

The Gospel of John

A True Story/My Story

(week 1)

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 20:30,31

30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. 31 But these are written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

John 21:24,25

24 This is the disciple who gives witness to these things. He also wrote them down. We know that his witness is true.

25 Jesus also did many other things. What if every one of them were written down? I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

John was an eyewitness to the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. John wrote his account of Jesus so that others would believe what he had come to believe--that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.

Messiah (from the Hebrew) or **Christ** (from the Greek) means "the anointed one." In John, the Messiah is the one anointed and sent by God to bring salvation from sin and to restore our relationship with God.

Son of God means that Jesus is God and that He is equal with God the Father.

John had encountered Jesus. From that point on, Jesus' story became John's story. He gave the rest of his life to sharing this amazing true story with others so that they too might believe and that Jesus' story might also become their story.

If you are a believer, Jesus story has also become your story--we call that a testimony. How did you come to believe that Jesus was the Savior? Write it down in three parts:

- 1. What was your life like before you came to Christ? Where did you find your significance?*

- 2. What and/or who was instrumental in bringing you to a place of surrender and faith?*

- 3. What was life like after you came to Christ? What changed? How did family and friends respond to your new faith?*

Challenge: Ask God to give you an opportunity this week to share your story (in part or in whole) with someone who doesn't believe.

For the rest of the week, 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 2

John 1:1-18

The Word Became Human

1In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning.

3All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. 4Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. 5The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not understood it.

6A man came who was sent from God. His name was John. 7He came to give witness about that light. He gave witness so that all people could believe.

8John himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light. 9The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

10The Word was in the world that was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. 11He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him.

12Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. 13To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does.

14The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the one and only Son.

He came from the Father. And he was full of grace and truth.

15John gives witness about him. He cries out and says, "This was the one I was talking about. I said, 'He who comes after me is more important than I am. He is more important because he existed before I was born.' "

16We have all received one blessing after another. God's grace is not limited. 17Moses gave us the law. Jesus Christ has given us grace and truth.

18No one has ever seen God. But God, the one and only Son, is at the Father's side. He has shown us what God is like.

DAY 3

John 1:19-35

John the Baptist Is Not the Christ

19The Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John who he was. John gave witness to them.

20He did not try to hide the truth. He spoke to them openly. He said, "I am not the Christ."

21They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet we've been expecting?" they asked.

"No," he answered.

22They asked one last time, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us.

What do you say about yourself?"

23John replied, using the words of Isaiah the prophet. John said, "I'm the messenger who is calling out in the desert, 'Make the way for the Lord straight.' " (Isaiah 40:3)

24Some Pharisees who had been sent 25asked him, "If you are not the Christ, why are you baptizing people? Why are you doing that if you aren't Elijah or the Prophet we've been expecting?"

26"I baptize people with water," John replied. "But One is standing among you whom you do not know.

27He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals."

28This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River. That was where John was baptizing.

Jesus Is the Lamb of God

29The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! 30This is the One I was talking about. I said, 'A man who comes after me is more important than I am. That's because he existed before I was born.' 31I did not know him. But God wants to make it clear to Israel who this person is. That's the reason I came baptizing with water."

32Then John told them, "I saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven like a dove. The Spirit remained on Jesus. 33I would not have known him. But the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34I have seen it happen. I give witness that this is the Son of God."

DAY 4

John 1:35-42

Jesus Chooses the First Disciples

35The next day John was again with two of his disciples. 36He saw Jesus walking by. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God!"

37The two disciples heard him say this. So they followed Jesus.

38Then Jesus turned around and saw them following. He asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Rabbi means Teacher.

39"Come," he replied. "You will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying. They spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

40Andrew was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew was one of the two disciples who heard what John had said. He had also followed Jesus. 41The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon. He told him, "We have found the Messiah." Messiah means Christ. 42And he brought Simon to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas." Cephas means Peter (or rock).

DAY 5

John 1:43-51

Jesus Chooses Philip and Nathanael

43The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

44Philip was from the town of Bethsaida. So were Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the One that Moses wrote about in the Law. The prophets also wrote about him. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

47Jesus saw Nathanael approaching. Here is what Jesus said about him. "He is a true Israelite. There is nothing false in him."

48"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree. I saw you there before Philip called you."

49Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel."

50Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that."

51Then he said to the disciples, "What I'm about to tell you is true. You will see heaven open. You will see the angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man."