

CULTIVATE

PERSONAL PRACTICE: Scripture

April 14, 2021

GROWTH

We believe spiritual growth is experienced as we grow in intimacy with God. There is no better way to grow in intimacy than to experience the story of God. The Holy Spirit will teach you through the Scriptures and remind you of everything Jesus has said. The Spirit is revealing the fullness of God to us through the story.

NEXT STEPS

- 1. Choose a 15-minute timeslot and stick to it. Commit to consistency and build the practice.*
- 2. Find a place where interruption is limited. Life can be busy & loud and attention can be lost. Find a place where you can give your best attention to God's word.*
- 3. Be ready to write. Open a journal, word document, digital note or a blank sheet of paper. Each day has a question to consider and you will have an answer, from God, to write down.*
- 4. Open the Bible.*
- 5. Pray these words: "Speak Lord, I am listening".*
- 6. Read the chapter for the day.*
- 7. Note specific verses that stood out and why (if you know why). Use the question to spur your thoughts if you feel stuck.*
- 8. Thank God for speaking to you through His word.*

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THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Why start here?

The Gospel of John shows Jesus as fully divine—the promised Messiah, the Son of the Father dwelling among us for a time. Written from the viewpoint of one of Jesus' closest disciples, this book of the Bible doesn't just tell a story; it calls us to respond. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are the answer to all our heartaches and joys in this life.

John wrote his Gospel: "so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31)

Suggested Bible Translations: New Living Translation (NLT), New International Version (NIV)

REST / MAKEUP Day: Though we want to be consistent and committed, life happens. Use the rest / makeup day to read a day you may have missed or go back and read your past-days' reflections.

READING PLAN:

Day 1: John 1

Question: Jesus came as a light into the darkness. What idea about Jesus was "lit up" for you?

Day 2: John 2

Question: What impresses you more: the miracle or Jesus' interaction in the temple? Why?

Day 3: John 3

Question: What have you learned about Jesus in today's chapter?

Day 4: John 4

Question: Why is it important that we worship in Spirit and in Truth and not a specific place? (John 4:24)

Day 5: John 5

Question: What do you think it means to come to Jesus to have life? (5:40)

Day 6: John 6

Question: What hunger does God need to satisfy for you to "never be hungry"? (6:35)

Day 7: REST / MAKEUP DAY

REFLECTION: What effect did it have on you to read the story of Jesus six days this week?

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Day 8: John 7

Question: "No one ever spoke the way this man does." (7:46) In your life, what would it take for you to say this about someone?

Day 9: John 8

Question: What darkness exists in your world where you need to have the light of life?

Day 10: John 9

Question: "I was blind but now I see." (9:25) In what areas of your life do you feel blind?

Day 11: John 10

Question: "I am the good shepherd." What does it mean to you to be part of Jesus' flock of 'sheep'?

Day 12: John 11

Question: In this chapter, what does Jesus say is God's glory? Why?

Day 13: John 12

Question: What is surprising to you about Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and the surrounding events?

Day 14: REST / MAKEUP DAY

REFLECTION: What are you learning about Jesus this week?

Day 15: John 13

Question: By living as God among humanity, what example is Jesus setting for the world?

Day 16: John 14

Question: What does it mean that Jesus is the Way? What other ways are there?

Day 17: John 15

Question: This guide is for staying on the vine. What is the greatest fruit you can grow?

Day 18: John 16

Question: What is Jesus trying to tell His disciples about the Father, Himself & the Spirit?

Day 19: John 17

Question: Why do you think Jesus is praying for His disciples?

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Day 20: John 18

Question: Why do you think Jesus surrenders and doesn't try to avoid capture?

Day 21: REST / MAKEUP DAY

REFLECTION: This week's readings all happened shortly before Jesus' death and resurrection. What do you think Jesus is highlighting to his disciples in his last words?

Day 22: John 19

Question: What event in Jesus' crucifixion stands out the most to you and why?

Day 23: John 20

Question: Why do you think it's important to "receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22)

Day 24: John 21

Question: "Jesus did many other things as well" (John 21:25): what do you imagine the rest of Jesus' life to have been and why?

Day 25: REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION: In what way did you grow as you spent the last 3 weeks reading about Jesus' life? Where are you hopeful for more growth?

SO WHAT?

"Followers of Jesus follow Jesus. Those who aren't following Jesus aren't his followers. It's that simple. Followers follow, and those who don't follow aren't followers.

To follow Jesus means to follow Jesus into a society where justice rules, where love shapes everything. To follow Jesus means to take his dream and work for it."

- Scot McKnight, One.Life