

John 1:1-34

1. In verses 1-3 what facts does John declare to be true of the Word?

Why are these facts significant for our understanding who Jesus is?

2. How should verse 3 affect the way we view the world?
3. What do the symbols of life (v. 4) and light (v. 5) tell us about Jesus and why he came to earth?

How has Jesus brought these qualities into your life?

4. Verse 5 talks about the light and the darkness. According to different translations of the Bible, the darkness has not understood, has not comprehended, has not apprehended, has not overcome, or has not mastered the light. Looking at these different meanings, what does this verse say to you?

How has the light overcome the darkness in your life?

What is the significance of this verse for unbelievers?

5. What is John the Baptist's role as a witness?

Later, John states that John the Baptist did not perform one miracle. Do you think he was disappointed? Angry? Jealous?

Why did John the Baptist stress that he was not the light, but only a witness to the true light?

What significance does this hold for us?

What qualities of John the Baptist do you admire? Why?

6. In verses 10-11, John states that even though Jesus created the world, the world did not recognize Him. What do you think John meant?

Why do you think the world did not recognize Him?

What do you think keeps people from recognizing Him today?

What can we do to see that they do receive Him?

Who were Jesus' "own" in verse 11?

7. What right does Jesus give to those who believe in His name?

How has this "right" changed your life?

How would you explain what it means to be "born of God" and not of the flesh?

8. In verse 14, John states that "we have seen his glory." What is the significance of this statement?
9. How would you explain the meaning and importance of verse 14 to someone who was searching for the truth?
10. How would someone "full of grace and truth" treat others?

How has the Living Word treated you?

11. In verses 15-18, what does John the Baptist testify concerning Jesus?
12. Why do you think the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to question John the Baptist?

What questions do they ask him?

What does John the Baptist answer? Why do you think he was so abrupt?

What can we learn from John the Baptist in these verses?

13. Read verses 1:19-34. According to these verses, what steps did John the Baptist take to guarantee that people would not look to him but to Christ?

14. How would you summarize John's testimony concerning Jesus?

15. Who made "straight the way of the Lord" in your life?

How can we do the same for others?

16. What significance does the name "Lamb of God" hold for you?

17. What is the difference between John the Baptist's baptism with water and Jesus' baptism with the Holy Spirit?

18. Of the names for Jesus given so far (the Word, the Light, the Life, the Christ, the Lamb of God, the Son of God), which means the most to you? Why?

John 2

In this chapter, John relates two events that testify to the deity of Jesus.

1. What initially convinced you that Jesus was more than a man?
2. Up to this time, Jesus had performed no miracles. So, when the wine ran out, why did Mary turn to Jesus?

What do you think Mary expected Him to do?

3. Jesus refers to His mother as "woman". What is your first reaction to this term?

Now, using a *Greek* dictionary, your Bible, or other sources, what did this term mean? What might be a comparable term used today?

What does this show us about Jesus and Mary's relationship?

4. In verse 4, Jesus said His time had not yet come. What do you think He meant?

If His time had not yet come, why did Jesus perform this miracle?

5. Mary tells the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them. Based on what Jesus just said about this not being His time, why would Mary say this?

What significance does this advice have for us today?

6. The six stone jars were used for ceremonial washing. What can you learn about this custom?
7. Why do you think Jesus had the servants fill the jars with water instead of just filling them with wine first?

How does this glorify Jesus?

8. In verse 9, who were the only ones who knew from where the wine came? What is the significance of this?
9. What "proof" does John give that this miracle really happened?
10. Verse 11 states that Jesus performed this miracle to reveal His glory. What aspects of His glory did this reveal to His disciples?

What aspects of His glory does this miracle reveal to you?

11. Why do we need the new wine that only Jesus can provide?

12. How would you respond to people who would use this passage to support drinking alcohol?

13. The sellers and moneychangers were set up to provide a service to the people. What can you learn about their purpose?

How could this potentially useful purpose turn bad?

What warning does this hold for us today?

14. Why was Jesus angry?

Since Jesus was without sin, His becoming angry was not sinful. What does the Bible say about anger?

15. What was the significance of Jesus' referring to the temple as "my father's house?"

How would the Jewish leaders have reacted to this?

How did His disciples react to this?

16. Only the Messiah had the authority to cleanse the temple. Therefore, the Jews demanded a sign to prove His right. What was Jesus' answer?

To what was this sign referring?

When did the disciples realize the importance of this statement?

Can you think of a time when you read a scripture, heard a teaching, or saw something and the revelation came to you at a later time?

17. In verse 24, if the people were believing in Him, why would Jesus not entrust Himself to them?

18. From this passage, what do we learn about Jesus' relationship with the Father?

19. If Jesus walked into your home, your office, your room, your workshop, etc., what would He find? What would He want to clean up, if anything?

20. What evidence does John give as to the deity of Jesus?

What "evidence" can you give to others that Jesus is the Son of God?

John 3

1. What facts do we learn about Nicodemus in verses 1-2?

Why was this visit from Nicodemus significant enough for John to include it in his gospel?

What are some of the reasons Nicodemus might have had for visiting Jesus?

For visiting Jesus at night?

Has there ever been a time when you preferred "visiting Jesus at night?"

2. Jesus' reply in verse 3 does not appear to have anything to do with Nicodemus' statement. Why did Jesus bring up the idea of new birth instead of replying to Nicodemus' statement?

Can you recall a time when Jesus' answer was not what you were expecting? How did you react? Was Jesus' answer right?

3. What is Nicodemus' response to Jesus' statement about the new birth? Why is he so amazed at the idea?

4. In verse 5 Jesus says that to enter the kingdom of God, a person must be born of water and the Spirit. Using additional commentaries, dictionaries, etc. (if necessary), what do you think is meant by being born of water?

Born of the Spirit?

5. Read verse 8. What point is Jesus making when He compares someone born of the Spirit to the wind?

In what way have you experienced this "idea" in your life?

6. What is Jesus' response to Nicodemus' question in verse 9?

According to Jesus' answer, why did Nicodemus have such a difficult time understanding Jesus' statements?

7. In verse 14, Jesus mentions the lifting of the snake in the desert. To what was he referring?

What was Jesus implying when He said that He was to be lifted up as well?

8. How do you feel now as you read of God's supreme act of love in vv. 16-17?

9. How and why does our response to Jesus determine our destiny (vv. 18-21)?

10. What can you learn about the cause of the argument mentioned in v.25?

Why would this cause an argument among the religious leaders?

11. Look at John's response in v. 27 when he was told others were leaving him and going to Jesus. What can we learn from his response?

12. What qualities does John point out about Jesus in vv. 27-36?

13. John was continually telling others that Jesus was more important than he was. In what ways can we demonstrate Christ's authority and superiority over us?

John 4

1. Why do you think John included the fact that it was not Jesus Who was baptizing, but his disciples?

Why do you think Jesus left the area when the Pharisees began to raise questions about the number of people being baptized?

2. Read John 4:1-26. Why do you think Jesus "had to go through Samaria" on his way to Galilee? (Remember, Jews normally went around Samaria to avoid contact with the hated Samaritans.

What can you learn about why the Jews hated the Samaritans?

3. What can you learn about the Samaritan women?

Why do you think Jesus risked his reputation to speak to this woman? What does this tell us about Jesus and his ministry?

What present-day situations might arouse the same racial, religious, and sexual prejudices?

4. When Jesus mentions "living water," how does the woman respond?

5. Why do you think Jesus brings up the woman's long list of past marriages and her present adulterous relationship?

Why does the woman change the subject?

6. What does it mean to you that God desires worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth?

In what way is this comment similar to the statement Jesus made to Nicodemus about being born again?

7. Do you think the Samaritan woman genuinely believed Jesus? If so, why?

8. What principles can you draw from Jesus' conversation with the woman to help you in discussing the gospel with non-Christians?

9. What was Jesus telling His disciples in vv 31-34?

10. After his encounter with the Samaritan woman, what specific lessons does Jesus apply to his disciples and to us (vv. 34-38)?

11. In vv 46-47, how does the royal official act that is out of character for him?

Why did he not care?

What can we learn about his attitude?

12. Look carefully at what Jesus said in v. 48. In light of that comment, why did He choose to heal the man's son?

13. What was the man's response or reaction when Jesus told him to go? How might this compare with your response?

Can you remember a time when it was difficult for you take "Jesus at his word" and depart?

14. What has Jesus taught you in this chapter about meeting the specific needs of those around you?

John 5

1. What are some reasons people reject Jesus Christ?
2. How do you think you would react if you found yourself at the pool at Bethesda?
3. Read John 5:1-15. Based on the scene and conversation around the pool, how would you describe the feelings and attitudes of the invalid?
4. Why do you think Jesus asked the invalid if he wanted to get well?

Does he really answer Jesus' question?

5. Why do you think Jesus healed the invalid?

What do you imagine the man was feeling and thinking as he picked up his mat and walked for the first time in 38 years?

6. Why were the religious leaders so upset?

Can you think of a time when "tradition" or "religion" kept you from seeing Jesus?

7. What are some reasons you have encountered that people give for not believing in healing?

How do you respond?

8. Look at Jesus' answer in verse 17. Why did this response make the religious leaders so angry?

How did Jesus react?

What does this tell us about our actions when we are "attacked"?

9. What do vv. 19&20 tell us about Jesus and God?

Why would this answer infuriate the religious leaders even more?

What are the implications of this truth for us?

10. What insights do verses 19-23 give us into (a) the Father's devotion to the Son and (b) the Son's dependence on the Father?

11. Read carefully verse 22 and write down all it means to you?

Based upon this verse, what would you say to someone who told you he or she believed in God but not in Jesus?

12. According to Jesus, why is our response to him a matter of eternal life or death (vv. 24-30)?

13. How did your believing in verse 24 change your life? Really change it!?

14. In verses 31-47, Jesus lists three witnesses who testify on His behalf. Who or what are they?

How does their testimony prove Jesus' claim?

What testimony do we have today that Jesus' claim is true?

15. What counter-accusations does Jesus make against those who are attacking him?

Why would each one be a severe blow to the religious piety of these Jewish listeners?

16. How can we avoid the kind of religion that is outwardly pious but inwardly bankrupt?

17. According to this chapter, what really influences our verdict for or against Jesus?

John 6

1. In verse 2, why were the people following Jesus? What was Jesus' reaction to the crowd (v. 3)?

Why do you think Jesus separated Himself from the crowd and sat down with His disciples?

2. Verse 4 says that Jesus was testing Phillip (and the other disciples). What exactly was the test? What would it take to "pass" this test? Does it seem "fair" for Jesus to test us with such impossible situations?

How do you usually respond to an "impossible" situation—a problem in your life that doesn't seem to have a solution?

3. What governed Phillip's and Andrew's responses to Jesus' test?

How are we like these two disciples?

4. What did Jesus do with the bread and the fish? What was Jesus teaching His disciples and us?

5. What do you believe the disciples were thinking when Jesus told them to have the people sit down for a meal?

What do you believe they were saying to one another as they picked up the twelve baskets of leftovers?

Since Jesus did not make a mistake about the amount of food needed, what was He teaching with the twelve baskets?

6. How would you sum up the main "answer" to this "test"? What is the significance of Jesus' actions in verse 15?
7. What insights does this passage give you into how Christ may be at work in the difficult situations in your life?
8. Read vv. 16-24. Why was Jesus not in the boat with the disciples?

Did Jesus have to be with them physically to protect them?

9. Verse 20 tells us the disciples were afraid, terrified, exceedingly afraid when they saw Jesus walking on the water. Why?

How do you think you would have reacted had you seen a figure walking on water coming toward you?

How did this change the disciples' opinion of Jesus? How has it changed yours?

10. Has Jesus ever frightened you? What was the reason?

Are there any areas of your life where Jesus is telling you, "It is I; don't be afraid"?

11. In vv.24-26, why are the crowds seeking Jesus?

How does He use this opportunity to teach them?

12. What does v. 29 mean to you?

13. In light of Jesus' feeding the 5,000, how could the people ask for a sign in vv. 30-31?

Can you remember a time when you asked Jesus for a miraculous sign even after His showing you His power?

14. Here is the first "I am" statement of Jesus. What is it?

What claim does Jesus make regarding this statement?

What is the significance of His making this statement right after feeding the 5,000?

What promise does the Bread of Life make over and over again?

15. What is the Father's will (vv 39-40)?

How does this make you feel?

16. In vv 41-42, the people were not talking to Jesus but to each other, yet Jesus answered them in v. 43. What does this tell you about Jesus?

What is the key word in vv 41 & 43 that causes Jesus to react? Is there a warning here for us?

17. Read carefully vv 43-51. What must one do to receive eternal life?

18. What was the "hard teaching" mentioned in v 60?

Why did this cause them to argue among themselves (v 52)?

Why would this teaching cause many to stop following Jesus?

19. How would you explain to someone what it means to eat Jesus' flesh and to drink His blood?

How often should we do this? Explain the reasoning for your answer.

20. Read vv 60-71. (Notice in v. 61 "that" word pops up again.) Why do you think Jesus always addresses this issue?

21. Why does Jesus turn away from the crowd and address His disciples?

What was their reaction to this hard teaching?

Why did they decide to stay with Jesus?

Why have you decided to follow Jesus despite the "hard teachings"?

What are some of the hard teachings of Jesus you have had to accept?

22. Are people still refusing to follow Jesus because His teachings are too hard?

Should we "soften" these teachings to get them into the Kingdom? (Did Jesus?)

23. What significance does v 65 hold for you?

24. Just as He said to His disciples (v 70), Jesus says to us, "Have I not chosen you?"
What has He called you to do and how has He satisfied your spiritual hunger?

John 7

What can you find out about the Feast of Tabernacles? Specifically, what part did water play in this Feast?

Read carefully vv 1-5. We read that Jesus faced great opposition. Even Jesus' brothers refer to Jesus' disciples, not including themselves among them. Can you remember a time when you faced opposition from family members because of your faith?

How did you handle it?

How did Jesus handle it?

What advice would you give new believers in Christ who face opposition from family members?

Jesus' brothers hint in v. 4 that Jesus was acting in secret. Was He?

Why do you think Jesus was not "showing himself to the world"?

Why do you think Jesus waited to go the Feast until after his brothers had left?

What are some of the "rumors" being spread in Jerusalem about Jesus?

How were these rumors being spread?

How should we react to rumors?

When Jesus begins teaching in the temple courts, what amazes the people?

What is Jesus' response?

According to Jesus, how can we verify the truth of His teachings (vv 16-18)?

In verse 19, why does Jesus say that none of them kept the law? How were they breaking it?

Read vv 21-24. How are the people being hypocritical?

What answer does Jesus give in v. 24?

How can we apply this answer and make right judgments?

What are some of the other questions being raised about Jesus?

How does Jesus respond to each?

Read vv 27 & 42. What is ironic about these verses?

Why is it important for us to know the scriptures today?

Why do Jesus' responses to the peoples' questions make them angry?

What is the significance of Jesus' statement in v. 34?

How can we be sure we can go where Jesus has gone?

On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, large vats of water were poured out on the pavement of the temple court as a reminder of God's provision of water in the wilderness. With that custom in mind, how would you explain the significance of Jesus' remarks in verses 37-39?

What evidence do you have that the Holy Spirit is at work in your life?

How would you explain the purpose of the Holy Spirit to a new believer?

Why did the temple guards not arrest Jesus?

How does this relate to John 1:14?

In v. 48, what reasoning do the rulers and Pharisees use to prove that people should believe in Jesus?

Why would Nicodemus risk his reputation and position to defend Jesus?

Can you think of a time when you took a “risk” to present Jesus?

In this chapter we find that the people held many different opinions of who Jesus was. What were some of those opinions?

What are some of the opinions of people today?

Do we find the same confusion over Jesus’ identity?

Why does this confusion exist?

What can you do to help clarify for others who Jesus is?

In this chapter we can see that the Jewish leaders were very religious but not very spiritual.

What is the difference?

What can we do to guard against this “religious” mindset that keeps us from seeing Jesus as He really is?

Why must we watch out for pride?

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John 8

1. When they brought the woman to Jesus, the religious leaders were trying to trap Him. What was the penalty for anyone caught in adultery?

Who established this law?

If Jesus let the woman go, of what would they accuse Him?

If He punished her, of what would they accuse Him?

In what way were the religious leaders themselves "breaking the law"?

2. Do the religious leaders care about the woman? Why or why not?

How do you think the woman felt when they made her stand before the crowd and publicly announced her sin?

How do you feel when someone publicly or privately exposes a sin in your life?

3. In verse 6 we are told Jesus knelt down and wrote on the ground. There is no way of knowing for sure, but what do you think Jesus was writing?
4. Imagine yourself in the crowd, feeling perfectly justified condemning the woman. How would you react to Jesus' remark in v. 7?

5. Can we apply this "principle" to our lives today? If so, what and how?

6. Why do you think the older ones were the first to leave?

What do you think the younger ones were thinking as the older ones began to leave?

What do you think they were thinking when they were the only ones left?

7. As the crowd began to leave, what do think the woman was feeling?

8. Can you remember a time when you were definitely wrong and someone forgave you? How did that make you feel?

What did Jesus' forgiveness do for this guilty woman?

9. What can we learn about confession of sin from this episode?

What can we learn about forgiveness?

10. Why are more eager to condemn other people's sins rather than our own?

11. How would you describe Jesus' attitude toward women (vv 10-11)?

12. Read John 8:12-30. Jesus' first claim is: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." What does it mean to walk in darkness (v. 12)?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the light of the world?

How has Jesus been the light of your life?

13. What is the significance of Jesus' response in v. 14?

What claim is Jesus making in vv 14-18?

14. How does this claim heighten the tension between Jesus and the Jews (vv. 19-30)?

15. What is Jesus really saying in v. 23?

16. Verse 24 contains the primary reason for Jesus' conversation with the religious leaders. How would you explain the significance of this verse to someone?

17. In verse 28, Jesus says that if we will "lift up the Son of Man" then we will know He is the Christ, the Son of God. What does it mean to "lift up the Son of Man"?

How can we lift up Jesus in our everyday lives?

18. Based on the questions and doubts of the religious leaders, what is ironic about verse 30?

19. Many people quote verse 32. However, Jesus places a condition on this verse. What is it?

How can we "hold" to Jesus' teachings?

How have you been set free by the truth of Jesus Christ?

20. The people respond that they are already free because they had never been a slave to anyone. What was Jesus' response to their claim?

What is the freedom promised by Jesus?

21. Jesus' opponents also claim to have both Abraham and God as their father. According to Jesus, how does their conduct contradict their claim (vv. 39-47)?

Why is our conduct the truest test of our beliefs?

22. What is it about Jesus' statements that make his enemies want to stone him (vv. 48-59)?

23. How was Caiaphas' comment in vv. 49-50 prophetic?

24. In vv. 55-57 why were they looking for Jesus?

What are some of the reasons you came looking for Jesus?

What do you think people are looking for today when they come to Jesus?

25. How can Jesus' responses in this chapter help us deal with people who are hostile to the Gospel?

Chapter 9

1. The disciples ask Jesus if the man's blindness was due to his or his parents' sin. Do you believe people still think this way?

What would say to someone who believed this way?

Can you think of any instance where this might be true? Please explain.

2. What was Jesus' response in v. 3?

How do you feel about the man's being born blind so the power or work of God could be seen?

What was this power or work?

3. Read carefully Jesus' comments in vv. 4-5. What do you think Jesus meant when He referred to its being day? (Some versions do not have this phrase but simply say things must be done quickly. Why?)

What did the night falling represent?

4. What is the significance of Jesus' "I am" statement in v. 5 in relation to man's condition and the miracle about to take place?

5. Did the man ask to be healed? How do we know the man had faith?

Why do think Jesus chose to heal him by spitting on the ground and applying the mud to the man's eyes?

Suppose you asked for healing of one eye (the other being okay). The minister takes you outside, spits on the ground, and stirs it with his finger. You see him take the mud and start to put in on your other eye. What would you do?

6. After the man is healed, what questions do his neighbors and other who have seen him begging ask?

Why are they discussing his identity instead of the miracle?

7. What is man's response when asked how his eyes were opened?
8. Read John 9:13-41. On what grounds do the Pharisees object to this miracle (vv. 16, 22, 24, 29)?
9. Why does Jesus keep healing on the Sabbath?
10. The Pharisees decide to get to the bottom of the situation. First they ask the man (who had been blind) how he received his sight. What was the man's answer (v. 15)?

What was their response to this "eyewitness" testimony?

What conclusion do they reach about Jesus (vv 16-7)? About the man (v. 18)?

11. Still skeptical, the Jews send for the man's parents (v. 18). How would you describe the parents' attitude and response (vv. 19-23)?

Of what are the parents afraid?

How do you think you would respond in a similar situation?

12. The Pharisees send for the man a second time (v. 24). What do they ask him this time?

How does the man respond (vv. 25 & 27)?

13. The man begins to teach the teachers in vv 30-33. His answers are very logical. What does he answer?

How do the Pharisees respond?

14. What is ironic about the Pharisees' search for the truth?

In their quest for the truth, what one fact gets lost or totally ignored?

Is the same thing happening in the church today? In other words, are we sacrificing the truth in our search for truth? Can you think of any examples?

15. What do you think was the man was feeling when he was first healed? When he was first called to "testify" to the Pharisees? When he was called the second time? When he was thrown out of the synagogue? When Jesus came to him a second time?

Can you think of a time when you found yourself going through a range of emotions following a mighty blessing from God?

16. What happens the first time the man encounters Jesus?

What happens during this second encounter with Jesus?

Why does Jesus go to the man a second time?

How can this give you hope for a lost loved one who has encountered Jesus but has not yet "seen" the truth?

17. How would you explain Jesus' comment in v. 39?

18. Jesus says that if the Pharisees were blind, they would not be guilty of sin. What blindness is He talking about?

How would blindness keep them from being guilty of sin?

Since they are not blind, of what sin are they guilty?

19. What can we learn from this chapter that can help our spiritual eyesight?

What can we learn about persecution?

John 10

1. Read the allegory in vv 1-21. What do you think the following represent:

Sheep pen (see v. 16)=

Thief / robber =

Sheep =

Good Shepherd =

Watchman =

In your own words, what does this story mean? In other words, how would you explain it to an unbeliever or a new Christian?

2. What can you learn about sheep pens, shepherds, and sheep during Jesus' time?
3. In v. 1, Jesus said the person who enters by some way other than the gate is a thief and robber. What does Jesus mean by "some other way"?

Can you think of a modern day example of a thief or robber?

4. Jesus' followers are referred to as His sheep. What are some positive characteristics of sheep?

Some negative characteristics?

Can you see any of these positive or negative characteristics in your life?

Can you see any of them in the church?

5. How do the sheep respond to the shepherd's voice?

To the voice of a stranger?

6. Can you remember a time when you had difficulty telling the difference between the shepherd's voice and the voice of a stranger?

How can we learn the difference?

7. The last part of v. 3 states that the Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name. What significance do you think this held for the people in the crowd?

What significance does it hold for you?

8. What does it mean when Jesus says, "I am the gate for the sheep?"

9. In vv14-18, Jesus states that He is the Good Shepherd. What are some of the characteristics of the Good Shepherd?

How has Jesus been a good shepherd to you?

10. What does Jesus mean in v. 16 when He says He has other sheep not of this sheep pen? Who are these sheep?

What will happen to all His sheep?

How should this affect the church?

11. Read vv 17-18. Why does Jesus say the Father loves Him?

What is the significance of v. 18?

12. How do the people respond to Jesus' comments?

13. These statements by Jesus follow the incidents in chapter 9. How do these statements relate to what happens in chapter 9?

14. There is a lapse of time between v 21 and v 22 of about 2 months. The first part of the chapter occurred at the Feast of Tabernacles. The second part of the chapter occurs during the Feast of Dedication. What can you learn about the Feast of Dedication?

15. In v. 24 the Jews ask Jesus to tell them plainly if He is the Christ. Taking into account the history behind the Feast of Dedication, what do you think the religious leaders were looking for in the Messiah?

What do you think people are looking for today?

How can Jesus meet these needs?

How does Jesus answer the Jews?

Why do they not believe Him?

16. What does Jesus mean when He says no one can snatch His sheep out of His hand (v. 18)?

What does this mean to you?

How would you explain this profound truth to someone searching for Jesus?

17. Look carefully at what Jesus says in v. 19. He says almost the same thing except for one difference. What is that difference?

What is the significance of this difference? (See v. 30.)

18. Why do the Jews want to stone Jesus?

In what ways can we today "stone" Jesus?

19. Why does Jesus say they should believe Him (vv 37-38)?

20. Verse 42 says that many believed in Jesus. What convinced you to believe in Jesus?

John 11

How would you explain Jesus' relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus?

What indications do you have that Jesus loved this family?

In v. 3 why do you suppose the sisters sent for Jesus? What do you think they expected Him to do?

Why did Jesus not go immediately to Bethany?

Do you think it was difficult for Jesus to wait two days?

Have you experienced times when the Lord seemed "slow" to respond to your prayers? How did this make you feel?

How can these scriptures help us when we feel this way?

Why did the disciples not want Jesus to go to Judea (v. 16 also)?

Read carefully vv. 9 & 10. What do you think Jesus was telling His disciples?

What does this mean for us?

If you were one of the disciples, how do you think you would have responded to Jesus' comment in v. 15?

What has made Jesus glad?

Which disciple said they should go with Jesus? What did he think was going to happen to them? How does this fit with this disciple's reputation?

Why do you think Martha was the one to go meet Jesus while Mary stayed at home?

In vv 21-27, what does Martha say that shows she had faith?

What does she say that exhibits doubt?

What does Jesus tell Martha that stretches her faith?

How does she react?

Can you remember a time when your faith was stretched?

How did you respond?

Why does Jesus do this?

Do you believe Jesus' statement in v. 25?

What does it mean to you?

Of all the names and titles people used in reference to Jesus, why do you think Martha used the title "The Teacher" when talking to her sister Mary?

What title would you use when introducing Jesus to someone? Why?

What can you learn about Jewish burial customs from these verses?

What about them, if anything, "appeals" to you?

What do you find uncomfortable?

How was Mary's reaction to Jesus in v. 32 similar to that of her sister Martha?

How was it different?

Why do you think Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled in v. 33?

In what ways can we trouble or grieve Jesus?

Since Jesus knew Lazarus was going to be raised from the dead, why was He crying in v. 35?

How does this short verse make you feel?

What does it say about Jesus?

What was Martha's objection when Jesus told them to remove the stone?

Can you think of a time when your natural understanding kept you from "seeing" a miracle?

According to Jesus' statement in v. 40, what must we do to see the glory of God?

Does believing in Jesus mean we will never grieve? Explain.

Read vv. 45-48. Why did the people believe in Jesus?

How did the Pharisees hear about Lazarus and Jesus?

How did they react to this miracle?

Why did they want to stop Jesus?

What is prophetic about Caiaphas' statement in v. 49?

To whom does this prophecy refer?

How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees' threats?

In what ways do we still try to "force" Jesus to conform to our viewpoints?

What effect does this have on our relationship with Him?

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John 12

1. In vv. 1-3 we once again see Martha, Lazarus, and Mary. They are giving a dinner in Jesus' honor. What is Martha doing? Lazarus? Mary?

What appears to be Martha's primary concern?

Lazarus' primary concern?

Mary's primary concern?

Which of the three best describes you when you are in the Lord's presence?

2. In verse 4, what motivates Judas to object to Mary's act of worship?

Is this attitude still in the church?

What was Jesus' reaction to Judas' objection?

3. In what ways can we show extravagant devotion to Jesus?

Do we? If not, what is the reason?

4. Why did the chief priests want to kill Lazarus?

What does this show us about them?

How can we keep our hearts from getting hardened like this?

5. Why does Jesus come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey?

6. Read vv. 12-19. What are the people shouting about Jesus?

How are they treating Him?

What do you think they are expecting Jesus to do?

7. Now look at Jesus' comments about His ministry in vv. 23-28. How do these contrast with what the people were expecting.

8. What is the significance of v. 24 for us today? How should we apply this to our lives?

9. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant will be,"?

What does it mean to you?

10. What can we learn about Jesus in v. 27? What do you think is going on in Jesus' mind? What is the most important thing to Jesus?

11. In v. 30 Jesus said the voice from heaven was for the benefit of the crowd (and for us). What did the voice say?

How do we "benefit" from it?

12. What is the significance of Jesus' statement that He must be lifted up?

How would this enable Him to draw all men to Himself?

13. Read vv 35-36. What is Jesus telling the people?

14. Verse 37 states that many still did not believe in Jesus, but verse 42 says that many of the leaders did believe. How do you explain this apparent contradiction?

What kept the people from believing?

Why would the leaders not confess their belief?

Was there ever a time when you "loved the praise of men more than the praise" of God?

15. Read vv. 44-50. Jesus once again states His reason for coming. What is His reason?

How is He going to accomplish this?

What is the significance of His statements for us today?

John 13

Beginning with this chapter, we get a look at the private conversations Jesus had with His disciples. It is the time of the Passover meal, and Jesus knows what lies ahead. He also knows that this is His last opportunity to teach His disciples before His death. What we read in chapters 13-17 are Jesus' private conversations with His disciples and with His Father.

1. What do you know of the Passover meal?

Does it hold any significance for you? Do you think it holds any major significance for the church in general? Should it? Please explain.

2. What does Jesus know in v. 1 that His disciples do not?

In light of this knowledge, what surprises you about Jesus' actions?

Can you remember a time when you were asked to do a menial, demeaning job? What was your reaction?

3. Read v. 2. How do you think the devil "prompted" Judas to betray Jesus? At this point, has Judas made up his mind to betray Jesus?

How can the devil "prompt" us today to betray Jesus?

4. What significance does v. 3 have for you? What do you believe it means?

In light of v. 3, what is so startling about v. 4?

5. What can you learn about footwashing? Who usually did the footwashing?

6. Jesus is the Teacher. Why do you suppose Jesus chose to teach His disciples this way rather than with words?

What is He teaching?

How can we apply this teaching to our lives today?

What "jobs" or responsibilities in the church would you consider to be equivalent to footwashing?

How would you react if asked to perform one of these tasks?

7. Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples, including Judas. What do you think Jesus was thinking and feeling as He knelt before Judas?

What do you think Judas was feeling?

How has Jesus "washed" your feet?

8. What spiritual lesson is Jesus relating to Peter (and to us) in vv. 8-11?

9. Jesus asks the disciples a question in v. 12. How would you answer the question?

10. Would you have more trouble washing someone else's feet or allowing them to wash yours? Why?

11. Read vv. 12-16. Summarize Jesus' message. How does it challenge their idea of the Messiah?

What is the significance of these verses for His church?

For Cornerstone?

For you?

12. There are three key words in v. 17: know, blessed, and do. What is the relationship between these three words?

13. What has the first part of this chapter shown you about being Christ's servant?

What qualities are absolutely necessary to be His servant?

14. Why does Jesus predict His betrayal at this time (v. 19)?

15. Why do you think Jesus was "troubled" in spirit in v. 21? What can you learn about the word "troubled"?

16. None of the disciples had any idea who the betrayer was. What does this tell you about their relationship with Judas? About Jesus' relationship with Judas?

How would you react around someone who only wanted to harm you?

17. Look again at v. 2. Now look at v. 27. What has happened that allowed Satan to enter Judas?

18. Jesus refers to His disciples, grown men, as His Children. In what ways are they children?

In what ways are we Jesus' children?

19. What is "new" about the commandment Jesus gives in v. 34? Why do you think He made this change?

20. Jesus said the world will be able to recognize us as Jesus' disciples because of this love. What distinguishes this love from other forms of love?

What does it mean to you to love others this way?

What can the church do to show this love to those around us?

Do we love this way? If not, why?

John 14

1. Chapter 14 continues with Jesus' personal words to His disciples. What had Jesus said in Chapter 13 that might have caused their "hearts to be troubled?"

Many people believe that being in Jesus' presence would never leave one troubled. In light of these verses, how would you answer them?

Have you ever been troubled in your heart because of something Jesus said to you?

2. Read vv. 2-4. How would these words comfort the disciples?

How do they comfort you?

In what way would they help you comfort someone close to you who was going through a difficult time?

In your own words, what do these scriptures mean to you?

3. In verse 4, Jesus tells the disciples that they know the way to the place He is going. Where is Jesus going and what is the way?
4. What is the significance of v. 6 to you?
5. Read vv. 5 & 8. What have Thomas and Philip still failed to realize about Jesus?

Do people still struggle with this truth?

How important is this truth to us as Christians? To the church?

6. Look back at the amazing things Jesus has done, from raising the dead to healing the blind. Yet, in v. 12 He says that those who believe will do greater things than these. What are these greater works?

What does this verse mean to you personally?

What condition does this verse contain?

Why do you think the church is not seeing these "greater" works on a more large-scale basis?

7. Now read vv. 13 & 14. These are amazing promises. Jesus says He will do whatever we ask in His name. What do you think Jesus meant by "in my name"?

Does this mean we will get whatever we ask for? Explain.

8. According to v. 15, what is the indication that one loves Jesus?

What can those who love Jesus expect (v. 21 & 23)?

Can one tell by your life that you love Jesus?

What is an indication that one does not love Jesus? (v. 24)?

9. Jesus also tells the disciples that He will give to them the Holy Spirit. What does the name Counselor tell us about the Holy Spirit's ministry?

How has the Spirit been your Counselor or Comforter?

Why can the world not receive the Holy Spirit?

What must one do to receive the Holy Spirit?

10. What else will the Holy Spirit do for us (v 26)?

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in these ways?

11. In v. 27 Jesus says that He will give His disciples (and us) peace. Considering what is ahead of them (Jesus' arrest and persecution), what do you think Jesus meant when He promised peace?

He said He does not give as the world gives. How does the world give?

How does Jesus give?

12. In verse 29 Jesus tells the disciples that He is telling them these things now so they will believe later. Has Jesus ever "told" you something that you did not understand so that you might believe at a later time?

13. Read carefully vv. 30 & 31. What truths can you find in them?

What do these truths mean to you?

14. How can the promises of Jesus in this chapter bring you peace and comfort?

How can they help you in comforting someone who is going through a difficult time?

John 15

1. Read vv. 1-2. Jesus tells us He is the vine, God is the gardener, and we are the branches. What do you believe Jesus is telling us with this illustration?

Why did Jesus refer to Himself as the "true" vine?

2. Jesus says there are two types of branches. What are they? What happens to each?

What is the significance of Jesus' referring to His followers as branches?

Who or what does each type of branch represent?

Who is responsible for the pruning of the vine?

In what ways have you experienced God's pruning? How did it make you feel?

3. In v. 3 Jesus says the word cleanses us. How does it do this?
4. Read vv 4-8. Jesus does not command His followers to bear fruit. What does He command us to do?

What does it mean to "remain" in Jesus?

What is the result of remaining in Jesus?

5. Jesus says apart from Him we can do nothing. How would you answer someone who tells you of his or her list of accomplishments?

6. Jesus says we will produce **much** fruit if we remain in Him. What are some of the possible "fruit" we will produce?

7. What happens to the branches that do not bear fruit?

What advice would you give someone (according to this chapter) who was not producing much fruit?

8. According to v. 10, how can we remain in Christ's love?

9. What standard of love are we to use toward others? How does this love differ from the world's love (see v. 13)?

10. Jesus says the greatest measure of love is laying down his life for his friends. How can we lay down our life for others so they will see the love of Christ?

11. In vv. 14-15 Jesus says He no longer calls us servants. By what "right" can Jesus call us servants?

What does He call us? How does this make you feel?

What is the measure of friendship (v. 14)?

What do you think it means to be Christ's friend?

12. Many times we quote v. 16 that Jesus promised the Father will give us whatever we ask in Jesus' name. Yet, we need to look more closely at what Jesus said. First, what does the Father do in relation to the vine (vv 2 & 6)?

Also, what has Jesus appointed us to do before He says the Father will give us what we ask (v. 16)?

So, using these scriptures, how would you answer someone who says he has been praying for a new job and more money to pay bills, but has not received an answer. Therefore, this person argues, Jesus' word must not be true.

13. Jesus says that He chose us; we did not choose Him. In v. 19, He says He chose us out of the world. What does this mean to you?

In what ways has Jesus taken you out of the world and taken the world out of you?

What is one of the results of being called out of the world by Jesus (vv. 18-19)?

So, what should our response be when we are persecuted (vv. 20-21)?

14. In v. 22, Jesus says the people around Him would not be guilty of sin if He had not come and spoken to them. As a result, they have not excuse for their sin. Why?

Does this same principle apply to us? If so, how?

15. In vv. 26-27, Jesus talks about three witnesses as to His identity. Who are the three?

How does the Holy Spirit testify about Jesus?

How has the Holy Spirit testified to you about Jesus?

16. Jesus uses repetition to highlight key elements of His teaching. What are some of the key points in chapter 15 that Jesus repeats?

How do these points relate to each other and how can they comfort us?

John 16

1. In verse 1 Jesus tells His disciples that He has told them these things to keep them from going astray. Other versions say to keep them from being offended. The word used for astray or offended means: to entrap, to cause to stumble, to lead away, or to entice to sin. In what ways could the disciples be led astray or be caused to stumble?

How can what Jesus has said keep them on the right track?

Can you think of a time when God's word kept you from stumbling or going astray?

2. What kind of treatment can the disciples expect from the world?

Can you think of anyone who fits the description given by Jesus in verse 2? If so, what eventually happened to this person?

What kind of persecutions can we expect?

3. According to Jesus, why will these people do these things to believers?
4. In vv. 5-6 Jesus says that the disciples are not asking questions because they are too filled with grief. Can you think of a time when you could not concentrate on what Jesus was saying because of your personal situation?

What should be our reaction in these situations?

What situation is Jesus facing in a few hours? About whom or what is Jesus concerned?

5. Jesus said it was for their good that He was going away. In what ways was it better for the disciples to have the Holy Spirit than to have Jesus in the flesh?

How is it better for us?

6. According to verse 8, what is a result of the Holy Spirit's ministry?

How will the Spirit accomplish this?

How did the Spirit accomplish this in your life?

7. What else will the Holy Spirit do (vv 13-15)?

How has the Holy Spirit done this for you?

Why is this important for us today?

8. Read vv. 16-19. Why do you think the disciples are confused about Jesus' comments?

Why do they ask one another what Jesus meant instead of asking Jesus?

When you are faced with a question, do you turn to others or to Jesus first?

9. Read vv. 20-22. Jesus says that when the disciples mourn, the world will rejoice and vice versa. What will cause the disciples to mourn and the world to rejoice? Why?

What will cause the disciples' grief to turn to joy?

How does this same knowledge turn our mourning into dancing?

10. What promise does Jesus give His disciples in vv. 23-24?

What is going to prevent them from asking Jesus anything (v. 23)?

Next, Jesus introduces a new concept. He says His disciples will ask the Father "in His name." Again, what do you believe Jesus meant by this?

Why had the disciples not asked for anything in Jesus' name before now?

How can our joy be complete (v. 23)?

What is the relationship between problems, prayer, answers, and joy according to these verses?

11. In verse 26, Jesus says the disciples will ask the Father directly. Why would this be a new concept for them?

Why will they be able to do this now when they could not before?

What does it mean to you to be able to ask the Father directly?

12. What does Jesus say about love in vv. 27-28?

Have you experienced this love? If so, how?

What condition is placed NOT on the love but on our receiving this love?

13. In verse 32 Jesus tells the disciples that they will all abandon Him, yet He still loves them and cares about their welfare. How do you react to people who betray you?

For each of the disciples this foretells personal failure for each of them. Does this failure "ruin" their ministry?

How do you react to personal failure? To other people's failures?

How does Jesus want us to act?

14. In verse 33, Jesus says we have peace from Him but trouble from the world. Why would anyone choose trouble instead of Jesus' peace?

Before you were saved, why did you?

15. What does it mean to you that Jesus has overcome the world?

16. Which of Jesus' promises in this chapter mean the most to you? Why?

How can these promises strengthen us in times of persecution or trial?

John 17

1. Why do you think Jesus prayed this prayer out loud?
2. Read vv. 1-5. Jesus asks only one thing for Himself. What is it? What do you think this means?

What do you believe Jesus means by "glorify" the Father?

3. In verse 3, Jesus gives us His definition of eternal life. What is it?

Why do you think Jesus used this definition?

In what ways do you seek to know Jesus and the Father better?

4. According to verse 4, how can we glorify the Father? Can you think of something God has called you to finish?
5. Read vv. 6-19. What specifically does Jesus pray about His disciples?

Why would Jesus pray for their protection?

According to v. 11, what might be lost without this protection?

6. In v. 13, what does Jesus want for his disciples (and for us)? How would hearing this prayer bring that joy to the disciples?
7. In v. 17 Jesus says the disciples are sanctified by the truth or by His Word. What does "sanctify" mean?

How does His word or truth sanctify us?

What is one result of this sanctification or being set apart (v. 14)?

8. Now read vv 20-26. What is Jesus' main prayer for future believers?

Since this is Jesus' prayer, it shows us what is on His heart and on the Father's heart. Keeping this in mind, why do you think the church has "overlooked" this prayer for so long?

Why is unity so important (vv. 23 & 26)?

What does it mean to you for the church to be in unity?

9. What encourages you the most or means the most to you after reading Jesus' prayer?

John 18

1. How would you react if a close friend falsely accused you of a crime to get you out of the way?
2. How did Judas know where to find Jesus?

What groups is he leading?

Why is this significant? In other words, why did it take Roman soldiers and temple guards to arrest Jesus?

3. When the officials say they are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, what does Jesus answer?

How did the officials react to this answer? Why do think this happened?

4. If you had been one of the disciples that evening, what do you think you would be feeling as you learned they had come to arrest Jesus?

What was Peter's reaction?

Why did Jesus stop Peter?

What can we learn from Jesus' rebuke of Peter when we feel like "helping" God?

5. Read vv. 12-14. Caiaphas had been appointed head priest by Rome. If he was the high priest, why did the people bring Jesus to Annas **first**?
6. Read vv. 15-27. What is your first reaction to Peter's denying the Lord three times?

But before judging him too harshly, let's look at some other questions. Where were the other disciples? Where was Peter?

Can you think of a time when you "denied" Jesus? Did that denial mean you did not love him?

What advice would you give someone who had "betrayed" the Lord Jesus?

7. What do these verses show us about Jesus' faithfulness? His courage? His love? His state of mind?
8. Read vv 28-37. When the Jews took Jesus to Pilate, they did not enter the palace because doing so would make them unclean. What is hypocritical about this?

Why did the Jews take Jesus to Pilate?

They were very concerned about not breaking the law. Yet they had already broken the law several times already concerning the trials of Jesus. What can you learn about Jesus' legal rights as a Jew?

9. A Roman trial included four basic elements: the accusation, the interrogation (search for evidence), the defense and the verdict. What events or statements from the text are included in each?
10. What is wrong with the Pharisees reasoning in v. 30? Are we ever guilty of this "faulty" reasoning?
11. What can we learn about Jesus' kingdom from His answer to Pilate in v. 36?

What are we, as part of His kingdom, supposed to do?

12. According to v. 37, why was Jesus born?

In what ways does He testify to the truth?

How can we testify to the Truth?

13. What can we learn about Pilate's feelings when tries to release Jesus?

Pilate is the one with authority to free or condemn Jesus. Pilate states that he can find no basis for a charge against Jesus. Why does he not release Jesus?

Can you think of a time when you failed to do what was right because of peer pressure?

In what ways do you still experience this pressure?

What should we do when faced with pressure to give in to the crowd?

John 19

1. In John 18:38 Pilate states that he can find no basis for a charge against Jesus. Yet in 19:1 Pilate has Jesus flogged. If Jesus is innocent, why did Pilate have Him flogged?

How could this be considered an attempt by Pilate to save Jesus?

Read carefully 18:38-19:16. What attempts did Pilate make to spare Jesus' life?

Do these attempts absolve Pilate from guilt in Jesus' death?

How would you describe Pilate's character?

2. John was an eyewitness during this time. We often focus on the death of Jesus and overlook the other details. What are some of the specific injustices and humiliations Jesus chose to endure?

How does this make you feel?

What can we learn about Jesus from this passage of scripture?

3. Look carefully at Pilate's words in v. 5. What is the significance of his announcement?
4. Why do the chief priests and officials need Pilate's help (vv. 6-7)? What does this reveal about them?
5. The Jewish officials finally give their real reason for wanting Jesus dead. What was that reason (v. 7)?
6. What was Pilate's response to this reason? Why do you think he responded this way?

What had Pilate seen in the man Jesus that might have caused Pilate to "fear" Jesus?

Why did Pilate want to know from where Jesus had come (v. 10)?

Why do you think Jesus chose not to respond?

7. How do you explain Jesus' comment to Pilate in v. 11?

According to Jesus, who was guilty of the greater sin? Why?

8. What is ironic and sad about the religious leaders statement in v. 15?

9. What can you find out about crucifixion as a form of punishment or death?

Why do you think the religious leaders wanted this form of death for Jesus?

Why do you think John does not go into detail about the actual crucifixion?

10. Much has been written about who is responsible for Jesus' death. In these scriptures there are three groups involved. Who are they? What part did each play? Where were the disciples during all of this?

Keeping all of this in mind, whom do you consider to be responsible for Jesus' death?

11. What is prophetic about the sign Pilate placed on Jesus' cross?

Why did the religious leaders object to it?

12. Looking at 19:1 - 36, what are some of the specific things that happen to Jesus that are the fulfillment of scriptures?

13. What do vv. 26-27 tell us about Jesus?

14. What is the significance of Jesus' last words in v. 30?

What do they mean to you personally?

What do they mean to the lost?

15. Some believe that Jesus did not really die on the cross. What **evidence** does John give that proves Jesus died on the cross?

Why was it so important to John that people believe Jesus died on the cross?

What else was going on in Jerusalem when Jesus died on the cross? Why is this significant?

16. Who were the men who buried Jesus? What do you know about them?

Why do you think they were willing to take the risk and bury Jesus?

Where were Jesus' disciples during this time?

If you had been present, do you think you would have behaved like one of the disciples, like one of the women around the cross, or like Joseph and Nicodemus?

17. What about Jesus' crucifixion impacted you the most? Why?

John 20

1. Think back before you accepted Jesus as your savior. How would you have reacted had someone told you he saw someone raised from the dead?

What would be your reaction now?

What is the reason for the difference?

What kind of response should we expect from the world concerning Jesus' resurrection?

2. Why do you think the women were the first ones to go to the tomb?

Why do you think Mary chose to tell John and Peter?

3. In vv. 1-2 we see the effect of looking with our natural eyes only. First, what does Mary see at the tomb? What does she believe has happened? Who are the "they" she mentions in verse 2?

Now, what has really happened?

Can you think of a time when your perception of a situation changed once seen from Jesus' point-of-view?

4. John wants to present facts concerning Jesus, His death, and His resurrection. First, why is it so important for the tomb to be empty?

What **details** do we learn from Mary? From Peter? From John?

How do these details help prove that Jesus did rise from the dead?

5. Verse 8 says they saw and believed. What did they see that made them believe?

What did they believe?

Why is verse 9 important to this account? In other words, what does it tell us about the disciples?

6. What do you think might have been your reaction had you been present when Mary and the other women brought the news of an empty tomb?

7. Read vv. 10-18. Why do you think Mary stayed behind while the other disciples went home?

At this moment, how would you describe Mary?

Why do you think Mary did not recognize Jesus?

What causes her finally to recognize Jesus? How do you explain this? (See John 10:3-4).

8. In verse 17, some translations have Jesus saying, "Touch me not." Others read, "Do not hold on to me," or "Stop clinging to me." Which seems to be the best translation to you? Why?

What do you think Jesus meant?

9. According to verse 19, why did the disciples still have the doors locked? How do you explain this in light of verses 8 & 9?

10. We often refer to Thomas as Doubting Thomas. However, one of the first things Jesus did when He appeared to His disciples was to show them "his hands and side." Why do you think Jesus did this?

What effect did this have on the disciples?

What effect do you think it would have on you if Jesus did the same for you?

11. In vv 19-23 what specific gifts and promises does Jesus give His disciples?

Have we received the same gifts and promises?

What do you think we are to do with them?

12. In v. 22 Jesus says the disciples will receive the Holy Spirit. What is the very next thing Jesus tells them, commands them, or promises them?

What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and forgiveness?

Why do you believe Jesus' first instructions to the disciples concerned forgiveness?

What message does this hold for us?

13. In vv 2-27 we read about Thomas. How does Thomas' "doubting" attitude add credibility to the resurrection of Jesus?

14. Verse 31 states John's main purpose behind this gospel. In your own words what is the purpose?

How does Thomas' declaration in v. 28 support this claim?

15. John has recorded the reactions of several people. With whom do you most identify: Mary, Peter, John, or Thomas? Why?

John 21

1. What are some of the events that have shaken the disciples' lives?

How have they chosen to deal with these issues?

How does change usually affect you?

2. In John 20:30, John states that "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples." In light of Jesus' resurrection and these miracles, why do you think the disciples went fishing?

Who seems to be the "leader" of this group? Why do you think the other disciples listen to him after what has happened?

3. What is the significance of their not catching a single fish?

Why do you think the disciples did not recognize Jesus as He stood on the shore?

What are some things that keep you from "seeing" Jesus in your day-to-day life?

4. Since they did not know it was Jesus on the shore, why did they obey him and throw out their nets again?

This is the second miraculous catch of fish. When did the first occur? What is Jesus teaching the disciples in enabling them to catch so many fish?

What significance does this hold for us?

5. Why does Peter jump out of the boat when he learns it is Jesus?

What might be going through his mind as he is swimming to shore?

What does this reveal about Peter's feelings for Jesus?

How can we be more like Peter?

6. Since Peter could not wait to get to Jesus, how do you explain Peter's returning to the boat for the fish?

Why do you think John recorded the exact number of fish in the net?

7. Why do you think John mentioned the breakfast?

What importance does this hold for us?

8. Look carefully at Jesus' question to Peter in v. 15. To whom or what do you think Jesus is referring when He says "these"?

What is Peter's response? How does it differ from Peter's earlier statements (Matt. 26:33 & John 13:37)?

9. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three questions?

What do you think Peter is feeling?

How would you feel if Jesus asked you three times if you loved Him?

10. After each of Peter's answers, Jesus gives Peter a command. At first glance they all look the same. However, look carefully at the three commands.

What is the first? the second? the third?

Do they mean the same thing or are they different? If different, what is that difference?

11. What significance do these commands have for us, the church, today?

12. After what has happened to Peter, why do you think the Lord tells Peter how Peter will die?

How does Peter react to this news? (See v. 19.)

13. Despite Peter's denials and failures, Jesus chooses to restore him and not replace him. What can we learn from this about restoring someone who sins and falls away?

14. Read vv. 20-23. What message do these verses contain for us as individuals? as the church?

15. What has this study of John meant to you personally? Why would you recommend someone study the book of John?