

The Gospel of John

A True Story/My Story

(week 5)

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 day 1 and days 3-5, 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 7:14-24 (NIRV)

Jesus Teaches at the Feast

14 Jesus did nothing until halfway through the feast. Then he went up to the temple courtyard and began to teach. 15 The Jews there were amazed. They asked, "How did this man learn so much without being taught?"

16 Jesus answered, "What I teach is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. 17 Here is how someone can find out whether my teaching comes from God or from me. That person must choose to do what God wants them to do. 18 Whoever speaks on their own does it to get personal honor. But someone who works for the honor of the one who sent him is truthful. Nothing about him is false. 19 Didn't Moses give you the law? But not one of you obeys the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

20 "You are controlled by demons," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

21 Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. 22 Moses gave you circumcision, and so you circumcise a child on the Sabbath day. But circumcision did not really come from Moses. It came from Abraham. 23 You circumcise a boy on the Sabbath day. You think that if you do, you won't break the law of Moses. Then why are you angry with me? I healed a man's entire body on the Sabbath day! 24 Stop judging only by what you see. Judge in the right way."

Day 2

John 7:25-36 (NIRV)

People Don't Agree About Who Jesus Is

25 Then some of the people of Jerusalem began asking questions. They said, "Isn't this the man some people are trying to kill? 26 Here he is! He is speaking openly. They aren't saying a word to him. Have the authorities really decided that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from. When the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."

28 Jesus was still teaching in the temple courtyard. He cried out, "Yes, you know me. And you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority. The one who sent me is true. You do not know him. 29 But I know him. I am from him, and he sent me."

30 When he said this, they tried to arrest him. But no one laid a hand on him. The time for him to show who he really was had not yet come. 31 Still, many people in the crowd believed in him. They said, "How will it be when the Messiah comes? Will he do more signs than this man?"

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering things like this about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

33 Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time. Then I will go to the one who sent me. 34 You will look for me, but you won't find me. You can't come where I am going."

35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man plan to go? Does he think we can't find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks? Will he go there to teach the Greeks? 36 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you won't find me'? And what did he mean when he said, 'You can't come where I am going'?"

In John 1:, we see Andrew, John, Philip and Nathanael (who would become disciples) seeking after Jesus. What is the difference between the seeking we see taking place in John 1 and that of John 7:25-36?

It is often desperation that causes us to seek after God with our whole heart and not just for what God gives us in return. Write of a time where desperation caused you to seek wholeheartedly after God.

Days 3

John 7:37-52 (NIRV)

37 It was the last and most important day of the feast. Jesus stood up and spoke in a loud voice. He said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Does anyone believe in me? Then, just as Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from inside them." 39 When he said this, he meant the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit later. Up to that time, the Spirit had not been given. This was because Jesus had not yet received glory.

40 The people heard his words. Some of them said, "This man must be the Prophet we've been expecting."

41 Others said, "He is the Messiah."

Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Doesn't Scripture say that the Messiah will come from the family line of David? Doesn't it say that he will come from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" 43 So the people did not agree about who Jesus was. 44 Some wanted to arrest him. But no one laid a hand on him.

The Jewish Leaders Do Not Believe

45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees. They asked the guards, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

46 "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.

47 "You mean he has fooled you also?" the Pharisees asked. 48 "Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in him? 49 No! But this mob knows nothing about the law. There is a curse on them."

50 Then Nicodemus, a Pharisee, spoke. He was the one who had gone to Jesus earlier. He asked, 51 "Does our law find a man guilty without hearing him first? Doesn't it want to find out what he is doing?"

52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Look into it. You will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

Day 4

John 7:53-8:11 (NIRV)

53 Then they all went home. 8 1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At sunrise he arrived again in the temple courtyard. All the people gathered around him there. He sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman. She had been caught committing adultery. They made her stand in front of the group. 4 They said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught sleeping with a man who was not her husband. 5 In the Law, Moses commanded us to kill such women by throwing stones at them. Now what do you say?" 6 They were trying to trap Jesus with that question. They wanted to have a reason to bring charges against him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 They kept asking him questions. So he stood up and said to them, "Has any one of you not sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 He bent down again and wrote on the ground.

9 Those who heard what he had said began to go away. They left one at a time, the older ones first. Soon only Jesus was left. The woman was still standing there. 10 Jesus stood up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Hasn't anyone found you guilty?"

11 "No one, sir," she said.

"Then I don't find you guilty either," Jesus said. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Day 5

John 8:12-30 (NIRV)

Challenge to What Jesus Says About Himself

12 Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."

13 The Pharisees argued with him. "Here you are," they said, "appearing as your own witness. But your witness does not count."

14 Jesus answered, "Even if I am a witness about myself, what I say does count. I know where I came from. And I know where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge by human standards. I don't judge anyone. 16 But if I do judge, what I decide is true. This is because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. 17 Your own Law says that the witness of two people proves the truth about something. 18 I am a witness about myself. The other witness about me is the Father, who sent me."

19 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?"

"You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20 He spoke these words while he was teaching in the temple courtyard. He was near the place where the offerings were put. But no one arrested him. That's because the time for him to die had not yet come.

Challenge to Who Jesus Claims to Be

21 Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away. You will look for me, and you will die in your sin. You can't come where I am going."

22 This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'You can't come where I am going'?"

23 But Jesus said, "You are from below. I am from heaven. You are from this world. I am not from this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins. This will happen if you don't believe that I am he. If you don't believe, you will certainly die in your sins."

25 "Who are you?" they asked.

"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. 26 "I have a lot to say that will judge you. But the one who sent me can be trusted. And I tell the world what I have heard from him."

27 They did not understand that Jesus was telling them about his Father. 28 So Jesus said, "You will lift up the Son of Man. Then you will know that I am he. You will also know that I do nothing on my own. I speak just what the Father has taught me. 29 The one who sent me is with

me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.” 30 Even while Jesus was speaking, many people believed in him.

All Scripture from the New International Reader's Version