

THE GREAT

I AM

JOHN 5-10



# JOHN 5-10

Term 1	Passage	
Week 1	John 5:1-15	God of Mercy
Week 2	John 5:16-47	God the Life Giving Son
Week 3	John 6:1-24	Don't be Afraid
Week 4	John 6:25-71	The Bread of Life
Week 5	John 7:1-8:11	The Life Giving Spirit
Week 6	John 8:12-30	The One from Above
Week 7	John 8:31-59	Before Abraham was...
Week 8	John 9	The Light of the World
Week 9	John 10:1-21	The Good Shepherd
Week 10	John 10:22-42	He Safeguards his Sheep

## The Bible in a Year

Week	Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
1	John 5:1-15	Judges 4 & 5	Psalms 57
2	John 5:16-47	Judges 6:1-7:8	Psalms 58
3	John 6:1-24	Judges 7:8-8	Psalms 59
4	John 6:25-71	Judges 9	Psalms 60
5	John 7:1-8:11	Judges 10-11	Psalms 61
6	John 8:12-30	Judges 12-13	Psalms 62
7	John 8:31-59	Judges 14-15	Psalms 63
8	John 9	Judges 16-17	Psalms 64
9	John 10:1-21	Judges 18-19	Psalms 65
10	John 10:22-42	Judges 20-21	Psalms 66:1-12

# TERM 1 2022

## What is the goal of these notes?

The goal is to grow your ability to read the bible. Bible reading is essential to Christian growth and survival but it's a skill that only develops with practice. Indeed because of the spiritual apathy that's part of our fallen nature the desire to read only grows with practice! The bible is an extraordinary book. It has changed people, nations and the flow of history. That's unsurprising since it's God's book and contains God's wisdom for life. Yet, bible reading in some ways is no different to reading any other book. These notes will assist you in developing skills which will increasingly enable you to feed yourself from the bible and help others do the same.

## Three ways to use these notes

### 1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

### 2. Growth Groups

- Use the section at the end of each week to prepare for your Growth Group
- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

### 3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

# JOHN 5-10

## John's Gospel

John is the last of the four gospels to be written. It is unique among the four gospels in its structure, content and style. Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the Synoptic Gospels because they share a similar structure and content to each other but much of the content of John is unique.

John records very little of Jesus' ministry in the north, in Galilee, but focuses on the south, particularly around Jerusalem. John's style is also very different, making much more of the spiritual significance or symbolism surrounding events, such as the symbolism of light and dark as seen in events involving Nicodemus and Judas (3:19, 20; 13:30).

While the other gospels record the miracles of Jesus and only occasionally make their significance explicit, John takes us far deeper, viewing many of these events in the light of the Old Testament to draw out a far more profound theology of Jesus and who He is.

Some have said of his gospel that it is like a pool, shallow enough for a child to play but deep enough for an elephant to swim. Prayerfully reflecting on John's gospel will deepen your faith and enable you to appreciate more fully the implications of the truth about Jesus so you experience in fuller measure the life of the kingdom and the certainty of the age to come.

## 3-1-1 Prayer

We all care for friends and family who don't know Jesus and this should be reflected in our prayers. List below the names of 3 such people you can be praying for once a week for one minute.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



# NOTES

# WEEK 1: JOHN 5:1-15

## Day 1

READ JOHN 5:1-15

Asking good questions of the text is an important clue to the author's meaning and this passage is a case in point. There are oddities which the author intends us to notice.

1. What things about this man make you sympathetic and which if any make you suspicious?
2. Thirty eight years paralyzed? Why would Jesus ask this man "do you want to get well"?
3. What is disturbing about the way this episode concludes?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you an enquiring mind as you read this term that you might fill you from His word

# GOD OF MERCY

## Day 2

READ JOHN 5:1-7

The use of footnotes and other background sources is a clue to good bible reading. That will be the case today.

1. In answer to Jesus' strange question (v 6) , the paralyzed man makes a strange complaint. What's strange about it?

2. Note that there is no v 4 in this passage. The footnote to this passage in most bibles not only explains why but also what lies behind the man's complaint.

3. Why is superstition always harmful? How can we avoid Christian versions of superstition?

**PRAY:** Pray that God will cause you to develop a faith which is free from superstition

# WEEK 1: JOHN 5:1-15

## Day 3

READ JOHN 5:8-17

The paralyzed man was charged by the Jewish leaders with breaking the “Sabbath law” (v 10) Did Jesus do this himself and teach others to do it? These laws can be found in Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15.

1. Why does it matter if Jesus was a breaker of God’s laws?
2. What reasons does Jesus give for healing on the Sabbath? (see also Mark 2:27,28)
3. What attitudes do the Jewish leaders display which we should work hard to avoid?

**PRAY:** Judgmentalism is a trap for all believers. Ask God to keep you from it.

# GOD OF MERCY

## Day 4

READ JOHN 5:8-15

Remember on day 1 we looked for the oddities in the text? We're still chasing them down. By the way, the word Bethesda means "mercy". That fact will help understand this passage.

1. Jesus was well-known in Jerusalem at this time but not to this man. What does this tell you about his level of spiritual interest?

2. There's a clue to this man's condition in the closing verses of the chapter. In what ways has this man like us, been shown great mercy?

3. In the bible is there a connection between individual sin and individual sickness? (See 1 Cor 11:29,30; James 5:15,16)

**PRAY:** In many ways this man was like us. Give thanks to God for his boundless mercy.



# WEEK 1: JOHN 5:1-15

## Day 5

READ 5:1-15

One important skill in bible reading is to be able to summarize the key point of a passage.

1. What were the clues you picked up this week which helped you crystalize the key point?

2. How would you summarize the key point?

3. Jesus' mercy is a big focus of this passage. What impact will it have on a Christian to have a deep awareness of God's mercy to them?

**PRAY:** Ask God to deepen your love for Him and for His word this term.

# GOD OF MERCY

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What things about this man make you sympathetic and which make you suspicious?
2. In the bible is there a connection between individual sin and individual sickness? (See 1 Cor 11:29,30; James 5:15,16)
3. What impact will it have on a Christian to have a deep awareness of God's mercy to them?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 2: JOHN 5:16-47

## The Authority of the Son

<sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

<sup>24</sup> “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

<sup>25</sup> Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

<sup>28</sup> “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. <sup>30</sup> By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

# GOD THE LIFE GIVING SON

The Trinity is a rich, mind-stretching concept. Although the OT contains many clues to the reality of this truth it is only in Jesus that it becomes explicit and inescapable. That's what we see this week.

## Day 1

READ JOHN 5:16-30

1. In the passage on the previous page underline everything that suggests Jesus' equality with the Father.
2. Circle every word that suggests Jesus' dependence on the Father.
3. What response does Jesus want us to have toward him and why?

**PRAY:** Knowing God is the greatest blessing we can have. Ask God to deepen your understanding of Him this week.

# WEEK 2: JOHN 5:16-47

## Day 2

READ JOHN 5:16-23

Again it is impossible to understand the bible well without comparing Old Testament and New. The big question in these verses concerns God- does He break the Sabbath law?

1. Where does the Old Testament speak of God "resting"? (your cross references will help) What have you understood by this "rest" of God?
2. How in this passage does Jesus qualify the idea of God's "rest"? In what ways do you think God is continually working? (Hebrews 1:3; Proverbs 16:9)
3. Muslims, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses all reject belief in the Trinity. They rightly deny the idea of three 'gods' but Jesus speaks of a sophistication in the personhood of God. How does He demonstrate that in verses 19-23?

**PRAY:** Pray that God will help you so to understand the divinity of Jesus that you can defend it in a way that helps you and others.



# GOD THE LIFE GIVING SON

## Day 3

READ JOHN 5:24-30 & JOHN 14:15-31

“Voluntary functional submission” is a view of the relationship of the Son and the Spirit within the Trinity which seeks to capture a remarkable deliberate submission of the Son to the Father and of the Spirit to both the Father and the Son.

1. Jesus is co-equal with the Father. However, what do the following passages add to this idea? (John 5:19; John 5:27; John 5:30; John 8:28; John 14:28; 1 Cor 11:3)

2. Jesus is ‘sent’ by the Father. Where else in this passage does Jesus speak of this? Who sends the Holy Spirit? (John 14:16; John 14:26; John 15:26)  
What does this suggest about the ‘order of the Trinity’?

3. The bible reveals among the persons of the Trinity an equality of personhood but a ‘voluntary functional submission’ in the way the person’s work. What wonderful truth does this suggest about the character of the members of the Trinity?

**PRAY:** Does it seem strange to you to think of God as being ‘humble’? Yet this is exactly what we see among the Persons of the Trinity. Praise God for His goodness and ask that we might grow more like Him.

# WEEK 2: JOHN 5:16-47

## Day 4

READ JOHN 5:24-30

1. What stunning claims does Jesus make about 'life' in these verses?
2. Jesus will raise the dead to life (v 25) as Daniel had foretold (Dan 12:2)  
What gift(s) granted by the Father to the Son enable Him to do this? (hint; check the linking words)

# GOD THE LIFE GIVING SON

3. When does this new life begin? (hint: check the tense of v 24 & see John 17:3)

Consider the following: *"God exists in a different way from us: we, his creatures, exist in a dependent, derived, finite, fragile way, but our Maker exists in an eternal, self-sustaining, necessary way—necessary, that is, in the sense that God does not have it in him to go out of existence, just as we do not have it in us to live forever. We necessarily age and die, because it is our present nature to do that; God necessarily continues forever unchanged, because it is his eternal nature to do that...The word aseity, meaning that he has life in himself and draws his unending energy from himself (a se in Latin means "from himself"), was coined by theologians to express this truth...endless mistakes result from supposing that the conditions, bounds, and limits of our own finite existence apply to God. The doctrine of his aseity stands as a bulwark against such mistakes. In our life of faith, we easily impoverish ourselves by embracing an idea of God that is too limited and small, and again the doctrine of God's aseity stands as a bulwark to stop this happening. It is vital for spiritual health to believe that God is great (cf. Ps. 95:1-7 below), and grasping the truth of his aseity is the first step on the road to doing this."*

Quoted from "Concise Theology by J.I. Packer

**PRAY:** When anybody comes to Jesus and puts true faith in Him a dramatic transformation occurs. How does this lead you to prayer and praise?

# WEEK 2: JOHN 5:16-47

## Day 5

READ JOHN 5:31-47

1. List the various witnesses (those who give testimony) in these verses? To whom or to what do they testify?
2. What does Jesus point to as evidence that a person is or isn't moved by God's "word" or by His "love"?
3. In v 44 what is the obstacle to true belief and in this passage what seems to be required to overcome it? (John 12:42,43)

**PRAY:** How hopelessly entangled we are by the fallen nature of sin. Give thanks to God that in Jesus there is liberation and pray that God will do that work in those you love.

# GOD THE LIFE GIVING SON

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What observations in this passage suggest Jesus' equality with the Father?
2. Among the persons of the Trinity there is equality of personhood but 'voluntary functional submission' in the way they work. What does this suggest about the character of God?
3. The Trinity is certainly a baffling and exalted truth but what does it say about true life that God Himself is relational. What does this imply about the new life in Christ?

### Prayer Points and Notes



# WEEK 3: JOHN 6:1-24

## Day 1

READ JOHN 6:1-24

Unusual details are usually a clue to an author's meaning. This is especially true of John.

1. What details in this passage speak of Jesus' sufficiency and command in the face of human need?

2. What lessons do you think need to be learned by the various human participants in this chapter?

3. The reference in v 17 to the fact that it was "dark" may seem incidental but this is rarely the case in John. What might he be indicating about the disciples by drawing attention to the relationship between "darkness" and the absence of Jesus?

**PRAY:** We are in the dark about ourselves and about God until Jesus opens our eyes. Are there things you need to confess to God?

# DON'T BE AFRAID

## Day 2

READ JOHN 6:1-21

1. The Jewish "Passover festival was near." (v 4) In the Old Testament what is the connection between Passover and dramatic feeding miracles in the desert?
2. What details in this passage speak of our human tendency to misunderstand the things of God?
3. "Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world." (v 14) Use your cross references or google to find out what part of Deuteronomy the people were referring to.

**PRAY:** It's easy to have witnessed God's miraculous work in the past and yet still be slow to understand. Ask that God will make us alert and eager to trust Him.

# WEEK 3: JOHN 6:1-24

## Day 3

READ EXODUS 16:1-11 and 2 Kings 4:42-44

One important skill in bible reading is to note the various “types” and “antitypes” (shadows and fulfillments) which are designed to help us better understand Jesus.

1. How are these miracles similar and different to Jesus’ feeding of the 5,000 in John 6?
2. The Jewish people had been expecting another Prophet like Moses or Elisha to come (Deuteronomy 18:14-22). In what way is Jesus like Moses and Elisha?
3. Jesus is far greater than either Moses or Elijah. What is one difference for which you are most thankful?

**PRAY:** Jesus reveals God perfectly to us. Give thanks for this and ask God to keep filling you with an increasing sense of what this means for your life.

# DON'T BE AFRAID

## Day 4

READ JOHN 6:16-20

It is the gift of God to give us four gospels. This event is also recorded in Mark 6:45-52 & Matthew 14:22-32 which may be a help to consider.

1. The disciples are frightened when they see Jesus walking on the water (verses 19-21). How do the other gospels help you understand this? What does it tell you about their faith?

2. Job 9:8 speaking of God says, "He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea." With this in mind, what might John 6 be teaching us about Jesus?

3. In John's gospel, darkness (John 1:9; 3:2) is frequently used as an image which illustrates a lack of spiritual insight. How does this help understand John's point about the disciples in v 17?

**PRAY:** Clarity and resilience of faith only come from knowing Jesus better. Pray that God will help you to keep growing in this.

# WEEK 3: JOHN 6:1-24

## Day 5

READ JOHN 6:1-24

A higher level skill in bible reading is to distill and summarize the key point of a passage.

1. What does this week's passage tell us about Jesus and human needs?

2. Did you notice that the passage began with Jesus going up a "mountainside" with His disciples. In what ways have you seen Jesus compared with & exceeding Moses in this passage?

3. Jesus is sufficient for our needs. Our human and physical needs come readily to our minds but what are our common spiritual needs?

**PRAY:** We'll see next week that Jesus is the "true bread from heaven." Pray that God will help you meditate on this and be thrilled by the implications of this truth for us.



# DON'T BE AFRAID

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What details in this passage speak of Jesus' sufficiency and command in the face of human need?
2. What details in this passage speak of our human tendency to misunderstand the things of God?
3. Our human and physical needs come readily to mind but what are our common spiritual needs?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 4: JOHN 6:25-71

## Day 1

READ JOHN 6:25-59

1. These people have seen a great miracle but what signs demonstrate their unbelief?

2. In what unusual way does Jesus respond to their unbelief?

3. What questions do Jesus' words raise for you?

**PRAY:** All of us have a measure of spiritual blindness. Pray that God will make us mindful of our own.

# THE BREAD OF LIFE

## Day 2

READ JOHN 6:25-35

John calls Jesus' miracles "signs" in that they point to something beyond themselves.

1. People can put their faith in Jesus for all kinds of wrong reasons. How does this passage illustrate a false response to His signs? (see 4:15 & 6:15)

2. The question in v 28 arises from a misunderstanding but for all that, it is still an immensely important question. How would you paraphrase Jesus' answer? Is He saying that faith is a "good work"?

3. Given what they have experienced, the blindness of this crowd is astonishing (v 30) In His answer, what is Jesus saying about the relationship between himself and the "manna in the wilderness" (v 31)?

**PRAY:** Jesus Himself is life giving bread from heaven. Ask God to deepen your experience and awareness of this reality.

# WEEK 4: JOHN 6:25-71

## Day 3

READ JOHN 6:35-51

1. List the huge number of claims made by Jesus in this passage
2. In v 41, 42 those who'd experienced Jesus' signs now disbelieve Him. Jesus counters this by speaking of those the Father has "given" and "drawn to Him". What are the implications for human ability and for God's sovereignty?
3. What statements in this passage speak of God's free invitation? Judging by what you see here, why do so many not come?

**PRAY:** God's sovereign work in fallen people is a unfathomable blessing. Give thanks to God for drawing you and pray for those you know who have not yet come.

# THE BREAD OF LIFE

## Day 4

READ JOHN 6:52-59

1. Jesus' words were often deliberately provocative. According to Him, what is necessary to have eternal life?

2. This eating and drinking in the first instance have nothing to do with the Lord's supper. What then does it mean to "eat (or feed on) my flesh and drink my blood" (v 54)?

3. In what sense is our relationship with Jesus like His relationship with the Father (v 57)?

**PRAY:** Having life from Jesus and remaining in Him depend on our feeding on Him. Ask God to grant you a deeper and more practical understanding of what this involves.

# WEEK 4: JOHN 6:25-71

## Day 5

READ JOHN 6:60-71

True and false faith. John has raised that theme before and here it is again!

1. In this episode, many of Jesus' 'disciples' now turn back. Various reasons are given in the text for this. What are the key ones?

2. The twelve don't turn back. What reason do they give? What does this suggest about the mark of genuine faith? (see V 63, John 8:47)

3. Do you tend to think of reading or hearing God's word as an experience of the Spirit? Why or why not?

**PRAY:** Jesus' words are spirit and life. Ask God to give you a deep hunger for more of them.

# THE BREAD OF LIFE

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Two groups of people engage with Jesus in this episode. What signs demonstrate their unbelief?

2. In what unusual way does Jesus respond to their unbelief?

3. What various factors keep you trusting Jesus?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 5: JOHN 7:1-8:11

Variety is an important dimension to any bible reading diet. This week we'll try something new. John chapter 7 contains a repeated theme. Your goal will be to find the theme & use the skills from the last few weeks to discover what you can.

## Day 1

READ JOHN 7:1-13

1. You've already seen some of John's big themes. What would you say is his major theme in this passage?

2. What observations can you make about it?

3. How does this warn you or help you in living for Christ?

**PRAY:** Jesus warns His disciples in Matt 10:16 to be as "wise as serpents and as innocent as doves..." Pray that God may make this true of you in dealing with the world.



# THE LIFE GIVING SPIRIT

## Day 2

READ JOHN 7:14-36

The tensions in this passage go back to John 5 and Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man on the Sabbath day.

1. How would you summarize the key theme of this passage?
2. Why do you think there are so many different opinions about Jesus?
3. What warnings does this interaction give us about human knowledge?

**PRAY:** We rarely know as clearly as we think we do. Ask God to give you a hunger to know Him better coupled with a humility about your knowledge.

# WEEK 5: JOHN 7:1-8:11

## Day 3

READ JOHN 7:37-44

The Feast of Tabernacles was the most popular of Israel's holiday festivals. The last and greatest day involved a water pouring ceremony which looked back to the exodus where God gave Israel water in the wilderness. It also looked forward to the age of the Messiah when He would give them living water!

1. What theme in these verses seems to carry through the whole passage for this week?

2. Google "living water" in the bible. What Old Testament passage(s) might Jesus have in mind?

3. The Holy Spirit flowing out from within a person. What changes would we expect/hope this to bring?

**PRAY:** Consider your answers in question 3 and pray that God might begin to do them through you.

# THE LIFE GIVING SPIRIT

## Day 4

READ JOHN 7:45-52

1. What clues do these verses contain which help us see the problem of the sinful heart?

2. Try to summarize in words the problem you've seen in these religious authorities.

3. Knowledge, even when it is only partial knowledge can make us arrogant. Yet knowledge of God is so crucial. (Hos 4:6) What safeguards do we need to accompany our knowledge?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the Spirit's gift in the knowledge of the word. Ask God to give you what you need to ensure that this knowledge helps and doesn't hinder.

# WEEK 5: JOHN 7:1-8:11

## Day 5

READ JOHN 8:1-11

1. What questions does this passage raise for you? (make sure you read the note about the earliest manuscripts)

2. What attitudes can you see in the various participants in this passage? Which ones seem to be a carry over from chapter 7?

3. How is Jesus' authority implied in the passage?

**PRAY:** Justice and mercy require a delicate balance. Pray that God will grant you this.

# THE LIFE GIVING SPIRIT

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What different reactions to Jesus can you find in this passage?
2. In what ways does Jesus critique those at Jerusalem?
3. The Holy Spirit flowing out from within a person. What changes would we expect this to bring?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 6: JOHN 8:12-30

A good diet of bible reading will sometimes varying approaches. Sometimes a big's-eye look or a big picture examination. This is what we did last week. Sometimes it will require a deeper doctrinal enquiry and sometimes a close meditation on a small piece. That's where we'll start this week

## Day 1

READ JOHN 8:12

1. Consider Jesus' claim in v 12. List 4 questions you'd ask Him about it if you could.
2. John has spoken before in this gospel about Jesus as the light who reveals or exposes. Which of these ideas best fits this context?
3. How would you hope life might be different if we're not in the dark? Is there anything you think we may need to do in order to have this light?

**PRAY:** Pray that in following Jesus God grants you what He's promised here.

# THE ONE FROM ABOVE

## Day 2

READ JOHN 8:13-20

The question of the need for supporting testimony has come up before in Jesus' arguments with the Pharisees. Check the cross reference to v 13 to find out where. Unfortunately the Pharisees misunderstood it then so they misunderstand it now.

1. What reasons are given here for why the judgements of the Pharisees about Jesus are invalid?

2. Why are Jesus' judgements true? Is there a contradiction between v's 15 & 16? (hint: the context in v 15 will help)

3. How can we avoid making judgments by merely human standards?

**PRAY:** Christian life will continually involve us in making important decisions and judgments. How can we avoid the danger of doing this by human standards?.

# WEEK 6: JOHN 8:12-30

## Day 3

READ JOHN 8:20

It is important as a skill to gather up all that is said in an author's work about a particular theme. That's our goal today.

1. The "hour" of Jesus is the hour of His death. It's a big theme in John's gospel. What are the various implications of "the hour" in John 8:20?

2. Consider a little more concerning the implications of "the hour"? (John 2:4; 7:6; 7:30; 12:20-28; 17:1)

3. As you consider Jesus' continual consciousness of His "hour", how does this affect you emotionally?

**PRAY:** We have a saviour who lived a life of danger, discipline and urgent mission based on an awareness of His limited time. Give thanks to God for His Son and ask that God will make you aware of your limited time.



# THE ONE FROM ABOVE

## Day 4

READ JOHN 8:21-26

Crystalizing the point of a paragraph is an important skill in bible reading. That's what we're doing today. Give it a go!

1. Forgetting the words of His enemies, try to sum up in a few short sentences what Jesus says in this paragraph. Feel free to change the order to capture the logic of His point.

2. What is the big point He is making? What are one or two implications of this for your own life and witness?

3. This is a hard message to convey to people. Consider one of your 3-1-1 contacts. What would help you better communicate this urgent message to them?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you a heart of urgency for those close to you who don't know the forgiveness of sins.

# WEEK 6: JOHN 8:12-30

## Day 5

READ JOHN 8:12-30

The relationship of Jesus with his Father is a constant theme in this gospel. As we finish the week it will be good to gather together what we learn about it in this chapter.

1. List what you learn of the relationship between Father and Son in these verses.

2. "If you knew me you would know my Father also." (v 19) Why is this the case? (1:18; 14:8,9; 17:6) How does this provide a guide for how to grow in Christian maturity?

3. Jesus speaks just what the Father has taught Him. (v's 26, 28) How would you summarize the message the Father has "taught" Him and "sent" Him to deliver?

**PRAY:** Jesus can describe eternal life as "knowing God". Ask God to develop in you a desire to know Him better through Jesus that you might more deeply enjoy eternal life.

# THE ONE FROM ABOVE

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What factors that you see or that Jesus points to seem to be an obstacle to belief for the Pharisees in this chapter?
2. What do you think it means to judge Jesus by human standards? (v 15)
3. Knowing the Father is knowing Jesus. How does this provide a guide for how to grow in Christian maturity?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 7: JOHN 8:31-59

Remember last week? Different modes of bible reading are needed to keep us fresh. John's theology is profound and rich- deep enough to keep us thinking for the rest of our lives. So this week we'll try a few different approaches but first of all a big picture sweep.

## Day 1

READ JOHN 8:31-59

1. Note the identity of those who come to Him in v 31. What things in the rest of this passage make you question the validity of their belief?

2. We've seen the theme of fickle faith before (2:23,24; 6:60) where professing believers turned away upon hearing teaching which they didn't like. What are the marks of genuine discipleship in this passage?

3. The evidence that someone is a true disciple is that they "hold to Jesus' teaching". Imagine you encounter a period of doubt in your Christian life. According to Jesus' words, what is the best thing for you to do?

**PRAY:** Perseverance is a key mark of genuine faith. Are there people whose perseverance we need to pray for? Take the time to mentally list and pray for them now.

# BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS...

## Day 2

READ JOHN 8:31-41

1. It is impossible to live wisely in a broken world without a clear understanding of sin. What does Jesus say about sin and the slavery it brings in these verses?

2. Sketch a diagram to show what Jesus is teaching about true freedom in these verses.

3. Someone asks you to explain why Jesus teaching sets people free. (v 31,32) How could you answer?

**PRAY:** Freedom from slavery to sin is one of the great blessings of the gospel but freedom from the presence of sin awaits us only when Jesus returns. That fact provides lots of reasons to pray.

# WEEK 7: JOHN 8:31-59

## Day 3

READ JOHN 8:42-47

1. "Why is my language not clear to you?" That's Jesus' question in v 43. What are the various answers given?

2. Consider Don Carson's words about v 45. "If Jesus had said, 'Although I tell you the truth, you do not believe me.' That would be bad enough. But Jesus says, 'Because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me.' What options does that leave Him? Precisely because He tells the truth He is not believed."

What seems to be the relationship between God's truth and human hardness of heart?

3. We need God's truth and yet we run from it left to ourselves. What do we need from God to change this?

**PRAY:** God's words are the instrument for accomplishing His purposes. Pray that God will give you such a grasp of them that you will be useful in his service.

# BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS...

## Day 4

READ JOHN 8:48-56

1, What does Jesus say to arouse the claim that He is 'demon-possessed'?

2. How would you summarize Jesus' reply to this abusive allegation? What can we learn from it?

3. Listen to Don Carson again. 'Jesus insists that 'Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day.' (8:56) Probably what Jesus has in mind is the promise God made and renewed to Abraham that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed. (Gen 12:1-3)

In the face of His opponent's abuse, what is Jesus saying about Himself?

**PRAY:** Courage and wisdom are always needed in the Christian life because there will always be opposition. Ask God to teach you and strengthen you to testify appropriately to Him.

# WEEK 7: JOHN 8:31-59

## Day 5

READ JOHN 8:48-59

1. It is falsely thought by some that Jesus never claimed to be God. How is that claim made here? What cross reference can you find to verse 58?
2. If Jesus wasn't God the Son then His disciples were blatant blasphemers. What reasons did Jesus give them to believe that He is God the Son?
3. What would change about Christian belief and practice if Jesus wasn't God the Son?

**PRAY:** Jesus comes with all authority to rule but all of us to some extent seek to minimize that authority to our own hurt. Pray that God will search you (Psalm 139:23,24) and reveal where this might be true of you.



# BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS...

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Those who come to Jesus in v 31 are said to be “believers”. What things do they reveal in the rest of this passage which make you question the validity of their belief?

2. What does Jesus teach about true freedom in this passage?

3. Someone asks you to explain why Jesus teaching sets people free. (v 32)  
How could you answer?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 8: JOHN 9

Like so much in this gospel, there is an intimate relationship between who Jesus is and what he does. John refers to the miracles as 'signs' because they point beyond themselves to Jesus' identity. That's emphatically the case in this chapter, which continues the theme from chapter 7 where Jesus reveals Himself as the "light of the world". The skill we'll consider is working from big picture to details.

## Day 1

READ JOHN 9:1-41

John is relating a narrative. Imagine you were to divide it into three parts. What would be the verse divisions?

- 
- 
- 

In each section how does John show the ignorance, blindness or lack of awareness of the human participants?

- 
- 
- 

At the end which character appears to "see" reality the best and which the worst?

**PRAY:** Sin brings a profound blindness which doesn't entirely leave us after conversion. How might this truth lead you to pray?

# THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## Day 2

READ JOHN 9:1-12

1. What assumption do the disciples make about suffering? In what sense are they right & in what sense wrong?

2. What reason does Jesus give for this man's blindness? What are the implications of this for our understanding of God?

3. A few quick observations from the passage: The man was "born" blind (v 1); "we" must do the work of Him who sent me (v 4); there is an urgency about Jesus' work (v 4); the man was a beggar to whom some paid so little account that they didn't even know if he was the man they knew (v's 8, 9); though blind, he knew who Jesus is unlike the paralytic in John 5:13 (v 11)

Which of these impresses you most & why?

**PRAY:** Thank God that He notices and cares for those whom others might easily overlook.

# WEEK 8: JOHN 9

## Day 3

READ JOHN 9:13-23

These verses seem to take place in the context of a semi-formal gathering of the Pharisees

1. What can you find out about the enquiry ie it's focus & the reason it was so intense?

2. What factors indicate the intensity of the enquiry?

3. Believing communities can easily become overly judgmental. What is there to commend in the attitude of the Pharisees. What is there to avoid among ourselves?

**PRAY:** Judgmentalism is always ugly. Do you tend to fall into this problem. Pray that God will help you find a cure.

# THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## Day 4

READ JOHN 9:24-34

1. In what ways does the former blindman demonstrate the blindness of the Pharisees?

2. It's always important to examine the reasons for our anger. How is the anger of the Pharisees shown and what seems to be the cause?

3. In your evangelism do you ever find yourself becoming frustrated? What might that reveal about you?

**PRAY:** Give thanks that God can bring light so quickly to those in the dark.

# WEEK 8: JOHN 9

## Day 5

READ JOHN 9:33-41

Today John's comparison between physical and spiritual sight comes to its conclusion.

1. Because of his testimony, the blindman is excommunicated from the synagogue (v 21, 34,35) but Jesus found him. (v 35) Why should this be an encouragement to us?

2. Try to rephrase Jesus' words in v 39 to make John's point explicit. What is the warning here for us?

3. The Pharisees ask, "Are we blind too?" Listen to Don Carson on Jesus' conclusion. *"Of course Jesus might simply have replied, 'Yes', but that would not have exposed the seriousness of their problem...those who are confident of their ability to see do not ask for sight. So implicitly they remain blind with the culpable blindness of smug self-satisfaction."*

How can the sincere Christian avoid the problem of the Pharisee?

**PRAY:** Pride is at the heart of all sin. Are you aware of it in yourself? Ask God to help you to grow in humility but be ready for some pain to follow!

# THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In the passage as a whole how does John show the ignorance, blindness or lack of awareness of the human participants?

2. In what ways does the former blindman demonstrate the blindness of the Pharisees?

3. How can the sincere Christian avoid the problem of the Pharisee?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 9: JOHN 10:1-21

A knowledge of the Old Testament is essential to understand the claims of Jesus. In an obvious way, that will prove to be the case this week. Likewise we need to follow carefully what Jesus says about any subject so that we see the limits of what He means and doesn't mean. That will be the case with His "sheep".

## Day 1

READ JOHN 10:1-21

1. In this "saying" or "parable" about the "shepherd and the sheep" what are the various roles and which does Jesus assume?

2. Who are the negative characters in the parable and in Jewish history who might these people be?

3. What questions do Jesus' words raise for you which you'd like to explore during the week?

**PRAY:** The "shepherds" in Israel had failed God's people for centuries. Who are those who "shepherd" you? In what respects do they need your prayers?



# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## Day 2

READ JOHN 10:11

1. Jesus identifies Himself as the “good shepherd”. Use your cross references or google the list the possible Old Testament passages He is alluding to.

2. Choose the cross-reference in Ezekiel and read the whole chapter. What does the cross reference tell you about the identity of the “good shepherd”? What is Jesus saying about Himself?

3. In this cross reference what things does the shepherd promise to do?

**PRAY:** Give thanks that God so cares for His people that He’s provided the ideal shepherd. Think about those who especially need the care in Q 2 and pray for them.

# WEEK 9: JOHN 10:1-21

## Day 3

READ JOHN 10:1-18

1. Throughout this gospel we've seen many who have claimed to believe but turn out to be false disciples. What features mark out the "sheep" who belong to the shepherd in this passage?

2. "Jesus calls his own sheep by name." (v 3) "they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger." What encouragements and what warnings do these verses hold for you?

3. Jesus' sheep "know His voice." (v 4) What do you think this means and what doesn't it not mean? Consider Jesus' similar comments in this gospel. (John 8:45,47)

**PRAY:** God doesn't deal with a faceless mass of people but with individuals whom He knows by name. This is surely reason for confidence, comfort and praise!

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## Day 4

READ JOHN 10:11-18

1. The good shepherd loves His sheep by laying down His life for them. For a flock of ordinary sheep this would be a disaster. Why? Why is it not a disaster for God's sheep?

2. In what respect does Jesus' resurrection enable Him to be an even more effective help for His sheep?

3. Jesus knows His sheep like the Father knows Him. This is powerful. Listen to these words by Charles Spurgeon:

*"As the Father knows Me.' I cannot conceive a stronger comparison. Do you know how much the Father knows the Son, who is His glory, His darling, His alter ego, His other self—yes, one God with Him? Do you know how intimate the knowledge of the Father must be of His Son, who is His own wisdom, yes, who is His own self? The Father and the Son are one spirit. We cannot tell how intimate is that knowledge, and yet so intimately, so perfectly, does the great Shepherd know His sheep."*

List some words to describe the feelings this truth arouses in you?

**PRAY:** Turn the feelings you've expressed above into prayer. Plea, confession, praise, thanksgiving.

# WEEK 9: JOHN 10:1-21

## Day 5

READ JOHN 10:16 & EPHESIANS 2:11-22

1. Mission is never far from the thoughts of the great shepherd! Who are these 'other' sheep?

2. "one flock and one shepherd." Some theological systems suggest that there are two separate flocks of Jews and gentiles. What does the reading in Ephesians 2 add to this? (see also Rom 11:17,17)

3. Consider your heart for the mission of the good shepherd. How might you grow your desire and engagement in this?

**PRAY:** Consider your answers to Q 3 and pray about them now

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In this “saying” or “parable” about the “shepherd and the sheep” what are the various roles and which does Jesus assume?
2. Throughout this gospel we’ve seen many who have claimed to believe but turn out to be false disciples. What features mark out the “sheep” who belong to the shepherd in this passage?
3. Jesus’ sheep know his voice but will never follow a stranger.” What encouragements and what warnings do these truths hold for you?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# WEEK 10: JOHN 10:22-42

2 Corinthians 3:18 holds out the wonderful promise that as we “contemplate the Lord’s glory we are transformed into His likeness.” That is, beholding is the way to becoming. Our goal from the start of this term has been to grow our capacity to mine the deep truths of the scriptures so that more and more we are transformed into the likeness of Jesus. This week we try to put this all together.

## Day 1

READ JOHN 10:22-42

1. List the big topics contained in these verses.
2. Can you see any relationship between them? Sketch a “mind map” in the space below.
3. What questions does this passage raise? List them in the space below.

**PRAY:** Becoming like Christ is the end result of knowing Him better. Pray that God will grow your bible reading ability to that you will become more like Him.

# HE SAFEGUARDS HIS SHEEP

## Day 2

READ JOHN 10:22-26

Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles is the harvest thanksgiving held in mid October. "Hanukkah" or the "Feast of Dedication" commemorates the restoration of the temple which was destroyed in 586 BC. It is held around the time of our Christmas. The conversation in John 10 began at Sukkot two and a half months before but it is still fresh in the minds of Jesus' opponents!

1. Is Jesus the Messiah? Paraphrase his answer in v25 & 26.

2. Jesus words also clearly testify that He is the Christ. What do the following say about this?

- John 4:10 - see Zech 14:8
- John 5:25-27 see Dan 7:13,14 & Dan 12:1-2
- John 6:35 see Isaiah 55:1
- John 10:11 see Ezek 34:11,23

3. Why might Jesus have chosen to testify to His identity in this veiled way rather than by making bold statements?

**PRAY:** The evidence that Jesus is the Christ is so rich. Pray that more people might come to know this truth through us.

# WEEK 10: JOHN 10:22-42

## Day 3

READ JOHN 10:22-30

1. What things are said to be true of Jesus' sheep in these verses?
2. "But you do not believe because you are not my sheep." (v 26) We would probably reverse this sentence, "You are not my sheep because you do not believe." What does Jesus know which makes Him express the point in this way?
3. These verses speak of the security of all true believers. Write a short sentence to explain why those who belong to Jesus will never fall away.

**PRAY:** The security of those who belong to Jesus is one of the gospel's great blessings. How does this lead you to prayer and praise?



# HE SAFEGUARDS HIS SHEEP

## Day 4

READ JOHN 10:27-36

1. To what does Jesus point as proof of His identity as “one” with the Father?
2. Find the verse that Jesus was quoting in v 34. This psalm speaks of Israel's human judges at the time of Asaph. Try to summarize Jesus' argument for His divinity.
3. What do you learn in v 35 concerning Jesus' convictions about the scriptures?

**PRAY:** Jesus' life was threatened many times on the way to the cross. Take the time now to thank God that for our sakes He was wise enough to get there!

# WEEK 10: JOHN 10:22-42

## Day 5

READ JOHN 10:22-42

1. Remember your “mind map” from day 1. Redraw it below and see if the connections are different at the end of the week.
2. Jesus has been threatened and stubbornly rejected in Jerusalem. How does His response encourage you in evangelism?
3. John concludes this passage in verses 40-42 with a great contrast. How do you account for the difference in response? How might this shape our prayers for our own local area? For our nation?

Consider these words by J.C. Ryle:

*“John was only “a voice.” Like all other ministers, he had one great work—to preach and prepare the way for Christ...The way had been prepared in the hearts of these people long before by our Lord’s own preaching, though at the time they had not the courage to acknowledge it.”*

**PRAY:** Will the experience of Covid-19 bring soft hearts to Australia? Pray for our nation, our region and your friends that it will

# HE SAFEGUARDS HIS SHEEP

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. List the big topics contained in these verses.

2. "But you do not believe because you are not my sheep." (v 26) Many would reverse this sentence, "You are not my sheep because you do not believe." Why does Jesus express the point in this way?

3. Jesus has been threatened and stubbornly rejected in Jerusalem. In what ways does He encourage you in evangelism?

### Prayer Points and Notes

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## MAGNIFICATION

### Production

The Production Team at help behind the scenes with Slides, Sound and Service Coordinating to make sure the church service runs smoothly.

### Band

Various roles within the band at Grace Church including vocals, guitar, drums, and keys which aid us in singing praises to God each Sunday.

## MATURITY

### Bookshop

The bookshop operates regularly and is an opportunity for our church to buy books that will help them and their family grow.

### Growth Group Leading

Our Growth Group Leaders lead a group of people from church in the Word. This is a real privilege, and because of its responsibility is something we usually like people to be with us for a bit before jumping officially into this role.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Connecting

We have two teams that serve in helping people connect into Grace Church and build relationships with others.

### Food

We have two food areas, Morning Tea and BBQ, both of which help foster the community of church.

### Venue

The venue team is responsible for setting up, packing up and managing the venue each week.

### Care

When extra help is needed (whether meals, physical help etc), the Care team coordinates this.

## **MINISTRY**

### **Recruitment**

In order to help people connect into a ministry, the Recruitment team chat with people and work out a good fit for them, and for the church.

## **MISSION**

### **Table Talking**

At events like Life, Table Talkers chat with people investigating Jesus, and help them on their journey in starting to trust Him.

### **Event Management**

Mission runs a lot of events that help facilitate non-Christians finding out more about Jesus. In order to put each of these on, they require an Event Management team.

### **Prayer**

The Mission Prayer team collate and send out our prayer requests from our mission partners around the world to Growth Groups.

## **NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES**

### **Grace Kids**

We have Grace Kids ministries from the age babies can sit up, right through to Year 6 which require leaders who are willing to disciple them.

### **Grace Youth**

We have Grace Youth for high school ages, that runs on a Friday night, where we always want more leaders who are able to disciple them.

## **OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Communication**

We are growing a Communications team who help design anything people see publicly.

### **Administration**

As church grows, we increasingly need people who are able to effectively organise the behind-the-scenes elements of church, to help it run effectively.

# PRAYER POINTS

# NOTES

© Grace Church Peninsula