

The Gospel of John

A True Story/My Story

(week 2)

1. Begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you clarity as you read.
2. Then with pen in hand, begin to mark it up and write thoughts and questions in the margin.
3. After spending time reading, underlining, circling, and making notes, answer the questions for each passage.

For days 1-4, use the following questions to guide your time in the Word:

Before you read and meditate upon each passage, ask God to help you to know Jesus.

- A. *What does this teach me about Jesus (His message, His values, what He is passionate about)?*

- B. *How does this knowledge challenge, change, and/or inspire me (in my beliefs, in my actions)? How is this knowledge affecting my story?*

- C. *Who is God calling me to share this knowledge with today (in word and/or deed)?*

DAY 1

John 2:1-12 (NIRV)

Jesus Changes Water Into Wine

2 On the third day there was a wedding. It took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

4 "Dear woman, why are you telling me about this?" Jesus replied. "The time for me to show who I really am isn't here yet."

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do what he tells you."

6 Six stone water jars stood nearby. The Jews used water from that kind of jar for special washings. They did that to make themselves pure and "clean." Each jar could hold 20 to 30 gallons.

7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the top.

8 Then he told them, "Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner."

They did what he said. 9 The person in charge tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He didn't realize where it had come from. But the servants who had brought the water knew. Then the person in charge called the groom to one side. 10 He said to him, "Everyone brings out the best wine first. They bring out the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink. But you have saved the best until now."

11 What Jesus did here in Cana in Galilee was the first of his signs. Jesus showed his glory by doing this sign. And his disciples believed in him.

12 After this, Jesus went down to Capernaum. His mother and brothers and disciples went with him. They all stayed there for a few days.

Day 2

John 2:13-25 (NIRV)

Jesus Clears Out the Temple Courtyard

13 It was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast. So Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courtyard he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves. Others were sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So Jesus made a whip out of ropes. He chased all the sheep and cattle from the temple courtyard. He scattered the coins of the people exchanging money. And he turned over their tables. 16 He told those who were selling doves, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" 17 His disciples remembered what had been written. It says, "My great love for your house will destroy me." (Psalm 69:9)

18 Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do this?"

19 Jesus answered them, "When you destroy this temple, I will raise it up again in three days."

20 They replied, "It has taken 46 years to build this temple. Are you going to raise it up in three days?" 21 But the temple Jesus had spoken about was his body. 22 His disciples later remembered what he had said. That was after he had been raised from the dead. Then they believed the Scripture. They also believed the words that Jesus had spoken.

23 Meanwhile, he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast. Many people saw the signs he was doing. And they believed in his name. 24 But Jesus did not fully trust them. He knew what people are like. 25 He didn't need anyone to tell him what people are like. He already knew why people do what they do.

Days 3

John 3:1-21 (NIRV)

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was one of the Jewish rulers. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren't, you couldn't do the signs you are doing."

3 Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom unless they are born again."

4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "They can't go back inside their mother! They can't be born a second time!"

5 Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom unless they are born with water and the Holy Spirit. 6 People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must all be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can't tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born with the Spirit."

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus. "Don't you understand these things? 11 What I'm about to tell you is true. We speak about what we know. We are witnesses about what we have seen. But still you people do not accept what we say. 12 I have spoken to you about earthly things, and you do not believe. So how will you believe if I speak about heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven. He is the Son of Man. 14 Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, the Son of Man must also be lifted up. 15 Then everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

16 God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. 17 God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him. 18 Anyone who believes in him is not judged. But anyone who does not believe is judged already. They have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 Here is the judgment. Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light. They loved darkness because what they did was evil. 20 Everyone who does evil deeds hates the light. They will not come into the light. They are afraid that what they do will be seen. 21 But anyone who lives by the truth comes into the light. They live by the truth with God's help. They come into the light so that it will be easy to see their good deeds.

Day 4

John 3:22-36 (NIRV)

John the Baptist Is a Witness About Jesus

22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the countryside of Judea. There he spent some time with them. And he baptized people there. 23 John was also baptizing. He was at Aenon near Salim, where there was plenty of water. People were coming and being baptized. 24 This was before John was put in prison. 25 Some of John's disciples and a certain Jew began to argue. They argued about special washings to make people "clean." 26 They came to John and here is what they said to him. "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River is baptizing people. He is the one you told us about. Everyone is going to him."

27 John replied, "A person can receive only what God gives them from heaven. 28 You yourselves are witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah. I was sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the groom. The friend who helps the groom waits and listens for him. He is full of joy when he hears the groom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become more important. I must become less important.

31 "The one who comes from above is above everything. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks like someone from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above everything. 32 He is a witness to what he has seen and heard. But no one accepts what he says. 33 Anyone who has accepted it has said, 'Yes. God is truthful.' 34 The one whom God has sent speaks God's words. That's because God gives the Holy Spirit without limit. 35 The Father loves the Son and has put everything into his hands. 36 Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life. Anyone who does not believe in the Son will not have life. God's anger remains on them."

Day 5

John 4:1-42 (NIRV)

Jesus Talks With a Woman From Samaria

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard about him. They had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John. 2 But in fact Jesus was not baptizing. His disciples were. 3 So Jesus left Judea and went back again to Galilee.

4 Jesus had to go through Samaria. 5 He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the piece of land Jacob had given his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from the journey. So he sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 A woman from Samaria came to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" She said this because Jews don't have anything to do with Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered her, "You do not know what God's gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you don't have anything to get water with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Our father Jacob gave us the well. He drank from it himself. So did his sons and his livestock. Are you more important than he is?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. 14 But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty. And I won't have to keep coming here to get water."

16 He told her, "Go. Get your husband and come back."

17 "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands. And the man you live with now is not your husband. What you have just said is very true."

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our people have always worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus said, "Woman, believe me. A time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know. Salvation comes from the Jews. 23 But a new time is coming. In fact, it is already here. True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth. They are the kind of worshipers the Father is looking for. 24 God is spirit. His worshipers must worship him in the Spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah is coming." Messiah means Christ. "When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus said, "The one you're talking about is the one speaking to you. I am he."

The Disciples Join Jesus Again

27 Just then Jesus' disciples returned. They were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want from her?" No one asked, "Why are you talking with her?"

28 The woman left her water jar and went back to the town. She said to the people, 29 "Come. See a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 The people came out of the town and made their way toward Jesus.

31 His disciples were saying to him, "Rabbi, eat something!"

32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

33 Then his disciples asked each other, "Did someone bring him food?"

34 Jesus said, "My food is to do what my Father sent me to do. My food is to finish his work. 35 Don't you have a saying? You say, 'It's still four months until harvest time.' But I tell you, open your eyes! Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest right now. 36 Even now the one who gathers the crop is getting paid. They are already harvesting the crop for eternal life. So the one who plants and the one who gathers can now be glad together. 37 Here is a true saying. 'One plants and another gathers.' 38 I sent you to gather what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work. You have gathered the benefits of their work."

Many Samaritans Believe in Jesus

39 Many of the Samaritans from the town of Sychar believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman had said about him. She said, "He told me everything I've ever done." 40 Then the Samaritans came to him and tried to get him to stay with them. So he stayed two days. 41 Because of what he said, many more people became believers.

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said. We have now heard for ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

John 4:4 says that "Jesus had to go through Samaria." Jesus had to go through Samaria because God had plans for him there, but many Jews' prejudice toward Samaritans caused them to take a less direct route around Samaria. Jesus was breaking many cultural taboos by going through Samaria and engaging in a conversation with a woman in public.

Study Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman. He starts with the natural and moves to the spiritual and then to the personal. Outline the conversation. How does the Samaritan woman try to divert Jesus' conversation from getting to personal? What can you learn from Jesus about sharing your own faith?

How does Jesus challenge the disciples prejudice in verses 31-38?

Do you have any prejudices that have caused you to write people off? (Examples: people who back a certain political party, Muslims, Socialists, Communists, a particular ethnic group, Southerners, Northerners, your boss, an annoying relative, etc.) If God brings anyone to your mind, ask God for forgiveness and look for an opportunity to show that person or people God's love.

Spend some time praying that God would help you this week to use what you have learned from Jesus in John 4. Be bold. Ask God for an opportunity to share your story.