

1. Help the group connect with you:
 - a. Tell us your name, where you live and work, your family details, and a funny fact.
 - b. Update us on a few things about last year:
 - i. What were a few things that went well?
 - ii. What were a few things that were difficult?

2. Summarize what you learn from the following scripture about the author of the Gospel of John.
 - a. Matthew 4:21-22
 - b. Mark 3:16-19 a Luke 9:54-55
 - c. Luke 9:28-36
 - d. Matthew 26:36-38
 - e. John 13:23-24
 - f. John 19:25-27
 - g. John 20:3-4
 - h. John 21:20-24

Day 3**3. Read** John 1:35-42.

- a. How did these men come to know Jesus, and what was their response?
- b. Why do you think Jesus gave Simon a new name, Cephas, which means “rock”?
- c. Who brought you to Jesus and how has your identity changed since you started following Him?
- d. Why do you think it’s hard for most men to introduce other men to Jesus?

Day 4**4. Read** John 1:43-51.

- a. Why do you think Jesus sought out Philip directly, while some of the other disciples were sent or brought to Him?
- b. The Galilean Jews hated the Judean Jews who controlled Nazareth. How did Jesus handle Nathanael’s criticism of Jesus being from Nazareth?
- c. What causes you to doubt that Jesus is God?
- d. Read Daniel 7:13-14. What is Jesus telling Nathanael about himself?
- e. Why do you think Jesus chose fisherman to be his first disciples?
- f. Why do you think Jesus chose you?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 2:1-11.
 - a. What might we deduce about the emotions, priorities, and relational style of Jesus as we read that he attended a Jewish wedding? (Matthew 19:4-6 & 22:1-2)

 - b. Why do you think Mary asked Jesus to solve the problem of a wine shortage at a wedding of people who appear to be either her close friends or relatives?

 - c. When Jesus says his time has not yet come what time is he referencing? (John 17:1-5)

 - d. Why do you think marriage is so important to God?

 - e. What do you need to do to more closely align with the value God places on marriage?

Day 2

2. **Re-read** John 2:1-11.
 - a. What lesson might Jesus have been teaching when he chose to transform Jewish purification water into new wine?

 - b. What was required at a molecular level for Jesus to make water into wine?

 - c. Why do you think Jesus only allowed the servants and the disciples to see this miracle?

 - d. What do you need to ask Jesus to transform in your life or in you right now?

Day 3

3. **Read** John 2:12-17 & Deuteronomy 16:5-8.

- a. Capernaum is on the sea of Galilee. Why do you think Jesus, his mom, and his disciples went there for a few days after the wedding in Cana?

- b. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Passover?

- c. What is the justification for Jesus using a whip to clear men from the temple?

- d. What is the difference between the emotion Jesus showed in this story and your angry outbursts?

Day 4

4. **Read** John 2:18-25.

- a. Who are the “Jews” that demanded a sign from Jesus?

- b. Why do you think Jesus did not perform a miracle to prove his authority, but instead told them about his death and resurrection?

- c. Why did Jesus perform miracles in Jerusalem for others to see, yet chose to not entrust himself to the people?

- d. At what point does approval from others become a problem for you?

Day 1**1. Read** John 2:23 - 3:1-8

- a. Why do you think Nicodemus came at night to meet with Jesus?

- b. How was the spiritual heritage of the Jews thought to be critical to their salvation?

- c. Read Ephesians 1:13-14 and Romans 10:8-13. How is a person born again? Who might be described as our spiritual parents?

- d. What is Jesus comparing to the wind?

- e. How were you born again?

Day 2**2. Read** John 3:9-21 and Numbers 21:4-9.

- a. Why is it difficult for people to understand scripture and the truth of Jesus?

- b. Why did Jesus reference the snake on a pole to help Nicodemus understand?

- c. How would you explain John 3:16 to an unbeliever who thinks Christians are fools for thinking there is only one way to heaven and everyone else is condemned?

- d. When have you found yourself loving darkness?

- e. What should you bring into the light today?

Day 3**3. Read** John 3:22-30.

- a. How would you describe the situation in this text?

- b. How do you see this behavior playing out in our churches today?

- c. How does John correct the thinking of his followers?

- d. How do you need to become less so than Jesus can become more?

Day 4**4. Read** John 3:31-36.

- a. What are all the ways John describes Jesus in this text?

- b. What is the outcome for a person who rejects the Son? Can you describe what you think that will be like?

- c. What makes you certain that you are not condemned?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 4:1-42 and 2 Kings 17.
 - a. Who were the people living in Samaria?
 - b. What is a possible comparison John is trying to make between Joseph and the woman at the well? (Genesis 50:15-21)
 - c. How does Jesus gain the woman's trust and convince her that He is the Messiah?
 - d. What are some other reasons why a woman might have had five husbands other than adultery? Why were the people of her town willing to listen to her?
 - e. What is Jesus telling the woman about true worship?
 - f. What aspect of your persona do you think is most valuable to Jesus in redeeming lost people?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 4:27-38.
 - a. Why are the disciples so confused by Jesus' behavior?
 - b. How did "*doing the will of him who sent me*" provide Jesus the food he needed?
 - c. How did the disciples reap the benefits of work that was not done by them?
 - d. Who is one person in your life whom you deeply dislike? What would have to change for you to want to connect with that person with the desire to offer them salvation?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 5:1-8
 - a. What might Jesus have been trying to communicate when he chose to heal a lame person on the Sabbath?

 - b. Why do you think Jesus chose to heal only one person instead of healing them all?

 - c. Why do you think the man gave excuses as to why he couldn't get in the water instead of saying yes to the offer of being healed?

 - d. What problem seems to be unresolved in your life? What reasons have you come to accept for why the problem still exists?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 5:9-18
 - a. Why would a man being healed and carrying his mat on the Sabbath be viewed as bad?

 - b. What does the response of the man who was healed show you about his belief in Jesus?

 - c. Jesus said his Father is always at work. What kind of work would God be doing on the Sabbath, and how is Jesus following the will of His Father?

 - d. Why do you think God prescribed one day of rest for man?

 - e. Read Exodus 20:8-11. How do you feel about keeping the Sabbath Holy?

Day 3

3. **Read** John 6:25-42 and Exodus 16.
- Why were the people confused about how they would be fed?
 - What do you learn about salvation in this story?
 - How do you know if you are only pursuing Jesus for comfort?

Day 4

4. **Read** John 6:43-59.
- What is Jesus trying to tell the Jews about his body and blood?
 - Why would Jews not drink or eat the blood of any animals? (Genesis 9:4-6, Leviticus 17:10-14)
 - How can we experience the power and presence of Jesus as believers without actually eating the body and drinking the blood of Jesus? (John 14:15-26)

Day 5

5. **Read** John 6:60-71.
- Why did so many people abandon Jesus at this point?
 - Why did Peter stay?
 - Why have some people who were active Christians turned away from Jesus?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 7:1-9 and Leviticus 23:39-44.
 - a. The Feast of Tabernacles was a mandatory celebration for Jewish men. Why was it important for them to remember what God did in the desert?

 - b. What are a few of the key events God orchestrated in your life that you should remember and celebrate with people in your life each year?

 - c. How much time do you allocate to following God's plan for your life each week?

 - d. Jesus diligently followed the timing which God set in place for his life. Why is God's timing critical in your life? Share at least one example of how God's timing became clear to you.

Day 2

2. **Read** John 7:10-24.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus led his brothers to believe that he was not going to the feast?

 - b. What does Jesus say about his authority, the law, and circumcision to help the Jews see their erroneous thinking?

 - c. What is driving the Judean Jews to want to kill Jesus? (John5:16-18)

 - d. What erroneous beliefs have you held that have changed through your diligence in studying the Bible?

Day 3**3. Read** John 7:25-44

- a. What are the claims which the skeptics made about Jesus in these verses?

- b. How does Jesus refute each false claim?

- c. Read Isaiah 55:6, Amos 8:12, John 7:33, & Romans 11:25. What does Jesus say about the window of opportunity for people to be saved?

- d. Read Matthew 24:41-46 & Revelation 20:15. Why do you think God will exclude people from salvation?

Day 4**4. Read** John 7:45-52.

- a. How did Jesus evade being arrested?

- b. In 2 Kings 14:25 we learn that Jonah the prophet was from Galilee. Why do you think the Pharisees falsely accused Nicodemus of not knowing the scriptures?

- c. Read 1 Kings 19:14 and Matthew 23:29-32. Jesus like many of the prophets of Israel died. Why are you not experiencing any significant opposition to following Jesus?

- d. The Jews were deeply divided, and many opposed the spread of the Gospel. How do you intentionally or unintentionally interfere with the spread of the Gospel?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 8:1-11 & Leviticus 20:10.
 - a. Recognizing what the law required, why do you think the Pharisees only brought the woman to be judged?

 - b. Why did Jesus liberate the woman who had been living a life of sin?

 - c. How does Jesus expect us to deal with lust and infidelity in our life? (Matthew 5:27-29)

Day 2

2. **Read** John 8:12-30 and Zechariah 14:1-9.
 - a. What is Jesus implying by telling the Jewish leaders he is living water (John 7:37) and the light to the world (John 8:12)?

 - b. How does Jesus validate the claims he makes about his identity?

 - c. What does Jesus say are the two consequences for not believing in Him? What are the blessings for those who do follow Him?

 - d. How can we, as sinful people, truly believe Jesus is God?

Day 3**3. Read** John 8:31-47.

- a. What slavery are the Jews describing, and what freedom is Jesus describing?

- b. What sin still controls you? How have you found liberation from other sins?

- c. What do you learn about the Devil from Jesus?

- d. What lies from the devil might be impacting your behavior?

Day 4**4. Read** John 8:48-59.

- a. What did Jesus mean when he said: “If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death”? (John 3:6, 5:24, & 11:25-26)

- b. How does Jesus respond to each accusation?

- c. What are the implications of Jesus saying: “before Abraham was born, I am”? (See Exodus 3:14, Leviticus 24:16, & John 10:33)

- d. How does this portion of scripture bring you comfort when you think about death?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 9:1-12.
 - a. Why might the disciples think the man's blindness was caused by sin? (Exodus 20:5)

 - b. How does Jesus explain a lifetime of suffering from blindness?

 - c. Read Genesis 2:7. What is Jesus teaching by using mud to heal the man's blindness?

 - d. How has God used a specific suffering in your life to display his works?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 9:13-23
 - a. Why did the people force the healed blind man to go see the Pharisees?

 - b. Everyone asked how the man was healed. Why is the healing of a man blind from birth so difficult to believe?

 - c. What caused division among the people involved in this investigation?

 - d. Fear of man seems to be a predominant issue in this story. How does fear of man specifically affect you?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 10:1-10.
 - a. For this discussion, assume Israel is the flock. How does this lesson connect with the blind man healed in chapter 9?

 - b. What role does Jesus say he plays in the life of his sheep?

 - c. Read Ezekiel 34. Who does Jesus imply are the thieves and how are they trying to steal the sheep?

 - d. What are some examples of spiritual thieves that could hurt you and your family?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 10:11-21 and Psalm 23.
 - a. What are some of the characteristics of sheep that scripture uses as comparison to God's people?

 - b. What are some of the key characteristics of Jesus being the good shepherd?

 - c. How does the intimacy Jesus have with his sheep encourage you?

Day 1**1. Read** John 12:1-11

- a. Why do you think Mary used her hair along with expensive perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus?

- b. How has your relationship with Jesus impacted your generosity with your money, time, or comforts?

- c. While this passage makes it easy to see the greed in Judas, what helps you see the greed in yourself when you are being selfish?

Day 2**2. Read** John 12:12-19, Luke 19:28-44, and Zechariah 9:9

- a. What did Jesus communicate to the people and the leaders by riding a donkey into Jerusalem and by allowing people to praise him?

- b. What do you try to make people think about you when you first enter a room, and how do you attempt to communicate it?

- c. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus made it clear that the Pharisees missed their opportunity to see the deity of Jesus. Why do you think Jesus set a time frame for those men to be saved?

Day 3**3. Read** John 12:20-26

- a. Why did Jesus respond to the Greeks' request for a meeting by teaching them about dying like a grain of wheat? (1 Cor 15:36-49)

- b. What could be a source of the loneliness described in this text, and how does Jesus tell you to alleviate it?

Day 4**4. Read** John 12:27-36 and Hebrews 2:14-18.

- a. Why was Jesus troubled as he thought about his own death?

- b. How has the thought of your own death or the death of loved ones affected you?

- c. How did the death of Jesus destroy the power of the devil and why does that matter to Jesus? (Colossians 2:13-15 and I John 3:8)

Day 5**5. Read** John 12:37-50.

- a. How does your love of the praise of men overshadow your belief in Jesus?

Day 11. **Read** John 13:1-20

- a. Of all the things which Jesus could have done before he died, why do you think he chose to wash the feet of his disciples?

- b. What are some of the characteristics of serving others that Jesus models for us and that Peter cannot understand?

- c. What has made it difficult for you to serve other people?

- d. Who can you serve this week in the same way that Jesus demonstrated in this story?

Day 22. **Read** John 13:21-30

- a. Why do you think God allowed Satan to co-exist with Jesus, and why does he allow him to co-exist now with the Holy Spirit here on earth?

- b. What do you think it means that Satan “entered into” Judas?

- c. How has Satan used you to do his work?

Day 3**3. Read** John 13:31-35

- a. Why was God glorified in that moment?

- b. Where do you think Jesus went that the disciples could not go?

- c. Why did Jesus describe “loving each other” as a new commandment, and why is it so hard to do?

Day 4**4. Read** John 13:36-38

- a. How do you think Peter was feeling as Jesus told him (after three years of being together) he could not be with Jesus any longer and he would deny him three times?

- b. What are some of the ways you deny Jesus (for many men numerous times each day)?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 13:36-14:4
 - a. Why do you think Jesus described his Father's house to his disciples at this point in time? (Joshua 1:6,7,9,18)

 - b. How is the uncertainty of your future impacting your right now?

 - c. What are all of the things that you learn from Jesus about his Father's house?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 14:5-14
 - a. What are all of the ways in which Jesus described himself?

 - b. What does Jesus require so that people may access the Father and his power?

 - c. Why does Jesus not answer all of our prayers, which he promised to do whenever we ask in his name? (I John 5:13-15)

Day 3**3. Read** John 14:15-24

- a. What are all of the ways Jesus promised to help and comfort his disciples after He was gone?

- b. What do you need to do to experience the same help and comfort that the disciples received?

- c. What would make it possible for the Lord to dwell in the hearts and minds of believers?

- d. What might make it difficult for God to live in your house today?

Day 4**4. Read** John 14:25-31

- a. What do people of this world require in order to be at peace with themselves?

- b. What is different about the peace that Jesus promises to believers?

- c. How does Jesus expect us to live without fear and anxiety?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 15:1-8 and Isaiah 5:1-7.
 - a. How would you describe Jesus in comparison to the original vineyard described in Isaiah?

 - b. What are some of the characteristics of branches that Jesus used to describe his followers?

 - c. Read Galatians 5:16-25. How would you describe the fruit that is produced from abiding in Jesus?

 - d. What is helping you produce fruit that Jesus would value? What is hindering you from being a productive “branch”?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 15:9-17.
 - a. What is the benchmark for our love for Jesus?

 - b. What are some of Jesus’ commands? (Feel free to look outside this text.)

 - c. Why do you think Jesus commands us to love each other (James 4:1-4)? In what ways do we do this?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 15:18-25 and 16:1-4
 - a. Based on what Jesus described, how could this level of persecution happen to Christians in the United States today? (*Please don't use this as an opportunity to position your political views.*)

 - b. November 6th is an *International Day of Prayer* for persecuted Christians hosted by Voice of the Martyrs. Please take a few minutes and do an internet search on global Christian persecution. What did you learn?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 16:5-11
 - a. What was necessary for the Holy Spirit to come?

 - b. Read Ephesians 1:13-14.
 - i. Why does God send the Holy Spirit?

 - ii. How do you think it is possible for God to have his Spirit live inside of us without us becoming God?

 - c. How does the Holy Spirit work through believers to convict the world?

 - d. How can we lead people away from Jesus when we are trying to convict them of their sin?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 17:1-5 and Philippians 2:4-11.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus prayed this prayer in front of his disciples?

 - b. What are three reasons for which Jesus asked God to glorify him?

 - c. Why do you think glorifying God is so important to Jesus?

 - d. How do you think God expects you to glorify Him?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 17:6-19
 - a. What were all of the things that the disciples received from God through Jesus?

 - b. How did Jesus ask God to “keep” his disciples?

 - c. In what ways are you struggling to live out what Jesus prayed?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 18:1-11, Matthew 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-42, and Luke 22:39-53.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus brought three disciples to the garden with him?

 - b. Why do you think it is important to ask for emotional support when you are in a dark or difficult situation?

 - c. Why do you think Jesus asked God three times to have the cup taken away? (Jeremiah 25:15-16)

 - d. How do you think falling asleep could have caused the disciples to fall into temptation?

 - e. How does your complacency with your faith cause you to fail?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 18:12-26, Matthew 26:57-75, Mark 14:53-65, Luke 22:66-71
 - a. Why would Roman soldiers take Jesus to the High Priest? Do you think it was Roman or Jewish soldiers who arrested him? (Feel free to research this topic.)

 - b. Why did the Jews not kill Jesus themselves based on Leviticus 24:13-16?

 - c. Why would blaming the Romans for the death of Jesus be important to both ancient and modern Jews?

Day 3

3. **Read** John 18:15-18, 25-27, Matthew 26:69-75, and Luke 22:54-62.
- What are some of the reasons Peter denied Jesus especially after Jesus had warned him that he would?
 - What are common ways you deny Jesus sometimes daily?
 - What makes it so difficult to stop denying Jesus even after seeing yourself repeat the same behaviors?

Day 4

4. **Read** John 18:28-40, Matthew 27:11-26, and Luke 22:63-23:25.
- What were all the accusations the Jews placed against Jesus to Pilate?
 - Using the internet, please explain why would Pilate want to know if Jesus was a king?
 - What did Jesus teach Pilate about his kingship and kingdom, causing Pilate to claim Jesus was innocent?
 - Why would Pilate ask “what is truth”?
 - What causes you to give in to pressure from people who you want to please?

Day 3

3. **Read** John 19:28-37, Matthew 27:45-56, and Isaiah 53.
- What was finished when Jesus died?
 - Why do you think God would have Isaiah write about the death of Jesus 300 years before it happened?
 - Read Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22-28. Why would God need Jesus to die a gruesome and bloody death?
 - How could the blood of Jesus continue to atone for your ongoing sinful behavior?

Day 4

4. Read John 19:38-42 and Matthew 27:57-66.
- What does this story of Joseph teach you about wealthy people?
 - Why would two prominent Jewish leaders become unclean and visible to other Jewish leaders to properly bury Jesus according to Jewish law?
 - What will it take for Jesus to pull you out of hiding and into serving Him, knowing you may be seen by unbelievers?

Day 1

1. **Read** John 21:1-6 and Matthew 28:7-10.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples to Galilee?

 - b. Read Luke 5:1-11. Why did Peter abandon his calling to go back to fishing?

 - c. Why do you think Jesus called so many fishermen to be his closest disciples?

 - d. When has your failure given God greater access to your life?

Day 2

2. **Read** John 21:7-14
 - a. Why do you think Jesus took care of Peter's physical needs before starting a very intense conversation with him?

 - b. What does this approach teach you about how to help people grow?

 - c. Why do you think Jesus gave them such a huge catch and kept the nets intact?

 - d. How do you think John recognized Jesus while the others struggled with his identity?

 - e. What makes it hard for you to recognize Jesus when He is trying to speak to you?

Day 3

3. **Read** John 21:15-19.

- a. What was Jesus doing in this sequence of questions and commands?

- b. How have you failed and how has that affected your service for Jesus?

- c. Why did Peter's job change from being a fisher of men (Luke 5:10) to feeding and shepherding the sheep?

- d. Read Psalm 23 and Acts 20:25-35. What are some of the requirements of a good shepherd?

- e. Read Ezekiel 34. Why did God condemn the "shepherds" of Israel?

Day 4

4. **Read** John 21:20-25.

- a. Why do you think Jesus told Peter about his death?

- b. What was the warning and command that Jesus spoke to Peter?

- c. How do you think this warning and command could apply to you?

- d. What do you learn from Peter giving up his fishing career for Jesus?