

Gospel of John

Beginner Bible Study - Weeks 5-21

A continuation of the Redemptive Life Gospel of John series for new believers and growing disciples.

Read the chapter first. Then use the outline, key verse, questions, reflection, and action step to help you believe and follow Jesus.

How to Use This Guide

The Gospel of John was written so that readers may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life through His name (John 20:31). Move through one chapter each week, or at a pace that allows you to read, pray, understand, and obey.

- Read the complete chapter in your Bible.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth.
- Review the outline and key verse.
- Answer the questions in your own words before reading the suggested answers.
- Complete the reflection and action step.
- Share what you are learning with another believer.

This guide continues Weeks 1-4 already available in the Redemptive Life Free Resources library.

Chapter 5: "The Son Who Gives Life"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus reveals His unity with the Father and His authority to give life and judge righteously.

Outline of John Chapter 5

1. Healing at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)

- Jesus sees a man who has waited many years and commands him to rise, take up his bed, and walk.
- The healing exposes how religious rules can overshadow compassion.

2. The Son and the Father (John 5:16-30)

- Jesus' works in perfect unity with the Father.
- The Son gives life and has authority to judge.

3. Witnesses to Jesus (John 5:31-47)

- John the Baptist, Jesus' works, the Father, and Scripture bear witness to Him.
- Knowing Scripture must lead us to Christ.

Key Verse to Memorize

"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life." - John 5:24 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. Why did Jesus ask the man if he wanted to be made whole?

Jesus addressed both his need and his willingness to respond in faith.

2. What does Jesus teach about His relationship with the Father?

He acts in unity with the Father and carries divine authority.

3. What witnesses confirm who Jesus is?

John, Jesus' works, the Father, and the Scriptures.

4. What warning is given to Bible readers?

Scripture knowledge must bring us to Jesus, not merely increase information.

Life Application

Reflect: *Where have you grown accustomed to limitation?*

Act: *Respond to one clear instruction from Jesus instead of remaining passive.*

Chapter 6: "The Bread of Life"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus supplies physical needs, walks above the storm, and offers Himself as the true Bread from heaven.

Outline of John Chapter 6

1. Feeding the Five Thousand (John 6:1-15)

- Jesus receives a small offering and multiplies it.
- His provision reveals His compassion and power.

2. Jesus Walks on the Sea (John 6:16-21)

- The disciples face darkness and strong winds.
- Jesus comes near and says, "It is I; be not afraid."

3. The Bread of Life (John 6:22-59)

- Earthly bread cannot satisfy the deepest hunger.
- Those who believe in Jesus receive eternal life.

4. A Dividing Word (John 6:60-71)

- Some turn back when the teaching becomes difficult.
- Peter confesses that Jesus has the words of eternal life.

Key Verse to Memorize

"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger." - John 6:35 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What does the multiplied bread reveal?

Jesus can use what is surrendered to Him and provide beyond human ability.

2. Why did Jesus tell the disciples not to fear?

His presence was greater than the storm surrounding them.

3. What does "Bread of Life" mean?

Jesus alone satisfies spiritual hunger and gives eternal life.

4. Why did Peter remain?

He knew there was nowhere else to receive the words of eternal life.

Life Application

Reflect: *Are you seeking Jesus Himself or only what He can provide?*

Act: *Bring your need to Christ and spend time receiving His words today.*

Chapter 7: "Come and Drink"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus teaches with divine authority and invites every thirsty person to receive the life of the Spirit.

Outline of John Chapter 7

1. Jesus at the Feast (John 7:1-24)

- Jesus moves according to the Father's timing, not public pressure.
- He calls people to judge righteous judgment.

2. Questions About His Identity (John 7:25-36)

- The crowd debates where Jesus came from.
- Jesus declares that He was sent by the Father.

3. Rivers of Living Water (John 7:37-39)

- Jesus invites the thirsty to come to Him and drink.
- He speaks of the Holy Spirit given to believers.

4. Division in the Crowd (John 7:40-53)

- People respond to Jesus in different ways.
- Personal opinions cannot replace honest response to His words.

Key Verse to Memorize

"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." - John 7:37 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What governed Jesus' timing?

The will and timing of the Father.

2. What is righteous judgment?

Looking beyond appearances and judging according to truth.

3. What do the rivers of living water represent?

The life and work of the Holy Spirit in believers.

4. Why was the crowd divided?

They formed different conclusions about Jesus and His identity.

Life Application

Reflect: *What spiritual thirst are you trying to satisfy elsewhere?*

Act: *Come honestly to Jesus in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to fill your life.*

Chapter 8: "The Truth Shall Make You Free"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus exposes sin without abandoning mercy and calls believers to continue in His word.

Outline of John Chapter 8

1. Mercy and a Changed Life (John 8:1-11)

- Jesus refuses hypocritical condemnation.
- He also commands the woman to leave her life of sin.

2. The Light of the World (John 8:12-30)

- Those who follow Jesus need not walk in darkness.
- Jesus' testimony is joined by the testimony of the Father.

3. Truth and Freedom (John 8:31-47)

- True disciples continue in Jesus' word.
- Freedom begins when truth breaks the power of sin.

4. Before Abraham Was, I Am (John 8:48-59)

- Jesus declares His eternal existence.
- His words force every listener to decide who He is.

Key Verse to Memorize

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." - John 8:32 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. How did Jesus balance mercy and truth?

He did not condemn the woman, yet He called her away from sin.

2. Who walks in the light?

The person who follows Jesus.

3. What marks a true disciple?

Continuing faithfully in Jesus' word.

4. What did Jesus mean by "I am"?

He declared an eternal identity that existed before Abraham.

Life Application

Reflect: *Is there an area where you want comfort without transformation?*

Act: *Continue in one teaching of Jesus this week and obey it deliberately.*

Chapter 9: "I Was Blind, Now I See"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus gives sight to a man born blind and exposes the deeper blindness of those who refuse the truth.

Outline of John Chapter 9

1. A Man Born Blind (John 9:1-12)

- Jesus rejects the assumption that every suffering is caused by a specific personal sin.
- He heals the man and displays the works of God.

2. Questioned by the Pharisees (John 9:13-34)

- Religious leaders resist the evidence.
- The healed man grows bolder in his testimony.

3. Spiritual Sight (John 9:35-41)

- Jesus finds the rejected man and reveals Himself.
- Those who claim to see while rejecting Christ remain blind.

Key Verse to Memorize

"One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." - John 9:25 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. Why was the man born blind?

Jesus said the situation would display the works of God.

2. How did the man's testimony grow?

He moved from reporting the healing to boldly defending the One who healed him.

3. What did religious pressure fail to erase?

His personal knowledge that Jesus had changed his life.

4. What is spiritual blindness?

Refusing the truth while claiming to understand it.

Life Application

Reflect: *What has Jesus done in your life that no argument can erase?*

Act: *Write your testimony in three sentences and share it with someone.*

Chapter 10: "The Good Shepherd"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus knows His sheep, gives His life for them, and keeps them securely in His hand.

Outline of John Chapter 10

1. The Door of the Sheep (John 10:1-10)

- Jesus is the true entrance into salvation and safety.
- The thief destroys, but Jesus gives abundant life.

2. The Good Shepherd (John 10:11-21)

- The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
- He knows His sheep and brings them into one flock.

3. Secure in His Hand (John 10:22-30)

- Jesus sheep hear His voice and follow Him.
- No one can pluck them from His hand.

4. The Works Bear Witness (John 10:31-42)

- Jesus points again to His works.
- Many believe after considering the evidence.

Key Verse to Memorize

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." - John 10:11 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. How is Jesus different from a thief?

He gives life instead of taking and destroying.

2. What proves Jesus is the Good Shepherd?

He willingly lays down His life for the sheep.

3. How do the sheep respond to Him?

They hear His voice and follow Him.

4. What assurance does Jesus give?

His people are secure in His hand.

Life Application

Reflect: Whose voice has been shaping your decisions?

Act: Quiet competing voices and follow one instruction you know comes from Christ.

Chapter 11: "The Resurrection and the Life"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus enters human grief, calls Lazarus from the grave, and reveals His authority over death.

Outline of John Chapter 11

1. Lazarus Is Sick (John 11:1-16)

- Jesus loves the family even though He does not arrive immediately.
- Delay does not mean the absence of love or purpose.

2. Jesus and Martha (John 11:17-27)

- Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection, and the life."
- Martha confesses Him as the Christ.

3. Jesus Weeps (John 11:28-37)

- Jesus is deeply moved by grief.
- His power does not make Him distant from human sorrow.

4. Lazarus Comes Forth (John 11:38-44)

- Jesus commands the stone to be removed.
- He calls Lazarus out and tells others to loose him.

5. The Leaders Plot (John 11:45-57)

- The miracle brings belief and opposition.
- Caiaphas unknowingly speaks of Jesus dying for the people.

Key Verse to Memorize

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." - John 11:25 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. Why did Jesus delay?

The delay would reveal God's glory and deepen faith.

2. What did Jesus ask Martha to believe?

That He Himself is the resurrection and the life.

3. Why is "Jesus wept" important?

It shows His compassion and His presence in grief.

4. What happened when Jesus called Lazarus?

Death yielded to His authoritative word.

Life Application

Reflect: *Where does delay tempt you to doubt God's love?*

Act: *Bring your grief to Jesus and trust His presence before you understand His timing.*

Chapter 12: "The King Who Came to Save"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus receives worship, enters Jerusalem as King, and explains that His death will bring life to many.

Outline of John Chapter 12

1. Mary Anoints Jesus (John 12:1-8)

- Mary offers costly worship.
- Jesus connects her act with His coming burial.

2. The Triumphal Entry (John 12:9-19)

- Jesus enters Jerusalem as the promised King.
- The crowd celebrates without fully understanding His mission.

3. A Grain of Wheat (John 12:20-36)

- Jesus' death will produce much fruit.
- Discipleship includes surrender and following Him.

4. Belief and Unbelief (John 12:37-50)

- Many signs do not force belief.
- Jesus' words will judge those who reject the light.

Key Verse to Memorize

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." - John 12:32 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What made Mary's worship costly?

She gave something valuable and openly honored Jesus.

2. What kind of King is Jesus?

A humble King who came to save through sacrifice.

3. What does the grain of wheat teach?

Death and surrender can become the path to fruitful life.

4. Why must we respond to the light?

Opportunity to believe should not be continually postponed.

Life Application

Reflect: *What would costly worship look like in your life?*

Act: *Honor Jesus with a concrete act of surrender or generosity.*

Chapter 13: "Loved to the End"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus washes His disciples' feet and commands them to love one another as He has loved them.

Outline of John Chapter 13

1. Jesus Washes Feet (John 13:1-17)

- The Lord takes the place of a servant.
- His followers are called to humble service.

2. The Betrayer Identified (John 13:18-30)

- Jesus knows Judas betrayal before it happens.
- Judas leaves and chooses darkness.

3. A New Commandment (John 13:31-35)

- Jesus commands His disciples to love one another.
- Their love will identify them as His followers.

4. Peter Warned (John 13:36-38)

- Peter is sincere but overconfident.
- Jesus knows his coming failure and continues to prepare him.

Key Verse to Memorize

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." - John 13:35 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?

To model humble, cleansing service.

2. What happened when Judas rejected Jesus' appeal?

He went out into darkness to carry out betrayal.

3. How will the world recognize Jesus' disciples?

By their Christlike love for one another.

4. What warning comes through Peter?

Good intentions are not a substitute for dependence on Christ.

Life Application

Reflect: *Are you willing to serve when no recognition follows?*

Act: *Perform one quiet act of service for someone this week.*

Chapter 14: "The Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus comforts troubled hearts, reveals the Father, and promises the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

Outline of John Chapter 14

1. A Prepared Place (John 14:1-6)

- Jesus tells His followers not to let their hearts be troubled.
- He is the way to the Father.

2. Jesus Reveals the Father (John 14:7-14)

- To see Jesus is to see the character of the Father.
- Believers are invited to pray in Jesus' name.

3. Another Comforter (John 14:15-26)

- Love for Jesus is expressed through obedience.
- The Holy Spirit teaches and brings Jesus' words to remembrance.

4. The Gift of Peace (John 14:27-31)

- Jesus gives peace unlike the world's peace.
- His followers can face trouble without surrendering to fear.

Key Verse to Memorize

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." - John 14:6 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What comfort does Jesus give troubled hearts?

He is preparing a place and will receive His people.

2. How do we come to the Father?

Through Jesus Christ, the way, truth, and life.

3. Who is the Comforter?

The Holy Spirit, who teaches and reminds believers of Jesus' words.

4. How is Jesus' peace different?

It rests in His presence and promise rather than circumstances.

Life Application

Reflect: *What trouble are you carrying as though you are alone?*

Act: *Pray John 14:27 and deliberately receive the peace Jesus gives.*

Chapter 15: "Abide and Bear Fruit"

Theme of the Week:

Fruitful Christian living flows from remaining connected to Jesus and loving one another.

Outline of John Chapter 15

1. The True Vine (John 15:1-8)

- Jesus is the vine and believers are the branches.
- Apart from Him we can do nothing of lasting spiritual value.

2. Abide in My Love (John 15:9-17)

- Obedience keeps us in the enjoyment of His love.
- Jesus calls His disciples friends and commands mutual love.

3. The Worlds Hatred (John 15:18-25)

- Followers of Jesus should not be surprised by opposition.
- The servant is not greater than the Lord.

4. The Spirits Witness (John 15:26-27)

- The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus.
- The disciples are also called to bear witness.

Key Verse to Memorize

"Abide in me, and I in you." - John 15:4 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What does it mean to abide?

To remain in living fellowship, dependence, and obedience to Jesus.

2. Why is pruning necessary?

The Father removes hindrances so that greater fruit can grow.

3. What fruit does Jesus emphasize?

Obedience, love, witness, and a life that glorifies the Father.

4. Who helps believers testify?

The Holy Spirit bears witness of Christ through them.

Life Application

Reflect: *Are you trying to produce spiritual fruit without remaining close to Jesus?*

Act: *Set aside daily time this week to remain in His word and prayer.*

Chapter 16: "The Spirit of Truth"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus prepares His disciples for hardship and explains how the Holy Spirit will guide them into truth.

Outline of John Chapter 16

1. Prepared for Opposition (John 16:1-4)

- Jesus warns His followers so they will not be taken by surprise.
- Religious sincerity can still oppose God's work.

2. The Comforter Comes (John 16:5-15)

- Jesus' departure makes way for the Spirit's ministry.
- The Spirit convicts the world and glorifies Jesus.

3. Sorrow Turned to Joy (John 16:16-24)

- The disciples' grief will not last forever.
- Resurrection joy will replace sorrow.

4. Peace in Christ (John 16:25-33)

- Jesus speaks plainly about the Father.
- Trouble is real, but Christ has overcome the world.

Key Verse to Memorize

"When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." - John 16:13 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. Why did Jesus warn the disciples?

So hardship would not destroy their faith.

2. What does the Holy Spirit do?

He convicts, guides into truth, and glorifies Jesus.

3. How can sorrow become joy?

The resurrection changes the meaning and outcome of suffering.

4. What assurance closes the chapter?

In Christ we have peace because He has overcome the world.

Life Application

Reflect: *Where do you need the Spirit's guidance instead of your own assumptions?*

Act: *Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through Scripture and glorify Jesus in your response.*

Chapter 17: "Jesus Prays for His Own"

Theme of the Week:

Before the cross, Jesus prays for His glory, His disciples protection, and the unity of all who will believe.

Outline of John Chapter 17

1. Jesus Prays for Himself (John 17:1-5)

- Jesus asks to be glorified through completing the Father's work.
- Eternal life is knowing the Father and Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus Prays for His Disciples (John 17:6-19)

- He asks that they be kept, united, joyful, and sanctified in truth.
- He sends them into the world without making them belong to it.

3. Jesus Prays for Future Believers (John 17:20-26)

- Jesus includes those who will believe through the disciples' word.
- He prays that believers will be one and display His love.

Key Verse to Memorize

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." - John 17:17 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What is eternal life?

Knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent.

2. What protection did Jesus request?

That His people be kept in the Father's name and guarded from evil.

3. How are believers sanctified?

Through the truth of God's word.

4. Why does Christian unity matter?

It displays the reality of Jesus' mission and love.

Life Application

Reflect: Does your life reflect the unity and truth Jesus prayed for?

Act: Pray for another believer and take one step toward Christ-centered unity.

Chapter 18: "The King on Trial"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus willingly faces arrest and examination while maintaining complete truth and authority.

Outline of John Chapter 18

1. Jesus Arrested (John 18:1-11)

- Jesus steps forward knowing what will happen.
- He protects His disciples and accepts the cup before Him.

2. Peter Denies Jesus (John 18:12-27)

- Peter follows at a distance and denies knowing Jesus.
- Human courage fails without spiritual dependence.

3. Before Pilate (John 18:28-40)

- Jesus declares that His Kingdom is not of this world.
- He came to bear witness to the truth.

4. Barabbas Released (John 18:39-40)

- The guilty man is released while the innocent Jesus is condemned.
- The exchange pictures what Jesus accomplishes for sinners.

Key Verse to Memorize

"To this end was I born... that I should bear witness unto the truth." - John 18:37 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. Was Jesus powerless at His arrest?

No. He knowingly surrendered while protecting His disciples.

2. Why did Peter fail?

Fear overcame his self-confident promise.

3. What kind of Kingdom does Jesus lead?

A Kingdom whose source and authority are not of this world.

4. What does Barabbas release picture?

The guilty going free while the innocent One takes judgment.

Life Application

Reflect: *Where has fear made you hide your relationship with Jesus?*

Act: *Confess your dependence on Christ and speak truthfully about Him when opportunity comes.*

Chapter 19: "It Is Finished"

Theme of the Week:

Jesus is crucified as King, completes the work of redemption, and is laid in a borrowed tomb.

Outline of John Chapter 19

1. Jesus Sentenced (John 19:1-16)

- Jesus is mocked and presented to the crowd.
- Pilate yields to pressure despite recognizing no fault in Him.

2. The Crucifixion (John 19:17-27)

- Jesus is crucified between others.
- Even in suffering He provides care for His mother.

3. The Finished Work (John 19:28-37)

- Jesus declares, "It is finished."
- His death fulfills Scripture and completes the saving work entrusted to Him.

4. Jesus Buried (John 19:38-42)

- Joseph and Nicodemus openly honor Jesus.
- His body is placed in a new tomb.

Key Verse to Memorize

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished." - John 19:30 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. Why is Jesus called King in this chapter?

Even His enemies unknowingly display the truth of His kingship.

2. What does "It is finished" mean?

The redemptive work assigned by the Father was fully accomplished.

3. Why did the soldiers not break His legs?

Events unfolded in fulfillment of Scripture.

4. How did Joseph and Nicodemus respond?

They moved from secrecy to courageous public devotion.

Life Application

Reflect: Are you trying to earn what Jesus has already completed?

Act: Thank Him for the finished work of the cross and rest your salvation in Him.

Chapter 20: "He Is Risen"

Theme of the Week:

The empty tomb transforms sorrow into faith and sends believers to announce the risen Christ.

Outline of John Chapter 20

1. The Empty Tomb (John 20:1-10)

- Mary finds the stone removed.
- Peter and the other disciple inspect the tomb.

2. Jesus Appears to Mary (John 20:11-18)

- Jesus calls Mary by name.
- Her grief becomes a testimony: "I have seen the Lord."

3. Peace and Commission (John 20:19-23)

- Jesus appears among fearful disciples and speaks peace.
- He sends them as the Father sent Him.

4. Thomas Believes (John 20:24-29)

- Jesus meets Thomas doubt with evidence and invitation.
- Thomas confesses, "My Lord and my God."

5. The Purpose of John (John 20:30-31)

- The signs were recorded so readers may believe.
- Believing brings life through Jesus' name.

Key Verse to Memorize

"These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." - John 20:31 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What changed Mary's grief?

The risen Jesus called her by name.

2. What did Jesus give the fearful disciples?

His peace, His presence, and a mission.

3. How did Jesus respond to Thomas?

He invited him to examine the evidence and believe.

4. Why was John's Gospel written?

So readers may believe in Jesus and have life through His name.

Life Application

Reflect: *What evidence in John has strengthened your belief?*

Act: *Tell someone why you believe Jesus is risen and what that means for you.*

Chapter 21: "Follow Me"

Theme of the Week:

The risen Jesus restores Peter, provides for His disciples, and calls each believer to faithful personal obedience.

Outline of John Chapter 21

1. Breakfast by the Sea (John 21:1-14)

- The disciples catch nothing until they obey Jesus' direction.
- The risen Lord provides breakfast and fellowship.

2. Peter Restored (John 21:15-19)

- Jesus asks Peter three times about his love.
- He restores him to caring for the Lord's sheep.

3. Your Call to Follow (John 21:20-23)

- Peter asks about another disciple.
- Jesus redirects him from comparison to personal obedience.

4. The Faithful Witness (John 21:24-25)

- The beloved disciple bears truthful witness.
- Jesus' works are greater than any single book can contain.

Key Verse to Memorize

"Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me." - John 21:22 (KJV)

Discussion Questions & Suggested Answers

1. What changed the disciples unsuccessful fishing?

Listening to and obeying the risen Jesus.

2. How did Jesus restore Peter?

He addressed Peter's love and recommissioned him to care for others.

3. What danger did Jesus correct?

Comparison that distracts a disciple from personal obedience.

4. How does John end his Gospel?

With a trustworthy witness and wonder at the greatness of Jesus' works.

Life Application

Reflect: Are you comparing your calling with someone else's?

Act: Receive Jesus' restoration and take your own next faithful step: follow Him.