

An In-Depth Book-by-Book Study of the Bible

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## JOHN'S GOSPEL (JOHN 12-21):

ONE WORD, ONE LIFE,  
ONE WAY

BIBLE STUDIES

FOR THE DEAF • WINTER 2013-14

# BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE DEAF

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\* Evangelistic Lesson, \*\* Christmas Lesson, \*\*\* Sanctity of Human Life Lesson

# Accepting Christ?



**Grace Sao\***

I was born in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. Mommy sent me to the only public boarding school for the Deaf, St. Christopher's School for the Deaf, when I was 3 years old. My family fought for me to come back home and go to a small school in a house. There, an older girl took me from my home to school and back. I was 8 years old at that time. I was mostly a well-behaved girl and wanted to have a best friend. Different friends let me down. I was lonely.

Mommy sent me to a Sunday evening class for children. Everyone there was hearing. I did learn John 3:16 from the Bible. We had to recite it regularly. Then some mornings, I saw a van picking up children. I asked Mommy about going on that van. My baby sister and I started to ride that van with

many other children. I felt very overwhelmed.

When we arrived, I was taken to my own class. I saw a light-skinned man who was very handsome and his dark-skinned wife who was not very pretty. I watched how kind they were to each other as they taught my class. I continued to attend the Sunday School classes and worship services. At the worship services, I admired the pastor on the stage. He would kneel by his chair on the stage sometimes.

I would say to myself, *You see the Pastor? Go to him and tell him that you want Jesus in your heart.* When the worship service ended, I walked to where I thought his office was. He was there alone. I told him, "I want Jesus in my heart." He was excited and prayed. I didn't understand what he said, but I was confident that Jesus was listening. He gave me a card and things for me to do: Read the Bible daily, pray everyday, and others. I left the room thinking, *Is that all?* Then I noticed the trees looked different, and the sun rays on them sparkled. It was like a light had switched on in my heart. I rejoiced. I was 16 years old.

Later, a friend took me to a Deaf church. There I really understood the Scriptures were not just a book to read and then put aside other books. I saw some white people

there who lived on the same compound as the church building. I noticed that they taught school and vocational classes. I wanted to do that kind of work when I grew up.

I moved to New York to continue my education. I joined the only Southern Baptist church in New York City and the Deaf for Jesus Ministries. I have been a member since 1983. I am glad to serve God

in my church or anywhere that my Daddy (God) puts me. You can also find a new life and purpose. Read John 3:16 and know that Daddy loves you too. “God loved the world so much that He gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.”

\*name changed

## How to Use the Personal Study Guide

Use your Bible to read all the verses. These lessons may be used for weekly Bible study and reading at home.

Read **Accepting Christ?** on page four to find out how to become a Christian. If you are already a Christian, show this to a friend.

The **Lesson Material** outline gives verses for you to read in your Bible.

The **Bible Truth** will help you understand the lesson better.

**What These Verses Tell Us** explains in a few words what the lesson teaches. Read it first to help you understand the lesson.

**Meet the Writer** tells you a little about the person who wrote the lessons for the quarter.

Study the lesson and the Bible verses to find the answers to the **Study Questions**. Write your answers and bring them to the Bible study.

The **Leader Guide** is for the teacher, but you may want to read “**Dig Deeper!**” for additional study.

The **New Century Version**® (NCV) is used in these lessons. Many Deaf people like this version because they can understand it easily. The New Century Version is no longer in print, but you may be able to find used copies. You can see this translation and others at [www.BibleGateway.com](http://www.BibleGateway.com).

**Pray** for your teacher, members of your Bible class, and lost Deaf people. **Pray** for God to use you to share Christ with other people.



## JOHN'S GOSPEL

*One Word, One Life,  
One Way***John 12–21**

The majority of Bible students date John's Gospel about A.D. 90–100. John taught and preached about Jesus for more than 50 years after the resurrection. Some of the earliest Christian writers (other than Bible authors) said John was in Ephesus when he wrote his Gospel.

John wanted his readers to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31). That is why he wrote his Gospel.

John wanted people to believe in Jesus as God's Son, the Savior. He used the word *believe* more than 100 times. John wrote about eternal life 35 times. Because he wanted the Jewish people to believe, he used the word *Jew* more than 60 times. John told much about Jesus as a man—just like other men. Jesus became tired after walking a long way (John 4:6). Jesus cried when His friend Lazarus died (John 11:35). Jesus became angry because people did not behave the right way in the temple (John 2:15). Matthew, Mark, and Luke told about many miracles, but John chose to record only seven.

John also wanted believers to have joy in their salvation. He wrote about how a believer is different from a non-believer. The true believer talks differently. He acts differently.

At the time John wrote this Gospel, some teachers said Jesus was not really God. They said the Holy Spirit came to Him when He was baptized and then left Jesus when He died. Other people said Jesus was not really a man. He was only a spirit. John wanted people to know Jesus was both man and God. We use the words *humanity* and *divinity* of Jesus to talk about this.

John knew Jesus well. He and the other disciples walked and talked with Jesus for about three years. He knew Jesus was a real man. But John saw Jesus' miracles, heard Him teach,



watched Him die on the cross, and talked with Him after the resurrection. Later John saw Jesus go up into heaven. From all these experiences, John also knew Jesus was the Son of God.

Chapters 12–21 report what happened in the last week before the crucifixion and on through the resurrection. John showed the full human nature of Jesus in His suffering on the cross. He showed the divine nature of Jesus in the resurrection.

Chapter 13 begins with Jesus and His disciples in the upper room the night He was betrayed by Judas. Chapters 13–16 tell how Jesus taught His disciples for the last time. Jesus prepared them for His death and for the suffering they would have because of their faith in Jesus. He promised the Holy Spirit would give them the strength and courage they needed.

Chapter 17 is the “real” Lord’s Prayer. Jesus talked with His Father. He prayed more for His disciples than for Himself.

Chapters 18–19 tell about the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. John noted several times how the arrest and trial were illegal according to Jewish law.

Chapters 20–21 tell the exciting story of the resurrection and some of the experiences the disciples had with Jesus after the resurrection—both in Jerusalem and a week later in Galilee.

John ends by explaining this is not everything about what Jesus said and did. There is not enough room in all the earth for the books needed to tell everything. John began by writing about the Living Word (John 1:1). He closed by writing about how he was given the written words about this Living Word (John 21:24-25).

# UNIT 1



## THE WAY OF COSTLY DISCIPLESHIP



# John 12:1-17:26

The six lessons in this unit **emphasize** what it means to follow Jesus and how believers must understand the price of being a faithful follower of Jesus. The lessons tell us about His example of service and the way we must follow His teaching about service. We will learn about His **relationship** with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We will learn it is important to **remain** in Him. The lessons will help us understand His promise to send

the Holy Spirit to His followers. We will learn about His prayer to the Father. He told His Father He finished the Father's work on earth. He prayed and asked the Father to take care of His disciples.

One lesson is about how the angel announced to Mary that she would become the mother of the **Messiah**. It tells us about Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

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## Meet the Writer

**Hetty Otto** has been a Sunday School teacher, an interpreter, and a trainer of interpreters for over 45 years. She started serving in the Deaf ministry when she was a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She is retired. She is an active member of the Deaf ministry at Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Florida. She has three grown daughters, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She has written for LifeWay since 2011.



# Live Selflessly



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 12:1-50

**Lesson Material:**  
John 12:24-33,  
35-36,44-48

**Bible Truth**  
Believers who follow  
Jesus die to self. They  
**focus** their lives and  
service on what God  
wants.

**A**rthur was a Deaf Bible teacher in a Christian school. Some Bible lessons are very difficult for younger students to understand. Arthur used real-life examples to help them understand. During the first week of each school year, Arthur taught how it is necessary to die before we can live.

Arthur brought pumpkin seeds to class. He gave each student a small container with dirt to plant one pumpkin seed. They were given another pumpkin seed to put on a shelf. The seed in the dirt began to grow with a stem and leaves. The students moved the little plants outside to the garden. By the end of the year small pumpkins began to appear on the plants.

Both seeds died. One seed died sitting on the shelf. The other seed died in the ground. The seed on the shelf just died. The seed in the ground grew to make more pumpkins.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Accept the Principle** (John 12:24-26) - Jesus told His disciples if they followed Him they must live by His principles. They must die to self and live for God.
2. **Consider the Cost** (12:27-33) - Jesus was troubled by the fact He would die soon. Jesus knew He came for that purpose.
3. **Realize the Urgency** (12:35-36) - Jesus taught His disciples it was very important to believe in Him. It was important to obey Him while He was still on earth.
4. **Decide to Follow** (12:44-48) - Jesus said His **mission** in the world was to make a way of salvation. People who believe in Him will be saved. They will not stay in darkness.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

Draw a circle around the correct answer. Is it true or false?

1. T F Jesus said He was the light of the world.
2. T F Believers do not need to walk in His light.
3. T F Jesus obeyed God. He gave His life willingly.
4. T F The earthly body of every person will die unless Jesus comes back first.
5. T F Jesus does not expect believers to be willing to die for Him.

## Today's Lesson

Selfishness is the basis for much sin. Many believers struggle against selfishness every day as they try to walk with the Holy Spirit. Other believers think about selfishness only once in a while. Selfishness is directly against the life of Christian discipleship. Jesus taught us to stop loving our own lives more than loving God. He requires His followers to **focus** their lives and service on the things God wants.

Jesus lived by the principle of dying to self and living for God. Jesus taught His disciples they must live by the same principle.

Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem for the **Passover** Feast celebration. The Passover Feast was a time when all Jewish people tried to go to Jerusalem for this celebration. The week of the Passover was the last week before Jesus' death. He used this time to teach His followers to continue His ministry and teachings.

## 1. Accept the Principle (John 12:24-26)

24. I tell you the truth, a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die to make many seeds. But if it never dies, it remains only a single seed.
25. Those who love their lives will lose them, but those who hate their lives in this world will keep true life forever.
26. Whoever serves me must follow me. Then my servant will be with me everywhere I am. My Father will honor anyone who serves me.

The word *principle* means “a basic law or way of acting.” Accepting the principle in these verses means a believer must agree to follow the basic commands of Jesus.

It is sometimes hard to understand the words *die to our own lives*. Some writers use the word **selflessness**. We must be careful to not confuse this word with selfishness. Jesus used the idea of selflessness to say believers must die to themselves or never to put their desires first in anything they do.

**WE OBEY JESUS WHEN WE FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLE OF DYING TO SELF AND SERVE OTHERS IN A HUMBLE WAY.**

**Verse 24.** Jesus used an illustration believers in His day understood. He was talking first about Himself as well as His followers. He explained how He

and His followers must be like a seed of grain. When the seed is planted it will die and begin to grow more grain. When those kernels of grain die, even more seeds grow and are planted.

Jesus said He was the seed that must die. When He died, He made a way for all sinners to become saved. His followers must also die to their own desires and live for Him and His word. If they love themselves more than they love Jesus, they will not bring life to other people.

**Verse 25.** If people love their own lives more than Jesus, they will lose their lives. Jesus used the phrase “hate their lives in this world.” To hate our own lives means to pay attention to Jesus and follow His example.

**Verse 26.** Jesus made a promise to His followers. He promised believers His Father will honor people who are the servants of Jesus.

Jesus obeyed the principle of dying to Himself and living for God. Jesus calls us to do the same thing. We obey Jesus when we follow the principle of dying to self and serve others in a humble way.

## 2. Consider the Cost (12:27-33)

27. “Now I am very troubled. Should I say, ‘Father, save me from this time?’ No, I came to this time so I could suffer.

28. Father, bring glory to your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have brought glory to it, and I will do it again.”
29. The crowd standing there, who heard the voice, said it was thunder. But others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”
30. Jesus said, “That voice was for your sake, not mine.
31. Now is the time for the world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be thrown down.
32. If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people toward me.”
33. Jesus said this to show how he would die.

The next eight verses show Jesus’ own struggle about His death. He was thinking about the cross and the pain it would give Him. He knew His physical body must die. He set the example we must follow to serve Him. He considered the cost. He knew His death was worth His pain.

**Verses 27-28.** Jesus told His disciples He was troubled about the fact He would soon suffer. Then He asked them a question. He asked if they thought He should ask the Father to let Him be free from the time that was coming for Him to suffer.

He answered the question for them. He was firm and strong. He said a strong, “No.” He knew the reason He came into this world was to suffer and die. After He said these things He prayed to His Father. He wanted His death to bring glory to the Father.

Jesus’ followers heard a voice from heaven. God spoke to Jesus. God said He already brought glory to His name. He will bring glory to His name again.

**Verses 29-30.** A crowd of people were standing there to hear the things Jesus was teaching. A voice came from heaven. They heard the voice. The people had two different reactions to what they heard.

The first group said the sound was thunder. In the Old Testament there were times God’s voice came from the thunder. You can read about these times in Psalm 29:1-3 and 1 Samuel 7:10. They were like many people in today’s world. They tried to explain God’s voice as part of nature. They refused to believe in spiritual things.

The second group said it was the voice of an angel. They were willing to believe it was spiritual. They were not willing to believe it was actually the voice of God.

Jesus explained the voice was given for them to hear and believe. The voice was not only for Him.

**Verse 31.** Jesus said the world was getting ready to crucify the Lord of life. When the world killed Jesus’ earthly life, it would bring judgment

**BELIEVERS TODAY MAY BE  
CALLED ON TO SUFFER  
AND DIE BECAUSE THEY  
LOVE JESUS AND FOLLOW  
HIS PRINCIPLE.**



on the world itself. One of the names John used for **Satan** was “the ruler of this world” (John 14:30 and John 16:11). The world is ruled by Satan. Satan will be defeated and will not have power to take believers from the hand of Jesus. Jesus said God will throw Satan down.

**Verses 32-33.** We can see two meanings for Jesus’ words, “If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people toward me.” *Draw* in this sentence means “to feel pulled to Jesus.” First, it can mean when Jesus’ body was lifted up on the cross to die, He made a way for man to be saved. He is the only way to be saved. All people will be drawn to Him. This does not mean all people will become believers. It means people will see He is the one who provides a way of salvation. They will want to go to Him.

Second, it can mean Jesus can also be lifted up in the lives of believers when they serve and honor Him. People will see His great salvation and come to Him.

Jesus explained to the people He knew He would be crucified. He was not afraid. He accepted God’s plan for Him and the world. We need to be willing to make sacrifices when we follow His principles.

### **3. Realize the Urgency (12:35-36)**

35. Then Jesus said, “The light will be with you for a little longer, so walk while you have the light. Then the darkness will not catch you. If you walk in the darkness, you will not know where you are going.
36. Believe in the light while you still have it so that you will become children of light.” When Jesus had said this, he left and hid himself from them.

The word **urgency** means “the need to do something in a hurry.” We feel we must begin the work quickly and without delay.

Jesus described Himself as light. People could understand His description easily. In those days natural light was very important. People were only able to work in the fields and other outside jobs during daylight hours.

**Verses 35-36.** We have a limited time of sunlight during the day. The sun rises and lights the world. Then it sets and darkness comes over the world. We must work while we have enough light. Jesus said He is the Light of the world.

He instructed His followers to take advantage of the Light while He was with them. He was talking about working to do God’s will while He was with them.

Jesus is the Light of the world. Believers walk in the light when they follow Him. He calls believers to be children of light. Other people can see His light shining through us. We should feel the need to walk in His light.

#### 4. Decide to Follow (12:44-48)

44. Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me is really believing in the One who sent me.
45. Whoever sees me sees the One who sent me.
46. I have come as light into the world so that whoever believes in me would not stay in darkness.
47. Anyone who hears my words and does not obey them, I do not judge, because I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.
48. There is a judge for those who refuse to believe in me and do not accept my words. The word I have taught will be their judge on the last day.”

In verses 37-43, John wrote about people who will not believe in Jesus. Read those verses to understand why they refuse to walk in the light.

**Verses 44-45.** People asked Jesus, “Who is the Son of Man?” He said He and the Father are one. When people see Him, they see the Father. We cannot believe in Jesus without believing in the Father at the same time. The Father sent Jesus to do His work. We cannot believe in the Father without accepting Jesus as His Son.

Jesus came into the world to show who the Father really is. Jesus told His followers whoever sees Him sees His Father. If we put our faith in Jesus, we also put our faith in God. We cannot have one without the other.

**JESUS CAME INTO THE  
WORLD THE FIRST TIME TO  
MAKE A WAY FOR PEOPLE  
TO BE SAVED.**

**Verse 46.** Jesus said He is the Light of the world. He warned His followers again to walk in the light. He warned them not to be caught in the darkness.

**Verses 47-48.** Jesus made it clear He did not come into the world to judge people who did not believe in Him. He was talking about the first time He came. Jesus came into the world the first time to make a way for people to be saved.

Jesus talked about the time He will come again. He warned the people who do not accept Him. In the last day God will judge people who **reject** His words.

Remember the story of the pumpkin seeds at the beginning of this lesson? Both seeds died. One was on the shelf and one was in the ground. The little pumpkins grew. Arthur cut one of the pumpkins open. In the pumpkin were many little seeds. He explained to his students how each seed can become a pumpkin and produce many more seeds. We are like those seeds. The things we do with our lives are important.

# What About You?

Are you willing to walk in Jesus' light?

Are you willing to give up your life to serve Him?

Are you selfish or selfless? The decision to be Jesus' follower means we must die to ourselves.

Look honestly at your own life. Have you already become a light or a seed to be His servant? Are you still trying to be selfless?

## Applying the Lesson

Answer these questions. Circle YES, NO, or STILL TRYING.

1. Do you understand what it means to walk in the light?

YES   NO   STILL TRYING

2. Are you willing to give up your life for Jesus?

YES   NO   STILL TRYING

3. Do you think you are selfless?

YES   NO   STILL TRYING

Pray for the Lord to help you be able to answer all of these questions with a big "YES."

A verse to remember: "If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people toward me" (John 12:32).

# Serve Humbly

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 13:1-38

**Lesson Material:**  
John 13:12-20,33-38

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus expects His  
followers to show  
humble loving  
service to others.



Sally is a Deaf senior at a large high school. Seniors take part in an activity called *shadowing*. The student spends time with someone to learn about that person's job.

Sally was assigned to a hearing elementary school teacher named Mrs. Stone for a week. She noticed Mrs. Stone always arrived early to prepare for the school day.

One day Sally saw Mrs. Stone go to each teacher's room. She left a little encouraging note for each one. She did not sign the notes.

Sally went with her to the hospital to visit a student. Mrs. Stone left a card for the nurse to give the family. It had a \$20.00 bill in it to help the family buy gas for their car. She did not sign the card.

Mrs. Stone did many other acts of kindness like that. She did not want anyone to know she was doing them. Sally learned the meaning of *humility*.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Follow Christ's Example (John 13:12-15)** - Believers must follow Jesus' example. He served others. He teaches us to be willing to serve other people.
2. **Remember Who Sent You (13:16-20)** – Jesus encourages us as we serve others.
3. **Serve in Love (13:33-35)** - We show we are truly His disciples when we serve others.
4. **Resist Boasting (13:36-38)** - We must **remain** humble as disciples of Christ.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

Draw a line from the name on the left to the correct person on the right.

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. He said he would die for Jesus.                            | The disciples       |
| 2. He became the enemy of Jesus.                              | The crowd of people |
| 3. He said we must be humble servants.                        | Peter               |
| 4. They disagreed with Jesus.                                 | Jesus               |
| 5. They did not understand when Jesus talked about His death. | Judas               |

## Today's Lesson

Before we study today's lesson, we must understand where Jesus was and what He was doing. Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem for the **Passover** Feast. They were in a room at the top of a house in Jerusalem. They planned to celebrate the Passover Feast there.

In New Testament times people wore open sandals and walked almost everywhere. A Jewish custom was for the owner of the house to tell a servant to wash the feet of guests before they ate.

All the disciples were gathered in the room. Jesus washed His disciples' feet. In those days, only servants or slaves washed the feet of others. Jesus' actions showed He was a true and humble servant. He did not ask someone else to do the job for Him. Jesus gave His followers an example of true humility and service.

### 1. Follow Christ's Example (John 13:12-15)

12. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and sat down again. He asked, "Do you understand what I have just done for you?"



13. You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that is what I am.
14. If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash each other’s feet.
15. I did this as an example so that you should do as I have done for you.”

**Verse 12.** It is important to see Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples. He washed Judas’ feet. Jesus knew Judas would **betray** Him. Jesus still served Judas. He was serving the man who became His enemy.

Jesus often asked His followers questions to find out if they understood the things He said. Jesus wanted to be sure His disciples knew the meaning of His actions. He asked them if they understood. He wanted them to understand the spiritual meaning of washing their feet. The meaning is that the Son of God became a servant. His followers are commanded to become servants. They watched Jesus’ actions. He set the perfect example of serving others.

**Verse 13.** Jesus was famous because of His teaching. It was natural to call him Teacher. The Hebrew word for teacher is **Rabbi**. Jesus’ disciples called Him Lord. Jesus said they were right to call Him Lord. They were right to call Him Teacher. He is both teacher and Lord. Those two names show people respected Jesus.

**Verses 14-15.** Jesus challenged His disciples to follow His example. As Lord, Jesus was highly respected, but He acted like a servant. He seemed to be asking them a question. “If I, your Teacher and Lord, wash your feet, are you too good to do the same thing?” He instructed them to be humble. He expected them to wash their brother’s feet.

Jesus was explaining a spiritual truth through a physical action. In New Testament times, washing feet was a common way to serve someone. Today we can find other ways to serve people. Jesus set the perfect example for His disciples to follow. As Christians, we should serve other people humbly.

## **2. Remember Who Sent You (13:16-20)**

16. I tell you the truth, a servant is not greater than his master. A **messenger** is not greater than the one who sent him.
17. If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.
18. “I am not talking about all of you. I know those I have chosen. But this is to bring about what the Scripture said: ‘The man who ate at my table has turned against me.’
19. I am telling you this now before it happens so that when it happens, you will believe that I am he.

20. I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send also accepts me.  
And whoever accepts me also accepts the One who sent me.”

**Verse 16.** This verse is full of meaning. Jesus talked about two groups of people. The first group is servants and masters. The second group is messengers and people who send the messengers.

People in the New Testament times understood the difference between master and servant very well. People who had enough money hired servants. If a servant does not do his work, he can be fired.

A servant is not greater than his master. Jesus is our Master. We are His servants. After Jesus returned to heaven, some of the apostles wrote letters to the churches. Paul, Peter, James, and Jude all said they were servants of our Lord. You can read their statements in Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1 and Jude 1:1. They remembered how Jesus taught them to be servants. In New Testament times, letters or messages were carried by servants from one place to another. The **messenger** was important. His job was to be sure the message was given quickly and correctly. But he was not more important than the person who gave him the message. He must hurry to deliver the message of his master. He remembered who sent him.

WHEN THE DISCIPLES  
REMEMBERED  
THESE THINGS, THEY  
REMEMBERED WHO  
SENT THEM.

**Verse 17.** Then, Jesus made a very simple but important statement. He said the disciples would be happy if they really learned the things He taught them. Jesus told them they must be servants. They must even serve their enemies. When the disciples remembered these things, they remembered who sent them.

**Verse 18.** The disciples listened to Jesus and ate their meal. They were shocked by the next thing He said. He said He was not talking about all of them. He was talking to the disciples He knew were His. They were the ones who would be happy.

Jesus quoted from Psalm 41:9 to call their attention to the writings in the Old Testament. The writer of this Psalm told the things that would happen to the **Messiah** (Jesus). Jesus spoke about “the man who ate at my table.” He meant more than eating with Him at the **Passover** Feast. He meant a person who was with Him and lived close enough to be part of His family. But Judas turned against Jesus. The disciples remembered who sent them. Judas did not.

**Verse 19.** It is interesting to see how Jesus wanted His disciples to know what was going to happen. He did not want them to be surprised when Judas betrayed Him. It was hard for them to accept. He wanted them to

understand Judas was fulfilling prophesy. They all knew the Old Testament writings talked about the Messiah. This was one way He showed them He was the Messiah. How? One of His followers betrayed Him.

**Verse 20.** Jesus gave the disciples a warning in verse 19. In verse 20, He gave them encouragement. He told them some people would accept them and treat them with respect. People would know the disciples were with Jesus. How would they know? They would know by the disciples' lives and love. They would see the disciples serve others lovingly and humbly.

### 3. Serve in Love (13:33-35)

33. Jesus said, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and what I told the Jews, I tell you now: Where I am going you cannot come.
34. "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.
35. All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."

In verses 21-32, Jesus explained how His earthly body would soon be killed. He also named Judas as the man who would **betray** Him. The disciples still did not understand the things Jesus said to them. After Judas left the room, Jesus continued talking to His faithful disciples.

**Verse 33.** Jesus called the remaining disciples *children*. This does not mean He thought they were childish or immature. The use of the words "my little children" in Jesus' time was a term often used to show love. The term meant Jesus took care of them like they were His own children. He said this to show He loved them. Jesus did not call them His little children until after Judas left the room. He knew Judas was not one of His little children.

**Verses 34-35.** The disciples needed to know how to act after Jesus was gone. He did not give them a long list of rules. He told them they must love each other the same way Jesus loved them. They must love other people as much as Jesus did.

Jesus said people would see their love and know they were followers of Jesus. There are many ways we can show we follow Jesus. Some people wear clothing or jewelry that show they are a Christian. Other people have bumper stickers on their cars to show they follow Jesus. Am I truly a follower of Jesus if I wear Christian symbols or have a bumper sticker?

JESUS SAID PEOPLE  
WOULD SEE THEIR LOVE  
AND KNOW THEY WERE  
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

The answer is clear and strong, “No.” These things do not show we are followers of Jesus. We show that we love the Lord Jesus when we understand His great love for us and love others in the same way He loves us. People will see that love and know we belong to Jesus.

#### 4. Resist Boasting (13:36-38)

36. Simon Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”
37. Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I am ready to die for you!”
38. Jesus answered, “Are you ready to die for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know me.”

The word *boasting* means “bragging about ourselves.” It means we act proud about what we do. We are proud of who we are. Peter went with Jesus everywhere during Jesus’ ministry on earth. Now, Peter thought Jesus was leaving on another trip. He wanted to know where Jesus was going. He wanted to know why he could not go.

**PETER SAID HE WAS READY  
TO DIE FOR JESUS. HE SAID  
THIS WITHOUT THINKING.**

**Verse 36.** Peter asked Jesus where he was going. Jesus told Peter he could not go with Him. He must go alone. He did tell Peter he would follow Him later. Jesus meant Peter would face his own persecution and death.

**Verse 37.** The Gospels show how Peter had a strong will. He often acted without thinking about what he was doing. Later Judas brought the guards to arrest Jesus. One of the disciples defended Jesus with a sword. Bible students think it was Peter who did this—without thinking, he grabbed someone’s sword and cut off the ear of one guard (Matthew 26:51, Mark 14:47, Luke 22:50). Jesus scolded him and healed the guard. During Jesus’ trial, Peter denied he was a follower of Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, John 18:25-27).

In this verse, Peter said he was ready to die for Jesus. He said this without thinking. He was bragging about how he would follow Jesus.

**Verse 38.** Jesus said Peter would **deny** Him three times before the rooster crowed in the morning. At this point Peter probably disagreed with Jesus. He believed he would never deny he followed Jesus. Jesus let Peter know he would fail. He would not even try to give up his life for Jesus. We know the rest of the story—Peter repented and became a bold preacher for Christ.

# What About You?

Do you remember Mrs. Stone in the introduction? She served others quietly. She served humbly with love and without boasting. Are you willing to serve faithfully and not boast about your work?

The cost of following Jesus can be very high in today's world. God requires you to show your faith through your love and service. You may need to give up some of your money or time or talent. You may never be thanked for serving. Are you ready to make those sacrifices?

## Applying the Lesson

Ask the Lord to show you the things you need to improve to become a faithful servant. Answer the questions YES or NO.

1. I need to follow Christ's example more closely.  
YES   NO
2. I need to remember Jesus sends me to serve other people, not myself.  
YES   NO
3. I want to show Jesus' love through my service.  
YES   NO
4. I want to be humble and not boast about my service to Christ.  
YES   NO

A verse to remember: "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you. All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other" (John 13:34-35).



# Believe Exclusively



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 14:1-31

**Lesson Material:**  
John 14:1-14,27-29

**Bible Truth**  
To have a right  
**relationship** with  
God, we must believe  
in Jesus, His Son.

**R**obert was Deaf. His family owned a large farm. When his father died, he left the farm to Robert in his will.

Robert was a good farmer. He put a large strong fence around his farm. He wanted to be sure the cattle and horses did not get out.

He had many friends who liked him and visited him on his farm.

Through the years, houses were built around the outside of his fence. The houses had roads to get to them. The roads did not go to the farm.

Robert let people know there was only one road to his farm. The gate to his road was always open.

There were other roads on both sides of his farm. Those roads all stopped at the fence. People could not get to his house any other way except the one road. His road was the only way to get to his house.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **The Way to Be with God (John 14:1-6)** - We know we can be with God now and forever in heaven when we believe in Jesus.
2. **The Way to Know God (14:7-11)** - When we believe in Jesus we know what God is like. We can know He gives us a way of salvation.
3. **The Way to Pray to God (14:12-14)** - We can boldly pray in Jesus' name. We can ask God for whatever we need.
4. **The Way to Enjoy God's Peace (14:27-29)** - We can enjoy **supernatural** peace. God encourages us, even in fearful times.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Complete the phrases Jesus said to His disciples.

1. John 14:1. Don't let your hearts be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. John 14:6. I am the way, and the truth, and the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. John 14:13. If you ask for anything in My \_\_\_\_\_.
4. John 14:6. The only way to the \_\_\_\_\_ is through Me.
5. John 14:27. I leave you \_\_\_\_\_.

## Today's Lesson

The title for this lesson is "Believe Exclusively." The word **exclusive** means limited. The title means to believe in only one God. In last week's lesson, Jesus told His disciples He was going away, and they would be with Him later. In today's lesson, He told His disciples where He was going and how they could go there.

### 1. The Way to Be with God (John 14:1-6)

1. Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me.
2. There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you.
3. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am.
4. You know the way to the place where I am going."
5. Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. So how can we know the way?"
6. Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me."

**Verse 1.** Jesus comforted His disciples. He told them they trusted God and they should also trust Him. It was important for them to believe the words of Jesus. They did not want Jesus to leave them. They loved Him. They wanted to go with Him wherever He went.

**Verse 2.** Jesus gave the disciples some idea of where He was going. He talked about going to heaven. Heaven is His Father's house. There is enough room in His Father's house for all believers. There are many rooms.

Jesus said He would go and prepare a place for the disciples. Jesus' words are meant for believers today, also. He went to His Father to prepare a place for us.

**Verse 3.** Jesus was not talking about the time shortly after His death and **resurrection**. He was talking about the time He will come back to earth to take believers to heaven. He said the disciples will be with Him in heaven. He wants His children today to be with Him forever.

**ANYONE WHO WANTS TO  
BE WITH GOD MUST GO  
THROUGH JESUS.**

**Verses 4-5.** Jesus told His disciples they already knew He was the only way to heaven.

The disciple named Thomas is called "the doubter." Why? He had a hard time believing things when he first heard them. He seemed to doubt Jesus' words.

**Verse 6.** Jesus made a strong statement: "I am the Way." We cannot get to God by ourselves.

Some religions say there are many ways to God. They say all religions will get people into heaven. They say we may take different roads, but they all lead to heaven. The Bible says they are wrong. Jesus said He is the only way.

Some good people believe they can work their way to heaven. Others believe they will go to heaven because they were baptized and are members of a church. They were baptized when they were babies. They were baptized to join a church. The Bible says these beliefs are wrong.

It is difficult for some people to believe Jesus is the only way. Peter preached to a large group of people after Jesus returned to heaven. Peter told them, "Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us" (Acts 4:12).

The way to God is never closed. Anyone who wants to be with God must go through Jesus.

The story in the Introduction to this lesson shows the meaning of this verse. There was only one road to Robert's house. There were many roads that went as far as the fence around Robert's farm. They did not go into Robert's house. Robert left the gate open. People were not left outside. They took the only way in. They were welcomed into his home.

Jesus is the only road to God. His way is never closed. He welcomes believers into His home with the Father. If we believe in Jesus, we can know for sure we will be with Him forever in heaven.

## 2. The Way to Know God (14:7-11)

7. If you really knew me, you would know my Father, too. But now you do know him, and you have seen him.”
8. Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need.”
9. Jesus answered, “I have been with you a long time now. Do you still not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. So why do you say, ‘Show us the Father?’
10. Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you don’t come from me, but the Father lives in me and does his own work.
11. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done.”

**Verse 7.** The disciples knew Jesus and loved Him. They followed Him for the three years of His ministry on earth. Jesus said because they knew Him, they also knew the Father. Jesus said they saw God in Him.

This verse teaches us a little bit about the **Trinity**. The Trinity is how we describe God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. These three are one God. One way to understand this concept is to think about water. Water can be steam. Water can be ice. Water can be liquid. No matter what form it is, water is water!

**Verse 8.** Philip asked Jesus to show him the Father. He wanted to know the Father. Philip did not understand the things Jesus taught at that time. He did not understand when Jesus said he saw the Father through Jesus. All the disciples understood this after Jesus rose from death.

**Verses 9-10.** Jesus gently corrected Philip. Philip was with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry. Philip was the third person who became a follower of Jesus. You can read about Andrew, Peter, and Philip in John 1:40-45.

Jesus told Philip and all the other disciples He did not speak His own words. God the Father spoke through Jesus. God did His work through Jesus.

Believers today may have a hard time understanding this teaching. Sometimes we don’t understand how Jesus is one with God. They are separate, but they are the same. We must trust Jesus when He says He and the Father are one.

**Verse 11.** Jesus told His disciples they had two reasons to believe Him. First, He said to believe Him because He was in the Father and the Father

was in Him. The second reason they had to believe Him was the miracles He performed. Only God could do those miracles.

Do you want to know what God is like? Look in your Bible at the life of Christ. When we see Jesus, we see God.

### 3. The Way to Pray to God (14:12-14)

- 12, “I tell you the truth, whoever believes in me will do the same things that I do. Those who believe will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
13. And if you ask for anything in my name, I will do it for you so that the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son.
14. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.”

**Verse 12.** The disciples were sad because Jesus was leaving them. They were with Jesus during the three years of His earthly ministry. They saw Him do many miracles. He healed sick people. He raised people from death. He fed 5,000 people at one time. They saw all the miracles He did.

**JESUS TOLD THEM TO  
PRAY TO THE FATHER IN  
HIS NAME.**

In verse 1 of this chapter, He gave them encouragement. In this verse He told them what would happen after He went back to the Father. He told them

about the things believers would do. He said they would do even greater miracles than He did. It was difficult for the disciples to believe this. You can read in the Book of Acts the miracles the disciples did.

**Verses 13-14.** The greatest comfort for His followers was the promise He would hear their prayers. Jesus told them to pray to the Father in His name. We need to understand the statement “if you ask anything in My name.” Jesus did not say He would give a believer everything he asked for. The believer must pray for things that bring glory to the Father. Praying “in Jesus’ name” means to ask for things we need that bring glory to God. It means to ask for things Jesus approves. He will not honor silly or selfish prayers.

### 4. The Way to Enjoy God’s Peace (14:27-29)

27. “I leave you peace; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don’t let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
28. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going, but I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you should be happy that I am going back to the Father, because he is greater than I am.
29. I have told you this now, before it happens, so that when it happens, you will believe.”



**Verse 27.** Jesus explained to His disciples He would leave them soon. They depended on Him for leadership and courage. They were afraid to be left alone.

Some people say, “You can’t take it with you.” Those words mean we cannot take our earthly things with us when we die. Most people have a Last Will and Testament to tell others what to do with the things they leave on earth.

Jesus told them He was leaving them something. Jesus had no earthly possessions. He told them He was leaving something far better for them. He gave them His peace. He comforted them by saying, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

Believers today can have that peace. It is not like the peace the world gives. In the world, we see peace from wars. We see peace when people stop arguing. That peace may not last long.

The peace of Jesus is a spiritual peace. His gift is a **supernatural** peace. *Supernatural* means more than just natural. It means “things we cannot understand.” It is given by a power greater than man. No one can ever take His peace from us. His peace means believers do not need to worry about being saved and going to be with Him. We have peace because He paid our debt of sin. His **sacrifice** gives believers peace.

THE PEACE OF JESUS WILL  
ENCOURAGE US. WE CAN  
HAVE HIS PEACE DURING  
FEARFUL TIMES.

**Verse 28.** The disciples did not want Jesus to leave them. He promised them He would come back to take them to His Father in heaven. They should be happy.

**Verse 29.** Jesus told His disciples what would happen to Him. He wanted them to know ahead of time so they would not be surprised. When His persecution happened they could still believe He is the Son of God. He did not want them to be discouraged. Why? They knew He would come back to them.

The peace of Jesus will **encourage** us. We can have His peace during fearful times.

# What About You?

Do you believe Jesus is the only way to the Father? Do you have the peace Jesus gives His followers? If not, talk with your teacher or pastor and ask them to help you understand what this means.

Are you able to explain why believing in Jesus is the only way to be saved? If not, ask your teacher or pastor to help you learn how to tell people the plan of salvation.

## Applying the Lesson

Find a verse in today's Bible study that tells you the answer.

1. I believe Jesus is the Son of God. John 14: \_\_\_\_\_
2. I believe Jesus is the only way to God. John 14: \_\_\_\_\_
3. I know I am saved and will go to heaven to be with God. John 14: \_\_\_\_\_
4. I know Jesus went to heaven to prepare a place for me. John 14: \_\_\_\_\_
5. I know I can have peace with God through Jesus. John 14: \_\_\_\_\_
6. I believe Jesus will answer when I pray in His name. John 14: \_\_\_\_\_

A verse to remember: Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me." (John 14:1).

# Celebrate Jesus at Christmas!

## **Background Study Verses:**

Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-7

## **Lesson Material:**

Luke 1:30-35,38,46-49;  
2:4-7

## **Bible Truth**

We can celebrate the  
birth of Jesus because

He is God's son, He  
was born of a **virgin**,  
and He was born in a  
very humble place.



**T**he J-O-Y Deaf church planned a Christmas drama. The drama committee chose people to be Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men, and shepherds. The committee asked Laura to be Mary and Sam to be the angel Gabriel.

Each one learned about the personality and life of the people they played. The “wise men” learned about wise men in the time of Jesus. The “shepherds” learned what the Bible said about shepherds.

They were all excited to do their part. Everyone was happy except Laura and Samuel. They both said they were not good enough to play holy people.

The pastor explained Gabriel was an angel. He was a wonderful being, but He was not God. Only God is holy. He explained to Laura how Mary was a wonderful young girl. She was not holy. Both Laura and Samuel understood. They were happy to be Mary and Gabriel.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Declare Who Jesus Is (Luke 1:30-33)** - The angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son, the **Messiah**.
2. **Appreciate How Jesus Came (1:34-35, 38)** - Mary was a **virgin**. The angel explained she would become pregnant by the work of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Proclaim God's Greatness (1:46-49)** - Mary praised God for His greatness. God was pleased with her.
4. **Welcome Jesus (2:4-7)** - Mary traveled with Joseph to Bethlehem. She gave birth to Jesus in a poor place.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Find the verses in today's lesson.

1. Which verse tells us an angel spoke to Mary? Luke 1: \_\_\_\_.
2. Which verse tells us Jesus is the Son of the Most High God? Luke 1: \_\_\_\_.
3. Which verse tells us His kingdom will never end? Luke 1: \_\_\_\_.
4. Which verse tells us His name is holy? Luke 1: \_\_\_\_.
5. Which verse tells us Mary praised the Lord? Luke 1: \_\_\_\_.

## Today's Lesson

This week we will take a break from our study of John's Gospel to look at the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke.

Mary was the mother of Jesus. The Old Testament **prophets** said Jesus would be born into the family of David. The first chapter in Matthew explains Jesus was from the family of David. It lists all the generations from Abraham to Mary and Joseph. Joseph was from the family of David. He was Jesus' stepfather.

When Mary was about fifteen years old, she had a visit from an angel, Gabriel. He told her God was with her and God blessed her. Mary was startled (surprised) and wondered what he was talking about.

Read Luke 1:26-29 for the background for this lesson. You can also read about Gabriel in Daniel 8:16-17 and 9:20-23.

### 1. Declare Who Jesus Is (Luke 1:30-33)

30. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace.
31. Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his **ancestor**.
33. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

**Verse 30.** Gabriel spoke gently to Mary. He calmed her fears. He explained the reason she should not be afraid. He told her God had shown her grace. Grace is God’s special love. In this verse it means God was giving her a gift. She did not earn this gift. God gave His gift to a humble girl.

**Verse 31.** Many young Jewish women prayed daily. They prayed they would become the mother of the Messiah. The angel told Mary God chose her to give birth to a son. He told her to name Him Jesus. The name *Jesus* means “the Lord is salvation.”

Everything about Jesus’ birth happened exactly as it was told by prophets in the Old Testament (Micah 5:2).

**Verses 32-33.** These verses give us four truths about Jesus. First, “Jesus will be great.” His greatness will be seen in Him as a man. Jesus showed his greatness through His teaching and miracles. His great work was to be the Savior.

The second great truth is, “Jesus will be called the son of the Most High.”

The name *God Most High* goes back in history as far as Abraham (Genesis 14:19-20). Since Jesus is the Son of the Most High God, He is also God. He is God, the Son. He did not have a human father. His father is the Most High God. Joseph was His stepfather.

The third great truth is, “The Lord God will give Jesus the throne of His ancestor, King David.” The Old Testament has many verses that explain how David would be the ancestor of the Messiah (2 Samuel 7:8-16, Jeremiah 23:5). It was important for the Gospel writers to explain Jesus was from the family line of David. Matthew traced Jesus’ family from Abraham through David to Mary, His mother (Matthew 1:1-17).

The fourth great truth is, “Jesus will rule over the people of Jacob forever.” His kingdom will never end. He will reign over all people. When Jesus returns to earth, He will set up His kingdom. That kingdom will never end.

We can celebrate Christmas because we know who Jesus is. We can declare His truth through our words, actions, and songs.

WE CAN CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS BECAUSE WE  
KNOW WHO JESUS IS.

## 2. Appreciate How Jesus Came (1:34-35,38)

34. Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I am a virgin?”
35. The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and

the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.

38. Mary said, “I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” Then the angel went away.

The word *appreciate* in the title of this section means “to be thankful for something.” In these verses we are taught to be thankful for Jesus’ birth.

**Verse 34.** Mary answered the angel. She asked how all this could happen. She was still a virgin—a girl who had not had a sexual act with any man. She was engaged to Joseph, but she never slept with him. She did not seem to doubt the angel.

**Verse 35.** Gabriel explained she would become pregnant by **supernatural** power. He told her the Holy Spirit would cause her to become pregnant. This statement is a direct **declaration** Jesus would be holy. He was God’s Son. A basic belief about Jesus is He was born from a virgin. He was truly God in a human body.

**Verse 38.** Mary knew people would not believe her. She would be mocked and called evil names. She knew Joseph might break their engagement. It did not matter to her. She replied to the angel she was God’s servant. She wanted to do whatever God planned. She accepted the statement of the angel with joy.

We can celebrate Christmas because we know Jesus was born of a virgin. It was a **miracle**.

### 3. Proclaim God’s Greatness (1:46-49)

46. Then Mary said, “My soul praises the Lord;

47. my heart rejoices in God my Savior,

48. because he has shown his concern for his humble servant girl.

From now on, all people will say that I am blessed,

49. because the Powerful One has done great things for me. His name is holy.”

We need to understand who Mary was. We learned earlier in the lesson she was a virgin. She was living in Nazareth, a city in Galilee. God chose her to be the mother of the **Messiah**, Jesus. She was a good young woman. God was pleased with her. She worshiped God the Father. The Bible tells us these things.

The Bible does not say Mary is holy. It does not say Mary is equal with God. The Bible does not say we should pray to Mary. It does not say Mary was without sin all the rest of her life. The Bible does not say Mary was born from a virgin herself. In the next four verses we will learn something about who Mary was spiritually.

In verses 39-45, we read about Mary's trip to see her relative, Elizabeth. Elizabeth told Mary she was blessed because she believed the Lord's promises. God promised Mary she would be the mother of the Messiah. She believed Him.

**Verse 46.** Mary's reply to Elizabeth is beautiful. Most Bible students believe her words are a hymn used in the New Testament churches. She sang about the Lord God. She sang to the Lord. The very first words she sang were praises to the Lord. She was not thinking about herself. She was humble and praised God for His blessings.

**Verses 47-48.** Mary said her heart rejoiced in God, her Savior. Why is this important to understand? She said God was her Savior. Only human people need to have a Savior. This verse tells us Mary was not holy. Only God is holy. Since she is not holy, people should not pray to her.

Mary said she rejoiced because God showed His love for her. She called herself His humble servant girl. She did not think she was holy.

Notice the last part of this verse. Mary said from now on people will say she was blessed. The verse does not say she will bless anyone.

MARY PRAISED GOD.  
SHE CALLED HIM THE  
POWERFUL ONE.

**Verse 49.** Mary continued her song of praise. Mary praised God. She called Him the powerful One. She told Elizabeth He did great things for her.

Finally, she proclaimed God's name is holy. Only God is holy.

Read verses 50-55 to see the rest of Mary's song. It is about the power of God.

We can celebrate Christmas because it shows God's grace and the holiness and greatness of Jesus.

#### 4. Welcome Jesus (2:4-7)

4. So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.
5. Joseph registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was now pregnant.
6. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby,
7. and she gave birth to her first son. Because there were no rooms left in the inn, she wrapped the baby with pieces of cloth and laid him in a feeding trough.

In verses 1-3, Luke explained how the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar made an order for everyone to register. Today we call that a census. Caesar decided to count all the people in his Roman territory.



**Verse 4.** The head of each family had to go to the city of their ancestors to register. Joseph's ancestors were from Judea. The town of Bethlehem was in Judea. It was about seven miles south of Jerusalem. Nazareth was about 100 miles north of Jerusalem in Galilee. The trip for Joseph and Mary was about 90 miles. The trip took several days. It was a hard trip for Mary because Jesus' birth was very near. They walked or rode on donkeys.

**Verse 5.** Joseph took Mary to the city of Bethlehem. It was also the home of Mary's **ancestor**, King David. Luke said Joseph took Mary because he was engaged to her. Engagement in New Testament times was different from engagement today. They were promised to each other, and this could not be broken without a divorce. Later they would have a big wedding ceremony.

Joseph was a good man. He did not want to shame Mary. An angel also appeared to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25).

Even though Mary was pregnant, she was still a **virgin**. She never slept with a man until after Jesus was born (Matthew 1:25).

She was not a virgin all of her life. The Bible says Mary had other children after Jesus was born. You can read about them in Mark 3:31, John 7:5, and Matthew 13:56.

**Verse 6.** While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, Jesus was born. We do not know how long they were there. The trip was late in Mary's pregnancy. They arrived in Bethlehem in time to fulfill the prophesy about where Jesus

WHEN MARY LEARNED  
SHE WOULD BECOME THE  
MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH,  
SHE WELCOMED  
HIM GLADLY.

would be born (Micah 5:2).

**Verse 7.** Many people were in Bethlehem. Why? People came to register for the census. The town was small. There were not many places for them to stay. All the inns (hotels) were full. The only place Joseph could find was a stable for animals. This may have been a cave. Mary laid Jesus in a manger. The manger is a box where people put food for farm animals. It was usually full of hay. Mary made a soft bed for Jesus in the hay.

When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth or "swaddling clothes." This shows us Jesus was born in a very humble place.

In this story of Jesus' birth, we see two different events. When Mary learned she would become the mother of the Messiah, she welcomed Him gladly. She was gentle and loving from the day of the announcement of His birth.

When it was time for Jesus to be born, no one had room for Him. The whole town did not care about this young woman who was giving birth to the Lord Jesus. They had no room for Him in their lives.

We can celebrate Christmas because we know Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah, Savior, and Lord.

# What About You?

The story of Jesus' birth causes us to take time to think about how we feel about His birth.

Do you believe He was born from a virgin?

Do you praise God for His great gift to us?

Do you welcome Him into your life the same way Mary did? Or, do you not have enough room for Him in your life?

## Applying the Lesson

Mary sang a song of praise. She praised God for His greatness. She praised Him for His loving kindness. She praised Him for His goodness. She praised Him because His name is holy.

Write a song of praise. Choose words to explain why you praise God.

1. For His greatness \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. For His loving kindness \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. For His goodness \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. His name is holy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A verse to remember: "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:32-33).

# Stay Open and Obedient



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 15:1-25

**Lesson Material:**  
John 15:1-17

**Bible Truth**  
If believers are  
obedient to Jesus,  
they can produce  
the spiritual fruit  
God expects.

**E**arlier we heard about a Deaf farmer named Robert. His son was named Josh. When Josh was six years old, he wanted to plant a fruit tree. Robert bought a peach tree five feet tall. Josh was happy. He was not patient. He wanted the tree to have fruit on it soon.

Robert helped his son water the tree. He helped give it plant food. Every day Josh looked out to see if there was fruit on the tree. The tree had branches and leaves but no fruit.

One day Robert took Josh to the tree. It was time to **prune** the tree. Josh was upset when he saw his father cut off some of the branches. Robert explained the branches needed to be thinned out to let other branches grow. New branches grew and later fruit grew on them. Josh understood what happened. He was happy his father helped the tree grow.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Stay Open to Pruning (John 15:1-4)** - Jesus taught His disciples ways to help them bear more spiritual fruit.
2. **Stay Open Through Obeying (15:5-8)** - Jesus taught His disciples they could bear spiritual fruit by obeying His words.
3. **Stay in Jesus' Love (15:9-10)** - Jesus encouraged His disciples to **remain** in His love.
4. **Stay Ready to Love Others (15:11-17)** - Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another in a **sacrificial** way.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who is the gardener (vine dresser)?
2. Who is the vine?
3. Who are the branches?
4. What do branches produce?
5. What happens if a branch is separated from the vine?

## Today's Lesson

In this lesson, Jesus used the example of a vine. He called Himself the true vine. In the Old Testament, God called Israel a grape **vineyard** (Isaiah 5:1-7). Israel was not faithful to God. He cut out the vines if they were not producing grapes.

A vineyard is the garden where grapes grow. A **vinedresser** is the gardener who takes care of a vineyard. God said He was the vinedresser for Israel. He planted Israel like a vinedresser plants grapes. He planted them in a good soil. He cared for Israel like a vinedresser cares for his grape vines. He punished Israel like the vinedresser prunes bad branches.

Israel showed they were not a true vine. The fruit Israel should bear was to obey God. They disobeyed God. They were like dead branches. God cut them off many times. There were a few true believers. He let them stay on the vine. Israel did not die completely.

### 1. Stay Open to Pruning (John 15:1-4)

1. "I am the true vine; my Father is the gardener.
2. He cuts off every branch of mine that does not produce fruit. And he trims and cleans every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit.
3. You are already clean because of the words I have spoken to you.

4. **Remain** in me, and I will remain in you. A branch cannot produce fruit alone but must remain in the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit alone but must remain in me.”

The title of this section begins with the words, “Stay Open.” This phrase means to be willing to do God’s commands and discipline.

**Verse 1.** Jesus used the picture of a vine to explain who He is. The disciples knew the history of Israel. They knew Israel did not always act like God’s vine. Jesus said He is the true vine. His Father is the gardener or **vinedresser**. Believers are His branches. God takes care of the vine and its branches.

**Verse 2.** A vinedresser does several things in the **vineyard**. He starts with tiny plants. They become the vine. In last week’s lesson we learned Jesus came to earth to be the Savior. He became the true vine.

The gardener cuts off branches that do not produce fruit. This is called **pruning**. This can mean people who say they are believers but they really are not will be cut off from the vine.

The true believers are the branches. When a branch is pruned back near the vine, it grows back again, better than it was before. The vinedresser trims every branch so it will grow more fruit.

**WHEN A BRANCH IS  
PRUNED BACK NEAR THE  
VINE, IT GROWS BACK  
AGAIN, BETTER THAN IT  
WAS BEFORE.**

**Verse 3.** Jesus told His disciples they were already clean. They were clean because of the words He spoke to them. He told them how to have eternal life. He told them how to be saved. Jesus told them they did not need to be cleaned. He did not tell them they would not need to be pruned again in the future.

**Verse 4.** Jesus explained how believers are like branches. He warned them they must stay in Him. They cannot bear fruit if they are cut off from the vine. The branches are attached to the vine. The vine gives life to them and the ability to bear fruit.

Paul explained the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Another important fruit is a person who is saved because of the witness of a believer. The branch cannot produce any fruit if it is not attached to the vine. The believer must remain attached to Jesus.

We know God will help us continue to grow spiritually. He will help us get rid of actions and attitudes when these do not honor Him.

## **2. Stay Open Through Obeying (15:5-8)**

5. “I am the vine, and you are the branches. If any remain in me and I

remain in them, they produce much fruit. But without me they can do nothing.

6. If any do not remain in me, they are like a branch that is thrown away and then dies. People pick up dead branches, throw them into the fire, and burn them.
7. If you remain in me and follow my teachings, you can ask anything you want, and it will be given to you.
8. You should produce much fruit and show that you are my followers, which brings glory to my Father.

**Verse 5.** Jesus said believers are branches. They get their life from Him. The important word is *remain*. Believers are like the branches. Believers who do not stay attached to Him will get weak and die. Their spiritual life will be weak. Like weak branches, believers will not be able to bear fruit. Without Jesus living in us, we can do nothing ourselves.

**Verse 6.** Next, Jesus said what will happen to the branch if it dies. The branch is cut off and thrown away. Jesus did not mean believers will be thrown away. He said the believer will not be in close fellowship with Him. Believers will not bear fruit.

Many times the Old Testament calls fire judgment from God. Believers who are pulled away from God will be judged. They may be judged and punished on earth. They may be punished when Jesus comes again. This verse does not mean true believers will be punished in hell.

**Verse 7.** Jesus gave the disciples encouragement. That encouragement is meant for the believer today. We must stay connected to Him and follow His teachings. If we stay connected we can pray for things we need.

Look back at the lesson on December 15. We learned we can pray for anything in Jesus' name. We can ask for things that agree with His purpose. This verse tells us the requirement for answered prayer is to remain in Jesus. The second part of the requirement is to allow Jesus to remain in us.

**Verse 8.** Remaining and bearing fruit give glory to the Father. Every fruit the believer bears gives glory and honor to God.

Jesus instructed His disciples to bear much fruit. Remember Galatians 5:22-23 list some the fruits of the Spirit. When unbelievers see our fruit they will know we are followers of Jesus.

Our lives show the love of Jesus by the fruit we bear. Our lives bring honor and glory to God the Father.

OUR LIVES SHOW THE LOVE  
OF JESUS BY THE FRUIT WE  
BEAR. OUR LIVES BRING  
HONOR AND GLORY TO  
GOD THE FATHER.

### 3. Stay in Jesus' Love (15:9-10)

9. I loved you as the Father loved me. Now remain in my love.
10. I have obeyed my Father's commands, and I remain in his love.  
In the same way, if you obey my commands, you will remain in my love.

**Verse 9.** It is hard for us to understand the great love the Father has for His Son. When we realize Jesus and the Father are one, we can begin to get a little better understanding of that love. The Bible tells us God loves us so much He gave His only Son to die for us. Even His love for us is not as great as the love He has for His only Son. There was never love so great before Jesus came to earth. The love the Father has for His Son cannot be explained.

Then Jesus said a wonderful thing. He said He loved us the same way His Father loved Him. We cannot truly understand the love of God for Jesus. We cannot truly understand the love of Jesus for us. His love for us is greater than we can imagine. We must **remain** in Him. Why? Because of His great love for us.

**Verse 10.** How can we remain in His love? Jesus answers the question for us. We must follow His example. He obeyed His Father's commands. We must obey the commands of Jesus. Why? Then we will remain in His love. Then we can produce fruit for God.

### 4. Stay Ready to Love Others (15:11-17)

11. I have told you these things so that you can have the same joy I have and so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy.
12. "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you.
13. The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends.
14. You are my friends if you do what I command you.
15. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father.
16. You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name.
17. This is my command: Love each other."

These verses tell us the things we must do. Jesus also explained the reason He taught His disciples. He told them He wanted them to have the same joy He had.

**Verse 11.** Jesus did not tell them they would be rich if they remained in Him. He did not promise them they would always be comfortable. He



promised them they could have joy. He described His great joy. He told His disciples they would have the same joy.

**Verses 12-13.** Jesus finished talking about the joy believers can have. Now, He gave us a great commandment, “We must love other people.” We must love people exactly like Jesus loves us. Later Jesus called His followers His friends. He loved His friends so much He died for them. The greatest love a person can show is to be willing to die for a friend.

**Verse 14.** Jesus explained how we can show we are His friends. We must obey His commands. We often hear people say another person does not act like he is a Christian. He may be a Christian, but he is not following Jesus’ commands. People think a person like that is not a friend of Jesus.

**Verse 15.** The next thing Jesus said was truly amazing. He told them they were not His servants. They were His friends. The disciples were amazed and filled with joy. Today we often say we serve Jesus. Yes, we are His servants, but we are also His friends. Jesus said He tells us the things His Father told Him. Try to remember the special things Jesus told His disciples.

**Verse 16.** Some people are confused about this verse. They do not understand. They believe they chose Jesus first. A Deaf club is a good picture to help us understand this. A club elects officers by first asking for volunteers. All people are invited to volunteer. Then the club chooses or votes them as officers.

Jesus said all people are invited to believe. He chooses them. Second they become His friends if they choose Jesus. Some people do not choose Jesus after He invites them. They are not His friends.

**JESUS SPOKE TO HIS  
FOLLOWERS IN A SPECIAL  
WAY. HE COMMANDED  
THEM. LOVE EACH OTHER!**

Jesus chose His friends for a reason. He told them to go and bear fruit. *Fruit* means “what we can see from obeying God.” When we love each other, we show fruit. Also when people decide to follow Jesus because of our witness shows fruit.

Again Jesus said we can ask the Father for anything in His name. The Father will give it to us. The rule we must follow is to ask for things Jesus approves. God will give us the things that are in His will.

**Verse 17.** In this verse Jesus gave one simple and powerful command. Jesus spoke to His followers in a special way. He commanded them. Love each other! In other verses, Jesus talked about loving everyone. In this verse, Jesus talked about His followers. He meant for them not to let anyone or anything separate them from loving each other. No matter what might happen to them, they must stick together. In churches today, some people may try to cause problems in the Deaf group. They try to get people to follow them in the wrong way. Jesus said believers must stick together. Do not try to cause a separation.

# What About You?

Do you want to **remain** in Jesus?

Do you want to show the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

Do you love your Christian brothers and sisters?

These verses tell about things for you to do. They will help you be a living branch. You can become a branch that bears fruit.

## Applying the Lesson

There are some ways other people can know you are trying to remain in Jesus. These ways are challenges. Are you ready to meet the challenge? Complete these sentences from the verses you studied in this lesson.

1. I will try to remain in \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. I will try to be a \_\_\_\_\_ branch.
3. I will try to bear \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. I will try to follow Jesus' command to \_\_\_\_\_  
my Christian brothers and sisters.

A verse to remember: "This is my command: Love each other" (John 15:17).

# Depend on the Spirit

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 15:26–16:33

**Lesson Material:**  
John 15:26–16:15

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come to **encourage**, empower, and guide believers.



**J**anet is a little Deaf girl. Her father is in the Army. He was sent to a foreign country. Janet was upset. She cried so much she became sick. Her father did not have a choice. He had to go wherever his commander told him to go.

Janet was afraid she would never see her father again. She knew she would miss his hugs. She knew she would miss playing games with him. She loved him so much she could not stop crying.

Before he left, her father gave Janet a gold necklace. It had a heart on it. The heart opened up and had a picture of her father inside.

He told her he would write letters to her. He would call her on the video phone. She would be able to see him. He told her to look at his picture when she felt sad. It would help her remember him.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. When **Testimony** Meets **Hostility** (John 15:26–16:4) - Jesus promised His disciples the Holy Spirit would come to give them power to **testify** truthfully about Jesus.
2. When **Sorrow** Fills the Heart (16:5-7) - Jesus promised His disciples the Holy Spirit would help them when they were sad because Jesus was gone.
3. When **Satan** Seems in Control (16:8-11) - Jesus explained the Holy Spirit would **convict** the world of sin and show righteousness to believers.
4. When **More Understanding Is Needed** (16:12-15) - Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide His disciples into truth.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

List the ways the Holy Spirit helps us today.

1. He tells us about \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:26).
2. When we are sad, He gives us \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:7).
3. He is our \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:26).
4. He helps us know \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:13).
5. He teaches us about God's \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:11).

## Today's Lesson

Most Christians know very little about the work of the Holy Spirit. Many Christians are not taught about the Holy Spirit's power. Christians do not always understand much about the Holy Spirit.

**Paraklatos** is the New Testament Greek word for the Holy Spirit. English words meaning the same thing are *Helper*, *Comforter*, *Advocate*, *Intercessor*, and *Strengtheners*. Read the section, "Digging Deeper," in the Leader material.

### 1. When Testimony Meets Hostility (John 15:26–16:4)

26. "I will send you the Helper from the Father; he is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell about me,
27. and you also must tell people about me, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Chapter 16

1. "I have told you these things to keep you from giving up.
2. People will put you out of their synagogues. Yes, the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are offering service to God.

3. They will do this because they have not known the Father and they have not known me.
4. I have told you these things now so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you these things at the beginning, because I was with you then.”

The word *hostility* in the title of this section describes “the feeling or actions of a person against another person.” Hostility is seen in people who argue with believers. They call believers cruel names. They may tell lies about believers. They may make fun of believers.

**Verses 26-27.** Jesus said He would send the Spirit of truth, the Helper. The Spirit is the third person in the **Trinity**. He will help believers know about Jesus.

At the same time, Jesus told His disciples they must tell other people about Him. Why? He was with them from the beginning of His earthly ministry. The disciples knew Jesus very well. They knew His message. They knew he never sinned. He was perfect.

The things we know about Jesus today come from the Bible. The Spirit helps us understand who Jesus is. The Spirit helps us know Jesus is the Son of God.

WE CAN DEPEND ON THE  
HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE US  
COURAGE AND  
HELP US TELL OTHERS  
ABOUT JESUS.

Many times believers explain about Jesus, but the people the believers talk to will not listen. They may turn against believers. The Spirit will help believers have the strength to tell people how to know Jesus.

**Chapter 16, Verse 1.** The disciples hoped the **Messiah** would set up an earthly kingdom. Jewish people expected the Messiah to make them free from other governments. They expected the Messiah to establish a kingdom ruled by God himself.

Jesus made it clear to His disciples He would not set up an earthly kingdom. His kingdom is a heavenly kingdom. They knew He was leaving them. Jesus knew they faced hostility and persecution. He did not want them to be discouraged. He did not want them to give up.

Jesus did not explain everything to them at the beginning. Why? He was with them. The disciples had the Son sent by the Father. They did not need to know the things He told them now.

**Verse 2.** In New Testament times the Jewish people loved their **synagogue**. The synagogue was their place of worship, like our church. They heard the words of the Old Testament in their synagogue. Jesus told the disciples they might be put out of the synagogue. This was a terrible thing to happen to a Jewish person.

Jesus told them they would be killed by strong Jewish leaders. The leaders thought they were serving God when they killed Jesus' followers.

Jesus said their friends would turn against them. Believers today face some of the same persecution. There are places in the world where governments kill Christians. Jesus' followers face hostilities from their friends. Their friends may turn against them.

**Verse 3.** Jesus told His disciples why these things would happen to them. He said those people did not know He was the Son of God. They did not know Him because they did not really know the Father. They did not believe He was sent from God.

**Verse 4.** Jesus warned His followers about what would happen to them. Jesus knew He must tell them what to expect.

We can depend on the Holy Spirit to give us courage and help us tell others about Jesus.

## **2. When Sorrow Fills the Heart (16:5-7)**

5. "Now I am going back to the One who sent me. But none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'"
6. Your hearts are filled with sadness because I have told you these things.
7. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. When I go away, I will send the Helper to you. If I do not go away, the Helper will not come."

**Verses 5-6.** Jesus knew His disciples would be sad when He left. He told them He was going back to His Father. He seemed to be disappointed no one asked Him where He was going.

**Verse 7.** Jesus wanted to be sure they understood He was not leaving them without help. He explained to them it was better for Him to go away. Why? If he did not go away the Helper would not come. One of the names of the Holy Spirit is Comforter. The Comforter was sent to help them after Jesus went back to His Father. God was sending them a Helper to be with them as they faced sorrow and persecution.

Remember the story of Janet at the beginning of our lesson? Her father went away, but he left her something to help her remember him. He left his picture. She would not be lonely. She knew he was coming back. She knew he loved her.

## **3. When Satan Seems in Control (16:8-11)**

8. "When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment.

9. He will prove to them that sin is not believing in me.
10. He will prove to them that being right with God comes from my going to the Father and not being seen anymore.
11. And the Helper will prove to them that judgment happened when the ruler of this world was judged.”

Jesus talked about the work of the Spirit against Satan. Satan is called “the ruler of this world.” He is the enemy of God. Believers cannot overcome Satan alone. The Holy Spirit helps believers overcome Satan.

**Verse 8.** Jesus explained to His disciples the work of the Holy Spirit. He told them three things the Spirit would do.

First, the Holy Spirit would prove to people of the world about sin. Some Bible translations use the word **convict** instead of prove. In these verses the two words mean the same thing. The New Testament usually talks about the work of the Spirit in the lives of believers. This verse also shows us He works in the lives of unbelievers. The Spirit shows the unbelieving world its sin. The Spirit will make the world see sin is real.

**BELIEVERS CANNOT  
OVERCOME SATAN ALONE.  
THE HOLY SPIRIT  
HELPS BELIEVERS  
OVERCOME SATAN.**

Second, the Holy Spirit will show the world about righteousness. People in the world may say there is no right or wrong. They say there is some right in everything. They say nothing is always right. The Spirit shows the world there is pure righteousness. Jesus is pure righteousness.

Third, the Holy Spirit will show the world judgment. The punishment for rejecting Jesus is eternal.

**Verse 9.** Look back at verse 8. The Holy Spirit will prove the world is in sin. The sin Jesus is talking about in this verse does not mean the sins men do in their everyday lives. There is a difference in the two words. The sin Jesus is talking about is the eternal sin of people who do not accept Him as Lord.

**Verse 10.** The Holy Spirit will prove to them Jesus is the only righteous One. The Holy Spirit is with us today. Why? Jesus left the earth. He was buried. He came back to life. Jesus is the only one who came back from death and went to the Father. He did not die again. The Holy Spirit is here because Jesus is not here for us to see. God sent the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

**Verse 11.** The Holy Spirit is here because Satan lost the fight against Jesus. He tried to overcome Jesus by killing Him. He failed. Jesus proved Satan failed. Jesus lives again. His Spirit is here to help believers overcome Satan. The Holy Spirit will help us when Satan tries to hurt us.



## 4. When More Understanding Is Needed (16:12-15)

- 12, “I have many more things to say to you, but they are too much for you now.
13. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.
14. The Spirit of truth will bring glory to me, because he will take what I have to say and tell it to you.
15. All that the Father has is mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take what I have to say and tell it to you.”

**Verse 12.** Jesus had many more things He needed to tell His disciples. They were not ready to hear them yet. They could not understand them yet. He would teach them these things when they were ready to hear.

**Verse 13.** Since Jesus was returning to His Father, He would not be with them to teach them. The Holy Spirit would teach them the things they needed to know. He would give them the words of Jesus. The Spirit would not make up His own words. Jesus assured them the Holy Spirit would lead them into all truth. They would know Jesus’ truth because the Spirit would teach them.

Jesus also told them the Holy Spirit would tell them what they needed to know about the future. The Holy Spirit helps believers today to understand some of the prophecies in the Bible.

THE SPIRIT WILL HELP US

UNDERSTAND THINGS

JESUS WANTS US TO KNOW.

The Spirit also helped the apostles to know about the last days on earth. He helped them know something about what heaven is like. The Holy Spirit gave the apostle John the great

prophecy about heaven. We can read this in the Book of Revelation.

We do not understand everything today. We do know the Spirit will help us understand things Jesus wants us to know.

**Verse 14.** The Holy Spirit is our helper, comforter, counselor, and many other things. His great work is to bring glory to Jesus. Everything He says about Jesus is truth. He helps us understand the truth about Jesus.

**Verse 15.** Jesus told them everything the Father has is His. This also means His words and His teaching. The Holy Spirit also knows the same things. Why? He is part of the **Trinity**. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all know the same things.

The Holy Spirit will teach us things we need to know about Jesus. We pray to the Father. The Holy Spirit helps us pray. The Holy Spirit talks to our hearts.

# What About You?

If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit helps you today.

If you have not accepted Jesus in your heart, the Holy Spirit causes you to want to follow Jesus.

If you are a believer, He is with you all the time. He will comfort you. He will guide you. He will teach you. He will lead you.

Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit live in you today?

## Applying the Lesson

Write a few words about the Holy Spirit in your life.

1. He gave me comfort when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. He helped me understand \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. He taught me about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A verse to remember: "When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment" (John 16:8).

# Honor Jesus



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 17:1-26

**Lesson Material:**  
John 17:1-8,20-26

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus is worthy of  
everlasting honor.  
He provides the  
way to eternal life  
for believers.

**D**uring World War II, a group of Deaf people in Europe was fighting to keep the enemy army out of their town. Their job was to relay information about what the enemy soldiers were doing. They could not use the telephone or send messages written on paper. They used mirrors to signal each other.

The people let the sun shine on the mirror and sent the reflection toward their friends. They used a special code. Their friends were able to stay safe. They were able to warn them if the enemy army came near.

If they turned the mirror back toward the sun, their light was much brighter. It was so bright no one could look directly at it. The sunlight shined back to itself.

But it was not their responsibility to shine light back to the sun. Their responsibility was to use the light to help other people stay safe.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Honor Jesus for Completing God's Work (John 17:1-5)** - Jesus prayed for God's **mission** to be complete. Jesus asked the Father to glorify Him. Jesus said He would glorify the Father.
2. **Honor Jesus Through Obedience (17:6-8)** - Jesus prayed for His disciples. He said they were men who belonged to God and obeyed the Father's word.
3. **Honor Jesus Through Unity (17:20-23)** - Jesus prayed for all future believers. He prayed for them to have spiritual unity.
4. **Honor Jesus Now and Forever (17:24-26)** - Jesus prayed all believers would someday be with Him. He prayed they would experience the love of the Father.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Answer these questions True or False.

1. T F Jesus prayed only for His disciples.
2. T F Jesus prayed for Himself.
3. T F We honor Jesus because He made a way for us to have eternal life.
4. T F Jesus prayed for believers who are living today.
5. T F We honor Jesus when we obey His teachings.

## Today's Lesson

Today's lesson helps us know how to honor Jesus. It helps us understand something about the **relationship** Jesus has with the Father. These verses are Jesus' prayer for Himself, and for His own glory to be reflected back to His Father. Jesus prayed for God's glory to be seen through His death, **resurrection**, and **ascension**.

### 1. Honor Jesus for Completing God's Work (John 17:1-5)

1. After Jesus said these things, he looked toward heaven and prayed, "Father, the time has come. Give glory to your Son so that the Son can give glory to you.
2. You gave the Son power over all people so that the Son could give eternal life to all those you gave him.
3. And this is eternal life: that people know you, the only true God, and that they know Jesus Christ, the One you sent.
4. Having finished the work you gave me to do, I brought you glory on earth.

5. And now, Father, give me glory with you; give me the glory I had with you before the world was made.”

**Verse 1.** In the Bible we see many different positions for prayer. Some people bow on their knees. Some people lay on the ground with their face on the ground. Other people stand up and bow their heads. Jesus stood and looked toward the sky. It is not important if we stand, sit, or kneel. It is important that we honor Jesus when we pray.

First, He said His time had come. He knew it was time for His death. All Jesus’ ministry on earth led to this time. In verses earlier in the Gospel of John, Jesus told His disciples He would die and rise from death. He did not tell them when that would happen. They were not ready to hear and understand. Now as He prayed, He let them know it was time for His death.

Next, He prayed for the Father to give the Son glory. Jesus had a reason for this prayer. He prayed God would give Him glory so He could give glory back to God.

Remember the story in the introduction? The mirror was used to **reflect** light. The light was reflected from the sun to other people. The light was also reflected back to the sun. The light reflected to other people showed the brightness of the sun. The light reflected back to itself made the mirror brighter. Jesus’ glory was reflected back to God. His glory can also be seen by believers.

**Verse 2.** Jesus explained the ministry God gave Him. It was the reason for Jesus’ life and death. God gave Jesus power over all people. What is that power? It is power to offer salvation to everyone. This does not mean everyone will be saved. It means everyone has the opportunity to be saved. Jesus invites people to Himself. People must accept Him as Lord.

**Verse 3.** Jesus explained eternal life. If people want eternal life they must know the only true God. All through history, the Jewish people withdrew from God and then returned to Him. They often were tempted to worship idols. The idols are false gods. Jesus talked about the one true God. Eternal life means knowing Him as God.

Jesus said eternal life comes to people who know the one true God and know Jesus Christ. *Christ* is the Greek word for “Savior.” The Hebrew word is **Messiah**. He is Jesus Christ. He is Jesus Messiah. He is God in human flesh. He said the people must know Jesus Messiah. The Jewish people waited for the Messiah for thousands of years. Now it was time for them to accept Jesus as the Messiah. It was time for them to believe God sent Jesus. They must believe Jesus is the One God sent to save the world.

**Verse 4.** Jesus said He finished all God’s work on earth. He did the work on earth God sent Him to do. He did God’s work for one reason. This reason was to bring glory to God the Father.

**Verse 5.** This verse has a very important meaning. Jesus was with God before He was born on earth. He was with God before the world was made. He had the same glory as the Father. The angels knew Him because they could see His glory as they worshiped God.

It is interesting to understand Jesus' glory was not seen while He was on earth. He became humble. He became a man. Now, Jesus asked God to return His glory to Him.

Jesus completed His work. He brought a way for mankind to be saved. He brought glory to God the Father. His work on earth was finished.

We must honor Jesus in our life because He completed God's work. He will show us the way to live right for God

JESUS COMPLETED HIS  
WORK. HE BROUGHT  
GLORY TO GOD  
THE FATHER.

## 2. Honor Jesus Through Obedience (17:6-8)

6. "I showed what you are like to those you gave me from the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your teaching.

7. Now they know that everything you gave me comes from you.

8. I gave them the teachings you gave me, and they accepted them. They knew that I truly came from you, and they believed that you sent me."

**Verse 6.** God gave the followers to Jesus. They belonged to God first. He gave them to His son. He let Jesus show what the Father was like. His followers could not actually see the Father. They could see Jesus. When they looked at Jesus they saw the Father.

Jesus told the Father His followers obeyed God's teaching. They obeyed Jesus. They honored Him by their obedience.

**Verses 7-8.** The disciples could finally understand everything. Jesus came from God. God gave Jesus the words to teach. Jesus taught His disciples. His disciples accepted the fact that His teaching came from God. The disciples obeyed His teaching. We honor Jesus when we believe His teachings are divine and we accept and obey His teachings.

## 3. Honor Jesus Through Unity (17:20-23)

20. "I pray for these followers, but I am also praying for all those who will believe in me because of their teaching.

21. Father, I pray that they can be one. As you are in me and I am in

you, I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me.

22. I have given these people the glory that you gave me so that they can be one, just as you and I are one.

23. I will be in them and you will be in me so that they will be completely one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you loved them just as much as you loved me.”

**Verse 20.** It is wonderful to know Jesus prayed for His disciples. It is more wonderful to know He prayed for future believers. We are part of the future believers Jesus talked about. For more than 2,000 years, believers have taught new believers. Now, we are believers today and can teach others.

**Verse 21.** We know Jesus prayed for us to be saved. He prayed we would be in unity. *Unity* means “to act as one being.” It means a group of people with one thought and one goal.

**JESUS DOES NOT WANT  
DIVISIONS AMONG HIS  
FOLLOWERS. HE WANTS  
THEM TO HAVE UNITY  
IN FELLOWSHIP.**

An army is one unit. It is made up of many soldiers. All the soldiers have the same goal. They each know how to do their job to help the whole group. They know their success in battle depends on being unified.

Jesus prayed for our unity as believers. This does not mean all believers are the same. Believers have different gifts. The one goal of all believers is to obey God. Jesus prayed believers will be as one.

In our world today there are divisions among believers. There are arguments about many different things churches may teach. People do not agree with each other. Even if believers do not agree on everything, they must obey the teaching of Jesus and bring glory to Him.

Jesus does not want divisions among His followers. He wants them to have unity in fellowship. Believers cannot be successful to bring glory to Jesus if they argue.

Believers who act in unity help the world see what God is like. When people see believers loving each other, they will believe in Jesus and the One who sent Him.

**Verse 22.** Jesus said He gave His followers the same glory God gave Him. This does not mean glory on earth. None of Jesus’ disciples were given honor on earth. Most of them were killed for their love of Jesus.

The believer’s glory will come in heaven. The glory He gives believers is in the future. Our glory is our promise of a home in heaven with Him forever.

**Verse 23.** Jesus said He will be in His followers. God is in Him. God loves believers like God loves His Son. The believers will be completely



one. The world will know God sent Jesus. The world will know God loves believers. We honor Jesus when we act in ways to show our unity with Him and with other believers.

#### 4. Honor Jesus Now and Forever (17:24-26)

24. “Father, I want these people that you gave me to be with me where I am. I want them to see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the world was made.
25. Father, you are the One who is good. The world does not know you, but I know you, and these people know you sent me.
26. I showed them what you are like, and I will show them again. Then they will have the same love that you have for me, and I will live in them.”

These verses are the end of this prayer of Jesus. It is like He said, “Now, Father, this is what I want.”

**Verse 24.** Jesus said He wants His followers to be with Him. He wants to have believers with Him forever in Heaven.

The reason Jesus wants His followers to be with Him is to see His glory. While He was still on earth, His disciples could not see His real glory. He wanted them to see the glory He promised was from God. He told them God gave Him glory.

The glory God gave Jesus was before the beginning of the world. Jesus was always with God. The reason God gave Jesus glory is because He loved His Son. Jesus wants us to see and experience the same kind of love.

**Verse 25.** God is the only One who is perfect and fully good. The world does not know or understand what true goodness is. We know the goodness of God because we know Jesus. We know God sent Jesus to us.

JESUS LIVES IN US WHEN  
WE FOLLOW HIM.  
PEOPLE CAN SEE JESUS  
IN OUR LIVES.

**Verse 26.** Jesus showed the disciples what God is like while He was with them on earth. God will give them the same kind of love He gave His son.

Finally, Jesus said He will live in the believer. Jesus gives us eternal life. Some people sign, “Face same her mother,” or “Face strong mother.” They mean she looks and acts like her mother. We are children of God. Jesus lives in us when we follow Him. People can see Jesus in our lives.

We honor Jesus with our earthly lives. We will also honor Him when we go to be with Him forever in heaven.

# What About You?

Believers are commanded to honor God. We honor His Son, Jesus, when we decide to follow Him.

Does your life honor Jesus?

Do you honor Jesus by obeying Him?

Do you honor Jesus by your love and unity with other believers?

## Applying the Lesson

Review this lesson. List some things you can do to show you honor Jesus.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

A verse to remember: "I have given these people the glory that you gave me so that they can be one, just as you and I are one" (John 17:22).



# UNIT 2

## THE WAY OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

# John 18:1–19:42

The January 19 lesson is the **Sanctity** of Human Life lesson. Every year Deaf readers study the reasons we must protect life from the mother's **womb** until burial. This lesson is not taken from the Gospel of John. It is based on verses from Psalm 139. The verses in this lesson show the wonderful way God values human life from conception until death. Everyone is precious to Him.

The other three lessons in this unit continue our study from John's Gospel. They teach about God's forgiveness. God gives forgiveness through Jesus' suffering and **sacrificial** death. The lessons come from John 18-19. The verses explain about His crucifixion. They discuss His death and burial. They tell about Jesus' trial before Pilate. The verses discuss Jesus' title, "King of the Jews." All of these things happened to fulfill prophecies in the Old Testament.

# Value Every Life!

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
Psalm 139:1-24

**Lesson Material:**  
Psalm 139:1-10,13-16,  
23-24

**Bible Truth**  
God made the world.  
He controls the world.  
God expects believers  
to understand how  
every person has value.



**E**dward and Maria are a Deaf couple. They wanted to **adopt** a child. They went to a country with many children who were not wanted. They found many poor and sick people. They found many unwanted children. Edward and Maria saw children picking food out of a garbage pile. They were skinny and sick. They were starving to death. No one cared enough about them to help them. Many times babies were killed before they were born. No one valued their lives.

The Deaf couple had broken hearts for the children because it looked like they were thrown away. Their hearts were also sad for elderly people they saw. No one cared about them. They were often abused.

Edward and Maria adopted a child. They showed they valued the child's life. They could not adopt an old person, but they gave food and clothing to them. They understood God says all human life is valuable.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Every Life Worth Knowing (Psalm 139:1-6)** - The Psalm writer, David, said God knew everything about him. God knew where he was, what he was doing, and what he was thinking.
2. **Every Life Worth Relating To (139:7-10)** - David said God's presence would always lead him.
3. **Every Life Purposeful from Beginning to End (139:13-16)** - David praised God for creating him in his mother's **womb**. God had a purpose for David's whole life.
4. **Every Life Accountable to God (139:23-24)** - David prayed for God to search his heart. He asked God to lead him in His everlasting way.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. David said, "God, you know my \_\_\_\_\_ before I think them."
2. David said, "You know \_\_\_\_\_ I do."
3. David said, "You put your \_\_\_\_\_ on me."
4. David said God made him in an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ way.
5. David asked God to lead him on the road to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Today's Lesson

Many churches set aside this Lord's day as a special day. They use the day to support the rights of unborn babies. When an unborn baby is killed it is called **abortion**. The churches use Bible teachings to describe the **sanctity** (sacredness, holiness) of human life. God creates, loves, and values all human life. As believers, we must also love and value all human life. The verses in this lesson show the great and unusual way God values every human life. This lesson helps us **focus** on the value of every human life.

### 1. Every Life Worth Knowing (Psalm 139:1-6)

1. Lord, you have examined me and know all about me.
2. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them.
3. You know where I go and where I lie down. You know everything I do.
4. Lord, even before I say a word, you already know it.
5. You are all around me—in front and in back—and have put your hand on me.
6. Your knowledge is amazing to me; it is more than I can understand.

David wrote this Psalm. It is an expression of his praise and awe at the greatness of God. God knows everyone perfectly.

**Verse 1.** There are over seven billion people living in the world today. No one can know all of these people at one time. We cannot know even one percent of the people living in the world today. God knows every person. David started this Psalm by saying God searched his heart. God knew everything about David.

**Verses 2-3.** God knows everything about us. He knows when we get up. He knows when we sit down. He knows where we go and when we lie down to sleep. He cares about the simple things in our lives.

God knows everything we do. There are things people do in secret. We cannot hide anything from Him. He knows every act we do.

God knows our thoughts. He knows them even before we think them. He knows the reason for our actions and our thoughts.

God watches over us all the time. We cannot hide anything from God. One special big word to describe God is **omniscience**. *Omniscience* means “God knows everything!”

**GOD SHOWS US EVERY LIFE  
IS WORTH KNOWING. NO  
PERSON IS UNIMPORTANT.**

**Verses 4-5.** David continued his praise to God. God knows every word we will speak. He knows every sign we will make. He knows all of this before we say and sign anything.

David said God is everywhere. He is all around us. He is in front of us and behind us. God valued David enough to put His hand on him. God has His hand on us today. His hand protects us lovingly.

**Verse 6.** David expressed the same feelings we have today. Deaf believers use the sign *awesome*. We look up to God and sign the word *awesome*. We sign God’s knowledge is awesome to us. It is so great our minds cannot understand His knowledge.

God shows us every life is worth knowing. No person is unimportant. All people are important to God. They must be important to believers.

God knows everything. He knows if we value human life the way He does.

## **2. Every Life Worth Relating To (139:7-10)**

7. Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you?
8. If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there.
9. If I rise with the sun in the east and settle in the west beyond the sea,
10. even there you would guide me. With your right hand you would hold me.

The word *relate* means to be connected to. **Relationship** means “the way we are connected with someone.”

God relates to us in a loving and caring way. Believers have the opportunity to relate to people who have special needs. A Deaf Sunday School class visits a nursing home for elderly people each month. The Deaf members of the Sunday School class show they value elderly people.

There is another special word to describe God. God is **omnipresent**. *Omnipresent* means “God is everywhere at the same time.” God is with all of us all the time!

**Verse 7.** David asked two questions. In this verse David asked where he could go to get away from the Spirit. The Spirit of God is everywhere. He is always near us. He is always in us. He asked God where he could run away from Him. David answered his own questions in the next three verses.

## **GOD RELATES TO US IN A LOVING AND CARING WAY.**

**Verse 8.** First, David asked if he went up to heaven, is God there? God is in heaven. Heaven is God’s home. God’s throne is in heaven. David asked if God is with him when he is buried. Of course, God is there.

**Verses 9-10.** David asked another question and answered it. Suppose he could go as far as the sunrise in the east. Is God there? Suppose he could go from the far distant east to the far distant west beyond the ocean. Is God there? David said of course, God is there.

In Bible times a person could not go from the end of the world on the east to the end of the world on the west. Life today is different. Janice is a sixteen-year-old Deaf girl. She went to visit her aunt in Europe. She was afraid of flying. Her father and mother prayed with her before she left. They prayed for God to take care of her and give her peace in her heart. When the plane took off, she felt a quiet and wonderful peace in her heart. She knew God was with her in the airplane.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God said before He made us in our mother’s **womb**, He was with us. He cared for us before we began our physical lives. He chose us because we are valuable to Him.

David knew God would guide him. God’s hand would hold him. God’s hand is on each of us to show us where to go and to keep us safe, if we will let Him do that. Do you have that close relationship with God?

## **3. Every Life Purposeful from Beginning to End (139:13-16)**

13. You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother’s body.
14. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.



15. You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there,
16. you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old.

Adam and Eve were the only creatures made in God's **image**. He formed them as fully grown humans. They were never babies.

The generations after Adam and Eve were born as babies and grew to be mature humans. This thought is important because God made the first two adults. Now He makes the baby in the mother's body.

The Bible is very clear that it is wrong for a human to kill other humans. Unborn babies are humans. God values them. Elderly people are humans. God values them. God made every person for a purpose.

**Verse 13.** Another word to describe God is **omnipotent**. *Omnipotent* means "God is all powerful." There is nothing He cannot do.

In David's time people were amazed at the process of human life. Today we have wonderful scientific knowledge, but still do not understand exactly how a human becomes a living being. We

**GOD HAS PLANS FOR US  
BEFORE WE ARE BORN.**

know what happens, but we do not know how God makes us.

David was sure of one thing. He was sure God made his whole body. God made him to become a person while he was in his mother's body. There are people today who say the unborn baby (a **fetus**) is not a person. They say it is all right to kill an unborn fetus. God tells us not to kill. He means babies also.

**Verses 14-15.** David began to praise God. First he talked about what God did. Then he described how God worked. God made us in a wonderful way. God sees us as we are formed and grow in the womb.

David described the **miracle** of the birth of humans. He praised God for the facts he knew so well. He knew it was wonderful. He knew humans are amazingly and wonderfully made.

**Verse 16.** David explained the reason he was so wonderfully and amazingly made. God had plans for him before he was even one day old.

God has plans for us before we are born. Why? He values us. God has a purpose for every human life.

God expects us to value every life because he has a plan for each one.

#### **4. Every Life Accountable to God (139:23-24)**

23. God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24. See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life.

*Accountable* in today's lesson means "wanting God to see if we are pleasing Him." It is the idea of our responsibility to God for what we do. David closed this Psalm with a prayer. This prayer is helpful for us today.

**Verses 23-24.** Look back at verse 1. David said God already examined his heart. Now at the last of the Psalm, David has the same prayer. He asked the Lord to examine his heart again.

He asked the Lord to test him. He wanted to know if there was anything bad in him. David knew some things might not please God. David wanted God to carefully search his heart.

Now we see the reason David asked God to test him. David knew he could not stand before God unless his heart was pure. He knew he was **accountable** for his thoughts and actions. He prayed for God to show him the right way; the way to everlasting life.

This prayer is very important for us today. It should be our daily prayer. We are accountable to Him.

What is your attitude about the value of human life? When we realize how much God values every life, we know we need to change any wrong attitude we may have.

# What About You?

Do you truly believe God values you?

Can you ask Him to examine your heart to see if you value all human life?

Do you do anything to show you value all life?

Are you able to explain the reason you believe God values all human life? Are you willing to speak out against people who say it is all right to kill unborn babies or elderly people?

## Applying the Lesson

**Make a list of ways you can assist people to show you value them.**

1. I will show I value elderly people by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. I will show I value unborn babies by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. I will show I value people who have special needs by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

A verse to remember: "God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life" (Psalm 139:23-24).

# Our Messiah: Abused!



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 18:1-27

**Lesson Material:**  
John 18:1-6, 17-24

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus accepted God's  
plan to forgive sinners.  
Jesus, the **Messiah**,  
willingly accepted  
**abuse** from others.

**T**he members of the J-O-Y Deaf Church voted to have an Easter drama. They decided to divide the drama into three parts. The first part was about Jesus' arrest and trial. The second part was about Jesus' crucifixion and burial. The third part was about His **resurrection**.

They chose men to be Jesus, Peter, John, and Judas. They chose other men to be the soldiers and the high priest. Each member of the drama was required to read about the person he was playing.

They learned Jesus was loving and willing to suffer for our sins. Peter was usually a strong man. After the arrest of Jesus, Peter denied he knew Jesus. He became weak. John described himself as the disciple Jesus loved. Judas was a disciple. He left Jesus and betrayed Him. The guards were strong and violent men. Annas, the high priest could not find anything wrong with Jesus.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Being Betrayed (John 18:1-6)** - Judas betrayed Jesus. He led men to arrest Him. Jesus calmly gave Himself to them.
2. **Being Denied (18:17-18)** - After Jesus was arrested, a slave girl asked Peter if he was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter denied it.
3. **Being Reviled (18:19-24)** - Jesus stood in front of the high priest Annas. Jesus was falsely accused. He was physically beaten.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

Draw a line from the question to the right answer.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Who betrayed Jesus?                   | The priest's courtyard  |
| 2. Who denied Jesus?                     | The high priest's guard |
| 3. Who slapped Jesus in the face?        | Judas                   |
| 4. Where was Jesus' trial?               | The garden              |
| 5. Where was Jesus when He was betrayed? | Peter                   |

## Today's Lesson

The verses in today's lesson teach us about the abuse Jesus suffered on the night He was arrested. Jesus suffered abuse willingly. The abuse was to fulfill God's plan to forgive sinners. The verses **encourage** believers to be grateful Jesus suffered for our sake.

What does it mean to suffer abuse? It means people hurt and cause pain to a person. No one has been abused as badly as Jesus. Jesus' abuse was for others' sake. He did not suffer for His own sake. Jesus knew He would suffer abuse. His suffering was a part of God's plan. God's plan was to provide a way for forgiveness for sinners.

Jesus' abuse is seen when He was betrayed. It is seen when Peter denied knowing Him. His abuse is seen at His trial when He was mocked and beaten.

### 1. Being Betrayed (John 18:1-6)

1. When Jesus finished praying, he went with his followers across the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and Jesus and his followers went into it.
2. Judas knew where this place was, because Jesus met there often with his followers. Judas was the one who turned against Jesus.
3. So Judas came there with a group of soldiers and some guards from the leading priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

4. Knowing everything that would happen to him, Jesus went out and asked, “Who is it you are looking for?”
5. They answered, “Jesus from Nazareth.” “I am he,” Jesus said. (Judas, the one who turned against Jesus, was standing there with them.)
6. When Jesus said, “I am he,” they moved back and fell to the ground.

Jesus finished talking to His disciples and prayed for them. They were in Jerusalem where they finished the **Passover** meal.

**Verse 1.** After the Passover meal, Jesus and His disciples went outside the gates of Jerusalem and across the Kidron Valley to a garden. Mark 14:32 and Matthew 26:36 tell us the name of the garden is Gethsemane.

**Verse 2.** Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane often. He spent time praying there. Judas knew He would probably be there with His disciples. In earlier verses, we learned Judas left during the Passover meal. Read John 13:21-30 to help you remember who Judas was. Judas was the disciple who turned against Jesus. He betrayed Jesus. He led the enemies of Jesus to find Him in the garden.

**Verse 3.** Jesus was in the garden with a few of His disciples. There were not many followers there because the garden was not big enough for a large crowd.

**JUDAS WAS THE DISCIPLE**

**WHO TURNED AGAINST**

**JESUS. HE BETRAYED JESUS.**

The group of Roman soldiers may have been two hundred men. They could not all fit into the small garden. They probably surrounded it.

A group of men from the leading priests and Pharisees came with the soldiers. Men who were temple guards were also there. It was night time so they carried torches and lanterns. They also carried weapons. They came prepared to fight if they needed to.

Jesus never taught His disciples to fight for Him. He was the Prince of Peace. He taught His followers to be peaceful people. It is amazing how the Jewish leaders thought they needed a lot of men to arrest Him.

**Verse 4.** Jesus knew what would happen to Him. He knew He would suffer and die. Jesus was the Son of God. We need to understand He could escape and save Himself if He wanted to. It was His decision to stay. He knew He was completing God’s plan. Jesus went out to meet the soldiers and Jewish leaders. He did not wait for them to come and find Him. He went out to ask them who they were looking for. He saw Judas with them. He knew why they were there.

**Verses 5-6.** The soldiers answered Him. They said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth. They needed to be sure He was the right person. There were probably many men and boys named Jesus at that time. They identified themselves by the city they came from. He said He was Jesus

from Nazareth. Judas was standing there with the soldiers during this time. Jesus said, “I am He.”

They all moved back and fell on the ground. Why did they do that? The Jewish leaders heard “I am.” They knew the Old Testament. They knew God referred to Himself as “I Am” (Exodus 3:13-14). God cannot be fully described. He simply said “I Am who I Am.” Jesus meant He was Jesus from Nazareth. He also meant He was God. They were not able to stand close to Him. In their hearts they knew they were standing before the Son of God. They did not have any other reason to move back and fall to the ground.

After a few minutes, the soldiers arrested Jesus.

We are amazed at the boldness of Jesus. He accepted all the abuse for our sake.

## 2. Being Denied (18:17-18)

17. The girl at the door said to Peter, “Aren’t you also one of that man’s followers?” Peter answered, “No, I am not!”
18. It was cold, so the servants and guards had built a fire and were standing around it, warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

Read verses 15-16 to understand the background for Peter’s denial. John called himself “this disciple” in these verses. John was too humble to say his own name as he wrote about Jesus. Peter and John followed along after Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus to the high priest’s courtyard. The courtyard had a door that was opened only to people the priest knew. John went inside. Peter stayed outside the gate until John talked to the servant girl. She opened the door and let Peter in. He went in with John. The only way Peter was able to go in was the invitation from John.

PETER DID NOT WANT TO  
BE KNOWN AS PART OF  
JESUS’ FOLLOWERS.  
HE WAS AFRAID  
SOMETHING BAD MIGHT  
HAPPEN TO HIM.

**Verse 17.** Peter usually was a strong outspoken man. Verse 10 tells us about Peter in the garden when Jesus was arrested. He had a sword and cut off the ear of one of the guards. Peter was not afraid of anyone.

Peter was in the courtyard of the high priest. It was cold. Soldiers and others were warming themselves by a fire. The servant girl asked Peter if he was a follower of Jesus. Peter became weak. He said he was not a follower of Jesus. The servant girl was not a big or powerful person. He did not need to be afraid of her. He probably knew something bad

was about to happen. Peter did not want to be known as part of Jesus' followers. He was afraid something bad might happen to him. Earlier, Jesus told Peter he would **deny** Him three times. In the courtyard he denied the Lord for the first time.

**Verse 18.** Peter was standing with the group by the fire. He had the opportunity to tell people they were wrong to arrest Jesus. He did not admit he was a follower of Jesus. He was afraid. He denied he knew Jesus.

### 3. Being Reviled (18:19-24)

19. The high priest asked Jesus questions about his followers and his teaching.
20. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to everyone. I have always taught in synagogues and in the Temple, where all the Jews come together. I never said anything in secret.
21. So why do you question me? Ask the people who heard my teaching. They know what I said."
22. When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing there hit him. The guard said, "Is that the way you answer the high priest?"
23. Jesus answered him, "If I said something wrong, then show what it was. But if what I said is true, why do you hit me?"
24. Then Annas sent Jesus, who was still tied, to Caiaphas the high priest.

The high priests and other leaders wanted to know exactly what Jesus meant. They really knew He did not teach anything against the Old Testament. They were trying to find something wrong with Him.

The priests wanted to say Jesus preached against the Roman government. Jesus said he spoke openly. He did not speak against the Roman government or the emperor.

**THEY COULD NOT ACCUSE HIM OF WRONGDOING.**

**THEY PUNISHED HIM FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH.**

**Verses 19-20.** The priests questioned Jesus. They asked Him about His teaching and His followers. Jesus told them they already knew about His teachings. He told them He did not

hide anything. All of His teaching was out in the open. He taught in the temple and the **synagogue**. Jewish people and Jewish leaders heard Him. They knew His message well. It should not be a surprise to them. They knew the truth.

**Verse 21.** Both Jesus and the priests knew the law. There were laws about how a trial must happen. The law said a witness for the **defense** must talk first. The *defense* means "someone who stood up for Jesus." The witness



for the leaders could talk after witnesses for the defense talked. The priests broke their own law. They questioned Jesus before He or His witnesses spoke to them.

Jesus asked them why they questioned Him. He told them to question people who heard Him. Those people knew the things He taught. If He said anything wrong let the people who heard Him **testify**. They knew they were breaking their own law about witnesses. Jesus' statement to them was a criticism of the leaders who questioned Him.

**Verse 22.** When Jesus said that, one of the guards standing by Jesus became angry. He thought Jesus was talking about the priest in a bad way. The guard probably thought Jesus was cursing the leader of God's people. Jesus was not cursing the leaders. The guard was wrong.

The guard slapped Jesus. It was against Jewish law to punish anyone before the trial was over. A person must be found guilty before he was punished.

**Verse 23.** This slap was done to humiliate Jesus. Jesus stood before them speaking quietly but firmly. He challenged them to bring witnesses against Him if He said or did anything wrong. He let them know He knew the law. If He was not found guilty He could not be punished. They could not accuse Him of wrongdoing. They punished Him for speaking the truth.

**Verse 24.** This verse is very interesting. In America people are innocent until they are proved guilty. The same was true in Jewish and Roman law. A person was innocent until a trial said he was guilty of some crime. The Jewish officials said Jesus was guilty before they could prove it.

Annas was a high priest. He was not the chief priest. He sent Jesus to the chief high priest. His name was Caiaphas. He is mentioned in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts. Annas sent Jesus to him because he did not have the authority to make any judgments. Only the high priest could do that.

Jesus was not sent to Caiaphas as a free man. John said Jesus was tied while He was being sent to Caiaphas.

We can be encouraged because Jesus was strong. He accepted all the **abuse** for us.

# What About You?

Do you understand the kind of **abuse** Jesus suffered—both verbal and physical?

The world today still abuses the precious name of Jesus. Many Christians today **deny** they know Him if they are afraid someone might hurt them. Some people today say bad things about Jesus. Are you one of those people?

## Applying the Lesson

Think about your own life and actions. Do you want to be a follower who stands up for Jesus? Do you want to honor Him with your words and actions? Here are some ideas:

1. Pray for the courage to stand up for Jesus.

Will you pray that prayer? ☐ Yes ☐ Not yet.

2. Pray for courage to tell other people you love Jesus.

Will you pray that prayer? ☐ Yes ☐ Not yet.

3. Pray for God to give you the wisdom to know what to do if you are abused because you stand up for Jesus.

Will you pray that prayer? ☐ Yes ☐ Not yet.

A verse to remember: "Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to everyone. I have always taught in synagogues and in the Temple, where all the Jews come together. I never said anything in secret. So why do you question me? Ask the people who heard my teaching. They know what I said'" (John 18:20-21).

# Our King: Condemned!

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 18:28–19:16

**Lesson Material:**  
John 18:33–19:3,9–11

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus is the Eternal King. He was charged and condemned to die as a political king.



**T**he J-O-Y Deaf Church continued to prepare for their Easter drama. The people who played different parts were required to study about the person they were playing. The first part of the drama was about the arrest and trial of Jesus.

There were more people they needed to study. They tried to find out as much as possible about them. The soldiers were cruel and abusive. Caiaphas was the chief high priest. He was too weak to make a decision about Jesus. Pilate was the Roman governor. His character was weak. At first he would not make a decision. He was afraid of the Jewish leaders. He would not stand up to them.

Some of the people playing in the drama were not believers. They began to study about Jesus the King. Two young men who played the part of soldiers decided to ask Jesus to be their Savior!

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Unlike Any Worldly King (John 18:33-38a)** - Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews. Jesus said He was a King. His kingdom is not of this world.
2. **Rejected as King by Some (18:38b-40)** - Pilate could not find a reason to **condemn** Jesus. Pilate offered to release Jesus. The people who accused Him did not want Jesus released.
3. **Mistreated as King by Others (19:1-3)** - Pilate ordered soldiers to beat Jesus. They mocked Jesus. They forced a crown made of thorns on His head.
4. **Divine Authority as King (19:9-11)** - Pilate said he had authority to release Jesus or to crucify Him. Jesus reminded Pilate his only authority came from God.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks.

1. Jesus said He was a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Pilate said he could find \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.
3. The crowd wanted \_\_\_\_\_ set free instead of Jesus.
4. Only God could give \_\_\_\_\_ earthly power.
5. The soldiers made a crown of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Today's Lesson

The lesson today continues the story from last week. It is important for us to understand the events that led up to today's lesson. Those things are explained in John 18:25-32. Read those verses to understand what happened.

At the end of the lesson last week, Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the chief high priest. Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas' house to the Roman governor. It was early in the morning.

### 1. Unlike Any Worldly King (John 18:33-38a)

33. Then Pilate went back inside the palace and called Jesus to him and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
34. Jesus said, "Is that your own question, or did others tell you about me?"
35. Pilate answered, "I am not one of you. It was your own people and their leading priests who handed you over to me. What have you done wrong?"

36. Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it belonged to this world, my servants would have fought to keep me from being given over to the Jewish leaders. But my kingdom is from another place."
37. Pilate said, "So you are a king!" Jesus answered, "You are the one saying I am a king. This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me."
38. Pilate said, "What is truth?"

**Verse 33.** The soldiers took Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor. The governor's name was Pilate. Pilate wanted to be sure he knew what complaint the Jewish leaders had against Jesus. He wondered how a poor man like Jesus could say He was a king.

**Verse 34.** Jesus did not make a statement. He asked Pilate a question.

Jesus asked Pilate if he heard Him talk about Himself. Did Pilate hear Jesus say He would overthrow Caesar? Did Pilate hear Jesus say anything bad about the Roman government?

Did Pilate know these things or was he listening to someone else? Jesus knew Pilate talked to the Jewish leaders before he talked to Jesus.

**JESUS SAID HE WAS TRULY  
A KING. HIS KINGDOM IS IN  
ANOTHER PLACE.**

**Verse 35.** Pilate's answer is very interesting. First he said he was not a Jew. It was the Jewish leaders who brought Jesus to him. He probably thought he was too important to be bothered with religious matters. Jesus was their problem. Pilate was not a Jew, so how could he know the problem? He answered the question Jesus asked. He said the leading priests brought Jesus to him.

Pilate asked Jesus an important question. He asked Jesus if He did anything wrong. He personally did not know of anything Jesus did wrong. He heard charges from other people. He asked Jesus Himself the question, "Did you do anything wrong?"

**Verse 36.** Jesus answered Pilate's question with a statement. He said His kingdom does not belong to this world. If He was an earthly king, He would not be taken by the Jewish leaders. Jesus said his followers would fight to protect Him. He was not a **threat** to the Roman ruler. He was not trying to take over the Roman government. Jesus said He was truly a King. His kingdom is in another place. He meant the kingdom of God was also His kingdom.

**Verse 37.** Pilate answered his own question. "You say you are a king, right?" Jesus went on to explain about His kingdom. He said His kingdom is based on truth. He came into the world to tell people the truth. He told the truth about sin. He told the truth about the love of God.

Jesus said people who listen to Him belong to the truth. The word *listen* in this sentence means “to pay attention to Jesus’ words.” It means a person must accept and follow Jesus.

**Verse 38.** Pilate listened to Jesus’ explanation about His kingdom. Then he listened to Jesus’ explanation about truth. Pilate responded to Jesus by simply asking Jesus “What is truth?”

Bible teachers do not know exactly what Pilate was asking. Did he want to know what the word *truth* meant? Did he mean what was the truth Jesus was talking about? He did not realize he was talking to The Truth. The Truth is found only in the name of Jesus.

No matter what he thought, he quickly ended the talk with Jesus.

## 2. Rejected as King by Some (18:38b-40)

38. After he said this, he went out to the crowd again and said to them, “I find nothing against this man.

39. But it is your custom that I free one prisoner to you at **Passover** time. Do you want me to free the ‘king of the Jews?’”

40. They shouted back, “No, not him! Let Barabbas go free!” (Barabbas was a robber.)

Pilate did not want to deal with the Jewish complaints any further. He left Jesus in his court room. He went out to talk to the Jewish leaders. They would not come into his court. Why? It was **Passover**. He was not a Jew. They believed he was unclean. They could not be in the same room with him. They could not go into an unclean place.

**Verse 38.** Pilate went out to give them his decision. He told them he did not find Jesus guilty of any crime. He wanted to get out of the situation he was in. He thought the whole problem would be over when he said Jesus was not guilty.

**Verse 39.** He saw they were not satisfied with his decision. There was a custom Roman governors followed. Every year at Passover they let one Jewish prisoner go free. He asked them if they wanted him to free the “king of the Jews.” He said this in a way that showed he did not believe Jesus was a king.

It is not clear why Pilate tried to please the Jewish leaders. He had a plan. He thought he could free Jesus and please the Jewish leaders at the same time. He did not want to have the final word on the subject.

His plan was not successful. He asked them if they wanted to free Jesus. They shouted at him. They did not discuss it in a **calm** way. They told Pilate to free Barabbas. Barabbas was in prison because he was a robber. He was an evil man.

Their hearts were also evil. They chose to free the wicked man. They did not choose to free the perfect Son of God. Jesus was rejected as king by the Jewish leaders, the soldiers, and Pilate. That was all a part of God's plan.

### 3. Mistreated as King by Others (19:1-3)

1. Then Pilate ordered that Jesus be taken away and whipped.
2. The soldiers made a crown from some thorny branches and put it on Jesus' head and put a purple robe around him.
3. Then they came to him many times and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and hit him in the face.

**Verse 1.** Pilate ordered the soldiers to take Jesus away and whip Him. The whip used for cruel punishment was made of leather strips. The strips had pieces of metal tied to them. Several strips of leather were tied together on a wooden handle. The whip cut deep gashes in a person. A whipping was so bad the soldiers were limited to thirty-nine strikes.

Pilate broke the Roman law. Pilate punished Jesus before He had a trial. Pilate said Jesus did not do anything wrong. He punished Jesus to satisfy His accusers. Pilate thought the beating would be enough. The Jewish leaders and Pilate mistreated Jesus.

THE SOLDIERS GAVE JESUS

THE CROWN MADE OF  
THORNS TO MOCK HIM.

**Verse 2.** Soldiers made a crown out of branches with thorns on them. Imagine how painful it is if you are stuck all over your head. The thorns caused a great amount of bleeding. His body was already bleeding. Why? The soldiers beat Him with whips made of leather and metal. The soldiers gave Jesus the crown made of thorns to **mock** Him. Kings wear crowns. The soldiers made a false crown for Jesus.

Purple is the color of royalty. Kings and important people wore purple. The soldiers found a purple robe. They put it on Him. Were they trying to say He was really a king? The answer is a strong no! They were mocking Jesus.

John said the soldiers came to Jesus many times. Why? They pretended to honor Him. The Romans had a custom to bow to kings. The soldiers probably made false bows. They said **Hail!** That word used here means "to pay attention." The word *hail* is often used to honor a person. The soldiers used the word *hail* to make fun of Jesus.

**Verse 3.** One of the ways people humiliated other people was to slap them on the face. John said the soldiers came many times and hit Jesus on the face. Each time they said, "Hail the King of the Jews," and slapped the face of Jesus.

#### 4. Divine Authority as King (19:9-11)

9. He went back inside the palace and asked Jesus, “Where do you come from?” But Jesus did not answer him.
10. Pilate said, “You refuse to speak to me? Don’t you know I have power to set you free and power to have you crucified?”
11. Jesus answered, “The only power you have over me is the power given to you by God. The man who turned me in to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

Read verses 4-8 to understand the events after the soldiers beat Jesus. Pilate went out to the crowd again. He told them he found nothing wrong with Jesus. He brought Jesus out to the crowd. Jesus was still wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.

**GOD GAVE PILATE THE  
ONLY POWER GOD  
WANTED HIM TO HAVE.  
PILATE DID NOT KNOW  
GOD WAS USING HIM.**

The crowd shouted for Pilate to crucify Jesus. Pilate told them to crucify Him themselves. Pilate could not find anything against Jesus.

The Jewish leaders shouted back to Pilate. They told him they had a law. The law said Jesus must die because He said He was the Son of God. Pilate

became more afraid of them. Pilate and Jesus went back inside the palace.

**Verse 9.** Pilate asked Jesus where He came from. Pilate knew Jesus was from Nazareth. He was really asking if Jesus came from God. Pilate did not have enough courage to stand up against the Jewish leaders.

Jesus refused to answer Pilate. He stood quietly. He did not try to **defend** Himself. The prophet Isaiah said the **Messiah** would be led like a sheep to be killed. The prophet said the Messiah would never open His mouth to defend Himself (Isaiah 53:6-7). Isaiah’s **prophecy** was fulfilled in front of Pilate.

**Verse 10.** Pilate tried to force Jesus to answer him. Pilate threatened Him. Pilate said he had the power to set Jesus free. He had the power to crucify Him. He was upset. Why? Jesus refused to answer him.

**Verse 11.** We know the truth. Pilate did not have any power at all. The death of Jesus was in God’s plan. Jesus could set Himself free. He could call an army of angels to destroy His enemies. He did not. He obeyed God’s plan. God gave Pilate the only power God wanted him to have. Pilate did not know God was using him. The crucifixion of Jesus was the way to provide forgiveness for sinners. God used Pilate to do His will to save the world. Pilate will answer for his sin.

Jesus said the man who betrayed him was guilty of a greater sin than Pilate. The man who betrayed Him was Judas.



# What About You?

Do you know Jesus is your Eternal King?

Have you ever thought about the meaning of Eternal King?

Does your life show you **reject** Him as King?

Are there things in your life that cause you to **mistreat** the Eternal King?

## Applying the Lesson

Pilate and the soldiers mocked Jesus. They did not really think He was a king, but they pretended He was. List the things they did to **mock** Jesus.

A verse to remember: "This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me" (John 18:37).

# Our Savior: Crucified!



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 19:17-42

**Lesson Material:**  
John 19:23-30, 38-42

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus finished the work God gave Him to do. He sacrificed His life to provide a way of forgiveness for us.

**T**he members of the J-O-Y Deaf Church prepared for the second part of their drama. They discussed the story about Jesus. They learned He was crucified. They learned *crucified* means “to be nailed to a cross.” They learned the things Jesus said on the cross.

Last week at the Deaf church, two young men accepted Jesus as their Savior. They told about their experience. They urged the other actors to follow Jesus. When they talked about His crucifixion, they had tears in their eyes.

All of the people in their study group began to cry. They were sad and thankful at the same time. They were sad because Jesus suffered for them. They were thankful He gave them a way to be saved. Three more people said they now accepted Jesus’ forgiveness. They wanted to follow Him with boldness. They ended their meeting with a prayer.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Examine the Scriptures' Fulfillment (John 19:23-24)** - The soldiers crucified Jesus. Their actions fulfilled a **prophecy** in the Old Testament Scriptures about the Savior.
2. **Appreciate the Savior's Tender Care (19:25-27)** - While Jesus was hanging on the cross He told one of His disciples to take care of His mother after His death.
3. **Affirm the Savior's Finished Work (19:28-30)** - Jesus knew His death would happen soon. He exclaimed a cry of victory. He completed His work.
4. **Show Devotion to the Savior (19:38-42)** - Joseph of Arimathea was a fearful follower of Jesus. Nicodemus was also a follower. They got permission from Pilate to remove Jesus' body from the cross and buried Him in Joseph's tomb.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Mark your answers true or false.

1. T F The soldiers gave Jesus' clothes to poor people.
2. T F Jesus asked John to take care of His mother.
3. T F Joseph of Arimathea was a bold follower of Jesus.
4. T F Jesus' death fulfilled prophesy.
5. T F Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were poor men.

## Today's Lesson

Last week's lesson ended with verse 11. Jesus told Pilate he did not have the power to put Him to death. Only God has power. God gave Pilate the power so the Old Testament prophecies could be fulfilled.

Read verses 12-22 to understand what happened between last week's lesson and today's lesson. The verses talk about the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus.

### 1. Examine the Scriptures' Fulfillment (John 19:23-24)

23. After the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, with each soldier getting one part. They also took his long shirt, which was all one piece of cloth, woven from top to bottom.

24. So the soldiers said to each other, “We should not tear this into parts. Let’s throw lots to see who will get it.” This happened so that this Scripture would come true: “They divided my clothes among them, and they threw lots for my clothing.” So the soldiers did this.

These verses begin the explanation of Jesus’ crucifixion. As we read the Old Testament writings, many prophecies are about Jesus’ crucifixion. We will look at the events of Jesus’ crucifixion. We will see these things were prophesied hundreds of years earlier.

As you study today’s lesson keep your Bible open to Psalm 22. David wrote Psalm 22. This Psalm gives us many prophecies about the crucifixion of Jesus. Compare Psalm 22 to John 19. David prophesied exactly the events at Jesus’ crucifixion.

Psalm 22:12 prophesied people would surround Jesus as He was dying.

**AS WE READ THE OLD  
TESTAMENT WRITINGS,  
MANY PROPHECIES  
ARE ABOUT JESUS’  
CRUCIFIXION.**

**Verses 23-24.** The Roman guards were allowed to take everything belonging to the person who was crucified. There were four soldiers guarding Jesus. After Jesus was put on the cross, they took His clothes. They divided Jesus’ clothes into four parts. Each soldier got a part. Jesus wore a long undershirt. In New Testament

time, men wore a shirt under their other clothes. It usually reached from their shoulders to their ankles. It was made from one piece of cloth. This was too valuable for the soldiers to cut up. They cast lots for it. Compare this verse to Psalm 22:18.

These soldiers did not understand they were fulfilling Old Testament prophecy. They probably did not know anything about the Old Testament prophecy.

## **2. Appreciate the Savior’s Tender Care (19:25-27)**

25. Standing near his cross were Jesus’ mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26. When Jesus saw his mother and the follower he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son.”

27. Then he said to the follower, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, the follower took her to live in his home.

The word *appreciate* has two meanings in this lesson. The first meaning is “to be thankful or grateful.” A second meaning is “to understand something or someone.” Both ideas can be used to understand verses 25-27.

**Verse 25.** John mentioned four women by name in this verse. Most of the other disciples left when Jesus was arrested. The women had courage to stay by Jesus' side. They were not afraid of the Jewish leaders. They were not afraid of the soldiers. They were not afraid of the crowd waiting to watch Jesus suffer and die.

John thought they were important enough to list their names. First was Mary the mother of Jesus. Mary's sister was there. Mark 15:40 tells us the name of Mary's sister was Salome. Mary the wife of Clopas was there along with Mary Magdalene. Mark's Gospel also says there were other women standing far off.

Mary was determined to stay with her beloved son until His earthly life was over. She grieved because she loved Him. We can imagine she was sobbing because of His pain.

**Verses 26-27.** We should be amazed as we look at some of the last few words of Jesus. He was suffering greatly. In the middle of His suffering, He looked down and saw the four women.

He saw His mother grieving for Him. He had loving tender words for her. It was the Jewish custom for the oldest son in a family to take care of his mother. She was probably a widow by that time.

**JESUS WAS SUFFERING BUT  
HE HAD COMPASSION  
FOR HIS MOTHER.**

Jesus was suffering but He had compassion for His mother. He said, "Dear woman, here is your son." He called her woman. He did not call her mother. She was not on the same level as He was. Jesus did not say she was holy. She was a wonderful woman, but she was not holy. The word *woman* did not mean He criticized her. He loved her and wanted her to be taken care of. He meant John was now the son that would take care of her. Then He said, "Here is your mother." John did not actually say his own name. He called himself "the follower Jesus loved."

From that time on, John took Mary into his home. He took over the responsibilities of being the oldest son. The Bible doesn't explain why one of Jesus' brothers did not take this responsibility. John took care of Mary the rest of her life. He had many years to care for her. John lived longer than any other disciple.

### **3. Affirm the Savior's Finished Work (19:28-30)**

28. After this, Jesus knew that everything had been done. So that the Scripture would come true, he said, "I am thirsty."
29. There was a jar full of vinegar there, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a branch of a **hyssop** plant, and lifted it to Jesus' mouth.

30. When Jesus tasted the vinegar, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and died.

**Affirm** is the opposite of **deny**. *Affirm* means “to say something is true or to say something in a strong way.” We support our ideas with strength. To “affirm the Savior’s finished work” means we know everything He did for us is in God’s plan.

**Verse 28.** Jesus’ work on earth was almost complete. Jesus said He was thirsty. Why? The Scriptures prophesied the **Messiah** would say He was thirsty (Psalm 22:15). That verse in Psalm 22 does not use the word *thirst*. It describes a person who is thirsty.

**Verse 29.** Crucifixion was a horrible way to die. The pain was severe. Thirst added to the pain. The soldiers were still standing or sitting around. They were not allowed to leave until the prisoner died. Perhaps some of the soldiers pitied Jesus. The soldiers put a sponge on a **hyssop** branch. The hyssop was a reed. They dipped the sponge in vinegar and lifted it to Jesus.

**Verse 30.** Jesus tasted the vinegar and said, “It is finished.” Jesus knew His work was finished. He died! Other Bible translations say, “He gave up His Spirit.” No one took His Spirit. He went to His death voluntarily.

Both Matthew and Mark tell about Jesus’ cry to God while He was dying. Read Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34. Compare those verses to Psalm 22:1. Jesus’ birth, life, death, and **resurrection** were prophesied in the Old Testament writings.

#### 4. Show Devotion to the Savior (19:38-42)

38. Later, Joseph from Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take the body of Jesus. (Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus, because he was afraid of some of the leaders.) Pilate gave his permission, so Joseph came and took Jesus’ body away.
39. Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, went with Joseph. He brought about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes.
40. These two men took Jesus’ body and wrapped it with the spices in pieces of linen cloth, which is how they bury the dead.
41. In the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb that had never been used before.
42. The men laid Jesus in that tomb because it was nearby, and they were preparing to start their Sabbath day.

Read verses 31-37 to learn about what happened to Jesus’ body after he died. These things happened before He was buried.

**Verse 38.** John wrote about two men who were **devoted** to Jesus. Joseph was a rich man from the town of Arimathea. Arimathea was a town

about twenty miles northwest of Jerusalem. Joseph was a member of the Jewish ruling group. He was a man who was looking for the coming of the Messiah (Mark 15:43).

Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus. He was not bold enough to **defend** Jesus. He was afraid of the Jewish leaders. He was afraid he might be thrown out of the temple or **synagogue**. After Jesus died, Joseph found enough courage to talk to Pilate. He asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. He was no longer a secret follower of Jesus. He became bold. Pilate allowed him to take Jesus' body away.

**Verse 39.** Another man came with Joseph. His name was Nicodemus. We studied in John 3 about Nicodemus. He was another rich Pharisee. He was a Jewish ruler. He came to talk with Jesus in the night-time. Earlier, Nicodemus defended Jesus. The Pharisees wanted to arrest Jesus. Nicodemus argued with them. He said they could not judge Jesus if they did not know Him. They must hear Jesus for themselves. At that time they made fun of Nicodemus (John 7:50-51).

By this time He was probably an open follower of Jesus. He wanted to bury Jesus in the right way. Nicodemus brought expensive spices. These spices were used to spread over a dead body. He brought about seventy pounds of spices.

**NICODEMUS AND JOSEPH  
WERE DEVOTED TO JESUS  
AFTER HE DIED.**

**Verse 40.** Nicodemus and Joseph took Jesus' body. They covered it with spices. They wrapped strips of linen around it. It was a proper way to bury people at that time. These two men were **devoted** to Jesus after He died. They were bold. It is sad they waited until after His death to become strong. They cared for His body. They treated Him with respect. They paid for His burial.

**Verse 41.** There was a garden near the place Jesus was crucified. In that garden was a new tomb. Joseph of Arimathea took the body and buried it in the new tomb Joseph already cut in a rock. It was never used before (Matthew 27:57-60). Luke said this was Joseph's tomb (Luke 23:50-56).

**Verse 42.** The two men took the body to that tomb because it was nearby. The day Jesus died was called The Day of Preparation. The day was used to prepare for the **Passover** Feast on the next day. Their Sabbath started at sundown on Friday.

# What About You?

Do you believe Jesus died for forgiveness of our sins?

Do you **appreciate** His death for you?

Can you say strongly you believe in Jesus?

Are you willing to be **devoted** to Him?

These are questions we must all answer. Do you know how to have forgiveness of your sin? Do you want to know Jesus better? In the front of this lesson book is a **testimony** of a person who tells us how to be saved. Go to page four and read it.

## Applying the Lesson

The book of John tells us how to be saved. Read the verses below. Write the word the verses tell you to do.

1. John 3:16 tells me I must \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. John 3:36 tells me if I believe I will have \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. John 14:6 tells me the only way to the Father is through  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

If you are not a Christian, ask your teacher or pastor to help you understand these words more clearly.

A verse to remember: "When Jesus saw his mother and the follower he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the follower, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, the follower took her to live in his home" (John 19:26-27).





# UNIT 3

**THE WAY OF VICTORIOUS LIVING**

# John 20:1-21:25

These are the last two lessons in this quarter. This has been a great study of the Gospel of John.

The lessons in this unit **focus** on living in a victorious way. Deaf believers can live victoriously because of the **resurrection** of Jesus. Jesus calls Deaf believers to a **mission**. That mission is to follow Him.

The lessons are from John 20-21. The verses teach us about the change in believers' lives. They show the impact of His resurrection

on the believer and the world.

The change happens because Jesus appeared to His disciples and many other people after His resurrection. We know He is alive. He did not stay in the grave!

Read all of the verses in chapters 20-21 so you get the full story about the resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus called Peter back to Him after Peter denied Him. Jesus commanded Peter to carry on the mission to follow Him.

# Live in Resurrection Power

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 20:1-31

**Lesson Material:**  
John 20:15-23,26-29

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus' **resurrection**  
from the dead shows  
God's power to change  
believers' lives fully.



**T**he J-O-Y Deaf Church prepared for the second part of the drama. The pastor wanted to be sure everyone understood the resurrection of Jesus. The whole drama group had a meeting to discuss the resurrection. The Deaf pastor asked each person to tell what they believed about Jesus' resurrection. He was surprised at their answers! Most of the people knew very little about Jesus' resurrection. Some of them believed in the resurrection, but they did not know why they believed. Other actors said they did not believe Jesus rose from the dead. The pastor was sad about their answers. Finally one young man was able to explain the resurrection. He explained in a powerful way. He explained how people should believe. Why? The resurrection was real. How did he know? The Bible said it was real. Several members of the drama said they believed the resurrection story now. The drama taught members about the resurrection before they presented the play.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **From Grief to Joyful Testimony (John 20:15-18)** - Jesus appeared to Mary after His **resurrection**. She was grieving near the empty tomb. Jesus told her to go and tell His followers.
2. **From Fear to Bold Mission (20:19-23)** - After Jesus arose from the dead, He appeared to a group of His disciples. He told them to receive the Holy Spirit. He told them to proclaim His message of forgiveness.
3. **From Doubt to Confident Faith (20:26-29)** - The risen Lord Jesus appeared to a group of disciples. Thomas was in the group. Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection until he saw Jesus.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who was the woman Jesus talked with in verse 15? (verses 1-14)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Mary say to the disciples? (verse 18)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who locked themselves in a room because they were afraid? (verse 19) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the first thing Jesus said to the disciples (verse 19)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What disciple needed to see Jesus to believe? (verses 27-28)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Today's Lesson

The verses today show how Jesus changed the lives of His followers. He appeared to His followers after He arose from the dead. Today Jesus gives His followers the mission to live for Him.

### 1. From Grief to Joyful Testimony (John 20:15-18)

15. Jesus asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said to him, "Did you take him away, sir? Tell me where you put him, and I will get him."
16. Jesus said to her, "Mary." Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Hebrew language, "Rabboni." (This means "Teacher.")

17. Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, because I have not yet gone up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am going back to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”
18. Mary Magdalene went and said to the followers, “I saw the Lord!” And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

Read verses 1-14 to understand the background for this lesson. They tell us about the events between Jesus’ burial and resurrection.

Mary was at the tomb. She looked in the tomb again and saw two angels sitting in the tomb. They asked her why she was crying. She told them someone took Jesus’ body away. She thought someone took His body. She did not know where they put Him.

After she answered the angels, she turned around. She saw Jesus. He was standing in front of her. She did not know it was Jesus standing there.

**Verse 15.** The first thing Jesus asked her was why she was crying. He asked her who she was looking for. Jesus knew why she was crying. He knew who she was looking for. He wanted her to say it herself.

MARY BELIEVED IN THE  
RESURRECTION BECAUSE  
SHE SAW JESUS  
FACE TO FACE.

She did not recognize Jesus. She thought the person standing there was the gardener. She thought he took Jesus’ body. She wanted to know where he put Him. She wanted to go get Him and bring Him back to the tomb.

**Verse 16.** Then Jesus spoke to her. He said, “Mary.” When He called her name, she recognized His voice. She knew it was Jesus. She answered, “**Rabboni!**” *Rabboni* means “teacher” in the Hebrew language. It is a form of the word **Rabbi**.

Mary remembered Jesus was her great teacher. Now she would come to know Him as her Lord and Savior. She saw Him die on the cross. She saw when He was buried. Now she saw Him after His resurrection. He said her name. Mary believed in the resurrection because she saw Jesus face to face.

**Verse 17.** Mary bowed down before her Lord. She was happy and grateful to see Him. She grabbed His feet. Jesus told her not to touch Him. Why? He had not yet ascended to His father. He told her He must go back to His Father. We do not know why Jesus did not want her to touch Him.

Jesus was resurrected. He had not yet ascended. It is important to know the difference in these two words. His *resurrection* means “He rose from the dead.” He lives again. *Ascension* means “He went back to heaven to be with His Father.”

Jesus told Mary to go back to the disciples and tell them He was alive again. He told her to go tell His brothers. This is the first time He called the disciples His brothers. He called them children before. Now He called

them brothers. He said “My Father and your Father.” They were now sons of God. That does not mean they were equal with Jesus. It means they are God’s children. They are not God. He said “My God and your God.” All believers are children of God.

## THE RISEN LORD

## TRANSFORMED THE

## DISCIPLES. HE GAVE THEM

## POWER AND SKILL TO

## CARRY OUT HIS MISSION.

Jesus told Mary to tell them He was alive. He would not see them immediately. First, He was going back to His Father.

**Verse 18.** Mary obeyed Jesus. She told His followers she saw Jesus at the tomb. She had a wonderful honor. She was the first person to tell her personal

**testimony** about Jesus’ **resurrection**. She told the believers, “Jesus is alive.”

Jesus sends Deaf followers to tell about His resurrection. That is their **mission**. We may not understand. We know we believe He is alive.

## 2. From Fear to Bold Mission (20:19-23)

19. When it was evening on the first day of the week, Jesus’ followers were together. The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the elders. Then Jesus came and stood right in the middle of them and said, “Peace be with you.”
20. After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. His followers were thrilled when they saw the Lord.
21. Then Jesus said again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, I now send you.”
22. After he said this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.
23. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven. If you don’t forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

**Verse 19.** It was evening on the first day of the week. All the disciples except Thomas were together. They locked the doors to keep the Jewish leaders and soldiers from coming. They were afraid they would be killed like Jesus was killed. At this time, the disciples were very weak. They did not have courage to admit they followed Jesus.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared to them. He was in the middle of the room. He was in His resurrected body. We can imagine they were startled. They may have been afraid. Perhaps they were worried.

Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” He did not criticize them because they were hiding. He did not **scold** them. He assured them He was bringing peace to them. The disciples understood. He was not angry with them.

**Verse 20.** He showed them His hands and side. They remembered He told them He would rise from the dead. They were thrilled to see Him. Their fear vanished. Joy replaced fear in their hearts.

**Verse 21.** Jesus told them again, “Peace be with you.” They remembered Jesus’ words. He told them earlier He would give them a special peace (John 14:27-31).

Jesus told them the Father sent Him. He had a mission to do on earth. Just like the Father sent Him, He sent His disciples.

What was Jesus like? He was loving and kind. He was a servant. He went around doing good to other people. He did everything through the power of the Holy Spirit. He was joyful to do the Father’s will.

Where should the disciples go? Jesus sent them into all the world (Matthew 28:19). What were they supposed to do? Preach the gospel to all men. The gospel includes the truth of the resurrection.

We need to do everything just like Jesus did. Believers must be like Jesus. His mission was complete. Now He sent His disciples on mission for Him.

**Verse 22.** Jesus gave disciples the right to **declare** sins were forgiven. They should tell people to follow Jesus. When people become believers, their sins are forgiven. Other people refuse to repent and follow Jesus. Disciples should tell them their sins are not forgiven. The risen Lord transformed the disciples. He gave them power and skill to carry out His mission.

**Verse 23.** This verse is difficult to understand. Luke 5:21 explains only God can forgive sins. This verse means the disciples would tell people about Jesus and their sins would be forgiven by Jesus.

These verses can help us live with a deep feeling of peace. We can be bold and tell others about His resurrection and God’s message of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit will give us power to talk about His resurrection.

### **3. From Doubt to Confident Faith (20:26-29)**

26. A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood right in the middle of them. He said, “Peace be with you.”

27. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop being an unbeliever and believe.”

28. Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29. Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you see me. Those who believe without seeing me will be truly blessed.”



Read verses 24-25 to understand the background for these verses. Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them the first time.

After Jesus left them, they told Thomas they saw Jesus. He would not believe them. He knew the tomb was empty. He did not know why.

Thomas said he needed proof. He wanted to touch Jesus' hands where the nails were. He wanted to put his hands in Jesus' side where the soldier stabbed Him.

**Verse 26.** One week later Jesus appeared to them again. Thomas was with them. The Bible does not tell us what the disciples or Jesus did during that week. Again they were in a room with the doors locked. Jesus appeared to them in His resurrected body. The nail marks were still in his hands. The stab mark was still in His side.

The first thing Jesus said to all of them was "Peace be with you." This was the second time he gave them comfort. He wanted them to be at peace.

**EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE  
NOT SEEN HIM WITH OUR  
EYES, WE BELIEVE HIM.**

**Verse 27.** Then He turned to talk to Thomas. The Gospel writers do not say Jesus appeared to any of the disciples during the past week. Jesus knew what Thomas said. He talked to him in a gentle way. Jesus told Thomas to touch His hands. He told Thomas to touch

His side. The Bible does not say Thomas really did touch Jesus. Jesus meant Thomas could touch Him if he wanted to.

He told Thomas to stop being an unbeliever. He told Him to believe. Thomas believed Jesus. Why? He knew for sure Jesus arose from the dead.

**Verse 28.** Thomas said the thing all believers say when they know the **resurrection** is true. He called Jesus his Lord and his God. Notice the things Thomas did not say. He did not say, "Hello, it is good to see you alive." He did not say, "I'm sorry for the way you suffered." He said, "My Lord and my God." He was filled with joy. He knew Jesus was truly Lord and God. Thomas saw Jesus with his own eyes.

**Verse 29.** This verse gives believers reason to have great joy. Even though we have not seen Him with our eyes, we believe Him. Why do we believe Jesus was resurrected? We have His Word. We believe the Bible. If God said it in His Word, we know it is true. The Bible tells us Jesus was resurrected from the dead. That is all we need to know. There is a famous statement you may have read. "God said it! I believe it! That settles it!"

Jesus told us we will be truly happy. Why? We believe Him without seeing Him. We can live with that **confident** faith. We can believe in Jesus' resurrection even though we can't see Him face to face.



# What About You?

Do you believe in Jesus' resurrection?

Do you believe He still lives today?

Do you have the real happiness Jesus gives people who believe in Him?

If you answered, "no," to these questions, ask your teacher or pastor to help you understand these verses and others.

## Applying the Lesson

In your own words write your thoughts about these sentences. Your thoughts do not need to be long. Your words do not need to be big. The words need to come from your heart. No one will see them except you and God.

1. Do I believe Jesus was resurrected from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why can I believe He arose from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What will I receive if I believe Jesus was resurrected? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why can I tell others about His resurrection? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A verse to remember: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, I now send you" (John 20:21).

# Follow with Renewed Purpose



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 21:1-25

**Lesson Material:**  
John 21:3-7a, 15-17,  
20-23

**Bible Truth**  
When believers do not  
obey, Jesus graciously  
seeks to **restore** them  
to faithful service.

**T**he ladies in the J-O-Y Deaf Church needed a project to help raise money for a **mission** trip. They appointed a committee to choose a project. The group wanted the project to mean something special. They wanted it to honor Jesus. Several ladies had good ideas. They finally decided they would decorate coffee mugs with the letters J-O-Y. That was the name of their church. They told the people who bought the mugs what J-O-Y means.

J is for JESUS. They promised they would try to put Jesus first in everything they did.

O is for OTHERS. They promised they would love others. They would live in a way to show Jesus is their Savior.

Y is YOURSELF. They agreed they would try to become the people Jesus wanted them to be with Jesus first, others second, and themselves last.

The mugs would help them raise money but also witness to others.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **What Are You Fishing For? (John 21:3-7a)** - Peter and several other disciples decided to go fishing. They were in the boat. The risen Lord Jesus appeared to them from the shore.
2. **Do You Love Me? (21:15-17)** - Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter answered, "Yes," each time. Jesus told Peter to feed His followers.
3. **What About Others? (21:20-23)** - Peter asked Jesus what would happen to the disciple Jesus loved (John). Jesus told him he should not worry about other followers.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Find the verses in today's lesson with the following sentences and who said it.

1. I am going out to fish. \_\_\_\_\_ John 21: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did you catch any fish? \_\_\_\_\_ John 21: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you love Me more than these? \_\_\_\_\_ John 21: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Take care of My sheep \_\_\_\_\_ John 21: \_\_\_\_\_
5. That is not your business. \_\_\_\_\_ John 21: \_\_\_\_\_

## Today's Lesson

Peter carried a burden after Jesus died and rose again. He remembered he denied Jesus three times. He had deep feelings of guilt. He could not forget he denied his Master three times.

### 1. What Are You Fishing For? (John 21:3-7a)

3. Simon Peter said, "I am going out to fish." The others said, "We will go with you." So they went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.
4. Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the followers did not know it was Jesus.
5. Then he said to them, "Friends, did you catch any fish?" They answered, "No."
6. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they did, and they caught so many fish they could not pull the net back into the boat.
7. The follower whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

In Matthew 4:18-20 and Mark 1:16-17 Jesus told His disciples He would make them fishers of men. The disciples who were fisherman understood the meaning of fishing for men very well. Fish did not come to them. They understood men did not come to them. They needed to go fishing to find and catch fish. They understood they needed to go looking for men.

Jesus said “Follow Me.” He meant the disciples should follow Him to fish for men. Fish are the people who are not believers yet. They are not saved. Spiritual fishermen bring the nonbeliever to the Master.

**Verse 3.** Peter started the idea of going fishing. He just said he was going. He did not give a reason. Then the other disciples decided to go with him. They got in a boat and went out into the sea.

Most fishermen fished at night. They caught the fish at night. They could sell the fresh fish the next morning. John said they fished the whole night. They did not catch any fish.

## SPIRITUAL FISHERMEN

## BRING THE NONBELIEVER

## TO THE MASTER.

**Verse 4.** It was just before dawn. The sun began to shine. The disciples were headed back to shore. They saw a man standing on the shoreline. He called out to them. He asked them if they had any fish. They did not recognize the man.

They thought maybe he was someone who wanted to buy fish.

**Verse 5.** Notice Jesus called them friends. He did not call them brothers or children. He used those names earlier. At first they did not recognize Him as someone they knew. He asked them if they had fish. They told Him, “No.”

**Verse 6.** He told them to let their nets down on the other side of the boat. He was a stranger to them, but they followed His advice. They let their nets down. They caught so many fish the boat could not hold them.

The disciples did not know where to fish. Jesus gave them directions. They followed His directions. They caught a huge amount of fish.

Does this apply to believers today? Yes! When we try to do things on our own we usually fail. When we follow Jesus’ commands, we are successful.

**Verse 7.** John was the first man to recognize Jesus. He told Peter, “It is the Lord.” He used the name Lord again. He knew it was not just a man. It was the Lord of his life. He probably said it with enthusiasm and joy. Peter heard John say it was Jesus. He did not doubt John’s word. John knew and loved Jesus very well.

## 2. Do You Love Me? (21:15-17)

15. When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16. Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”
17. A third time he said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!” He said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

Read verses 7-14 for a wonderful story John wrote about Peter. Peter acted before he thought about a situation. Peter denied Jesus. When Peter looked and saw Jesus, he did two things quickly. He acted without thinking. He put on his clothes. Fishermen often did not wear their regular clothes because they needed to go into the water to loosen a net that was caught on something.

Second, Peter jumped in the water.  
Peter was in a hurry to get to the Lord.  
Is this a lesson for believers today?  
Yes. When we see Jesus we must hurry to Him.

**“DO YOU LOVE ME  
MORE THAN THESE?”**

**Verse 15.** Jesus made sure their physical needs were met. They warmed themselves by the fire. He provided food for them. Then He began to talk about spiritual things.

He spoke directly to Peter. He called Peter by his full name. Did your parents or teachers ever call your full name? Did they say your first, middle, and last name? It usually meant they would call your attention to something you did wrong. Jesus said, “Simon son of John.” Jesus corrected Peter about his past behavior.

When Peter denied Jesus, he did not show he loved Jesus. Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me more than these?” The word *these* can mean three things. It can mean “more than the other disciples loved Jesus.” Or, it can mean “more than Peter loved the other disciples.” Or, it can mean “more than Peter loved the things he owned,” like the fish and his boat. All three meanings are possible.

Peter was quick to answer Jesus. He was always quick to react to things. He said Jesus knew he loved Him. We can **rephrase** Peter’s answer. In our language today it might be “Of course, I do. You know I do. You know everything.” He was probably sharp with his answer.

Jesus used the Greek word for love to mean true, deep, and lasting love. The word Peter used was “I am **fond** of you.” There is a real difference in these two words. Jesus told Peter to feed His lambs.

In our language today we can understand Jesus’ answer. He said a phrase that can be translated as, “OK! You love Me so much? Show your love for Me by serving My young and new believers.”

**Verse 16.** Again Jesus used Peter's full name. He asked Peter if he loved Him. Peter answered Him the same way. He told Jesus yes. Jesus knew he loved Him. Jesus told Peter to "feed My sheep." Sheep refers to believers who are more experienced. They have known the Master for a longer time than the lambs.

**Verse 17.** Finally, for the third time Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. Again Peter told Jesus he loved Him. Again Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep. How many times did Peter **deny** Jesus? The answer is three. Now Jesus asked Peter for the third time about his love.

Jesus reminded Peter to continue to love Him. John said Peter's feelings were hurt. Why? Jesus questioned him three times about his love. He thought once was enough. He said Jesus knew everything. So He knew Peter loved Him. Jesus answered Peter. He told Peter to feed His sheep. He meant for Peter to serve all of His followers.

**TODAY BELIEVERS ARE TOO CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT GOD IS DOING WITH OTHER PEOPLE.**

From these verses we learn we can show other people our love for Jesus is real. We can stop focusing on our own self-centered plans and serve Him in the way He wants.

### **3. What About Others? (21:20-23)**

20. Peter turned and saw that the follower Jesus loved was walking behind them. (This was the follower who had leaned against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who will turn against you?")
21. When Peter saw him behind them, he asked Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"
22. Jesus answered, "If I want him to live until I come back, that is not your business. You follow me."
23. So a story spread among the followers that this one would not die. But Jesus did not say he would not die. He only said, "If I want him to live until I come back, that is not your business."

Read John 21:18-19 for the background for these verses. Jesus explained the things Peter should expect to happen to him in the future. Jesus told him he would be tied up and led places he did not want to go.

He would be killed because he was Jesus' follower. Jesus meant Peter would be arrested, tied up, and killed. Peter was a **martyr**. The word *martyr* means "one who died for Jesus."

**Verse 21.** Peter looked around and saw John. He wanted to know what would happen to John. Jesus said Peter would suffer and die for Him.

Peter wondered if the other disciples were going to die as well. He probably asked about John because John was walking close behind Jesus and Peter.

**Verse 22.** Peter wanted to know what would happen to John at the end of his life. Would John also be a martyr? Jesus told Peter it was none of his business. If Jesus wanted John to live until He came back again, that was His business. Peter should not worry about what will happen to the other disciples. He must keep his attention on Jesus.

Many times today believers fail in their service to the Lord. Why? They are too concerned about what God is doing with other people.

**Verse 23.** John explained a story went around. The story was how Jesus said John would live until He came back to earth. John wanted the readers to understand that is not what Jesus said. Jesus said if He wanted John to live that was His business.

Historians tell us all the other disciples except John died as martyrs. Other historians say Peter was crucified upside down. Why? He felt he was not good enough to die the same way Jesus died.

John lived until he was about ninety years old. He wrote this Gospel, three short letters, and the Book of Revelation. He died a natural death.

The point of this verse is that the Lord is in charge of everything that will happen to believers. We do not need to know the things in His plan. We must **focus** on our own discipleship. We should not worry about the plans He may have for others.

# What About You?

Many years ago churches used the word *backslider*. A *backslider* was a “Christian who wandered off from his Christian service.” Backsliders were spiritually lazy. Some people thought they could not be restored to Christian service.

Are you one of those Christians? These verses tell us we can be restored to the right **relationship** with Jesus if we repent and turn back to Him.

## Applying the Lesson

Truthfully answer these questions. This is between you and the Lord.

1. Am I faithful all the time? YES NO
2. Do I sometimes make mistakes? YES NO
3. Do I believe Jesus will forgive me of all my sins now? YES NO
4. Do I **focus** on my own Christian service? YES NO
5. Do I try to follow Jesus’ command to feed His sheep? YES NO

Are you able to answer YES to all of these questions? If you cannot answer YES, there are ways you can change them back to YES. You can pray for strength to be faithful all the time. You can admit you sometimes make mistakes. You can pray for Jesus to help you focus on your own discipleship. You can ask Jesus to help you feed His sheep.

A verse to remember: “When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He answered, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my lambs’” (John 21:15).



## UNIT 1

### Session 1

1. True.
2. False.
3. True.
4. True.
5. False.

### Session 2

1. Peter.
2. Judas.
3. Jesus.
4. The crowd.
5. The disciples.

### Session 3

1. Troubled.
2. Life.
3. Name.
4. Father.
5. Peace.

### Session 4

1. Luke 1:30.
2. Luke 1:32.
3. Luke 1:33.
4. Luke 1:49.
5. Luke 1:46.

### Session 5

1. The Father.
2. The Son, Jesus.
3. Christians, believers.
4. Fruit.
5. It dies.

### Session 6

1. Jesus.
2. Comfort.
3. Helper.
4. Truth.
5. Judgment.

### Session 7

1. F.
2. T.
3. T.
4. T.
5. T.

# UNIT 2

## Session 1

1. Thoughts.
2. Everything.
3. Hand.
4. Amazing and wonderful.
5. Everlasting life.

## Session 2

1. Judas.
2. Peter.
3. The high priest's guard.
4. The priest's courtyard.
5. The garden.

## Session 3

1. King.
2. Nothing wrong.
3. Barabbas.
4. Pilate.
5. Thorns.

## Session 4

1. False.
2. True.
3. False.
4. True.
5. False.

# UNIT 3

## **Session 1**

1. Mary Magdalene.
2. “I saw Him!”
3. The disciples.
4. “Peace be with you.”
5. Thomas.

## **Session 2**

1. Peter. John 21:3.
2. Jesus. John 21:4.
3. Jesus. John 21:15.
4. Jesus. John 21:16.
5. Jesus. John 21:22-23.

- Abortion** – To kill a baby before it is born.
- Abrupt** – Quick.
- Abuse** – To hurt or cause pain.
- Accountable** – Responsible to someone.
- Adopt** – Take a child who is not born to you. Make the child part of your family.
- Affirm** – Say something is true.
- Ancestor** – Family members who lived in the past.
- Appreciate** – Be thankful or grateful, to understand someone.
- Approve** – Say something is right, or something is OK.
- Artificial** – Made by man, not real.
- Ascension** – Going into heaven.
- Betray** – Turn against someone.
- Calm** – Without fear or worry.
- Condemn** – Say a person is guilty of a crime.
- Confidence, confident** – Believe strongly, know for sure.
- Consider, Considered** – Think about something deeply.
- Convict** – Cause someone to see the truth.
- Declare, a declaration** – Announce, announcement.
- Defend, defense** – To stand up for someone.
- Demonstrate** – Show.
- Deny** – Say something is not true.
- Devoted** – Wanting to love and serve.
- Emphasize** – Show something is important.
- Encourage** – Make a person feel better.
- Exclaim** – To speak boldly, aloud.
- Exclusive** – Limited to only one person or thing.
- Extend** – Reach a longer distance.
- Falter** – Make mistakes, become weak.
- Fetus** – Unborn baby.
- Focus** – Pay attention to only one thing or person.
- Fond** – Love a little, not fully love.
- Generation** – The years between father and son.
- Grieve** – Be deeply sad.
- Hail** – Pay attention to someone, also used as a greeting.
- Hostile, hostility** – Feelings or actions against another person.
- Hyssop** – A plant like a reed.
- Image** – Exactly like someone.
- Interpretation** – Different meaning.
- Martyr** – Someone who dies because of their faith.
- Messenger** – Someone who carries information for another person.
- Messiah** – God in human flesh, Savior, Christ.
- Miracle** – Something only God can do.

**Mission** – Purpose, life's work.

**Mistreat** – Do bad things to a person.

**Mock** – Tease or make fun of someone.

**Omnipotent** - God is all powerful.

**Omnipresent** - God is everywhere at the same time.

**Omniscience** - God knows everything.

**Paraklatos** – Greek word for Holy Spirit.

**Passover** – A Jewish celebration to remember when they escaped from Egypt.

**Persecute** – To treat unfairly, to hurt someone.

**Principle** – Basic law or way to act.

**Pro-life** - Against abortion.

**Prophecy** – Words God gave people about the future.

**Prophets** – People who can see into the future.

**Prune** – Cut back a branch.

**Rabbi, Rabboni** – A teacher.

**Reflect** – Light shines on something that sends it another direction.

**Reject** – Not accept.

**Relationship** – Connected.

**Remain** – Stay connected to someone.

**Rephrase** – Say something a different way.

**Restore** – Come back to be a part of a group.

**Resurrection** – Rise from the dead out of a tomb.

**Reville** – Say terrible things about someone.

**Sacrifice, sacrificial** - Give away something important to help someone, die for someone else.

**Sanctity** – Holy, important to God.

**Satan** – The Devil, the enemy of God.

**Scold** – Correct someone in a harsh way.

**Selfishness** – Thinking only about ourselves, putting ourselves first.

**Selflessness** – Not thinking about ourselves first.

**Supernatural** – Greater than natural, cannot be explained.

**Synagogue** – Jewish place of worship.

**Testify, testimony** – Tell things a person saw or heard.

**Threat** – Ability to harm someone or something.

**Transform** – Fully change.

**Trinity** – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all in one being.

**Urgency** – Need to do something in a hurry.

**Vinedresser** - A person who takes care of a vineyard, a gardener.

**Vineyard** - A garden where grape vines grow.

**Violence** - Crimes that hurt or kill people.

**Virgin** – A girl who never had a sexual act with a man.

**Womb** - Place in the mother's body a baby lives in before birth.

## MONTH 1

1 Matthew 1-3  
 2 Matthew 4-6  
 3 Matthew 7-9  
 4 Matthew 10-11  
 5 Matthew 12-13  
 6 Matthew 14-15  
 7 Matthew 16-18  
 8 Matthew 19-20  
 9 Matthew 21-22  
 10 Matthew 23-24  
 11 Matthew 25-26  
 12 Matthew 27-28  
 13 Mark 1-3  
 14 Mark 4-6  
 15 Mark 7-8  
 16 Mark 9-10  
 17 Mark 11-12  
 18 Mark 13-14  
 19 Mark 15-16  
 20 Luke 1-2  
 21 Luke 3-4  
 22 Luke 5-6  
 23 Luke 7-8  
 24 Luke 9-10  
 25 Luke 11-12  
 26 Luke 13-15  
 27 Luke 16-18  
 28 Luke 19-20  
 29 Luke 21-22  
 30 Luke 23-24  
 31 John 1-2

## MONTH 2

1 John 3-4  
 2 John 5-6  
 3 John 7-8  
 4 John 9-10  
 5 John 11-12  
 6 John 13-14  
 7 John 15-17  
 8 John 18-19  
 9 John 20-21  
 10 Acts 1-2  
 11 Acts 3-4  
 12 Acts 5-6  
 13 Acts 7-8  
 14 Acts 9-10  
 15 Acts 11-12  
 16 Acts 13-14  
 17 Acts 15-16  
 18 Acts 17-18  
 19 Acts 19-20  
 20 Acts 21-22  
 21 Acts 23-24  
 22 Acts 25-26  
 23 Acts 27-28  
 24 Romans 1-2  
 25 Romans 3-5  
 26 Romans 6-8  
 27 Romans 9-10  
 28 Romans 11-13  
 29 Romans 14-16  
 30 1 Corinthians 1-5  
 31 1 Corinthians 6-9

## MONTH 3

1 1 Corinthians 10-13  
 2 1 Corinthians 14-16  
 3 2 Corinthians 1-5  
 4 2 Corinthians 6-9  
 5 2 Corinthians 10-13  
 6 Galatians 1-3  
 7 Galatians 4-6  
 8 Ephesians 1-3  
 9 Ephesians 4-6  
 10 Philippians 1-4  
 11 Colossians 1-4  
 12 1 Thessalonians 1-5  
 13 2 Thessalonians 1-3  
 14 1 Timothy 1-6  
 15 2 Timothy 1-4  
 16 Titus & Philemon  
 17 Hebrews 1-6  
 18 Hebrews 7-10  
 19 Hebrews 11-13  
 20 James 1-5  
 21 1 Peter 1-5  
 22 2 Peter 1-3  
 23 1 John 1-5  
 24 2 & 3 John; Jude  
 25 Revelation 1-4  
 26 Revelation 5-9  
 27 Revelation 10-14  
 28 Revelation 15-22

EXPLORE  
THE BIBLE

BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE DEAF  
**LEADER**

*John 12-21*



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE DEAF

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\* Evangelistic Lesson, \*\* Christmas Lesson, \*\*\*Sanctity of Human Life Lesson



## **Helps for the Teacher**

This section is designed to offer suggestions to help you, the teacher, grow in your ability to teach your class and lead them to a deeper relationship with Christ. You may want to clip these each quarter and keep them for future reference.

### **Time Management**

- Arrive at your class room several minutes before class time. This will give you time to arrange your teaching materials.
- Use the blackboard to show the Scriptures for this lesson and other information such as announcements about sick people, activities, etc.
- If you have pupils who cannot find the Scripture, help them mark it before class time. This will let you be free to greet each one as they arrive and give a moment of personal attention to each one. It will also give you more time while you are teaching the lesson.
- Start your class on time and end on time! No exceptions!
- After you have prepared your lesson, mark where you should be at each five or ten minutes time period during the lesson. This will let you adjust your pace, without waiting until your time is gone.
- Use a “U” shape arrangement for your chairs, so each one can see all the others. This will save pupils having to come to the front to sign something. Use tables if possible.

### **Use Your Church Library**

Be sure to check your church library for commentaries on John, more information on a harmony of the Gospels, and various translations for comparison. Much of this is also available online, but be sure you know the source. Not everything you find on the Internet is accurate! If you do not have a church library, talk with the librarian in a larger church. You will find librarians are eager to help you.

## **The ASL Bible**

The Gospel of John is available with the New Testament package. You can order this from [www.letssignllc.com](http://www.letssignllc.com).

## **Use a Variety of Teaching Methods**

**Assignments:** As you study, make notes of things you can assign to your pupils. Give these to them a week ahead so they can prepare. Always tell them to use ASL, not English! Ask them to study it, make notes, and then tell it in ASL. After they have done this a few times, they will feel more capable and comfortable. For their first time, give them something very simple, such as signing one verse. As they grow, you can give them more responsibility. Use this with each lesson.

**Drama:** Use this when you have a lesson based on interaction between two or more people. A few weeks early, ask two or three class members to prepare a small drama for all or part of the lesson. Instead of costumes, use a piece of cardboard on a string around their neck to identify each character.

**Field Trip:** You may need to plan for an interpreter for this. Cut your lesson time short and plan for your class to visit the church library to see the materials available for them to use. Visit your pastor in his study or the church nursery so your class can tell young Deaf adults about the care their children will receive in your church.

**Group Study:** Divide the class into groups, one for each section in the lesson. If your class is small, let the whole class do each of the group activities. Ask each group to read the Scripture and then read the material in the pupil section. From this, write on paper a summary of "what this teaches us." Ask

each group to share with the whole class what they learned and what was important to them in the Scripture.

**Guest Teacher:** Use a guest teacher for part of the lesson. Arrange for an interpreter if necessary. Let the class ask questions. Plan your lesson so you can cover it in the time remaining after this discussion. Possible guest speakers are deacons, the pastor, minister of music, a member who has been on a mission trip or a member of the stewardship committee.

**Lecture:** This is a good method if it is not overused. It is best when you have a lot of new material to present. Discuss the truths in each section, taking time to explain the deeper meaning of the key words. Prepare some questions to generate discussion. Present each section using information from the pupil material, the Leader Guide, and other resources. Then, ask questions to see if the class has understood.

**Object Lesson:** Find an object that relates to the lesson. Display it on a table and refer to it throughout the lesson.

**Pupil teachers:** Ask two or three class members to be prepared to teach one section of the lesson. Ask them two weeks ahead to study the Scripture and the material in the pupil and Leader Guide sections of their quarterly. Ask them to be prepared to tell what the verses in their section teach us. Tell them how much time they have, and that you will stop them when their time is up. Encourage them to sign it in ASL, not English! Make some suggestions for them, to help them prepare well. Guide the discussion after their presentation to cover the points you feel are important to your class.

**Scripture Searching:** Have extra Bibles available for those who need them, and so all are using the same translation. Begin each section by asking someone to sign the Bible verses. Briefly summarize the teaching in that section. Prepare questions and ask class members to find the answer in the Bible verses for that section.

## **Are You Ready to Start Preparing?**

Have your basic “tools” ready: Study Bible, concordance, Bible Dictionary, and quarterly. Ask your church to order the regular (hearing) adult teacher and pupil for Explore the Bible. You will find much helpful material in them. Have a list of your pupils and their spiritual and other needs, paper, two or three pens—black and red, and highlighters. Keep resource materials together so they are easy to find and use. If you must use the kitchen table for your study, keep everything in a box or bag so you don’t waste time looking each time you are ready to study.

# Introduction

## John's Gospel: One Word, One Life, One Way

### John 12–21

Unlike the other three Gospels, John did not tell about Jesus' birth or His baptism. John did not record any of the parables and only seven miracles. He did write about many of the times Jesus taught.

Because the other three Gospels were written several years earlier, John probably knew about them before he wrote his Gospel. It seems like he wanted to "fill in the gaps" and tell other things about Jesus. He is the only one to tell about the death of John the Baptist. Matthew and Mark emphasized the miracles of Jesus. Luke gave attention to the parables. The other Gospels told more about Jesus in Galilee than in Jerusalem. John told more about what happened in Jerusalem. He did not disagree with the other three. He just told "the rest of the story."

John told more about the spiritual meaning of what Jesus taught and did. He also added more small details like the fact the bread Jesus fed to the 5,000 was made from barley (John 6:9). He told how far the disciples traveled across Lake Galilee (John 6:19). These details are not especially important, but they tell us John was there. He saw, felt, smelled, and heard what happened. He wrote more about the last week before the crucifixion.

John presented Jesus as both human and divine. He emphasized the divine nature of Jesus more than the other Gospel writers did. He began by identifying Jesus as the Word (John 1:1). Although he used the name Jesus more than Christ when he spoke about Jesus, he wanted his readers to know Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ, and then tell what it means to believe in Him.

John used the words he remembered hearing from Jesus. He told more about what Jesus said about Himself than about the miracles and parables. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I am!" (John 8:58). Jesus may have said this to identify with God who said to Moses, "I AM who I AM. When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, 'I AM sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14).

John also said Jesus announced, “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30). John quoted Thomas, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

John also emphasized the human nature of Jesus. He said Jesus became physically tired after a long journey (John 4:6). John reported how Jesus cried when Lazarus died (John 11:35).

Because John explained some words and Jewish customs, many Bible scholars believe John wrote for Gentile readers as well as for Jews (John 1:38,41; 5:2). He was a fisherman before Jesus called him (Acts 4:13), so his language is more the language of a common man rather than a rabbi or priest. Yet it has deep meaning and spiritual depth. John wrote, but the Holy Spirit inspired him as he wrote.

Near the end of his Gospel, John explained why he wrote it. “Jesus did many other miracles in the presence of His followers that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you may have life through his name” (John 20:30-31).

# Unit 1

## The Way of Costly Discipleship

### John 12:1–17:26

- As you start this new unit, help the class get an overview of the quarter. Use the material in the introduction to the quarter and from the pupil's material. Write on the board the theme for the quarter: "John's Gospel, One Word, One Life, One Way." Point out the three units for this quarter. Then focus on the title for this first unit, "The Way of Costly Discipleship."
- Use a Bible map to show the places Jesus visited. Locate Bethlehem, Galilee, Nazareth, Judea, the Kidron Valley between the Mount of Olives and the wall of Jerusalem, and Arimathea, if it is shown on your map. The actual location is not verified, but some scholars place it a few miles north-west of Jerusalem. In other lessons, John names Galilee, which was possibly the area around Capernaum. Also locate Judea and Jerusalem when Jesus went back to that area.
- The distance from the area around Jerusalem to the area around the Sea of Galilee is about 100 miles. Jesus walked that distance many times. He spent more time in Galilee, near Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee, than in Judea, around Jerusalem.
- As you prepare to teach, read the text several times in different translations. If you can locate a copy of The New Testament in 26 Translations, it will help you with some of the verses. Look for special verses that can be applied to your Bible class. Look for opportunities to make assignments for class members to prepare and present to the class.
- The Christmas lesson is from Luke 1-2.
- Encourage your class to read the "Background Study Verses" and keep up with all the activities not just those included in the verses printed in the quarterly.

### Meet the Writer

George Joslin became involved in ministry with Deaf people in California in 1957 during his study at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a missionary to the Deaf with the Baptist Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) for seventeen years in California, Texas, and Virginia. George is now retired and lives in Springfield, Missouri. After retirement, he and his wife, Lorene, served eighteen months with the International Mission Board, helping to start a Deaf church in Ecuador, South America. George spends his time writing and editing. He has published two novels related to ASL, deafness, and interpreting. He has been writing for LifeWay since 2001.

# Live Selflessly

## Background Study Outline

1. **Extravagant Devotion (John 12:1-11)**
2. **Emphatic Testimony (12:12-19)**
3. **Willing Sacrifice (12:20-43)**
4. **Imperative Message (12:44-50)**

## Lesson Material

1. **Accept the Principle (John 12:24-26)**
2. **Consider the Cost (12:27-33)**
3. **Realize the Urgency (12:35-36)**
4. **Decide to Follow (12:44-48)**

## Bible Truth

**Believers who follow Jesus must die to self. They must focus their lives and service on what God wants.**

## Dig Deeper!

### The Trinity (John 12:44-46)

The word *trinity* is not found in the Bible, but the concept is expressed in many ways. The Old Testament refers to God as plural and the New Testament clearly presents the Son and the Holy Spirit as divine. God refers to Himself in the plural in Genesis 1:26; 3:22; and 11:7. See also Isaiah 6:8. The Old Testament speaks of “The Spirit of God” in Genesis 1:2, Nehemiah 9:20, and Job 33:4. Matthew 28:19 identifies the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Paul refers to this in 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Ephesians 4:4-6. John also identifies the trinity in Revelation 1:4-5. The Gospels often identified Jesus with the Father (John 10:30, 38; 12:44-45; 13:20; 14:6-13; 15:23-24; Mark 9:37; Luke 9:48; 10:16). Other verses show the unique relationship between the Father and the Son, the Father and the Holy Spirit, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. In this lesson and other places in the Gospels, Jesus talked with the Father, and the Father spoke to Him. Jesus said, “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30).

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- With the need to present much material to introduce the quarter, the lecture method may work best for this lesson, plus the object lesson suggested below.
- Prepare a chart showing on what day of Jesus' last week each of the lessons occurred. Sunday-Wednesday – December 1, John 12; Thursday - December 8 to January 12, John 13:1–18:13; Friday – February 2 and 9, John 18:13–19:42; Saturday (none); Sunday – February 16 and 23, John 20–21. Today's lesson took place on Sunday.
- Briefly review John 12:1-23 for the background of this lesson. The title and theme of today's lesson is "Live Selflessly." Discuss the meaning of selflessly and appropriate sign(s) for it. (Not thinking only about self.) Parallel passages: Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Bring some large seeds, such as pumpkin seeds, and display them as you discuss the lesson. Ask someone ahead of time to be prepared to tell the story (in ASL) in the Introduction in the pupil material.

## STEP TWO – ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE (JOHN 12:24-26)

- Discuss the meaning of the word *principle* (see the pupil material). A good synonym is *rule*. Discuss the appropriate sign for this concept. (Some would sign it as law, using the "P" handshake.) Then ask, "What is the principle John wrote about?" (A believer must turn away from everything else and focus on Jesus and follow His teachings.)
- Ask, "Is this an easy principle to follow?" That will lead to the next section.

## STEP THREE – CONSIDER THE COST (12:27-33)

- This is not a discussion of the cost for us when we follow Jesus, but it is about His death—the terrible cost for our salvation.
- Sign the hymn, "Jesus Paid it All."

## STEP FOUR – REALIZE THE URGENCY (12:35-36)

- Discuss the idea that the light we have today is the Bible. We need to follow that light. That means we need to study the Bible and then obey what it tells us to do.

## STEP FIVE - DECIDE TO FOLLOW (12:44-48)

- Review verses 36-43 to connect sections 3 and 4.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss the trinity from "Dig Deeper" and other resources from the church library.
- You may want to use some illustrations for this concept, such as the egg (yolk, white, shell) or water (ice, water, steam).

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today? It is a great challenge to full and immediate obedience.



# Serve Humbly

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Example of Humble Service (John 13:1-11)**
- 2. Call to Emulate Christ (13:12-20)**
- 3. Pain of Betrayal (13:21-30)**
- 4. Command to Love (13:31-38)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Follow Christ's Example (John 13:12-15)**
- 2. Remember Who Sent You (13:16-20)**
- 3. Serve in Love (13:33-35)**
- 4. Resist Boasting (13:36-38)**

## Bible Truth

**Jesus expects His followers to show humble loving service to others.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Foot Washing (John 13:4-6)

Foot washing was a common experience for people who walked in the desert sand all day. It was both cleansing and cooling. Foot washing was something done out of love by wives for their husbands, children for their parents, and disciples for their teachers. But a master did not do this for his servants. It would have been appropriate for any one of the disciples to wash Jesus' feet. Jesus reversed the role with His disciples. It would not have been unusual if servants were supplied along with the room and the food for that meal. After the disciples were reclining on benches a servant could have washed their feet. Jesus tied a linen cloth around his waist and the disciples realized what He planned to do. Peter could not imagine letting his teacher do the work of a slave (verse 6). He was ready to wash the feet of Jesus, or else let Jesus cleanse him from head to toe. The devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus (verse 2). Of course Jesus knew this, and we need to realize Jesus washed the feet of the one He knew would betray Him in the next few hours. Jesus showed them how they must learn to serve humbly wherever they are and with everyone, including enemies.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- Review verses 1-11 to understand the background for this lesson.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss foot washing from “Dig Deeper” and other resources from the church library. Parallel passages in the other Gospels: Matthew 26:21-25, Mark 14:18-21, Luke 21-23.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Take a container of pre-moistened hand cleaners to class. When you are ready to begin, open with prayer, and then without saying a word, offer one to each person. Ask, “How did that make you feel?” “How would you have felt if it was your pastor who did that?” This is what Jesus did for His disciples, just before the verses in today’s lesson.

## STEP TWO – FOLLOW CHRIST’S EXAMPLE (JOHN 13:12-15)

- Review the story in verses 1-11 about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples.
- Ask, “Does this mean we should practice foot washing in our church today?” Some Catholic churches do this with a special mass on Thursday before Easter. Some Seventh Day Adventist churches and some Primitive and Freewill Baptist churches consider this a third ordinance (with baptism and the Lord’s Supper).
- Discuss how it is a lesson Jesus was teaching, not a ritual He established.

## STEP THREE – REMEMBER WHO SENT YOU (13:16-20)

- Discuss the two concepts in these verses about the work of a follower of Jesus. One is the master and the servant. The other is the messenger and the one who sends him.
- Emphasize that both ideas teach obedience and following the leadership of Christ.

## STEP FOUR – SERVE IN LOVE (13:33-35)

- Ask someone to sign verses 34-35. These verses describe the motive of the servant and the messenger. The motive is love.

## STEP FIVE - RESIST BOASTING (13:36-38)

- If you have someone in the class who likes to be an “actor,” ask him/her to sign what Peter said in verse 37, emphasizing Peter’s boastful attitude.
- Note how Peter’s enthusiasm is like a child in school who always volunteers to do everything—“choose me, choose me”—even though he is truly not able to do so. Peter’s boasting was very childlike and spiritually immature.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today? Emphasize the words *servant*, *messenger*, *love*, and *humility*.

# Believe Exclusively

## Background Study Outline

1. Proclamation of the Way (John 14:1-11)
2. Prayer in Jesus' Name (14:12-14)
3. Promise of the Spirit (14:15-26)
4. Present of Peace (14:27-31)

## Lesson Material

1. The Way to Be with God (John 14:1-6)
2. The Way to Know God (14:7-11)
3. The Way to Pray to God (14:12-14)
4. The Way to Enjoy God's Peace (14:27-29)

## Bible Truth

**To have a right relationship with God, we must believe in Jesus, His Son.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Heaven: a Prepared Place for Prepared People (John 14:1-6)

Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for His followers. Because we cannot easily understand spiritual concepts, the Bible describes heaven in words we can understand. In the Book of Revelation, John described heaven in terms of precious stones, gold, and light (Revelation 21:10-21). Heaven is described as *paradise*, a word also used to describe the Garden of Eden, where everything was perfect and peaceful. Heaven is described as the home of the King of Kings, where God sits on His throne (Revelation 21:5). It is the home of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples He was going there. Later they saw Him ascend into heaven (Acts 1:6-11). Jesus said heaven contains many rooms. Other translations use the word *mansions*. The idea is enough rooms for everyone who is saved. Heaven is a city built by God (Hebrews 11:10). John called this city the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2). Believers will be together forever in heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17). We will have peace and rest (Revelation 14:13). We will sing praises to God. We will have no more pain (Revelation 21:4). We know God prepared a place for us, and we will be eternally at peace and happy in His presence!

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Believe Exclusively." This has the meaning of being limited to one person or one thing only.
- You may want to use a "pupil teacher" for this lesson. Ask four class members to take one section each. Show them this material in the Leader Guide to help them prepare. You may want to make some other notes to help them.
- Be ready to encourage discussion following their presentation.

## STEP TWO – THE WAY TO BE WITH GOD (JOHN 14:1-6)

- Jesus was sensitive to the feelings of His disciples. He knew He was facing crucifixion, but He took time to comfort them.
- Ask, "What do you know about heaven?" List their responses on the board. Then, ask someone ahead of time to be prepared to discuss Heaven: a Prepared Place for Prepared People from "Dig Deeper" and other resources.

## STEP THREE – THE WAY TO KNOW GOD (14:7-11)

- Ask, "What do you know about God?" List their responses on the board. (The lesson for January 19 uses the words *omnipotent*, *omnipresent*, and *omniscient*. You can introduce them here, also. God is Spirit. God is eternal.)
- Emphasize Jesus said we can know the Father when we know the Son. Our study of the life of Jesus helps us understand more about God's work, His love, and His power. The Psalms also help us understand more about God.

## STEP FOUR – THE WAY TO PRAY TO GOD (14:12-14)

- Ask someone to sign verses 13-14. Ask, "Do these verses mean we can ask for anything we want?" (Note the rest of the statement—"in my name." Emphasize praying according to what Jesus wants.)
- Discuss the concept of "in my name." (Acting in the name and authority of someone, such as an ambassador acting for his president, but only what that person wants.) Encourage discussion.

## STEP FIVE - THE WAY TO ENJOY GOD'S PEACE (14:27-29)

- Review verses 15-26 for the background between the previous section and this one.
- See the discussion in the pupil material for verse 27 about the peace of Jesus. Encourage discussion.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Was this lesson full of practical help for them?

# Celebrate Jesus at Christmas!

## Background Study Outline

1. **Special Announcement (Luke 1:26-33)**
2. **Submissive Servant (1:34-38)**
3. **Spirit-Filled Proclamation (1:39-45)**
4. **Song of Praise (1:46-56)**
5. **Savior's Arrival (2:1-7)**

## Lesson Material

1. **Declare Who Jesus Is (Luke 1:30-33)**
2. **Appreciate How Jesus Came (1:34-35,38)**
3. **Proclaim God's Greatness (1:46-49)**
4. **Welcome Jesus (2:4-7)**

## Bible Truth

**We can celebrate the birth of Jesus because He is God's son, He was born of a virgin, and He was born in a humble place.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Bethlehem (Luke 2:4)

The name *Bethlehem* means "house of bread." It was a city in the hill country of Judah, about six miles southwest of Jerusalem. It was called the city of David because this is where David was born and where Samuel anointed David as king (1 Samuel 16:1-13). The little town was important to the people of Israel from their earliest days, long before Jesus was born. Caleb's son, Salma, settled in Bethlehem after the conquest of the Promised Land (1 Chronicles 2:50-51). He is considered the founder of the city. One of the judges was from Bethlehem (Judges 12:8-10). The valley to the east of Bethlehem is the setting for the story of Ruth (Ruth 1:1-22). But Bethlehem will always be remembered most as the birthplace of the Savior (Matthew 2:1-6). Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem for the registration required by the king because he and Mary were both from the family of David. Micah, the prophet, said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). The wise men visited Jesus in Bethlehem. When Herod saw he was deceived by the wise men, he killed all the children from two years old and under in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-16).

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- Begin the lesson by asking class members to tell how their family plans to celebrate Christmas this year. Encourage them to find some way to tell the Christmas story and lead the family to celebrate His birth.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Today's story begins in Nazareth and ends in Bethlehem. Use a map to show these two towns. The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was almost 100 miles. The women in your class can sympathize with Mary because she traveled that far, walking and riding on a donkey, when she was almost ready to give birth to her son! The trip may have taken a week or more. Nazareth had a population of about five hundred. Bethlehem may have been much smaller.

## STEP TWO – DECLARE WHO JESUS IS (LUKE 1:30-33)

- Ask someone to review Luke 1:1-29 for the background of this lesson. This identifies the angel as Gabriel. He seems to be one of the special messengers of God. He is the same angel who appeared to the parents of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-20).
- Encourage discussion of how difficult it must have been for Mary to accept this message from an angel. Emphasize her faith in God.
- Ask two persons ahead of time to be prepared to sign a brief drama of the conversation between Gabriel and Mary in verses 26-33. A third person can be the narrator. \*Emphasize the angel's message of who Jesus is.

## STEP THREE – APPRECIATE HOW JESUS CAME (1:34-35,38)

- Have your drama team continue with the dialogue in verses 34-38.
- Emphasize the angel's message about how Jesus will come.

## STEP FOUR – PROCLAIM GOD'S GREATNESS (1:46-49)

- Ask someone to sign Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55)
- Emphasize the words Mary used to tell of God's greatness.

## STEP FIVE - WELCOME JESUS (2:4-7)

- Review verses 1-3 for the background to this section.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Bethlehem from "Dig Deeper."

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Do they have a new understanding of why we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the facts about Mary?

# Stay Open and Obedient

## Background Study Outline

1. **Abiding in Christ (John 15:1-8)**
2. **Showing Christlike Love (15:9-17)**
3. **Expecting Persecutions (15:18-25)**

## Lesson Material

1. **Stay Open to Pruning (John 15:1-4)**
2. **Stay Open Through Obeying (15:5-8)**
3. **Stay in Jesus' Love (15:9-10)**
4. **Stay Ready to Love Others (15:11-17)**

## Bible Truth

**If believers are obedient to Jesus, they can produce the spiritual fruit God expects.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Vineyards (John 15:1)

The vineyard was very common in Israel. Usually a vineyard was planted on a hillside, with terraces to keep the soil from washing away. In early spring, the keeper of the vineyard (the vine dresser, gardener, or husbandman) prunes the vines. He removes any branch with disease or rot showing. He knows he will get the most fruit from branches closest to the vine. During the growing season, the vine dresser will continue to cut off branches with no fruit, or with decay or disease. Only healthy branches are left on the vine. These healthy branches will produce much fruit later in the season. Healthy vines are pruned as needed to keep them healthy. As he works with the vines, the vine dresser also cuts away any thorns or weeds from his vineyard. The only thing he wants in his vineyard is a healthy vine with healthy branches. After the vine dresser prunes his vineyard, he gathers up all the branches on the ground and piles them on a rocky spot. Then he burns them. Jesus used examples from the vineyard often. In today's lesson, Jesus is the vine. His disciples are the branches. God the Father is the vine dresser.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Stay Open and Obedient." Discuss the use of the word *open* here, meaning "willing to do what Jesus commands." A disciple (learner) must be open to new truths from his teacher.
- Jesus used the grapevine and its branches as an object lesson. If you have someone in your church who grows grapes, invite him to come talk about how he prunes the vines and what he does to get more fruit.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss vineyards from "Dig Deeper."
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Bring some vines to class. This time of year they will be dormant, but perhaps you can find some that need to be pruned for the coming season. Find someone in the church who has grape vines, or locate someone in your area who does. Ask that person to explain how he prunes his vines. Then demonstrate this to your class. Or go online to find a video or a document to explain this. Emphasize how pruning is necessary for good healthy vines.

## STEP TWO – STAY OPEN TO PRUNING (JOHN 15:1-4)

- Ask someone ahead of time to be prepared to sign Galatians 5:22-23. Jesus did not identify the fruit of a Christian, but Paul lists several things here. In Romans 1:13, Paul identified fruit as leading another person to Christ. Emphasize how staying close to Jesus leads to good works, but good works alone will not cause us to be close to Jesus.

## STEP THREE – STAY OPEN THROUGH OBEYING (15:5-8)

- Discuss the list of things in the pupil material about what happens to a branch if it is not connected to the vine.
- Emphasize how *obedience* is part of the meaning of faith in Jesus. It means "turning from sin (repenting) and turning to Christ to obey Him."

## STEP FOUR – STAY IN JESUS' LOVE (15:9-10)

- Emphasize the word *remain* or *abide*. This is a daily exercise, not a one-time action.

## STEP FIVE - STAY READY TO LOVE OTHERS (15:11-17)

- Ask someone to sign verse 17. Note that the kind of love Jesus teaches goes both ways. He loves us—we love Him. We love our brothers and sisters in Christ—they love us. We love lost people in order to lead them to know the love of Christ.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Is this a difficult concept to understand? We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand these truths.



# Depend on the Spirit

## Background Study Outline

1. Remember Truth  
(John 15:26–16:4)
2. Receive Guidance  
(16:5–15)
3. Radiate Joy  
(16:16–24)
4. Reflect Peace  
(16:25–33)

## Lesson Material

1. When Testimony  
Meets Hostility  
(John 15:26–16:4)
2. When Sorrow Fills  
the Heart (16:5–7)
3. When Satan Seems  
in Control (16:8–11)
4. When More Under-  
standing Is Needed  
(16:12–15)

## Bible Truth

**Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come to encourage, empower, and guide believers.**

## Dig Deeper!

### The Holy Spirit (John 15:26)

The Holy Spirit is that part of the Trinity living in the heart of the Christian (Romans 8:9–11; 1 Corinthians 6:19). He is the One who inspired all Scripture (2 Peter 1:20–21; 2 Timothy 3:16). He is the Intercessor between us and the Father (Romans 8:26–27). He is the One who convicts us of sin (John 16:8–11). He is the *Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate*. These words translate the Greek word, *parakletos* (Isaiah 11:2; John 14:16; 15:26; 16:7). The Bible identifies the Holy Spirit as the “Spirit of truth,” or the “Spirit of God.” He is also called the Spirit of the Father, of Christ, of life, of faith, and of fear of the Lord. Other words used in this phrase are *glory, grace, holiness, judgment, knowledge, life, love, prophecy, and wisdom*. These words tell us much about the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our teacher (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13), and the One who reveals the truth about God (John 14:17; 16:13). He is the Witness for God (Romans 8:14–16; Hebrews 2:4; 10:15–16). He is the one who guides the Christian (John 16:13). When we study these verses and we feel “something” pulling us toward Jesus—that something is the Holy Spirit at work!

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Depend on the Spirit." Plan for your pastor (or another Bible scholar) to visit the class and ask him to teach about the Holy Spirit. Give him a copy of this quarterly for his review.
- Ask how many feel they understand what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit. No one will make that claim. This lesson will help us understand the Holy Spirit better.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Print the names for the Holy Spirit in "Dig Deeper" on pieces of paper and attach them to the board or the wall. You will have thirty or more pieces of paper. Print large enough for each one in the class to see them easily.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss the Holy Spirit from "Dig Deeper" and other resources from the church library (unless you use a guest speaker).

## STEP TWO – WHEN TESTIMONY MEETS HOSTILITY (JOHN 15:26–16:4)

- Note how Jesus led His disciples from encouraging words like *helper* to talking about how not everyone will treat them well. Discuss the concept of *hostility* and appropriate signs for this. (Argue, enemy, conflict.) Ask, "How can we depend on the Holy Spirit when we meet opposition?" (Prayer, Bible truths, encouragement from fellow Christians.)

## STEP THREE – WHEN SORROW FILLS THE HEART (16:5-7)

- Discuss how it must have been difficult for the disciples to accept the fact Jesus was going to die and return to heaven. When they did, they were naturally very sad.
- Ask, "How can we depend on the Holy Spirit when we have sorrow?" (Prayer, Bible truths, encouragement from fellow Christians.)

## STEP FOUR – WHEN SATAN SEEMS IN CONTROL (16:8-11)

- Ask, "How can we depend on the Holy Spirit when Satan seems to be winning?" (Prayer, Bible truths, encouragement from fellow Christians.)

## STEP FIVE - WHEN MORE UNDERSTANDING IS NEEDED (16:12-15)

- Jesus knew His disciples did not yet understand everything. But He knew the Holy Spirit would teach them. As we read the Book of Acts we see how they did understand and taught others. His plan is the same today.
- Ask, "How can we depend on the Holy Spirit when we need more understanding?" The answer is in "The Book" (Bible) and in the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Ask them to name one new thing they learned about the Holy Spirit. (Be prepared to prompt them!)

# Honor Jesus

## Background Study Outline

1. **Purposeful Prayer**  
(John 17:1-5)
2. **Prayer for Protection**  
(17:6-19)
3. **Prayer for Unity**  
(17:20-26)

## Lesson Material

1. **Honor Jesus for  
Completing God's  
Work (John 17:1-5)**
2. **Honor Jesus  
Through Obedience**  
(17:6-8)
3. **Honor Jesus  
Through Unity**  
(17:20-23)
4. **Honor Jesus Now  
and Forever**  
(17:24-26)

## Bible Truth

**Jesus is worthy of everlasting honor. He provides the way to eternal life for believers.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Christ's Glory (John 17:1)

The word *glory* is used in this chapter with the idea of reputation or recognition. It is used in the New Testament to show Jesus is truly the Son of God, the Messiah (Hebrew), Christ (Greek), and Savior (English). The glory of Christ was in the way He revealed God to us. The glory of God was a frightening experience for the shepherds (Luke 2:9). John began this Gospel by saying, "We saw His glory" (John 1:14). The glory of Christ is shown in His transfiguration (2 Peter 1:16-18) and His miracles. Glory belongs to God. Jesus said that in the model prayer, "The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever" (Matthew 6:13). Jesus fully glorified God the Father (John 17:4). That glory was before the beginning (John 17:5). The glory of Christ was not always shown during His life on earth. He was the son of Joseph, the carpenter. His glory was shown brightly at the transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36). It was seen in His miracles and the authority by which He taught (Matthew 7:28-29). Stephen saw the true glory of Christ as he was dying (Acts 7:55-56). Paul saw it on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6).

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Honor Jesus." Call attention to the "deep" theology in these lessons. We have looked at the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Today we look at the "glory" of Christ. Consider the group study method for this lesson.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Christ's Glory from "Dig Deeper" and other resources from the church library.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Prepare a large poster. In large letters at the top write, "Honor Roll." Then number down the left side, as if you were making a list of names. After "1" write Jesus in red ink. Leave the rest of the lines blank. Tape a piece of paper over "Jesus." Ask class members if there is someone in the class they want to honor and for what. Be prepared to suggest such things as "always on time," "always studies lesson," "brings \_\_\_\_ to church," "good father/mother," etc. After you have everyone's name on the list (don't overlook anyone!) then remove the paper and show "Jesus" at the top. That is the theme of the lesson today—honoring Jesus.

## STEP TWO – HONOR JESUS FOR COMPLETING GOD'S WORK (JOHN 17:1-5)

- Note how Jesus said He finished God's work, He said it again on the cross. ("It is finished.") He did everything the Father sent Him to earth to do.

## STEP THREE – HONOR JESUS THROUGH OBEDIENCE (17:6-8)

- This is one of two ways in today's lesson to honor Jesus. Every word or sign we use when we talk about our relationship with Christ includes obedience: believe (and obey), follow (and obey), worship (and obey).
- Ask someone ahead of time to sign two verses from the hymn, "Trust and Obey."

## STEP FOUR – HONOR JESUS THROUGH UNITY (17:20-23)

- The second way to honor Jesus is through working together. This unity must come from love—love for Jesus and love for each other.

## STEP FIVE - HONOR JESUS NOW AND FOREVER (17:24-26)

- We can't have an "honor Jesus day" and then go on with our life as usual. Honoring Jesus is something we need to do all day, every day, forever.
- Refer to "Applying the Lesson" in the pupil material. Encourage the class to think together of ways they can honor Jesus individually and as a class.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Do they feel they can honor Jesus with their life better now?

# Unit 2

## The Way of God's Forgiveness

### John 18:1–19:42

- As you start this new unit, help the class get an overview of the quarter. Use the material in the introduction to the quarter and from the pupil's material. Write on the board the theme for the quarter: "John's Gospel: One Word, One Life, One Way."
- Use a map to show where the events of the trial and crucifixion took place, from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane, then to the home of Caiaphas, the tower of Antonia (Pilate), Herod's palace, and then Calvary.
- Point out the three units for this quarter. Then focus on the title for this unit, "The Way of God's Forgiveness." The three lessons from John 18 and 19 complete the story through the trial, crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus.
- The lesson on the sanctity of life comes from Psalm 139. We need to review this topic frequently. The media, movies, and television programs often discount the value of a human life.
- Ask class members ahead of time to be prepared to tell their testimony of how Christ saved them. If you have lost people in your class, pray and prepare that they might make a decision for Christ.
- As you prepare to teach each lesson, read through the text several times. Look for special verses that can be applied to your Bible class. Look for opportunities to make assignments for class members to prepare and present to the class.
- At the beginning of each lesson, give a brief summary of the lesson to be studied that week, from "What These Verses Tell Us" in the Pupil material.

# Value Every Life!

## Background Study Outline

1. **God Knows Me Perfectly (Psalm 139:1-6)**
2. **God Is Present Wherever I Am (139:7-12)**
3. **God Plans My Beginning and End (139:13-16)**
4. **God's Ways Are to Be Mine (139:17-24)**

## Lesson Material

1. **Every Life Worth Knowing (Psalm 139:1-6)**
2. **Every Life Worth Relating To (139:7-10)**
3. **Every Life Purposeful from Beginning to End (139:13-16)**
4. **Every Life Accountable to God (139:23-24)**

## Bible Truth

**God made the world.  
He controls the world.  
God expects believers  
to understand how every  
person has value.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Jeremiah's Testimony (Psalm 139:1, Jeremiah 1:5-10)

Jeremiah lived about 300 years after David. Both of them, however, spoke strongly about the value of every life. Possibly, Jeremiah knew what David wrote in Psalm 139. David said, "You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old" (Psalm 139:15-16). Jeremiah the prophet began his work in 627 B.C. He didn't volunteer. God called him (Jeremiah 1:5). God told Jeremiah He knew him before he was born and appointed him to be a prophet. Jeremiah realized God knew what he would become while he was still in his mother's body! Both David and Jeremiah understood how God saw them as a living person while they were still in their mother's body. David and Jeremiah did not have medical degrees. They did not understand much about how the human body worked. Our children in high school know far more about physiology than these Old Testament men. The Holy Spirit will help us understand if we are willing to listen as God speaks to us through His Word.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Jeremiah's testimony from "Dig Deeper."
- This is the Sanctity of Human Life lesson for this quarter. We lay aside the Gospel of John for this important lesson. The title of today's lesson is "Value Every Life."
- Use the "Scripture searching" method for this lesson. Ask the class to look at each passage and find the words in the verses to fit the section title.

## STEP TWO – EVERY LIFE WORTH KNOWING (PSALM 139:1-6)

- **Make the lesson come alive!** Bring a wig to class. Pull it out of a paper bag and ask the class to guess how many hairs are on it. Respond with, "I don't know and I don't care, but I do know something about my hair and your hair!" Ask someone to look up Matthew 10:30 and sign it for the class. ("God even knows how many hairs are on your head.") Who cares? God cares.
- Write on the board this number: 14,000,000,000,000. Does anyone know how many that is? (14 trillion) Well, there are more than seven billion people on earth. If each one has an average of two thousand hairs, then God knows all about the fourteen trillion hairs on their heads. Ridiculous? Yes, but it shows how much more God must care about each real person.

## STEP THREE – EVERY LIFE WORTH RELATING TO (139:7-10)

- Because God values life, we need to value life, and develop a right relationship with the people we meet. We need to introduce them to God.

## STEP FOUR – EVERY LIFE PURPOSEFUL FROM BEGINNING TO END (139:13-16)

- When we think about the way a tiny baby is formed and grows, we ask, "How?" But we must also ask, "Why?" What is God's purpose for me? For that new baby? For that elderly person whose mind no longer works the right way?
- What is the answer to those questions of, "Why?" (For God's glory. Be prepared for someone to ask, "Why did God make me Deaf?")

## STEP FIVE - EVERY LIFE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD (139:23-24)

- Ask someone to sign these two verses. They are good verses to remember.
- Ask, "If God graded your heart and thoughts, what would your grade be?" Would you get an "A?" Maybe an "A minus?" If we will ask God, He will grade us, and then we can know what we need to do to improve our grade.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today? Encourage discussion of the issue of abortion in your city.

# Our Messiah: Abused!

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Being Betrayed  
(John 18:1-14)**
- 2. Being Denied  
(18:15-18,25-27)**
- 3. Being Reviled  
(18:19-24)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Being Betrayed  
(John 18:1-6)**
- 2. Being Denied  
(18:17-18)**
- 3. Being Reviled  
(18:19-24)**

## Bible Truth

**Jesus accepted God's plan to forgive sinners. Jesus, the Messiah, willingly accepted abuse from others.**

## Dig Deeper!

### **Annas and Caiaphas (John 18:19-24)**

The Bible often speaks about “religious leaders.” These were the Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests. They were the government of the Jewish people. In today’s lesson, we meet the two high priests who led in the crucifixion of Jesus. In the Old Testament, the High Priest was selected by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish rulers). He was a descendent of Aaron, the brother of Moses and the first High Priest. In New Testament times, the Roman emperor named the High Priest so he would be loyal to Rome. The Sanhedrin, with the priests, were the religious leaders of the Jewish people. Their power was limited by Rome. The Roman government let these religious leaders govern the Jews as long as they did not cause any problems for the Romans. But they placed limits on them. They could not put a person to death. Jesus was first taken to Annas, the High Priest for the previous year. He still had great authority among the Jews. Caiaphas was his son-in-law. Annas questioned Jesus and then sent him to Caiaphas, because Annas had no authority to do anything to Jesus. Caiaphas was an enemy of Christ (Matthew 26:3-5). He led the plot against Jesus after the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:47-53; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:2). Later Caiaphas led in persecuting the followers of Jesus (Acts 4:1-22; 5:17-40). The Jewish leaders took Jesus to Pilate and Herod. These Roman officials did not think Jesus was guilty of death. Politics, not truth, led to Jesus’ illegal trial and death.



## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Our Messiah: Abused!" The pupil material explains the concept of abuse. The three sections of the lesson identify three specific ways Jesus was abused: when Judas betrayed Him, when Peter denied Him, and when He was reviled during the trial.

## STEP TWO – BEING BETRAYED (JOHN 18:1-6)

- **Make the lesson come alive!** Ask someone ahead of time to read all the Bible references to Judas and tell more about him. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). John said money was one of Judas' main weaknesses (John 12:4-6). Judas may have been a Zealot and expected Jesus to overthrow the Roman rule of Israel. Luke 22:3-6 and John 13:21-30 explain Satan entered into Judas and led him to betray Jesus.
- Judas was with Jesus as much as the other disciples were. Ask, "Do you wonder when Judas began to turn against Jesus?" Review verses 7-11 to get the rest of that story. Also, read the parallel passages in the other Gospels: Matthew 26:30-75; Mark 14:26-72; Luke 22:39-62.

## STEP THREE – BEING DENIED (18:17-18)

- Review verses 12-16 to continue the story between these two sections.
- Look ahead at verses 25-27 for the rest of Peter's denials.
- Also review John 21:15-19. Emphasize this shows how God will restore a Christian when they turn back to Him.
- Ask, "Who do you think may have hurt Jesus more, Judas or Peter? (He knew their hearts and He knew Judas would not come back to Him, but Peter would.)"

## STEP FOUR – BEING REVILED (18:19-24)

- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Annas and Caiaphas from "Dig Deeper" and other resources from the church library. These two men, more than anyone else, were personally responsible for "managing" the death of Jesus.
- Ask someone to sign verses 20-21. This is the only thing Jesus said in His defense, but it is powerful. Jewish law said He should have someone speak in His defense. He said, "Ask anyone who heard me speak!"
- Do not review the story beyond this part of the trial. The next two lessons continue the trial and crucifixion.

## STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned.
- Close with "Applying the Lesson." Use this as a time of silent commitment.

# Our King: Condemned!

## Background Study Outline

1. **King of a Higher Kingdom (John 18:28-40)**
2. **Mistreated Yet Innocent (19:1-6)**
3. **A Question of Authority (19:7-11)**
4. **A King Unjustly Condemned (19:12-16)**

## Lesson Material

1. **Unlike Any Worldly King (John 18:33-38a)**
2. **Rejected as King by Some (18:38b-40)**
3. **Mistreated as King by Others (19:1-3)**
4. **Divine Authority as King (19:9-11)**

## Bible Truth

**Jesus is the Eternal King. He was charged and condemned to die as a political king.**

## Dig Deeper!

### **Pontius Pilate (John 18:33)**

Pontius Pilate served as the governor of Judea and other nations in that area from A.D. 26 to 36. He had the power of supreme judge, so he could order a criminal to be killed. Most of the time he was busy with routine responsibilities such as tax collection and construction projects, but he was required by Rome to keep the people under control, and he was free to do this any way he chose. The Jewish leaders told Pilate Jesus said He was king. To the Roman government, that was treason. To keep the people under control, Pilate must get along with the local government—the Jewish leaders. He was afraid of them. If they rebelled against him, Rome could remove him from his position of power. He is pictured as a man of weak character in all four Gospels. At one point, he ordered Jesus released. Then he allowed them to crucify Jesus. Finally, he washed his hands and declared he was innocent, though he and the Jewish leaders knew he was not innocent. The sign Pilate ordered for the cross was his way of claiming the crucifixion was legal. It implied Jesus claimed to be a king in opposition to Rome.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Our King: Condemned!"
- Ask someone to review John 18:25-32 and the parallel passages (Matthew 27:2-26; Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:1-25) to fill in the story between last week's lesson and today's lesson.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Pontius Pilate from "Dig Deeper" and other resources from the church library.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Divide the class into four groups. Ask each group to study verses about Pilate in the four Gospels (John 18:28–29:16; Matthew 27:2,11-26; Mark 15:1-15; and Luke 23:1-25). Ask them to look for information about what Pilate did and said, and then how these verses show he had a weak character. Ask one person from each group to share with the class what they learned. Then contrast this with today's lesson about the character of Jesus, a true King!

## STEP TWO – UNLIKE ANY WORLDLY KING (JOHN 18:33-38A)

- Keep in mind Jesus knew the hearts of all the people that day. He knew Pilate's heart. Ask, "Was Jesus offering Pilate an opportunity to have a stronger character?"
- Ask someone to sign verse 30. This is Jesus' statement of His purpose in coming.
- Review the discussion of verse 38 in the pupil material.

## STEP THREE – REJECTED AS KING BY SOME (18:38B-40)

- Discuss how Pilate tried to avoid taking any responsibility for Jesus. If the people accepted Barabbas, then Pilate was out of it. He avoided a conflict with the Jewish leaders and he could go back to bed.

## STEP FOUR – MISTREATED AS KING BY OTHERS (19:1-3)

- Call attention to how many people mistreated Jesus: the Roman soldiers when He was arrested and during His trial at different times, the Jewish leaders because they tried Him illegally, Judas, and Pilate.

## STEP FIVE - DIVINE AUTHORITY AS KING (19:9-11)

- Review verses 4-8 and 12-16 for the continuing story.
- Note that Pilate's true character was revealed when he handed Jesus over to the Jewish leaders with permission for them to crucify Him.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today? Do they have a better understanding of the trial of Jesus?

# Our Savior: Crucified!

## Background Study Outline

1. **Fulfilled Scripture (John 19:17-24)**
2. **Tender Care (19:25-27)**
3. **Finished Work (19:28-37)**
4. **Telling Devotion (19:38-42)**

## Lesson Material

1. **Examine the Scriptures' Fulfillment (John 19:23-24)**
2. **Appreciate the Savior's Tender Care (19:25-27)**
3. **Affirm the Savior's Finished Work (19:28-30)**
4. **Show Devotion to the Savior (19:38-42)**

## Bible Truth

**Jesus finished the work God gave Him to do. He sacrificed His life to provide a way of forgiveness for us.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Joseph from Arimathea (John 19:38-42)

All four Gospels tell the story of Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:31-60; Mark 15:20-46; Luke 23:26-54). Some Bible students place this town or area about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem. From the four Gospels we know several things about Joseph. He was wealthy and a faithful Jew serving as a member of the Sanhedrin (Luke 23:50-51). He looked for the reign of the promised Messiah. He was a secret follower of Jesus because he was afraid of the criticism he would get from others in the Sanhedrin. He was an honorable man (Mark 15:43-47; Luke 23:50-51). With Nicodemus, another member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph asked for the body of Jesus for burial in his own tomb (Matthew 27:58-60; Mark 15:42-46). It is possible they even paid Pilate for this. Joseph had a garden close to Calvary, where he had prepared a tomb in the side of the rock as his own tomb. With the help of Nicodemus, he prepared Jesus' body with spices and linen cloth, according to their usual burial customs, and laid His body in the tomb. They needed to hurry because they could do nothing after sundown, the beginning of the Sabbath Day.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- This is the evangelistic lesson for this quarter. Ask some in the class to give their testimony. Invite lost people to talk with you after class.
- Review verses 19:17-22 and the parallel passages in the other Gospels (Matthew 27:31-60; Mark 15:20-46; Luke 23:26-54) to keep the continuity of the story.
- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Our Savior: Crucified!"
- These events ended on Friday. The Gospels are silent about Saturday. Then, all four Gospels tell the story of the resurrection.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Use a Bible dictionary or other resources to find pictures of the type of tomb where Jesus' body was placed.

## STEP TWO – EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES' FULFILLMENT (JOHN 19:23-24)

- Note the comparison of Psalm 22 with these verses, as discussed in the pupil material.
- Ask someone to use a study Bible and find a list of fulfilled prophecies related to Jesus' death. Show this long list to the class.

## STEP THREE – APPRECIATE THE SAVIOR'S TENDER CARE (19:25-27)

- Ask someone to sign verses 26-27.
- Discuss how sensitive Jesus was to the needs of other people. He had concern for His mother while He was dying on the cross.

## STEP FOUR – AFFIRM THE SAVIOR'S FINISHED WORK (19:28-30)

- Emphasize how many details John remembered and wrote in his Gospel. He included many things none of the other writers had in their Gospels.
- Encourage discussion of the significance of Jesus' words, "It is finished." What was finished? (The work Jesus came to do—He became the sacrifice for our sin.)

## STEP FIVE - SHOW DEVOTION TO THE SAVIOR (19:38-42)

- Review verses 31-37 to keep up with the story.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Joseph from Arimathea from "Dig Deeper" and other resources from the church library.
- There were probably many others like Nicodemus and Joseph. No doubt many of them became open in their commitment after the resurrection.

## STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- Use "Applying the Lesson" in the pupil material to emphasize the message in this lesson.
- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today? How can they share this with their friends?

# Unit 3

## The Way of Victorious Living

### John 20:1–21:25

- As you start this new unit, help the class get an overview of the quarter. Use the material in the introduction to the quarter in this Leader Guide and the pupil's material.
- These are the last two lessons in this quarter, and we complete our study of the Gospel of John. Find time in these last two weeks to help the class get an overview of the gospel story as told by John.
- These two lessons move from the resurrection in Jerusalem to Jesus' final appearance with His disciples in Galilee. Use a Bible map to show again the distance from Jerusalem to Galilee. Identify a town 100 miles from your church. That will make the distance more realistic. Walking one hundred miles did not seem to be a major effort in those days.
- Point out the three units for this quarter. Then focus on the title for this unit, "The Way of Victorious Living."
- As you prepare to teach, read the text several times. Look for special verses that can be applied to your Bible class. Look for opportunities to make assignments for class members to prepare and present to the class. Involve your class as much as possible to help them feel they are a part of the teaching process.
- At the beginning of each lesson, give a brief summary of the lesson to be studied that week and its relationship to the previous lesson.
- Review the background of the Passover celebration and show how it is very much a part of the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection. It explains why no record is given for any activity on Saturday. Everyone, including the Jewish leaders and Jesus' followers, observed this special day—more than an ordinary Sabbath of rest and inactivity.

# Live in Resurrection Power

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Perceiving Is Believing (John 20:1-10)**
- 2. Hearing Is Knowing (20:11-18)**
- 3. Seeing Brings Rejoicing (20:19-23)**
- 4. Believing Brings Blessing (20:24-31)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. From Grief to Joyful Testimony (John 20:15-18)**
- 2. From Fear to Bold Mission (20:19-23)**
- 3. From Doubt to Confident Faith (20:26-29)**

## Bible Truth

**Jesus' resurrection from the dead shows God's power to change believers' lives fully.**

## Dig Deeper!

### Mary Magdalene (John 20:18)

The story of Mary Magdalene is found in 14 references to her in the Gospels. She is usually listed first when a group of faithful women are named. Her name comes from her hometown, Magdala, a large town on the coast of the Sea of Galilee, about three miles from Capernaum where Peter and other disciples lived. She was with the other women who followed Jesus. It is possible these women helped with feeding the group who traveled with Jesus. Each Gospel tells us a little bit about this woman. She was the woman with evil spirits (possibly mental illness or epilepsy) whom Jesus healed (Luke 7:36-50; 8:2). She was with other women at the cross and burial (Matthew 27:56-61; Mark 15:40-47; John 19:25). And she was with the other women at the tomb on Easter Sunday morning (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:10; John 20:1-18). There is no Bible basis for any story about Mary Magdalene as a prostitute, as suggested in some secular movies. This is an example of what Christ can do for a person and what that person can do for Him. Mary's gratitude and love are seen in her devotion to Christ.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Live in Resurrection Power." Encourage discussion of what this title means in connection with this lesson. (We have power because Jesus rose from the dead. Without the resurrection, we have nothing.)
- This is a good lesson to put your class members to work as "pupil teachers." Let each one take one section and present that material. Be ready to encourage discussion.
- This concludes the story of events in or near Jerusalem. Chapter 21 takes place near the Sea of Galilee several days later.

## STEP TWO – FROM GRIEF TO JOYFUL TESTIMONY (JOHN 20:15-18)

- **Make the lesson come alive!** Ask someone ahead of time to review the story of the empty tomb from all four Gospels (John 20:1-14; Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18) and put them together into one story. They may be able to find this compilation in a book in the church library or in a study Bible.
- Verses 1-14 identify it is Mary Magdalene Jesus speaks to in verse 15.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Mary Magdalene from "Dig Deeper." She is one of many women who showed her faithfulness and love to Jesus. Remember, in those days, women had very little recognition. It was unusual for a woman to be as active as these several women were.

## STEP THREE – FROM FEAR TO BOLD MISSION (20:19-23)

- Encourage discussion of how the disciples were feeling and thinking. That Sunday morning, they went from fear and sorrow to excitement and commitment. Some of the disciples saw the empty tomb on Sunday morning. Now it is Sunday evening and Jesus met with all of them except Thomas.
- Ask someone to sign verse 21. This is one of several times Jesus told the disciples He would send them to all the world.

## STEP FOUR – FROM DOUBT TO CONFIDENT FAITH (20:26-29)

- Review verses 24-25, to tell the beginning of the story of Thomas' experience with Jesus. Verse 26 is a week later. We have no record of what the disciples, or Jesus, did during that week, other than walking to the area near the Sea of Galilee.
- Emphasize Thomas had sincere doubt, not a refusal to believe. There is a difference. The lesson is how Jesus will always answer our honest questions to help us in our faith.

## STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Do they feel they have a better understanding of the story and meaning of the resurrection? Is anything they studied today new information for them?



# Follow with Renewed Purpose

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Great Revelation  
(John 21:1-14)**
- 2. Gracious Restoration  
(21:15-19)**
- 3. Gentle Rebuke  
(21:20-23)**
- 4. Genuine Record  
(21:24-25)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. What Are You Fishing  
For? (John 21:3-7a)**
- 2. Do You Love Me?  
(21:15-17)**
- 3. What About Others?  
(21:20-23)**

## Bible Truth

**When believers do not obey, Jesus graciously seeks to restore them to faithful service.**

## Dig Deeper!

### The Sea of Galilee (John 21:1)

This body of water is also called Lake Galilee, or the Sea of Tiberias. Jesus spent more time in the area around this lake than He did in Jerusalem. The Sea of Galilee is about 80 miles north of Jerusalem, but when travelers avoided going through Samaria the trip was almost 100 miles. The lake is about 13 miles long, and from four to seven miles wide, and from 80 to 160 feet deep. In Jesus' time, it was a source of fish with many boats on it every day. It is fed by the Jordan River which flows south to the Dead Sea. Many villages were located on the banks of this lake, including the city of Capernaum and the town of Bethsaida on the north shore where Peter and some of the other disciples lived. Jesus called the four fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James, and John on the shore of this lake (Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11). This is the lake where Jesus walked on the water (Matthew 14:22-27) and calmed the storm (Mark 4:35-41). Matthew 9:1 identifies Capernaum as Jesus' city. Many Bible scholars believe Mary moved to Capernaum after Joseph died.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Follow with Renewed Purpose." This is the final lesson from the Gospel of John. Comment on how it seems right to end this study with this story about how Jesus brought Peter back to Him and then sent all the disciples out. Jesus came to give life. Here He renews Peter's spiritual life.
- **Make the lesson come alive!** Parallel passages are Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20; and Luke 24:50-53. Use these, with John 21, and select two class members to do a little drama of the conversation between Jesus and Peter, emphasizing the emotion Jesus and Peter used. Have a third person serve as narrator for the rest of the verses.

## STEP TWO – WHAT ARE YOU FISHING FOR? (JOHN 21:3-7A)

- Review verses 1-2 to establish the setting. Identify the seven disciples. These men seem to have their homes in or near Capernaum. Jesus had told them to meet Him in Galilee (Matthew 28:9-10).
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss The Sea of Galilee from "Dig Deeper." Also, ask this pupil to find pictures of the lake and fishing boats from resources in the church library or online.

## STEP THREE – DO YOU LOVE ME? (21:15-17)

- Review verses 7b-14. This tells how Peter left the boat and hurried to be with Jesus. John said this was the third time Jesus met with His disciples (verse 14). The first two times were in Jerusalem.
- Let your narrator and two actors tell the story in verses 15-19. Encourage discussion of how Peter must have felt. The first two times Jesus was with them were truly difficult times for Peter. When Jesus did not say anything to him, Peter would know Jesus forgave him, but he needed this personal conversation.
- Emphasize the three times of denial, three times of saying, "Do you love me?" Review the material in the pupil section for a summary and interpretation of these verses.
- Ask someone ahead of time to be prepared to sign one or two verses from the hymn, "My Jesus I Love Thee."

## STEP FOUR – WHAT ABOUT OTHERS? (21:20-23)

- Emphasize how Peter acted as usual—he wanted to know about other people and what would happen to them. Jesus told Peter it was none of his business!

## STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION

- Review John's comments on his writing in verses 24-25 and 20:31.
- Remind the class to study ahead for the next quarter. The lessons will be from the Old Testament Prophets, Ezekiel and Daniel.

# JESUS' PASSION WEEK IN JERUSALEM

[[ Gate

— Tower

----- Wall

● Possible locations of the Chamber of Hewn Stone

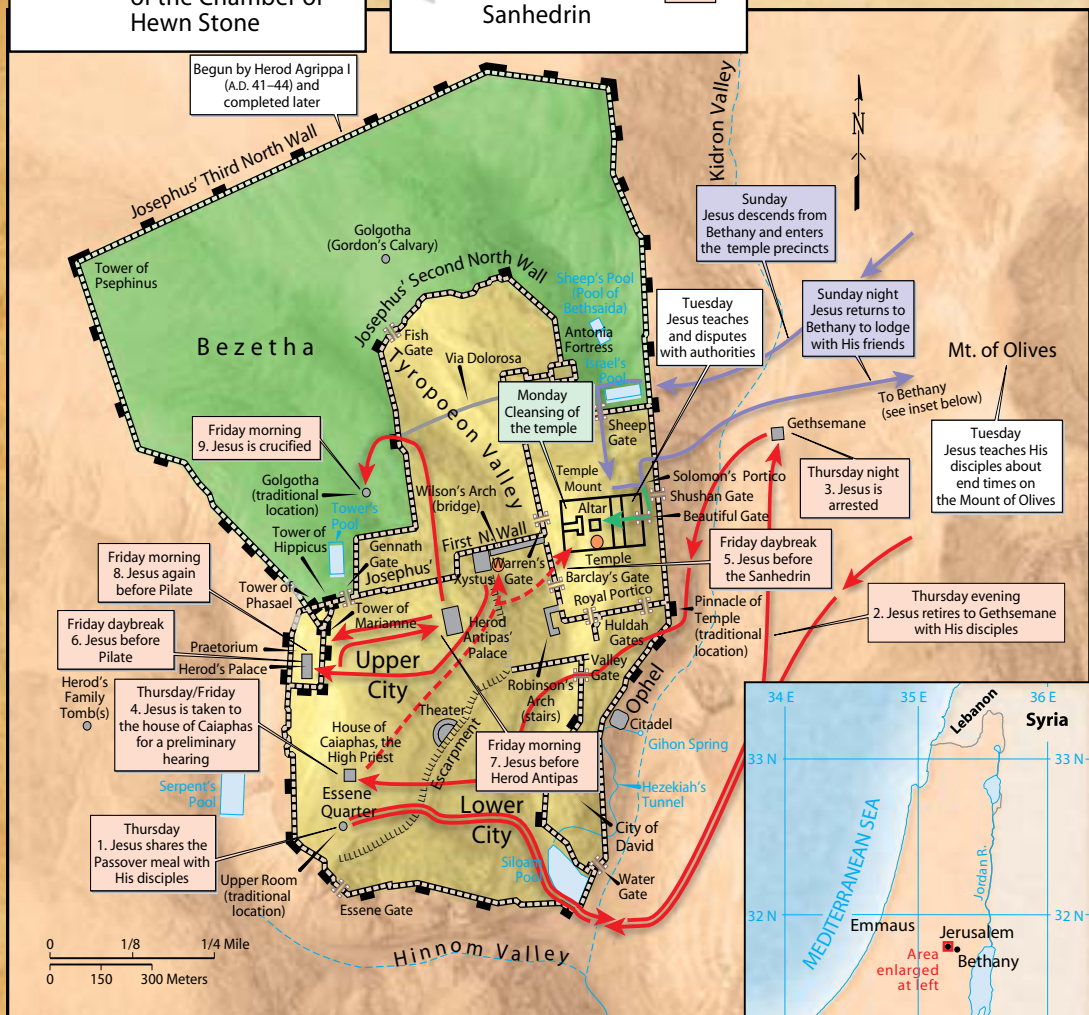
## MOVEMENTS OF JESUS

← Sunday

← Monday

← Thursday/Friday

← Jesus before the Sanhedrin



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