

The Gospel of John

A True Story/My Story

(week 4)

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.

DAY 1

John 6:15 (NIRV)

But Jesus knew that they planned to come and force him to be their king. So he went away again to a mountain by himself.

You may have heard the saying, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." But it is also true that the world has a plan for your life, and often that plan is different from the plan God has for your life. That was the case for Jesus.

Do you have a clear understanding of the ministry God has called you to? Your personal ministry will often flow out of your passions, personality, and experiences (For example, if you were a religious person but later understood that you could have a personal relationship with God, you will probably be used by God to help other religious people understand relationship with God). If you understand your personal calling, use the space below to write that calling down.

Jesus knew God's calling upon his life and the timetable for that plan. The Messiah the Jews wanted was different from the Messiah Jesus was called to be. Like Jesus, have you ever felt pressure from family, friends, or society to deny God's calling upon your life? Use the space below to write down your thoughts.

Like Jesus, schedule some time to get away and allow God to bring clarity to the ministry he has called you to. Then takes steps of faith to obey his call upon your life.

Day 2

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)?*

John 6:16-21 (NIRV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

16 When evening came, Jesus' disciples went down to the Sea of Galilee. 17 There they got into a boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. By now it was dark. Jesus had not yet joined them. 18 A strong wind was blowing, and the water became rough. 19 They rowed about three or four miles. Then they saw Jesus coming toward the boat. He was walking on the water. They were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "It is I. Don't be afraid." 21 Then they agreed to take him into the boat. Right away the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Days 3

John 6:22-59 (NIRV)

22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the lake realized something. They saw that only one boat had been there. They knew that Jesus had not gotten into it with his disciples. And they knew that the disciples had gone away alone. 23 Then some boats arrived from Tiberias. It was near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord gave thanks. 24 The crowd realized that Jesus and his disciples were not there. So they got into boats and went to Capernaum to look for Jesus.

Jesus Is the Bread of Life

25 They found him on the other side of the lake. They asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

26 Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. You are not looking for me because you saw the signs I did. You are looking for me because you ate the loaves until you were full. 27 Do not work for food that spoils. Work for food that lasts forever. That is the food the Son of Man will give you. For God the Father has put his seal of approval on him."

28 Then they asked him, "What does God want from us? What works does he want us to do?"

29 Jesus answered, "God's work is to believe in the one he has sent."

30 So they asked him, "What sign will you give us? What will you do so we can see it and believe you? 31 Long ago our people ate the manna in the desert. It is written in Scripture, 'The Lord gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " (Exodus 16:4; Nehemiah 9:15; Psalm 78:24,25)

32 Jesus said to them, "What I'm about to tell you is true. It is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven. It is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 The bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven. He gives life to the world."

34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

35 Then Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry. And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But it is just as I told you. You have seen me, and you still do not believe. 37 Everyone the Father gives me will come to me. I will never send away anyone who comes to me. 38 I have not come down from heaven to do what I want to do. I have come to do what the one who sent me wants me to do. 39 The one who sent me doesn't want me to lose anyone he has given me. He wants me to raise them up on the last day. 40 My Father wants all who look to the Son and believe in him to have eternal life. I will raise them up on the last day."

41 Then the Jews there began to complain about Jesus. That was because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? Don't we know his father and mother? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

43 “Stop complaining among yourselves,” Jesus answered. 44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me brings them. Then I will raise them up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, ‘God will teach all of them.’ (Isaiah 54:13) Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who has come from God. Only he has seen the Father. 47 What I’m about to tell you is true. Everyone who believes has life forever. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Long ago your people ate the manna in the desert, and they still died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven. A person can eat it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Everyone who eats some of this bread will live forever. This bread is my body. I will give it for the life of the world.”

52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves. They said, “How can this man give us his body to eat?”

53 Jesus said to them, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You must eat the Son of Man’s body and drink his blood. If you don’t, you have no life in you. 54 Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life. I will raise them up on the last day. 55 My body is real food. My blood is real drink. 56 Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood remains in me. And I remain in them. 57 The living Father sent me, and I live because of him. In the same way, those who feed on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Long ago your people ate manna and died. But whoever eats this bread will live forever.” 59 He said this while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Day 4

John 6:60-71 (NIRV)

Many Disciples Leave Jesus

60 Jesus' disciples heard this. Many of them said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

61 Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining about his teaching. So he said to them, "Does this upset you? 62 Then what if you see the Son of Man go up to where he was before? 63 The Holy Spirit gives life. The body means nothing at all. The words I have spoken to you are full of the Spirit. They give life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe. And he had known who was going to hand him over to his enemies. 65 So he continued speaking. He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father helps them."

66 From this time on, many of his disciples turned back. They no longer followed him.

67 "You don't want to leave also, do you?" Jesus asked the 12 disciples.

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, who can we go to? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

70 Then Jesus replied, "Didn't I choose you, the 12 disciples? But one of you is a devil!" 71 He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Judas was one of the 12 disciples. But later he was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies.

Day 5

John 7:1-13 (NIRV)

Jesus Goes to the Feast of Booths

7 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He didn't want to travel around in Judea. That was because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. 2 The Jewish Feast of Booths was near. 3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea. Then your disciples there will see the works that you do. 4 No one who wants to be well known does things in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 Even Jesus' own brothers did not believe in him.

6 So Jesus told them, "The time for me to show who I really am is not here yet. For you, any time would be the right time. 7 The people of the world can't hate you. But they hate me. This is because I am a witness that their works are evil. 8 You go to the feast. I am not going up to this feast. This is because my time has not yet fully come." 9 After he said this, he stayed in Galilee.

10 But when his brothers had left for the feast, he went also. But he went secretly, not openly.

11 At the feast the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus. They were asking, "Where is he?"

12 Many people in the crowd were whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No. He fools the people." 13 But no one would say anything about him openly. They were afraid of the leaders.