

JOHN 6:1-71

February 18, 2021

1. Begin by reading John 6:1-3. Jesus traveled to the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee where he was confronted by a large crowd. According to verse 2, why is the large crowd pursuing him?

Think for a moment about this crowd pursuing Jesus. What words would you use to describe the individuals in this crowd? Circle the words that could also describe you in your pursuit of Jesus.

2. Read John 6:4-14. The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle performed by Jesus that is recorded in all four gospels. Briefly describe the dilemma facing Jesus and His 12 disciples recorded in verses 4-6.

This dilemma must have seemed impossible to the disciples, but for Jesus it was an opportunity to teach them a lesson in trust. Read the following portions of Scripture and record the different responses to the problem facing the disciples.

Matthew 14:15

John 6:4-7

John 6:8-9

3. Look again at John 6:10-14. Record what Jesus did with the five barley loaves and two fishes.

What lesson do you think the disciples learned as they gathered the 12 baskets of leftovers?

Recall a time when you gave what you had to kingdom causes and Jesus took it, blessed it and then allowed you to participate in blessing others with what you had given. How were you blessed as you participated in God's plan?

4. Continue by reading John 6:15-21. According to verse 15, why did Jesus withdraw again to the mountains by Himself?

Why might Jesus have taken this action? Look at John 18:36 for insight.

5. The miracle of Jesus walking on the water is also recorded in two of the other gospels. Read Matthew 14:22-33 and Mark 6:45-52 and record the additional information found in these two gospels.

Using all three of these gospels for reference, make a list of all the miracles that Jesus performed on that stormy night on the Sea of Galilee.

6. Read John 6:22-29. Describe the mystery that the crowd encountered the morning after Jesus fed the 5,000.

Verse 24 records that they “got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.” What are some possible motives for the crowd to be seeking Jesus?

What does Jesus say their motive is in verses 26-27?

7. Reread John 6:28-29 along with Ephesians 2:8-10. Using Jesus’ answer in John 6:29 and Paul’s words in Ephesians 2:8-10, how would you explain the connection of salvation and works to an unbeliever?

According to John 6:29, what is the only “work” we need to do to be saved?

8. Continue by reading John 6:30-34. In verses 30-31, the crowd following Jesus demanded signs to prove that He was who He claimed to be. They wanted to see before they would believe. What do 2 Corinthians 4:18, 2 Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 11:1 say about believing without seeing?

9. Read John 6:35-59. Verse 35 contains the first of the seven “I Am” statements recorded in the Gospel of John. In response to the crowd asking for a sign like manna from heaven, Jesus states that He is the Bread of Life sent from heaven. Read the following portions of Scripture about manna, the bread from heaven, and compare it to Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Exodus 16:15

Exodus 16:31

Deuteronomy 8:3

John 6:31

John 6:49

10. The manna that fell from heaven sustained the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness. Jesus, the Bread of Life, not only sustains life, but He also gives life. What statement does Jesus make about the Bread of Life in John 6:50-51?

The Jewish leaders struggled with Jesus’ use of the word “flesh.” They asked the question, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Use Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:22 and 1 Peter 2:24-25 to answer their question.

11. Finish by reading John 6:60-71. Many in the crowd following Jesus found it hard to believe what He taught, and they grumbled among themselves. Eventually they walked away from Jesus leaving only His apostles at His side. How did Peter respond when Jesus asked, “Do you want to go away as well?”

Are you able to say these words with confidence? If so, describe in one sentence how your life has changed since the day you placed your trust in the redemptive work of Jesus.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 7:1-8:11

February 25, 2021

1. From Chapter 7 forward, the dislike of Jerusalem's Jewish religious leaders for Jesus will turn into intense hatred. Look at the map in your packet of study questions and locate the Sea of Galilee in the northern area of Galilee. Next, locate Jerusalem in Judea, which is south of Galilee. Read John 1:1-2. Where is Jesus when chapter 7 begins? Why is He here?

Read Leviticus 23:33-34 and 39-43. Record what you learn about the Feast of Booths, which is also called the Feast of Tabernacles.

2. During the Feast of Booths, many Jews would go to Jerusalem to celebrate this weeklong feast. Read the conversation between Jesus and His half-brothers in John 7:3-9. How would you describe the statements from His half-brothers?

What might be some reasons the half-brothers of Jesus do not believe in Him? Read Matthew 13:53-58 for insight.

What do you think Jesus means when He says, "My time has not yet come"? See John 13:1.

Think of a time you were met with hostility or ridicule from family, friends or a co-worker for your faith in Jesus. How did you feel? How did you respond?

3. Read John 7:10-13. Now Jesus goes privately to Jerusalem. List everything going on at the feast concerning Jesus. (In this passage, "Jews" refers to the Jewish leadership.)

4. Read John 7:14-18. What is the reaction of the Jewish religious leaders and the people to the teaching of Jesus?

Picture yourself in the crowd listening to Jesus teach the Scripture. How do you imagine His words and appearance?

How does Jesus describe His teaching as He answers the question of the Jews?

According to verse 18, what is one way you can discern if a teacher is speaking God's truth?

5. Read John 7:19-24. Verse 21 refers to Jesus healing the paralytic on the Sabbath. Review this miracle in John 5:5-11. Using one or two words, describe the attitude Jesus is accusing the religious leaders of having.

Share some times you or others have judged from appearances and not with right judgment.

What are some practical ways you can follow Jesus' words in the key verse John 7:24?

6. Read John 7:25-36. Count the different questions and statements from the Jewish people and leadership. How would you describe this scene?

In what ways does this scene remind you of the attitudes and opinions about Jesus today?

What are Jesus' central truths in His responses to the people?

Why do you think the Jewish religious leaders want Jesus arrested?

7. Some think during the Feast of Booths, the priest would pour water over a rock at the Temple reminding them of the water from the rock on the wilderness journey, and the people would quote Isaiah 12:3. Read this verse along with John 7:37-39. What is Jesus offering in His invitation to the people?

Ponder the life-giving blessings you have received since believing in Jesus. Take a moment to thank Him for one or two spiritual blessings He has provided for you today.

8. Read John 7:40-52. After hearing Jesus' words, what are the opposing thoughts about Jesus in verses 40-44?

Contrast the attitude of the officers who come back without arresting Jesus with the attitude of the Pharisees.

9. As Jesus continually speaks the truth, consider all the different responses from the people in chapter 7. What characteristics do you want to have as you share Jesus through your words and actions?

10. Read John 7:53-8:11. Where is Jesus and what is He doing according to verse 8:2?

Why do the religious leaders want to test or trap Jesus?

What do the religious leaders do after hearing Jesus' words?

11. Reread verses 9-11. What do you think the woman might be thinking and feeling after this encounter with Jesus?

What lessons do you learn from the words and actions of Jesus in this story?

What are some practical ways you will apply these lessons in your everyday life?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 8:12-9:41

March 4, 2021

1. Read Romans 3:23-24. What is man's spiritual predicament? What is God's gracious solution?

What makes some people blind to God's free gift according to Romans 1:18-21?

Who is behind the blindness that exists in our world? Read 2 Corinthians 4:4.

2. Jesus entered our world to remove our blindness. Record all He said about Himself in John 8:12.

Now, in one sentence, record how He brought you from darkness to light.

3. In John chapter 8, Jesus is having a lengthy discourse with the Jews following the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem's temple area. A major feature of this feast was the lighting of giant lamps. Jesus' proclamation that He was the light of the world was timely, but also irritating to the Jews who unknowingly preferred the darkness. Read John 8:12-20. What are the facts that Jesus used to prove His testimony is true?

vv. 14-15

v. 16

vv. 17-18

Prophecies of the Old Testament also verified Christ as the Light of the world. What do we learn from Isaiah 49:6 about the purposes of Christ in regard to Him being light?

4. Read John 8:21-24 and list the contrasts between Jesus and the unbelieving Jews.

What is the reason for anyone to die in their sins according to verse 24? Also read Romans 10:9-11.

5. Read John 8:25-30 and list all you learn about the Father's relationship with His Son.

What was the result of Jesus' testimony of His relationship with His Father?

6. Continue this discourse by reading John 8:31-36. Jesus explains true discipleship in this passage. Though some had come to believe in Jesus' words, they lacked true commitment. What actions in verse 31 describe a growing disciple?

Since the Jews had Abraham as the father of their faith, they saw themselves as free men. In reality, why were they enslaved?

How would you define the word "free" from these passages?

7. Read John 8:37-47. Jesus told the Jews who were listening to Him that the devil was their father. Summarize the reasons Jesus gave to support His claim.
8. The Jews did not appreciate Jesus' accusations. Read John 8:48-59 along with John 1:11. The Jews appeared angriest when Jesus claimed existence before Abraham. Read Exodus 3:13-14 and explain why.

9. Even though we love Jesus, sometimes we have our own questions about the faith. Please share how you approach these kinds of questions in a way that strengthens your faith.

What can we learn from Psalm 32:8, Psalm 119:105 and Proverbs 3:5-6 when seeking the answers?

10. Read the incredible story of a man who was blind until he met Jesus in John 9:1-41. What is your favorite part of the story? Why?

11. Read John 9:1-7. How does Jesus describe Himself in these verses and how does He prove it?

12. We find the reaction of the neighbors, Pharisees and parents in verses 8-23. What are the different reasons these people found it hard to rejoice over this miracle?

13. The Jews called the man born blind back for another interview. Read about it in verses 24-34. What wonderful truths does this enlightened beggar share with his interrogators?

14. Later, Jesus searched for the healed beggar. Read verses 35-41. Another healing took place in these verses. What was it and what part did the beggar play in it?

Explain why the Pharisees remained in their blindness.

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 10:1-42

March 11, 2021

1. John 10 is a continuation of the events in John 9. Scan John 9. Compare the response of the religious leaders toward the blind man in John 9:34 with Jesus' response in verses 35-38.
2. In response to the religious leaders' question in John 9:40, Jesus begins with an illustration about a shepherd. Read John 10:1-6. How does the shepherd enter the sheep pen and how do the sheep respond to their shepherd?

List the ways the shepherd leads his sheep.

What does this tell you about the relationship between the sheep and their shepherd?

How is this similar to your relationship with Jesus?

3. How do the thieves and robbers enter the sheep pen in verse 1?

How do the sheep respond to the thieves and robbers?

4. According to John 10:6, the Jewish leaders did not understand Jesus' illustration, so He expands on it. Read John 10:7-10. Who does Jesus say He is in verses 7 and 9?

What is the benefit for the sheep that enter through the Door?

With this "I am" statement, what is Jesus offering to anyone who comes through the Door? See verse 10 for insight.

5. The thieves and robbers here are the evil and corrupt leaders that have led Israel in the past and currently. What is the result of their hardened hearts according to John 10:10?

How have the Jewish leaders fit this description so far in our study of John?

6. Read John 10:11-13. Jesus continues to expand on His illustration, and says, "I am the Good Shepherd." What do you observe about the relationship the Good Shepherd, the hired hand and the wolf have with the sheep?
7. Read John 10:14-18. List the things the Good Shepherd does for His sheep.

What emotions come to mind when you think of Jesus knowing you?

Not only does Jesus know His sheep, but they know Him as well. Share some of the ways you have come to know Jesus more.

8. In verse 15, for the second time Jesus mentions the Good Shepherd will lay his life down. Why is it necessary for the Good Shepherd to lay down His life? See Ephesians 5:2 for more insight.

In John 10:16 Jesus speaks of other sheep, which represent the Gentiles who will join and make up one flock, with one shepherd. How does the Good Shepherd laying down His life unite His flock? Read Ephesians 2:13-19.

9. Read John 10:17 again. Jesus knows the Father, and the Father knows Him with the same intimacy and love Jesus bestows on His sheep. As you consider this, what are some ways this truth might change your daily walk with the Lord?
10. Read John 10:19-21. How were the Jews' views of Jesus back then similar to people's views of Jesus today?

11. Read John 10:22-30. List below your observations on when, where and who is involved in these verses.

What do the Jewish leaders ask Jesus?

Why they do not understand who He is?

What are some descriptive words that come to mind when you think of winter?

How could winter also be used to describe the spiritual state of these Jewish leaders?

12. Look again at John 10:27-30. What are the blessings Jesus' sheep receive when they believe?

What encouragement do you find in these promises that our Shepherd offers?

13. Read John 10:30-39. The Jewish leadership understood the claim Jesus was making in verse 30. What was their reaction in verse 31, and what reason do the Jewish leaders give for their reaction in verse 33?

14. Jesus calmly answers them using Psalm 82, which ironically is written to judges God put into place who were unjust and favored the wicked. Jesus, on the other hand, was consecrated by the Father. What is the definition of "consecrated?"

Despite Jesus still imploring them to accept Him and believe, the Jewish leaders seek to arrest him. How does this bring prophecy to fulfillment? See Isaiah 53:3 and John 1:9-11.

15. Read John 10:40-42. Although this is nearing the end of Jesus' public ministry, it is not the end of Him calling His sheep. What was the reaction of the people who came to Him after He crossed the Jordan River?

16. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 11:1-57

March 18, 2021

1. Read John 11:1-6. Note the different places in this passage revealing the deep affection between Jesus and Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

What might be implied in the sisters' message sent to Jesus in verse 3?

What knowledge does Jesus express about this illness? How could He know this?

Jesus also knows God's divine purpose for this illness. Record it here.

What is most surprising about Jesus' response to the news of Lazarus' illness?

2. Read John 11:6-16 and look back at John 8:58-59 and John 10:31, 39-40. Why are the disciples afraid to return to Judea?

3. In John 11:14, what does Jesus reveal about Lazarus' current state?

In verse 15, we learn that Jesus' delay was purposeful. Look closely at Jesus' words and record who will benefit most from witnessing the coming miracle. How will they benefit?

4. What do you learn about Thomas based on his statement to the other disciples in John 11:16?

Have you ever faced something frightening, sustained only by the knowledge Jesus was with you and directing you? Describe that time and share how Jesus sustained and strengthened you.

5. Read about Jesus' encounter with Martha in Bethany in John 11:17-27. What does Martha say in verse 21? From this statement, what does Martha believe about Jesus?

What does she say in verse 22? From this statement, what does Martha believe about Jesus?

6. What shocking promise does Jesus make in John 11:23?

In response to Jesus' promise about Lazarus, Martha states her belief in a future resurrection. Read about this in Daniel 12:2 and describe it. When does Martha believe this will happen?

7. In John 11:25 Jesus makes another "I am" statement. What does He claim?

Look up the definition for "resurrect" and write it down.

What two promises does Jesus make immediately following His "I am" statement?

Who is spiritually dead according to Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23 and Ephesians 2:1-2?

Look up the following verses and record the great gift given by Jesus. What must take place to receive it?

John 3:16

John 5:24

John 10:27-28

8. The great promise of Jesus requires a response. What did Jesus ask Martha in John 11:26?

Consider her answer and write down all she believes about Jesus' identity.

Share with your group when Jesus first asked you this question and how you responded.

9. Now read about Jesus' encounter with Mary in John 11:28-36. How does Mary, in the throes of great grief, respond when Jesus calls her in verses 29 and 32?

Mary and Jesus are not alone. Who followed Mary and witnessed this encounter? Look back at John 11:19 and note the size of this gathering.

10. What does Jesus observe in verse 33, and how does He respond in verses 33-36?

Also read the following verses. What do you learn about Jesus and suffering?

Psalm 34:17-18

Isaiah 53:3-4

11. Read John 11:38-44. Before the miracle, Jesus prays to His Father in verses 41-42. What is Jesus' claim in this prayer?

Who is supposed to hear this claim? What are they to believe?

12. Describe the events of John 11:43-44 in your own detailed and dramatic words.

How do these events validate the claims Jesus has been making?

13. Read John 11:45-57. Among the many witnesses to Lazarus' resurrection, there were only two reactions. Read these in verses 45-46 and list them here.

Does anyone refute the fact that Jesus raised Lazarus from death to life?

The chief priests and the Pharisees were the religious and political leaders of Israel. According to their words in verses 47-48, what threat does Jesus pose?

What plans are made to eliminate this threat?

14. Pick one character in this story: Thomas, Mary or Martha. Imagine and write down what they would have missed if they had abandoned Jesus early in the story.

How can this encourage and direct you the next time you face a frightening or heartbreaking situation?

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 12:1-50

March 25, 2021

1. With John 12, the public ministry of Jesus comes to an end, so this chapter could be called the turning point in Jesus' ministry. Jesus is less than a week away from His crucifixion. Before we begin reading John 12, look back at John 11:53-57 and record the scene leading up to John 12.
2. Read John 12:1-8. What event happened prior to this dinner that made this a joyful occasion? Review John 11:38-44 for reference.

List the people present at this dinner in Bethany.

Look at the words and actions of the people present. What do you learn about each one's attitude toward Jesus?

3. According to John 12:3, what did Mary do that caused tension in the room?

The perfume that Mary used was made of pure nard, which is an expensive and fragrant oil used only for special occasions in biblical times. John records Mary had a pound of this perfume, worth one year's wages. What words would you use to describe Mary's actions?

4. According to John 12:4-6, how did Judas respond to Mary's act of worship?

What was Judas' true motive, and what might this tell us about his relationship with Jesus?

Although it is not recorded, how do you think Mary responded to Judas' rebuke and Jesus' defense?

5. Continue by reading John 12:9-11. Many Jews have come to Jerusalem for the Passover hoping to see Jesus. Who else have they come to see? Why do they want to see him according to verse 9?

The plan to kill Jesus had been set in place. Why do the religious leaders also want to kill Lazarus now?

6. Regardless of what these religious leaders planned, God's eternal plan would determine the precise time Jesus would die. What does Acts 2:23 record about God's timing for His Son's redemptive work on the cross?

God has precisely timed plans for each of us as well. As we pray, we often make our plans known to God only to be disappointed with how and when He chooses to answer our prayer. Read Psalm 32:8 and Jeremiah 29:11. What do you learn about God in these verses that helps you trust His plans and timing for you?

7. Read John 12:12-19. In your own words, how would you describe the response of the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem?

The crowd was shouting, "Hosanna!" which means "save now." They were also declaring Jesus the King of Israel. What did they misunderstand about Jesus, their King? Read John 18:36-37.

8. Read Zechariah 9:9 along with John 12:14-15. What more do we learn from the Zechariah passage about Jesus' triumphant entry?

What characteristics does Jesus display by riding a donkey into Jerusalem?

9. Read John 12:20-26. How does Jesus' statement recorded in verse 23 differ from what is recorded in John 7:30 and John 8:20?

Jesus' death is imminent, yet many still believed He would rule over an earthly kingdom. What truth does Jesus convey to them in John 12:24-26? Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

10. Continue by reading John 12:27-36. When God spoke and confirmed the work of His Son, many heard, but few understood. How did the crowd describe the voice of God?

The Son of Man being lifted up is a reference to Jesus' death on the cross. The crowd continues to struggle with the truth the Messiah, the Son of Man, would die. In your own words, explain Jesus' response to the crowd found in verses 30-33.

11. Read John 12:36b-43. In spite of all the miracles Jesus performed, many in the crowd still did not believe in Him, just as the prophet Isaiah had foretold. Yet many did believe in Jesus. Why did they not confess their belief?

What are some reasons we might be afraid to confess to others our faith in Jesus?

12. Read carefully John 12:44-50. What verse in this portion of John 12 holds the most meaning for you and why?

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.