!

② How can this motivate you to endure through hard situations right now?

② How do you picture this whole scene of chapter 19?

② What does it mean to you that God died?

In Luke 22, we see Jesus praying and asking the Father if there is any other way for salvation to be accomplished. He knew that death in this fashion would be excruciating and costly. Costly for God the Father and the Spirit as well.

② In your serving, loving, and following Jesus, what is costly for you right now?

 Write out that one sentence summary!



WEDNESDAY (4/8/20)

Read John 20:1-18

Jesus speaks her name and she immediately knows who He is. Mary, who had been with the Lord often during Jesus' time on earth knew His voice, especially how He said her name in that loving, tender way. I always wonder why she didn't recognize Him physically at first. Did she really think He was the gardener? Maybe it was because her eyes were so filled with tears? Maybe it was because she assumed the gardener had moved Him because that was the only logical thing? The voice of the Lord cleared up all blurriness or assumptions by calling out to her.

The voice of the Lord is heard quickly and clearly by those that know God. Our God knows us by name among the billions of people that He's created. With just one word, her name, she knew it was Jesus. Oh, how the presence of the Lord is truly felt in a time of sorrow.

- ② When has the Lord's voice been a comfort to you?

- ② At what times do you feel like you recognize His voice? Through scripture? Through teaching or preaching? Through others' counsel? The small voice you hear encouraging you forward?

Spend some time praying right now.

THURSDAY (4/9/20)

 Read John 20:19-31

② At least three times Jesus offers them “Peace!” Why do you think, after all that had happened, “peace” would be what they needed?

② Where do you feel a lack of peace in your life?

② Where do you feel doubt?

 Ask Jesus to speak peace over you.



FRIDAY (4/10/20)

Read John 21

The Lord asks Peter three times if he loves Him. In the English translation, we can't see all that is really going on in the text. However, a closer look brings a little more insight to this passage.

In Jesus' first two questions, He uses the Greek word *agape* for love. *Agape* is the highest form of love, a self-sacrificing love.

Peter responds with the Greek word *phileo* for the type of love he says he has for the Lord. *Phileo* is more like a friendship kind of love.

Peter, at one point, was this boisterous disciple and would've claimed without thinking of his *agape* love towards the Lord. After realizing how he denied the Lord when Jesus was taken to be crucified, he seems ashamed and no longer can live up to the claims he once made.

Jesus asks a third time if Peter loves Him, yet this time Jesus uses the *phileo* word for love, asking if Peter loves Him as a friend. Peter knew deep down he really did love Jesus but was so disappointed in himself.

"The Lord's questions had brought Peter to the point of his dilemma. He had failed the Lord, and utterly failed to show forth love for Him. Now, Peter can no longer view himself as the great disciple who will be loyal no matter what. Now, he must look at himself realistically, as just a man who can be used by the Lord. And now, the Lord has a mission for him. He wants him to feed His sheep." - Bible Teacher Nathan Johnson

② In your life, where do you see an *agape* love growing in you?

② Where do you see a *phileo* love growing?

② How do you know?

② How can you still let the Lord use you despite having let Him down at some or many points in your life?

 Last one sentence summary!!!


SATURDAY (4/11/20)

Read through the one sentence summaries you've written in the back of this book.

② What has the Lord shown you about Himself through this journey in the book of John?

② What do you sense He is calling you to do (he wanted Peter to feed His sheep...)?

SUNDAY (4/12/20) - EASTER SUNDAY!

-  Spend some time sitting and writing out a prayer of thankfulness for what His resurrection has made possible in your life:



ONE SENTENCE CHAPTER SUMMARIES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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Know. Be. Do... *Together*

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