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# GOSPELS

MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN

*a women's bible study for you, for her, for us.*

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ourTUESDAY



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# GOSPELS

MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN

The Gospels: A Study Guide  
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**GOSPELS**  
MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN

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JOHN 67





## OVERVIEW

A NOTE FROM LANIE BETH

The first four books of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four books are collectively referred to as the Gospels. Each book has its own unique voice within a group of other voices and all of this is within the body of the New Testament Canon.

The Canon is a set of texts (or “books”) which Christians regard as authoritative scripture. These scriptures include New and Old Testament combined.

Our hope with this study is to clarify the concept of the 4 books that cover all of Jesus’ birth, life and ministry. Obviously, we aren’t able to cover everything—that would be millions of pages and I don’t think

I have enough memory on my little computer for that! Instead we will take a bird’s eye approach to the four books, the purpose behind their placement in the New Testament, and the authors of these four accounts of the story of Christ. We will zero in on a few stories that seem to highlight Jesus’ character and intentions on earth as well as his plans for the kingdom come. If you’ve studied these books in-depth before, then I invite you to cozy up with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John like old friends. But, if this is your first time taking the dive, then strap on those goggles and put on your bathing cap so we don’t mess up your hair. It’s gonna be some kind of ride and we might even have a little fun along the way!

I’m thrilled you’re here. No matter what time of day you’ve chosen to carve out for Bible study there is always something else you could be doing. Trust me, I’ve got piles of laundry screaming my name right now. Everything costs something. Studying costs you something, but not spending dedicated time in the word costs you as well. Let’s think in terms of kingdom cost vs. worth. You know, come to think of it, that laundry has been sitting there a few days . . . pretty sure it’s gonna be just fine for another 30 minutes.

Let’s do this. Together.

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# MATTHEW.

THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

MEANING OF NAME:

*“Gift of God”*

NATIONALITY/ETHNICITY:

*Jew*

OCCUPATION:

*Tax Collector*

DATE BOOK WAS WRITTEN:

*50s-60s AD*

AUDIENCE:

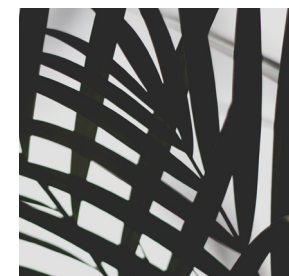
*Jews*

BEGINS WITH JESUS’  
UNIQUE BIRTH.

JESUS’ RELATIONSHIP  
TO ISRAEL AND  
ISRAEL’S REJECTION  
OF HIM

BRIDGE FROM OLD  
TESTAMENT TO NEW  
TESTAMENT

KNOWN AS “THE  
GOSPEL OF THE KING”



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*day one*

# INTRO TO MATTHEW

## GENEALOGY OF JESUS

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READ MATTHEW 1:1-17.

A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE WAS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

5. WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? TEACHER? SON? FRIEND?

6. WHAT VERSE(S) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WRITE THEM HERE.

7. IF YOU HAVE A STUDY BIBLE OR A COMMENTARY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER.

WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

*May the peace of the Lord be with you today!*

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*day two*

## BIRTH OF JESUS

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Well, hello there! Wherever you are and whatever you're going through, I hope the letters on the page find you well. Today we are going to take a momentary detour from normal life and pretend it's Christmas. Sounds fun, right? I can just about taste the cookies and the hot chocolate. But we aren't focusing on the traditional American Christmas traditions today. Let's take a step back, oh, say 2,000 years ago, when a baby was born in a stable and a young, unwed mother had to make some serious relationship decisions.

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TAKE A MINUTE TO READ OUR PASSAGE FOR TODAY: MATTHEW 1:18-25

This passage is not long and it's not the most detailed account of Jesus' birth. Traditionally, the birth of Jesus is read out of Luke 2:1-20. This is a perfect example of the purpose of our Gospels study—to look at how they differ and to uncover what each author is trying to communicate through thier telling of the story.

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO READ THE LUKE PASSAGE AS WELL. (LUKE 2:1-20)

When the puzzle pieces begin to align and I can see how they each fit together, fireworks start to go off in my brain. The Gospels are this beautiful overlapping puzzle and yet each book is meant to stand on its own within the context of the set of four books. That's exactly what's happening here as the story of Jesus' birth begins to unfold.

Even if you've never studied this passage before, most people can tell you that Mary was a young virgin, Joseph wanted to quietly divorce her, an angel told him not to do that, and then they had a baby on some hay in an animal stall.

And people think the Bible is boring! Why?

*“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.”*  
-Mt. 1:18

Mary was young—still in her teens. We see in Luke's account (Luke 1) that she had a friend and advisor in her cousin Elizabeth who was also pregnant unexpectedly, albeit she was at least 50 years older than Mary. They shared a bond that was present from the womb (Luke 1:43-45) and would later be the proclamation of the Son of God through John the Baptist. But let's get back to that young couple with a baby from the Lord.

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In the first chapter of Matthew, verse 19 tells us a lot about the culture of that day which was extremely forgiving and permissive to the male—giving him complete autonomy in a relationship—yet not as much for the female. Although Joseph and Mary were only engaged, it was considered binding. However, Joseph would have been able to divorce Mary even before the marriage ceremony happened. If he had divorced this teen bride, she would have likely never married again because she would have been seen as no longer virginal. In that society, as a female, your youth and virginity were what enabled you to get an upstanding man to care for you. It was a hard system that worked sometimes—this is one of those times!—but many times the marriage was not out of true love but rather familial obligation.

All of this information is important to note because Joseph was not only a stand-up guy, but he actually did love Mary and wanted what was best for her. So, although he had it in his mind to divorce her quietly (he could have legally and customarily made a big spectacle in the town square) he didn't follow through because of a dream.

READ MATTHEW 1:20-21 AND EXPLAIN THE DREAM JOSEPH HAD.

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Ever wanted to feel validated in the midst of a confusing situation? This angel and the dream surely validated Mary at a time when, I'm sure, everyone would have given her the side eye when she swore she became pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Sure, Mary. I bet that's what happened . . .

And yet, verse 22 reminds us that this story was not out of the blue. Complete opposite in fact.

READ ISAIAH 7:14 AND WRITE IT HERE

One thing you can always trust about the Bible is that there are links and connections all throughout scripture . . . prophecies that are built, layered, and fulfilled in spoken words and babies born of faithful women.

CAN YOU NAME ONE OTHER LINK OR CONNECTION OF SOMETHING PROMISED IN SCRIPTURE THAT WAS LATER FULFILLED?

Admittedly, our last two verses for today feel a bit rushed. Have you ever finished a great book that was suspenseful to the very end? And the author ties all the strings together but waits until the last page out of 524 to do it? That's a little glimpse into how Matthew writes. He's very straightforward but I'm always left wanting a few more details. Verses 24-25 are no different.

*"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus." -Mt. 1:24-25*

As we close for today, I want you to notice one last thing with me. The last sentence is 7 words long but it says several things.

- 1- Joseph heeded the dream from the angel and was obedient in naming the baby Jesus.
- 2- It shows that Mary and Joseph were on the same page at the time of the birth. It was their child that they were raising as God had spoken to them.
- 3- The prophecy of Jesus coming was fulfilled by two ordinary people in a stable that was meant to hold animals yet it was the birthplace of the Savior of the world come to earth.

Whether it's today or this year at Christmas, I hope that you'll take some time to remember how extravagant and beautiful this story is even without a huge tree and fancy decorations and gifts. Those things are fine, but the star of the show is Immanuel, God with us. He wasn't born in a perfectly decorated room. He was born to two faithful, young parents who knew he was really something special and they put their very lives on the line for him. Don't worry though because 33 years after his birth, Jesus returned the favor and saved not only his parents but the entire world.

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*day three*

## PARABLE OF THE TALENTS: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GIFTING

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Hey there, friends. Today's content is near and dear to my heart. We did an entire night at Our Tuesday on the Parable of the Talents. It's a chunk of scripture that seemingly levels the playing field. It's not about who works where or does what, it's not about our own accomplishments or how young or old we are. We have an age span of 60+ years reading this study. We are all starting from the same place today. Let's ask the Lord to protect our hearts during this time.

*Lord, keep our hearts open and teachable that we might be humble enough to hear what you have to say to us and confident in your trustworthiness. Amen.*

Two questions to get us started:

1. What do I believe about who God says I am?
2. What do I have?

Can't ask the second until you answer the first. I can't tell you what to do with your life, with your days and with your talents. But I can remind you who you are. And here's the beauty of this conversation. I don't have to know you personally to know these things. And you don't have to know me personally to believe them. This is scriptural and how we exhort one another. Not motivational. Motivational means I want you to do something that will (hopefully) help you but will always benefit me. Scriptural is to remind, challenge and exhort one another to be who we were created to be. See the difference?

Here's the next question that I think is pretty universal: What am I doing with my life? All these days. All these hours and minutes that I have at my disposal. What am I doing? Am I trapped in a system that doesn't give me freedom to move around? Am I so over committed to events and meetings that there's no time to be committed to listening to God? Can we even have two seconds of silence in the car or in the house without music, tv or a podcast on because we're afraid to be alone with our thoughts?

A few thoughts before we dive into Matthew 25:

-Is insecurity your security? (What would you do or be without it?)

-If you take so much pride in what you do that it's hard to separate yourself from the role? (What would you do or be without it?)

-Do you feel like you know that the Lord has called you to do something and it hasn't happened yet? (What would you do or be without it?)

This parable teaches about gifting but also about when the Lord returns. Gifts are just that. Gifts for others. Meant to be given away.

The Master is going on a long trip and assembles his own servants. He gives the first servant 5 talents, the next servant two talents and the third, one talent. They were to use this money to generate income for the master.

Of course we want to know the monetary value of the talent. Some authorities say that the talent typically weighed about 33 kg (or 75 lb) varying from 20 to 40 kg. In June, 2018, the international price of gold was about \$41,155.69 per kilogram. One gram costs about \$38. At this price, a talent (33 kg) would be worth about **\$1,400,116.57**.

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I'm gonna say that one more time: **Around \$1.4 million dollars.** So, let's do a little math together.

HOW MUCH MONEY WAS THE FIRST SERVANT ENTRUSTED WITH?

HOW MUCH MONEY WAS THE SECOND SERVANT ENTRUSTED WITH?

HOW MUCH MONEY WAS THE THIRD SERVANT ENTRUSTED WITH?

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Understanding the amount of money at a modern day exchange rate was a game changer for me. It made it so incredibly real. There is no denying that even 1 talent was an outrageous amount of money....but 5!?! Whoa nelly.

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It's not difficult to see that Christ is the master and the long journey is the period of time between his ascension back into heaven and his second coming. The three servants are given responsibilities according to their individual abilities to be completed before their master comes again.

When the master comes back, the first two servants received the same commendation. *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord!"*

Each of the the first two servants increased their master's money by 100%. In a world that is constantly asking for 150% it makes me really happy that even in the parable, Jesus only references 100%. They gave all that they had and that was enough. He didn't berate them for not bringing in 200%. I pray that is comforting to you today. You and I are required to give our best— our 100%. Nothing more and nothing less.

The third servant had nothing but insults and excuses for his master. He accused him of being hard and unreasonable, reaping where he had not sown and gathering where he had not scattered seed. He excused himself on the basis that he was paralyzed with fear, and he buried his talent. This servant was doubtless an unbeliever; no genuine servant would entertain such thoughts of his master.

*"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'* *"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'" -Mt. 25:24-27*

His master rebuked him as wicked and lazy. Having such thoughts of his master why hadn't he deposited money with bankers to earn interest? Incidentally, in verse 26, the master is not agreeing with the charges against him. Rather he is saying, if that's the kind of master you thought I am, all the more reason to have put the talent to work. The servant's words condemned him, not excused him.

**Those who desire to be used for God's glory are given the means. The more they do, the more they are enabled to do for Him. Conversely, we lose what we don't use.**

We could spend all day on the fact that, quite frankly, this passage sort of hurts my feelings. We live in a world that rewards and honors extreme pride or extreme insecurity. Scripture tells us that there is somewhere in the middle that we can live and thrive.

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We can be confident in our gifts and abilities all the while knowing who gave them to us and that one day we will in fact have to give an account.

Matthew Henry tells us that we will give an account according to:

- + *faithfulness, not usefulness*
- + *sincerity, not success*
- + *uprightness of heart, not degree of opportunity*

Knowing truth and living truth are two different things.

1. *I am gifted, he is gifted, she is gifted.* - No one holds the prize as the only gifted one. We must acknowledge those around us so that we too can acknowledge our own gifting.

2. *It matters how I spend my days.* - I can make peace with what I've done in the past. But it still matters what I do tomorrow.

3. *It's not too late.* - This is a massive lie that we have bought into in our ageist society. If you've got breath, sister, it's not too late.

FINISH THE SENTENCES:

I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR HOW I SPEND MY DAYS. I CHOOSE TO \_\_\_\_\_ EVERY DAY.

I AM GIFTED PERSONALLY AND UNIQUELY BY A PERSONAL GOD. ONE THING HE GIFTED ME TO DO IS \_\_\_\_\_.

MY GIFTINGS ARE MY RESPONSIBILITY TO TEND. I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE WITH MY ABILITY TO \_\_\_\_\_.

MY GIFTS ARE NOT SOLELY FOR MYSELF BUT \_\_\_\_\_.

Much like giving a present to someone, we get to reap the excitement and the joy of giving something that they really want. We get to reap the excitement and joy of the gift but it's not ours to keep. If it only benefits me, then it's not my gifting. It's my hobby.

*Thank you Father for gifting us and equipping us to do what you've called us to do. Show us the way away from our own desires and lead us toward a relationship with you so that we can in turn focus on your work and your people.*

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## SIGNS OF THE END OF THE AGE

MATTHEW 24:1-14

Hey there, it's great to see you today. Through the pages of this workbook, at least! Today's text is pretty formidable. There's a lot to cover and a lot of questions we won't be able to cover in just a few pages. If you'd like to dig deeper, send us an email and we can point you to additional resources for extra study! Without further adieu, let's dive in together!

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TAKE A MINUTE AND READ THROUGH MATTHEW 24: 1-14.

Not sure what headings your Bible uses (they vary throughout the translations) but mine is titled "Signs of the End of the Age." Sooo, you know. No big deal. It's cool, right? We've got this. Maybe?

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No, but really. This is a heavy topic and a topic that I, quite frankly, tend to avoid. It's not that it's scary as much as it raises questions that I'm sometimes uncomfortable having hanging over my head. Don't we just love a devotional that is all wrapped up in a pretty bow at the end? Goodness knows I do. The truth is—life isn't wrapped up in a pretty bow. We can find comfort in the fact that our faith is not based on platitudes and quick fixes. That would be harder for me to swallow than questions that remain. If the Bible seemed super simple and easy then I'd worry that God couldn't handle my complex thoughts and situations. I'm sitting here thankful that's not the case. Rather, we have a God that welcomes questions, dialogue and a relationship built on trust and belief.

When chapter 24 opens up we see Jesus leaving the temple. Some sources say that this is symbolic. That he would essentially walk

away from the Jewish faith—a system in place for a thousand years—so that he could walk into a new kind of faith relationship with God. Christianity was an entirely new concept, religion and way of living that had never been seen. Jesus was actually making a way for communion with God for normal people like you and me.

Fun fact: Early disciples of Christ were often called members of The Way. While it sounds like an 80's cover band, it was actually a really important distinction because Jesus was The Way to God. Ordinary people no longer required a priest to be the intermediary. Game changer.

As Jesus starts walking with the disciples, they point to the large buildings—no doubt architectural feats for that time period. Impressive to most but Jesus is clearly not having it. The disciples were pointing out that man can make huge buildings . . . The big fancy buildings were the height of class in the Jewish Quarter—something to be in awe of. Jesus quickly points out that none of that matters in the end. He reminds his guys that when the end of time comes not a single stone will be left on top of each other.

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*"I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another, every one will be thrown down." -Mt. 24:2*

WHAT DOES THAT STATEMENT BRING TO YOUR MIND? IS IT INSPIRATIONAL TO YOU OR DOES IT SEND A CHILL DOWN YOUR SPINE?

I'm assuming that those comments really did a number on the disciples too because verse 4 tells us how they came to Jesus privately in the garden because they needed clarification on his statements.

Even this simple act shows the mentor relationship that these men felt with Jesus. They knew if there was something they didn't understand, that they could go to him and ask for clarification.

If you're ever in a situation and someone is teaching on Biblical principles and questioning is never allowed, then you've got a problematic situation. If there is ever a leader that doesn't allow himself or herself to be questioned, that should raise a major red flag for you. Emotional abuse is just as detrimental as physical abuse. Be on guard as Paul writes in Ephesians 4:14. You must have sure footing so that you don't lose yourself to "*cunning and deceitful schemes*." As Jesus answers their questions in verse 4, we see his urgent yet kind response to their concerns.

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*"Jesus answered: 'Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things just happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.'" Mt. 24:4-8*

What's interesting is that Jesus doesn't reference the buildings again. He doesn't circle back to the "not one stone will be left on another" comment. He immediately dives into what is coming. We don't have to look far to understand that there are famines, earthquakes, nations fighting and kingdoms that rise against other kingdoms. Open up one page of your news feed to see those things.

The fascinating portion of this passage is the last verse. Birth pains. Like a woman in labor. These earth catastrophes will begin slowly and far apart to the point where you're not sure if it's the real thing or not. Much like a woman in labor.

When the contractions begin, you start timing them to see if they become more frequent and more intense.

The signs of the end times will follow suit. Catastrophes will come quicker and quicker together until they are constant. (Doesn't it feel that way now?) The earth is groaning for a savior to come again and bring with him a new heaven and a new earth. It's a mind-blowing yet traceable prophecy that has spanned a thousand years and continues to take place. There are more catastrophes in 2018 than there were in 2005. And so on and so on. And, sadly, they will keep coming just as Jesus has said. The end is near and the earth knows it.

My guess is the same as yours as to how long it will be until Jesus comes back. The disciples felt like he would come back in their lifetime, and people have been predicting the end of time for the last 2,000 years. We are wise to not try and put a time and date on it. However, there is one piece of advice that my friend Lindsey gave me that resounds in my head on this topic: "Don't spend so much time worrying about what's coming that you don't make yourself ready. Because no matter what comes, if you're not ready, you'll miss the fullness of what the Lord has for you."

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Now that was advice that was personalized to me, but her point has general application. If we don't get our hearts and lives ready and prepared, moving toward the great commission of heaven, then we will miss out on Jesus . . . but there's a lot of heart work and fruit that is produced in a life that's stayed the course for decades. The gift doesn't just come at the end of time or the end of your life. It's also found in every day that you get to walk with him on this earthly soil and love those around you.

A FEW QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT TODAY:

1. HOW DID THIS PASSAGE AFFECT YOU?

2. ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR CHANGES YOU NEED TO MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

3. WHAT OTHER CURRENT DAY 'SIGNS' DO YOU THINK SUPPORT THIS CONCEPT OF LABOR QUICKENING?

4. PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN YOUR IN ANSWER TO #3.

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*day five*  
**MATTHEW**  
SELF-GUIDED STUDY

CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE SCRIPTURE OPTIONS TO DO YOUR OWN STUDY TODAY.

- + Matthew 19:16-30
- + Matthew 11:25-30
- + Matthew 13:1-23

A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

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4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE IS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

5. WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? TEACHER? SON? FRIEND?

6. WHAT VERSE(S) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WRITE THEM HERE.

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7. IF YOU HAVE A STUDY BIBLE OR A COMMENTARY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER.

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WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

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8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

*May the peace of the Lord be with you today!*

# MARK.

JESUS AS THE ANOINTED ONE

MEANING OF NAME:

*John - "Jehovah is a gracious King"*

*Mark - "A Defense"*

NATIONALITY/ETHNICITY:

*Roman*

OCCUPATION:

*Assistant to Paul & Barnabas*

DATE BOOK WAS WRITTEN:

*Mid to late 50s*

AUDIENCE:

*Romans*

BEGINS WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST

FIRST GOSPEL TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN

TWENTY MIRACLE ACCOUNTS

ACTION FOCUSED INSTEAD OF TEACHING FOCUSED

KNOWN AS "THE GOSPEL OF THE SERVANT"



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*day one*

## INTRO TO MARK

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY

READ MARK 1:1-8.

A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE WAS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

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WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

*May the peace Lord be with you today!*

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*day two*

## PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR

MARK 6:1-6

Today's title sounds like the name of a really good Marvel movie. Spoken in a deep, growling, earthy voice: "A Prophet Without Honor . . . coming soon to a theatre near you." Can you hear it? Alright, cheesy, I know, but the premise still holds weight. While Jesus walked on the earth, he was a teacher, a preacher, a prophet, a minister . . . God in the flesh. He didn't fit into one box, he encompassed every box of Biblical prophesy. So when our passage today references him as a prophet, that doesn't mean that he wasn't all of those other things, it simply means that his own family didn't know what box to put him in either.

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TAKE A MINUTE AND READ THROUGH MARK 6:1-6.

Right off the bat, I think many of us can relate to feeling like our families (immediate or extended) don't always "get us." Maybe it's our humor, the way we dress, our career path or the life choices we've made. Certainly each of us has had moments of not fitting in even in places where we should be accepted with open arms. This is why our Jesus is so incredible. Even in these moments that seem trivial, we serve a God that gets us in a real and tangible way. Take comfort in that today. Whether you're in the middle of family drama or the thought of it brings a twinge to your stomach because the pain of the past is so real. You're in the right place.

Verse 1 starts with "*Jesus left there and went to his hometown . . .*" The "there" that the verse is referring to is an amazing story.

READ MARK 5:35-43.

Jesus had just healed a woman with a 12-year issue of blood and raised a little girl from the dead. All in a day's work, right? So he has these incredible encounters with faith-filled people that he literally and figuratively gave life. And then he goes home . . . to a bunch of siblings and who knows who else since the term "family" is referenced very loosely. He goes home to his hometown where he was just the carpenter's son. He was "just" Jesus of Nazareth at home.

**There are three main characteristics of Jesus I want to make sure we cover in this small but mighty passage.**

1. When we find ourselves ostracized in social settings, we can find comfort in a God that understands. Most places Jesus went, people were immediately skeptical. There were whispers and conversations behind his back that happened so often yet he never let that stop him from doing the task at hand. Even with all the skepticism, when he opened his mouth people were drawn to him. He was winsome, engaging and downright mesmerizing. Hundreds to thousands of people don't just follow a man around, leaving their day jobs just to hear him preach. He was familiar with the hardships of skeptical people.

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IS THERE A TASK OR JOB YOU'VE KNOWN YOU NEEDED TO COMPLETE BUT HAVE BEEN DETERRED BY NAYSAYERS? I BELIEVE THE KIDS ARE CALLING THEM 'HATERS' THESE DAYS? HOW CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOMEONE WHO IS WARNING YOU OUT OF LOVE AND SOMEONE WHO IS A HATER?

2. Jesus responded to faith. Wherever he went he worked through people of faith. The scripture tells us that Jesus did a few miracles in his hometown but for the most part he traveled elsewhere. And big crowds followed him. All because, whether they could articulate it or not, they knew there was something different about Jesus.

IS IT COMFORTING TO YOU THAT JESUS RESPONDED/RESPONDS TO FAITH? OR DOES THAT FEEL LIKE ONE MORE THING ON YOUR TO-DO LIST? IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE THAT YOU TRY TO BRING TO THE TABLE BESIDES FAITH? EXPLAIN.

ARE THERE ANY CHANGES THAT COULD BE MADE TO YOUR SCHEDULE OR ROUTINE SO THAT YOU COULD HAVE A LITTLE MORE MARGIN FOR WHAT THE LORD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO? TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND SEE THOSE AROUND YOU (EITHER IN YOUR HOME OR IN YOUR TOWN) WITH FRESH EYES?

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3. MacDonald writes that there is “No place harder to serve the Lord than at home.” Without being stereotypical, this seems especially poignant to women. The work is never done and is often underappreciated. There’s not a start date or an end date. Some days feel like they go on for weeks. So in a very literal sense—work at home is hard. Discipling hearts, young and old, is exhausting work. Cultivating a healthy marriage is enough to make you fall into bed each night with nothing left to give.

Work in our hometowns can be the same way. Some of you are shepherding a group of people, some large and some small. This too is like work at home. Never done and exhausting if you do it the right way. A life that lives poured out and given to others for the sake of the Father is a life lived like Jesus’.

LET’S READ OUR MARK 6 PASSAGE AGAIN.

Jesus tasted loneliness. He knew what it was like to be alone literally and figuratively. If you’re not sure who you can befriend or disciple today, ask him to show you! Sometimes it is harder to see that in our hometowns. But, together, let’s promise to pray for the world, focus on loving people that live around us and minister to whomever we encounter.

It’s okay if people are skeptical in the beginning. People were skeptical of Jesus, too. My friends Matt & Alley always say, “Authenticity wins every time.” And it really, really does. It might not be a quick fix, but time will eventually tell the truth. Stay the course, sister. In your home, hometown or across the ocean. You have a friend in Jesus.

PLEASE LIST 3 PEOPLE THAT LIVE EITHER UNDER YOUR ROOF OR IN YOUR HOMETOWN THAT YOU CAN PRAY FOR OVER THE NEXT 7 DAYS:

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*day three*

## PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MARK 4:1-20

I've never had much of a green thumb. You know what, scratch that; we're all friends here. Black thumb, party of one. I don't know what it is. The plants, they just do not love me. They seem finicky and temperamental. My own emotions plus my children's emotions are enough to tend, so I sort of steer clear. Know what I mean? Today's passage is all about farming. And sowing and reaping. I'd venture to say that you've heard this story before in some form or fashion. Either in a Sunday School class or even in a secular setting where someone is teaching on actions and reactions. The good news is that our second passage in Mark is less finicky than those succulents that are all over Pinterest that mockingly promise to be "easy to care for."

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TAKE A MINUTE TO READ MARK 4:1-20.

I know it's a long passage and I thought about splitting it into two sections, but I think we would do ourselves a disservice to split it when this rich passage has so many layers of meaning.

RIGHT OFF THE BAT—SUMMARIZE THE PASSAGE IN ONE SENTENCE. (WE'LL DO THIS AGAIN AT THE END AND SEE HOW SIMILAR THEY ARE.)

When studying larger chunks of scripture like this I like to make an outline. It's not as nerdy as it sounds but I'm a visual person, so it helps me process to see it all in outline form. Here's how I would outline these 20 verses:

I. Mark 4:1-8: Mass teaching of Parable. This wasn't the only parable Jesus taught that day but clearly one of the most poignant.

II. Mark 4:9: Jesus starts verse 3 with '*Listen!*' and ends the story with (v.9) "*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*" These two statements work in conjunction because of their firm yet instructional Rabbinical tone.

III. Mark 4:10: Disciples agree and don't make a scene in public. But once they were alone with Jesus, the questions came quickly.

IV. Mark 4:11-12: Jesus says some cryptic things here even in the midst of explaining a cryptic parable. His point was that not everyone who hears the Word accepts the Word—the Word being salvation.

Open and receptive hearts look past the surface to see what the parables really mean and thus learn the Messianic secrets of scripture. This is why understanding context and reading scripture with an open heart and mind to hear from the Lord is paramount in Bible study. Without those eyes and ears we might as well be talking about farming and black thumbs.

V. Mark 4:13-20: Jesus explains what all the soil types really mean as well as the good and bad consequences of each. This passage ends with a promise of a harvest 30, 60 or even 100 times what was sown.

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Now that we are all outlined, read back through both tellings of the parable: The mass teaching and private explanation to the

disciples. As you read back through vv.3-8 and vv.13-20 fill in details about the following types of soil.

- 4 TYPES OF SOIL -

DESCRIBE EACH ONE IN YOUR OWN WORDS AND, IF YOU HAVE A PAST EXPERIENCE, THEN PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN.

1. WAYSIDE SOIL:

2. STONEY GROUND:

3. THORNY GROUND:

4. GOOD, RICH SOIL:

DO YOU THINK THAT THE 4 TYPES OF SOIL COVER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES? WOULD YOU ADD A 'TYPE OF SOIL' IF YOU WERE WRITING THIS LIST IN 2018? IF SO, WHAT?

honest, this season has been a tough one for myself personally as well. A lot of change. Some good and some hard. And a general sense that something is coming. Not sure if that resonates with you but it helps me to know that tilling of the soil, while painful, truly does make room for deep roots. And deep roots are what hold us in place when the changes comes.

I'm praying for you today . . . that you can steady yourself on the Word so that you can stand back up on your feet. And if you're reaching for new heights and brave new seasons that you will know that steadfast roots are what keep you grounded when the Lord enables you to grown tall. If you have ears to hear, listen—so that you might produce a crop that gives 100 times what was sown.

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The beautiful thing about this passage in the Gospel of Mark is that it teaches us that we don't always fall into just one category . . . for better or worse. Sometimes it can feel like one minute we are good soil that enables deep roots to form and the next we are getting choked out by the thorn bushes. Sister, don't be discouraged if this is where you sit today. If we are being

*day four*

## THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MARK 11:1-11 / ALSO IN LUKE 19:28-44

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If you're from the south, then you'll be able to appreciate this Easter story a little more than most. Here in the south, Easter is like the Super Bowl for Church. And it's sort of the Super Bowl for dressing your family as well. Matching, but not like you tried too hard. Who can best teach about the Resurrection through eggs or bunnies or whatever your tastes lend themselves to. And definitely Sunday lunch. There's quite possibly an egg hunt happening that afternoon and, as any good parent should, there's a parent tax on the kid's candy. Those Reese's Eggs are a small token of their appreciation for me raising them, right?

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While it is sort of funny to think about the cultural differences of Easter, our story today marks the start of Holy Week thousands of years ago. Yet there are no bunnies or colored eggs and certainly no nice matching outfits—just a Savior on the verge of completing his earthly mission, a ragtag group of dedicated followers and a donkey. This motley crew was not only unafraid to face the Roman empire and its accusations but Jesus quite literally paraded himself through the town. There was no sneaking in through the dead of night for our Jesus. That's not the kind of God we serve. We serve a God who, while in human flesh on earth, borrowed a lowly animal and entered the city. As soon as the poor community saw him coming, they did the only thing they knew how to do—they gave the cloaks off their backs. This group of people didn't have money to buy flowers and fancy decorations for the donkey, but they gave what they had.

TAKE A MINUTE TO READ MARK 11:1-11

WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST THOUGHTS AFTER READING THIS PASSAGE? WHAT'S THE ONE THING THAT STICKS OUT MOST TO YOU?

As we begin this section of scripture, there are a few details that will slip past if we don't take a little time to research.

*“As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. . . .” -Mark 11:1*

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There is much significance here in these two locations that I want to make sure you don't miss. These small towns were just before Jerusalem. The Holy Land . . . and also the place where Jesus would be betrayed, beaten, crucified and resurrected. So it's no small detail that Bethphage stands for “house of unripe figs” and Bethany stands for “house of the poor, humble and oppressed.”

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The reference to the figs is in Matthew 21:18-22 and can be translated to mean “potential.” So interesting, right? So Jesus is literally in the middle of potential and the poor, humble and oppressed. It's important to also note that he gave instructions to the disciples to go and borrow a donkey—much like when he borrowed a boat in Matthew and the donkey was exactly where he said it would be. Such a small detail but don't miss the significance. Your Bible might note that the donkey had never been ridden before. This is just another way to show that it was young and ready to carry a Savior through what we affectionately call—Palm Sunday.

After the travel, breaking the donkey out of confinement, and after the villagers laid cloaks down over the donkey's back and on the ground—they started simultaneously saying the craziest things. Think flash mob meets church service.

*“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”*

These 4 phrases carry much weight in the story. Here’s what they mean:

1. *‘Hosanna’*- Originally meant ‘Save, we pray!’ Presumably, the people of Jerusalem thought Jesus was going to take over as a physical King on earth. They wanted him to save them from their Roman oppressors. The word Hosanna later became a term of praise!

2. *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”*- References Psalm 118:26 - a clear recognition that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

WRITE PSALM 118:26 HERE:

3. *“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”* - This references back to #1 in the way that the people of Jerusalem still thought Jesus would set up a kingdom through the lineage of King David.

4. *“Hosanna in the highest!”* - This one has been interpreted two main ways: (1) a call to praise the Lord in the highest heavens or (2) for him to save the world from his place in the highest heavens. Quite honestly, both seem appropriate.

It’s an amazing thought to picture in your mind—our Jesus riding through town on a cloak covered donkey with people waving palm leaves as he strode past. I can imagine the chanting happening. The rhythmic praising full of truth and hope.

They might not have known what was about to take place in a mere week’s time, but they definitely knew something was about to happen. And they were praising, singing and honoring in the best way they knew how.

At the end of the parade, Jesus went into the temple. He looked around and scripture tells us he did not feel at home there because the priests wouldn’t give him his rightful place in the temple (there’s a pretty quick correlation there between our lives and the temple priests, no?). So after Jesus made it known that he was in Jerusalem, he left again with his disciples and retreated back to Bethany. This was Sunday evening before Holy Week began.

Jesus knew what was coming. He knew what had to happen. And while his entire life was preparation, he was very much preparing that week for the crucifixion. When we are obedient and walk in what God has for us, it takes exhalation, preparation and commitment. This story contains all of those. It’s a story that heralds love, dedication and a rally cry from the people to be saved.

*“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”*

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*day five*  
**MARK**

**SELF-GUIDED STUDY**

CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE SCRIPTURE OPTIONS TO DO YOUR OWN STUDY TODAY.

- + Mark 1:14-20
- + Mark 2:23-27
- + Mark 8:31-38

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A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?
  
2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?
  
3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

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4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE IS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

5. WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? TEACHER? SON? FRIEND?

6. WHAT VERSE(S) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WRITE THEM HERE.

7. IF YOU HAVE A STUDY BIBLE OR A COMMENTARY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER.

WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

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END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE  
YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

*May the peace of the Lord be with you today!*





# LUKE.

CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR FOR ALL PEOPLE

MEANING OF NAME:

*“Light Giving”*

NATIONALITY/ETHNICITY:

*Most likely Greek*

OCCUPATION:

*Doctor/Physician*

DATE BOOK WAS WRITTEN:

*Early 60s*

AUDIENCE:

*Mainly Greeks / both  
Jews & Gentiles*

BEGINS WITH JESUS’  
UNIQUE BIRTH

LONGEST OF THE  
GOSPELS

ONLY GENTILE

MORE PARABLES THAN  
ANY OTHER GOSPEL

ALSO WROTE THE  
BOOK OF ACTS



*day one*

# INTRO TO LUKE

THE PROPHECY OF JESUS FULFILLED

READ LUKE 1. YOU CAN DO IT!

A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE IS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

5. WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? TEACHER? SON? FRIEND?

6. WHAT VERSE(S) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WRITE THEM HERE.

7. IF YOU HAVE A STUDY BIBLE OR A COMMENTARY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER.

WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

*May the peace of the Lord be with you today!*

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*day two*

## NO ONE HIDES A LAMP

LUKE 8:16-18 / ALSO IN MARK 4:21-25

Has anyone ever told you where to move the lamps to in your house? Maybe your interior designer friend? Mother? We know from design magazines and home renovation shows (eyes on you, Joanna Gaines) that pairs of lamps certainly make a bigger impact. And then there's the issue of scale. You can't have a tiny lamp to light up a huge room. That would look silly.

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It's funny (and by funny I mean amazing) that scripture tells us where to place lamps in our homes. And not in a bossy way but in a way that encourages our light to shine so that all might see Christ in our lives.

LET'S READ LUKE 8:16-18 TO SEE HOW JESUS WOULD DECORATE.

Obviously, we are starting off with a little humor. Jesus was much more concerned about how his followers lived their lives rather than how they decorated. Since we've only got three verses today, we are going to do our best to ring them dry. Take 2 minutes and write them out below. Writing is one of the best ways to really read and understand each word.

If you grew up in church, the song "This Little Light of Mine" probably comes to mind. And if you didn't, then you're probably thinking I'm really weird to be talking about little lights that I own. This concept of "not hiding your light" has surpassed religious context and it now a worldwide phenomenon. Everyone has a light and therefore everyone has the right to let it shine the way they want it to shine, right? Sounds good on paper but in practice it can get really sticky. This is why we have small documents like The

Constitution. But, in all seriousness, the world has nothing new to offer. Everything the world offers is a counterfeit of something, and in this thread I think you'll see that there's more depth to the story than just letting your light shine. There has to be purpose and direction behind the shining or else it becomes a blaring light that blinds people before they can even get close. Or perhaps it will never get the opportunity to shine at all.

Jesus' tone as he starts in verse 16 feels very "I'm just gonna tell you how it is real quick."

*"No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar (see also: bushel) or puts it under the bed. Instead he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light."*

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If we were going to put these two sentences into numerical points, it would probably look like this:

### 1. No one just lights a lamp

In teaching the disciples (his audience for this talk) about the principles of the kingdom of God, he was lighting the lamp for them. The question then turns into, what shall you do with it?

### 2. Don't hide it under a jar or bushel

The wording here is very important. A jar or a bushel in some translations refers back to a measure in commerce. Business. Believers should not allow work and business to obscure our testimony. We are to use our businesses and work environment as a pulpit for the gospel. We must be incredibly diligent to use our platform to speak the truth of God's love and not lose sight of our goal through our busy careers.

### 3. Don't put it under the bed

In verse 16, the bed represents laziness. Slothfulness. Indulgence. These things can slowly kill the fire in your lamp easier than almost anything. It starts out innocently enough and then before you know it it's too late. Jesus wanted his disciples to be on guard and disciplined.

**4. No, the lamp is on a 4-sided stand so that it can be seen by those who come in.**

A stand has 4 sides. All sides, all the time. No exceptions.

*“For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.”*  
-Mark 8:17

As much as we try, there is still usually a small difference between our true selves and our promotional selves. Who we are at work vs. who we are at home. Who we are on social media vs. who we are at church on Sunday. Who we are on Friday night vs. Saturday morning.

Get my point? Sometimes there's a dissonance there that only you and God know about. In this passage, Jesus is trying to say that when you live in the light there's nowhere to hide anymore. There are no dark places to retreat. So, for better or worse, it's all gonna be out in the open sooner or later. Time always tells the truth, right? The Lord is committed to closing the gap between our true selves and our promotional selves. The more we allow his faithfulness to work on our hearts, the easier the gap closes. The more we resist and conceal, the more he will absolutely handle the situation whether you like it or not.

Verse 17 rolls beautifully into 18 . . . *“Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him.”*

This is one of those verses that when taken out of context could sound menacing and greedy. But since we know that Jesus was talking with his disciples about how to tend to the light, we know that it's about so much more. I'm a bit obsessed with the first sentence: Therefore, carefully consider how you listen. This is not only poignant, but it helps us to understand the next sentence even better.

When Jesus references what we have, he doesn't mean material possessions. He means understanding and wisdom. Read it again with that revelation. See? Feels different doesn't it? His point isn't that you might wake up one day to find out you no longer own a car even though you thought you owned a car. Let's read it in the Amplified Bible:

*“Be careful therefore how you listen. For to him who has **spiritual knowledge** more will be given; and from him who does not have spiritual knowledge, even what he thinks and guesses and supposes that he has will be taken away.”* Luke 8:18 AMP (emphasis mine)

Ever met someone who knows everything? Just ask them, right? Or someone who has a (loudly voiced) opinion about every topic under the sun? Jesus wants to be sure his disciples don't become that guy. And I think he doesn't want us to become that guy or girl either. Thoughts, guesses and suppositions are all based on our human ideas. Not scripture. It takes a lifetime of work to keep our minds in line and guarded so that our minds (and thus our hearts) don't take us off course.

Sister, don't be the person who knows everything but misses the most important stuff. Don't put that lamp under all the pressures of work or under a slothful bed. Put it out on its stand where it belongs. And where you belong. So that you can live a life that is bright and shining—with a trustworthy light that comes straight from a Father that gave it to you in the first place.

*day three***MUSTARD SEED & YEAST**

LUKE 13:18-21 / PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

We are jumping into another parable today. One thing I want to take a minute to clarify is that when Jesus taught through a parable, it was different than when someone giving a speech uses an analogy to explain an experience. When Jesus spoke in these seemingly cryptic parables, he used them as his only teaching tool. They weren't just a technique embedded into a script. There was rarely an explanation at the end. There was often no pretty bow to set atop a perfect conversation at its conclusion. Some left dismayed and confused. Some felt as though he was speaking directly to their souls. Of course, God come to earth has that ability but it is worth noting that some people went about their daily lives never truly knowing what Jesus' point was in its entirety.

I point that out because that can truly be how we go through church, conferences or whatever gatherings of faith we attend. Much like I'm sure you've experienced sitting in a service and it can feel as though the speaker is talking in the Charlie Brown teacher voice. And other times it's as if they must have hidden cameras in your home because clearly they've been spying in on your life! The parables in the Gospels had the same effect on its listeners.

Jesus was constantly asking crowds to do the kindergarten thing and put on their listening ears. The spiritual way to say that is '*Let him who has ears hear.*' Luke 14:32. This has little to do with ears and much to do with opening up hearts and minds to receive truth that was about to come. Our passage for today is very reminiscent of this concept. It is 4 verses that are dripping with promise and beautiful pictures.

But, fair warning—they sound weird. So go ahead and sit criss-cross applesauce on the alphabet mat while we all put on our listening ears.

READ LUKE 13:18-21

You've probably read this before or at least had people reference "*faith like a mustard seed*" (Matthew 17:20). Obviously mustard seeds are microscopic. Tiny. It's baffling that they could become anything in a group, much less by themselves. Yet, here is Jesus talking about how the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.

Jesus was such an excellent communicator that he knew when to use various techniques. We know he was winsome, magnetic and thousands followed where he went. So verse 18 picks up right after he had healed a woman who was crippled by a spirit for 18 years, unable to stand. He spoke "*Woman, you are set free from your infirmity*" and she walks again. All this happened on the Sabbath so we can safely conclude that our passage for today also happened on the same Sabbath.

*"Then Jesus asked, 'What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It's like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree and the birds of the air perched on its branches.'" -Luke 13:18-19*

The fact that he starts with a rhetorical question makes me super happy for some reason. He was fully in control of the crowd and the context: a multitude of people, on the day of rest and in the midst of humiliated opponents that he roasted after they complained about him healing the woman. (Luke 13:10-18)

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed planted by a man in his garden. The man is Jesus and his garden is earth. A mustard seed is the tiniest and probably most underestimated seed of all seeds. In the same way, Christianity has been underestimated and deemed

too small and different to actually produce anything—especially when Jesus was walking the earth. This new fangled religion was seen as child’s play. Another thing to note about the mustard seed is that if it falls to the wayside, it simply becomes a bush. Not a tree. So the tree fact is imperative to grasp. Small things exceed expectation when handled with grace and according to scripture.

The next sentence references that the tree did grow but that the “birds of the air perched on it’s branches.” While there’s much scholarly speculation, the majority of authors take this to symbolize the enemy. If the kingdom of God is the huge tree, then there will be birds of the air (evil) that will come and try to sit on the branches and take advantage of the tree. Satan is known as ‘*the prince of the air*’ (Eph. 2:2) There is a war with the creator and sustainer of the world and those who attempt to counterfeit and sponge off his provision. The end times will be no different.

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“Again, he asked, ‘What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It’s like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.’” (vv.20-21)



*day four*  
**LORD'S SUPPER**

LUKE 22:7-12

Ah. The Lord's Supper. It's an act that the church has performed for thousands of years and yet it still can be confusing when you're not exactly sure how to partake. And let's be honest, there's never enough juice in that tiny little cup to wash down that dry bread. Am I right?

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We refer to the Lord's Supper as the Lord's Table sometimes. I know there are so many images of our Americanized tables. Farm tables with fresh greenery. Beautiful lights strung and perfectly mismatched chairs . . . But when the Lord's supper happened, the arrangement was not quite as pretty— a low table, sitting cross-legged and super close to the dirt on the floor. No doubt the dirt mixed with the food just enough to give it a little extra flavor. There was much less focus on the decor and much more focus on the faces around the table and the food, all hand prepared that day. They didn't Instacart their naan to their pueblo-style home. The preparation was much more physical back then. Everything took more work. From setting the table to cooking to just going to the bathroom with all those layers on.

These are all hard things to understand from a girl that doesn't even really like to picnic.

LET'S TAKE A MINUTE AND READ OUR PASSAGE FOR TODAY. IF YOU HAVE TIME, READ IT TWICE, PLEASE: LUKE 22:7-21

Right from the start, Luke (the doctor) is laying the scene for us. Never one to miss a detail (again: Doctor Luke) he knows that context and details are what make things come together. When the story begins, it's the first 7 days of Passover which opens with

the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This would be worth some time researching if you want to dig a little deeper! Fascinating and rich!

Verse 7 tells us that "*The day came on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.*" Spoiler alert, Jesus is the Lamb of God. He's partaking in the Passover meal, but he's also the one that must be sacrificed. Now before you tune me out because this feels too Hunger Games, we have to remember what happened leading up to this moment as well as everything scripture has prophesied. Jesus' entire ministry was focused on the message of a coming kingdom. He would leave but something greater would come in his place.

The disciples are not totally clueless as they are sometimes painted to be. It's easy to sit here 2,000 years later and scoff at how they just couldn't get it. But the truth is that they got it as deeply and as honestly as they could. There just had never been anyone or any religion like this before, so yea, there's a learning curve. But they did their best to listen, follow and obey. Four times in this passage, my Bible translation uses the word "prepare" or "preparations."

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IS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW THAT YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE PREPARING FOR? EVEN IF YOU DON'T FULLY KNOW WHAT THE NEXT SEASON OF LIFE WILL BRING?

In verse 10, Jesus tells Peter and John to look for a man carrying a water jar and that he will lead them to the house where the meal will be prepared and eaten. It's so interesting that it's a man carrying the jar of water, since that was normally a woman's job. But MacDonald writes, "The man here makes a good picture of the Holy Spirit, who leads seeking souls to the place of communion with the Lord."



Although Jesus’ death was looming, he was still trying to give them small and large ways to see that once he ascended back into heaven another would come to be with them—the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49).

One more thing to note about the upper room and the meal. Jesus could have already had the room set and the meal assembled, right? Yep. Sure could have. But he allowed the disciples to help. To lend a hand that they might be a part of the joy. We can reflect that same concept in our church home today. What an honor that our Savior unites us with others to serve our community! Preparation is always hard work but it makes the meal so much sweeter.

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*“When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” Luke 22:14-15*

The term “eagerly desired” translates into “I have fervently desired with great desire.” Jesus clearly wanted to share the Passover meal with his people. An important distinction here is that they partook of the Passover meal which included 4 cups symbolizing the following:

1. “I will take you out . . .”
2. “I will save you . . .”
3. “I will redeem you . . .”
4. “I will take you as a nation . . .”

So once they completed that portion of the Passover meal, Jesus introduced his dinner companions to two more sacraments—the bread and the wine.

*“This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” (v. 19)*

*“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” (v.20)*

I hope you see the connection now after verse 20. The Passover cups represent the Old Testament covenant with God and his people—to bring them out of Egypt, to take, save, redeem and adopt them (4 cups). But Jesus’ bread and wine was symbolic of a new covenant. One where the wine and bread represents his blood and body that would be crucified on the cross in a matter of days.

3 things Jesus’ death represented:

1. *He took* - He took humanity upon himself.
2. *He broke* - His body was broken on the cross.
3. *He gave* - He gave himself for us.

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The simple fact that Jesus honored the old covenant while putting into place the new covenant that would forever change how the world interacted with God with a cup of wine and a plate of bread is astounding. This new covenant represents so many nuances but the one I’d like us to end with today is thanksgiving.

The Greek word for thanksgiving in this passage is the word “Eucharist.” This greek term is used across denominational lines all over the world to represent the practice of communion. If you don’t hear anything else today, please hear this:

**If communion is thanksgiving—then thanksgiving moves us toward freedom.**

The only way to give thanks is to remember. We remember what Christ has done for us on the cross just as Christ desired for the disciples to remember the past with him in the upper room all while keeping the future return in mind. Some of us shudder at the word REMEMBER . . . because we’ve oriented so much of our life around not remembering. That night. The incident. Her. Him. The way they looked. How I felt that night.

Remembering takes so much bravery. But when we remember, we can choose to be thankful for the past and what’s coming again.

**Thanksgiving renews our resolve to the gospel and to one another.**

I pray that today you can be brave enough to remember that Christ opened the door to God for all people. May we live lives of thanksgiving that renew our resolve to the beautiful gospel of Christ and to the beautiful people all around us that we can serve.

*day five*  
**LUKE**  
SELF-GUIDED STUDY

CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE OPTIONS TO DO YOUR OWN STUDY TODAY.

- + Luke 5:17-26
- + Luke 10:1-24
- + Luke 5:27-32

A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?
  
2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?
  
3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE IS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

5. WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? TEACHER? SON? FRIEND?

6. WHAT VERSE(S) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WRITE THEM HERE.

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7. IF YOU HAVE A STUDY BIBLE OR A COMMENTARY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER.

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WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

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8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

*May the peace of the Lord be with you today!*



# JOHN.

JESUS THE REVEALER OF LIFE FROM ABOVE

MEANING OF NAME:

*“Jehovah is a gracious giver”*

NATIONALITY/ETHNICITY:

*Palestinian Jew*

OCCUPATION:

*Fisherman*

DATE BOOK WAS WRITTEN:

*Between 85-95 AD*

AUDIENCE:

*Jews & Gentiles / everyone*

SON OF ZEBEDEE NOT JOHN THE BAPTIST

INCLUDES WHAT JESUS DID, WHAT JESUS SAID, AND THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO JESUS

UNIQUE UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS' LOVE

TASKED BY JESUS WITH THE ROLE OF TAKING CARE OF HIS MOTHER AFTER HE WAS CRUCIFIED

BUILT AROUND THE 7 PUBLIC MIRACLES



*day one*

# INTRO TO JOHN

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

READ JOHN 1:1-18.

A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE IS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

5. WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? TEACHER? SON? FRIEND?

6. WHAT VERSE(S) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WRITE THEM HERE.

7. IF YOU HAVE A STUDY BIBLE OR A COMMENTARY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER.

WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

*May the peace Lord be with you today!*

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*day two*

## JESUS, THE LIGHT OF LIFE

JOHN 1:4-5

*“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” - John 1:4-5*

John, the beloved, was a man after God’s own heart. Not to be confused with John the Baptist, John the disciple whom Jesus loved wrote the fourth and final gospel account in the New Testament. There isn’t full clarification on why John was named the beloved disciple, but one thing we do know is that John understood God’s love in a very intimate, sweet manner. In this, he didn’t focus on sharing the Good News with a certain people group, John wrote the gospel to all people alike. It makes perfect sense, then, that John begins his account by stating that the life of Jesus was the light of all mankind.

John starts off giving us a summary of the gospel itself. Jesus’s physical life on earth brought true light to the entirety of mankind, and in his death and resurrection we’ve been invited into eternal life. Even though we didn’t have the opportunity to live while Jesus was alive on the earth, the results of Jesus’ actions bring us power today. We can always rest in knowing that the darkness of this world shall never overcome the light of Himself. Nothing can undo or overcome the finality of Jesus’ death and resurrection!

John goes on to give record of many events of Jesus’ time on earth. Unlike the other gospels, John writes to not only describe what occurred but to focus on the meaning of each event. The reason behind God giving John this job holds purpose, and I believe God did so because He gifted John with the art of being detail-oriented. God wants us to not only know what Jesus did in bodily form but

also the significance behind each encounter He had. God used John to give us those details; how sweet God is to invite us into sharing his word with the world!

Before we take a deeper dive into the gospel of John, let’s soak up the simple truths that John, through the power of the Holy Spirit, spoke to all of God’s people:

*“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” -John 1:12-13*

*“Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.” -John 1:16*

What gracious words John has spoken over our lives! As we continue in the book of John, let’s remember who God created John to be and how he used John to share the Good News. Just as God gifted John with his platform, he has gifted each of us with a unique stage to carry his name to those around us. Let’s close in prayer over his goodness and faithfulness in fulfilling his promises!

*God, thank you for giving us the gospel of John. May these simple yet powerful truths overwhelm us today. We thank you for inviting us into the eternal light that only you can give. Thank you for giving us grace upon grace through Jesus. Help us to use our gifts to bring glory to your Kingdom and to share the light of the Good News to those around us!*

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*day three*

## JESUS CLEANS OUR TEMPLE

JOHN 2:13-25

TODAY, LET'S READ AND DISCUSS JOHN 2:13-25. PRAY OVER THE SOFTENING OF YOUR HEART BEFORE READING THESE VERSES AS GOD HAS A LOT TO TEACH US IN HIS WORD TODAY!

In this section of scripture, John documents one of the first encounters Jesus had with the Jewish people. Jesus enters the temple courts, a place designated for God's worship, to find that the people had turned it into a market for their own glory.

The Jewish people were gifted with a temple. The purpose of the temple was to bring glory to God as it allowed the Jewish people an opportunity to worship, receive the Word of God, and pray. When the temple was first established, the Jewish people carried God's vision, and in that, they wanted the temple to be a place where outsiders could also join in worshipping the King. Therefore, they made a place where others could come, purchase sacrifices, and spend time in communion with God. Yet, in their own sin, time passed, and the Jewish people lost sight of the God-given vision and instead began to worship themselves over the one true God. In their own sin, the people saw an opportunity to exchange God's house for a place to make money and gain worldly riches. When Jesus appeared in the temple and saw the self-glorifying marketplace, his love for the Father's house consumed him, and he began to set the place back in order.

As Jesus reestablishes order and works to bring the temple back to its original purpose, the Jews began to question his validity. They asked for signs, and in reply, he responded by pointing them to the cross. **We, as God's chosen people, understand that the cross is always the answer.** Yet, these people weren't living in expectation of the cross but instead were viewing life as a place of worldly

satisfaction. A few verses later John tells us that "*Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.*"  
*-John 2:24-25*

How can we read this account of Jesus without falling into conviction today? We should remain aware of the sweet gifts God has given us. In those gifts, God knows where we stand at all times. He knows the intricacies of our hearts as he created each of us in our mother's womb. I don't know about you, but I never want God to not entrust me with his power because my heart is focused on my worldly mission instead of his eternal mission. So today, let's set our hearts back on God.

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU THAT YOU'VE INSTEAD TURNED INTO A PLACE OF WORSHIPPING IDOLS?

WHAT TRUTHS HAS GOD SPOKEN OVER THE GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN YOU?

HOW CAN YOU GET BACK ON TRACK TO FULLY GLORIFY GOD WITH THE LIFE HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU?

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Trust me, I know these are hard questions to ask ourselves, as our flesh can quickly deceive us. However, we must always walk in conviction and ask God to make steady our hands in service to him. As God’s holy people, we must constantly check our souls and ensure we’re walking in a manner worthy of God’s calling for our lives.

*Holy Spirit, help us to discern your will for the places and things you’ve entrusted us with!*

CLOSE BY SPENDING A MOMENT IN PRAYER TO GOD WITH THANKFULNESS FOR THE GIFTS HE’S GIVEN YOU AND A HEAVY HEART IN HOW HE’S ENTRUSTED YOU TO CARRY HIS PRAISES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS, LORD GOD!

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*day four*  
**JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE**  
JOHN 15:1-8

Throughout the gospel of John, John records seven “I Am” statements from the mouth of Jesus. Each of these statements were spoken in parables and each statement is given to help us better understand the mystery of Heaven and God’s character. Today, we are going to learn about the last “I Am” statement – “*I am the true vine*”.

GO AHEAD, AND READ JOHN 15:1-8.

*God, meet us in this place and speak to us as we lean into the words that Jesus himself spoke. Help us to understand our place in your Kingdom, and help us to have everlasting joy in all circumstances, as you give us life and life abundantly.*

As a quick background, in these verses we learn about a vine and its branches. In present day, it can seem ill-fitting that Jesus would use a vineyard illustration to help us better understand God’s love for us. However, when Jesus was in bodily form on the earth, the image of a vine was something everyone was familiar with. The economy in Israel was greatly affected by the livelihood and success of vineyards and Jesus charged them with the truth of God through a widely understood concept.

Jesus begins by stating he is the “true vine”. He is telling the people that there is no one like him, and he is the originator of all things. In him alone, all things live and remain as he is our living water and food source. A few verses later Jesus states, “*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.*” (verse 5) Let’s remember that God doesn’t need us to complete his purpose. However, he invites us to be a part of the Kingdom

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work! God is the creator of all things – he is the vine in which we receive life. Without God, there is no life. As the vine, he invites us to be his branches to use the life he’s given us to stretch out his love to those around us.

In being his branches, God asks us to constantly abide in him. The biblical definition of abide means to remain, dwell, and endure in God. He asks us to walk in constant fellowship with him so that his work may produce fruit in and through our lives. Our branches cannot grow without support from the originator of life. As we gain living water through his word and by carrying an attitude of constant worship to him, we can be certain that our lives will flourish for his glory.

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To bring praise to God we must understand that refining must occur to accomplish his work. God wants us to toil in his strength alone and, in doing so, he needs to trim and prune us as seasons change. He needs to cut off the work of our own hands so that there is room for the power of his hands. He needs to prune the good in our lives to make space for the best for his glory.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN ABIDE IN GOD TODAY?

HOW IS GOD PRUNING YOU TODAY IN ORDER FOR HIS BRANCHES TO BECOME STRONGER?

WHAT ARE SOME BRANCHES THAT NEED TO BE TRIMMED TODAY SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE MORE SPACE FOR GOD’S PRAISE?

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To close our time today, let’s reflect on a powerful statement Warren Wiersbe spoke in regard to this parable: “We must remember that the branches do not eat the fruit: others do. We are not producing fruit to please ourselves but to serve others. We should be the kind of people who “feed” others by our words and our works”. Let’s walk in obedience to God’s pruning today and as we become more like Jesus, let us produce worthy fruit so that others may join in eating the splendor of the Good News.

*day five***JESUS' POWERFUL PRAYER****JOHN 17**

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As we enter into time with the Lord today, let us be mindful of the power of the words we are about to study. John 17 holds, in my opinion, the best and most powerful prayer in all of scripture. These verses describe the outpouring conversation between God the Son and God the Father. This prayer occurs as Jesus prepares himself for overcoming death on the cross.

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GO AHEAD, AND READ JOHN 17 YOURSELF.

My eyes fill up with tears each time I read this passage of scripture. There are several places in the Bible where we read that Jesus intercedes with God the Father on our behalf. Even though we will never fully be able to understand what those conversations are like, John 17 gives us a small picture of what Jesus longs for God's chosen people.

Jesus first prays over himself, asking that God the Father would be glorified through the coming events of his arrest, death on the cross, and resurrection. He states that he will complete the work of the Father as he overcomes death. In overcoming death, Jesus asks the Father to glorify him as he finishes his work on the earth and enters back into Heaven.

Jesus then prays for the people God placed in his life – those people who will ignite the beginning of the Church. In fulfilling the work of God the Father and entering back into Heaven, Jesus prays for the strength of the growing Church; he prays that through the ages the Church would continue to develop by leaning on God's word alone. He prays for protection over the Church, not that it would be taken out of the world and into fellowship

with Him, but protected from the enemy's hands as God works through them. He asks God the Father to continuously sanctify the Church through scripture, so that they can better discern his will and grow in quantity and quality as the Kingdom of Jesus believers. But Jesus doesn't stop there! He closes by praying for the nations and unreached people, asking God the Father to equip his people with unity and power as they share the gospel to those around them.

Needless to say, these verses are life altering. May we learn from Jesus' example of a powerful prayer to our Father! We, as God's people, are not of this world; we are temporary dwellers among it. Therefore, we must keep our eyes focused on things above and not on the momentary troubles of this life. We, as the Church, must ban together as one body as we each step into our God-given strengths in order to bring expansion to the Kingdom. We must remain in God's word, yearning for continual sanctification, so that we can discern God's voice over the enemy. We must walk in power and boldness given from God alone as we share the Good News with the world.

*Jesus, at this very moment, we know that you are fighting on our behalf, and for that, we are forever grateful. We thank you for the finished work you completed on this earth. As your people, help us to move in power on this earth so that we may spread the good news of what you've so graciously done for us. Help us, as the Church, walk in unity to carry the fame of your name to the people in our paths. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory. Forever and ever, amen.*

*day six*

# JOHN

## SELF-GUIDED STUDY

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The very last verse of the gospel of John states: *“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.”* This verse rocks me every single time. There is no way to contain or fully grasp the majesty of our Lord God, as He is greater than anything and anyone. In knowing this, we can understand that the stories shared through the Gospel of John must hold great significance.

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AS WE FINISH OUT OUR TIME IN JOHN, CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES TO STUDY ON YOUR OWN TODAY.

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- + John 6:25-40
- + John 10:1-18

A few questions to answer when reading a passage:

1. WHO ARE THE AUTHOR AND THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

2. WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE PASSAGE—BEFORE AND AFTER? IS IT A NEW TOPIC OR A CONTINUATION FROM A LARGER CONVERSATION?

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

4. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PASSAGE IS INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? EACH PASSAGE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH US—GOD-BREATHED AND INTENTIONAL—SO WHAT IS IT?

5. WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? TEACHER? SON? FRIEND?

6. WHAT VERSE(S) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WRITE THEM HERE.

7. IF YOU HAVE A STUDY BIBLE OR A COMMENTARY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER.

WRITE ANY FINDINGS HERE.

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8. IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE THIS PASSAGE AND ITS TRUTH WITH A FRIEND, WHERE WOULD YOU START? HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE TRUTH?

END YOUR TIME TODAY WITH PRAYER. FEEL FREE TO WRITE YOUR PRAYER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

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*May the peace of the Lord be with you today!*



# YOU FINISHED!

THAT IS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.

We are so thankful you chose to study the Word of God with us. Really. He is so good and we want nothing more for His name to be heard. Now, let's keep learning. If you are looking for more studies, wanna chat, or want more info on Our Tuesday, check out our website!

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# GOSPELS

MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN

*a women's bible study for you, for her, for us.*

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ourTUESDAY