

Knowing God Better - Gospel of John

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1st - Knowing God Better - John 1

A little bit of housekeeping first, ok?

There are various translations of the Bible. Some use more formal wording than others. But the differences are minor. If you have a Bible, use it. You don't need a particular one.

I will be using the New Living Translation. But NIV, EST, NAS, or many others are just fine.

If you want to use a Bible online, go here: <http://tinyurl.com/czub2og>

So you know, "John 1:3-4" means, the book of John, chapter 1, verses (sentences) three and four. It's just a way of notating the chapters and sentences, so we can quickly find something.

The Gospel of John is the 4th book of the New Testament. It is written by the apostle John, who was likely Jesus' closest friend. This is John's biography of Jesus, where John reports everything he saw, heard from Jesus, and knew about Jesus, as he followed Jesus for three years, as one of Jesus' chosen apostles.

Most of John's gospel is straightforward reporting. However the first paragraph can be a little confusing. John starts with important truths about Jesus, but does not yet reveal who he is talking about. John writes, "In the beginning, the Word was with God and the Word was God."

Later, John lets us know the Word is Jesus. "...the Word became human and made his home among us...the Father's one and only Son."

Today we're going to look at John 1:1-5. (John, chapter 1, verses 1-5)

Q - When did Jesus begin to exist? (see below)

A -

1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

It says that the Word was *with* God, yet also *was* God.

Q - In verse 2 (see above), was Jesus ever not with God?

A -

Jesus did not come into existence as a baby in the manger, Christmas morning. Jesus, as God, has always existed. In fact, he was involved in the creation of the universe.

Q - How was Jesus involved in the creation of the universe? (see below)

A -

3 God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

A candle is stronger than any darkness. It says that his life brought light to everyone.

Q - When you hit dark times in your life, how does verse 4 and the following verse, give you hope?

A -

5 The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Write a summary here of what you learned from these 5 verses:

A -

That's a lot!! I'm amazed at all that God reveals to us in such a few sentences. He's so kind to disclose so much to us.

"Thank you, Jesus, that you want us to know you."

Next study we'll pick up from here. Feel free to read all of John, chapter one.

By the way, if you'd like to see an explanation of the Trinity, this might be helpful: www.everystudent.com/forum/trinity.html

2nd - Knowing God Better - Gospel of John in brief

Thanks again for joining this series on the Gospel of John.

I had a professor in college who taught a course on the "Gospel of Mark." It was a secular university. (That will be very clear to you, as I tell you this story.)

The course description said, "The Gospel of Mark." But after getting into the course, we learned that the professor had rewritten the gospel, and it was his version that we would study!

It gets worse.

The professor was an ordained minister, but didn't believe that God existed. So you can imagine his version of the Gospel of Mark!

Yes, I could tell you horror stories.

So, with this as a background, I was thinking the other day, "What if someone wanted to grab a quick read of the most important sections in the Gospel of John?"

That question alone can border on sacrilegious. Which sections are "most important?!" I chose portions that tell us something significant about Jesus.

Everything is straight from the Gospel of John (no rewrites!!).

Read through this article on EveryStudent.com (it won't take long). Here's the link: www.everystudent.com/wires/whowas.html

And if you want to share this article with a friend or on your Facebook page, just copy and paste that link.

3rd - Knowing God Better - John 1 continued

In your country you might have certain rights. Like freedom to speak your mind, freedom to worship God, freedom to travel.

Some rights people obtain by studying. The right to practice medicine or law, for example.

John, chapter one, tell us that if we do something, we have the right to become children of God. Maybe you have already done this. Let's see.

Referring to Jesus, John 1:10-13

10 "He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.

12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Q - Do you have the right to consider yourself a child of God? Why? (look at the Scripture above, then type your answer below)

A -

Q - Your human birth came from your parents. Where did your spiritual birth come from? (see verse 13 below)

A -

13 They are reborn--not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God."

John goes on to describe how the "Word" came into the world for us.

14 "So the Word [Jesus] became human and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

When John says, "we have seen his glory," he is saying that he and the other disciples were amazed by the quality...the uniqueness of Jesus' life. They saw miracle after miracle that Jesus did for people. He healed the lame and blind, cast out demons, even brought people back to life, proving that he is the Father's Son.

They saw his glory.

Q - From verses 16 & 17 below, what else did the disciples see in Jesus? Something that was new to them? Something that was not a usual part of their Jewish life of religious laws?

A -

16 "From his [Jesus'] abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.
17 For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ."

In the Bible, you'll see the "law" refers to God's commands, including the Ten Commandments, given to Moses.

The law had demands, requirements: "Do this." "Don't do that." The law focused on their actions, their outward religious behavior and responsibilities.

In contrast, Jesus Christ brought them (and us) a relationship. We could now know God's "unfailing love and faithfulness." (Read verses 16 & 17 again.)

Q - According to verse 18, why can we know God?

A -

18 "No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us."

Q - Please write here a summary of what you've learned from all of these verses:

A -

So, that's a wrap on John 1. We won't go through every chapter of

John. But I will try to go in order for you. So, now read chapter one again, now that you have a full picture!

Next time, jumping ahead to chapter 3.

p.s. Just to avoid confusion, let me mention one other thing from chapter one. John, the author of the book, is one of Jesus' twelve apostles. There is a second "John" that John the apostle mentions in this chapter: "John the Baptist."

John the Baptist was somewhat like a front-man for Jesus. His preaching prepared people to believe in Jesus.

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#### **4th - Knowing God Better - John 2 & 3**

We're going to skip chapter 2, except for one verse toward the end. John 2:23 says:

23 "Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him."

One of those people was Nicodemus.

But he had a problem. Nicodemus held a prestigious position in the community. He was a religious leader. A \*Pharisee\*. Have you ever heard that term, "Pharisee?"

These are the only people we ever see Jesus criticizing. And he was tough on them.

For two reasons:

1. They were proud, ostentatious religious leaders who lived for the praise of others. Had to have the best seats at banquets. Be noticed. Though the Pharisees were the religious leaders, Jesus said they were far from God, having no sincere heart for God.
2. They concocted crazy, impossible religious regulations that they demanded others follow. None of these rules had anything to do with knowing God or being in relationship with him.

Not only were they prideful and legalistic. The Pharisees were the

worst kind of hypocrites. That's where we get the word, "Pharisaical."

Ok, so one of these Pharisees named Nicodemus had a problem. He has realized that Jesus is from God. So he comes to Jesus, at night, when none of his buddies will see him.

John, chapter 3, starting with verse 2:

2 "After dark one evening, he [Nicodemus] came to speak with Jesus.  
'Rabbi,' he said, 'we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.'"

What do you suppose Jesus did? In 1Peter 5:5 it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Jesus responds to Nicodemus with truth and kindness.

3 "Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.'"

Q - Why do you think Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to start over, and be born again?

A -

Nicodemus was confused:

4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

Jesus explains that he's referring to a spiritual birth.

Q - According to verse 6, who gave birth to your relationship with God?

A -

6 "Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life."

And this is the issue. The Pharisees focused on their rituals, strict doctrines, external do-gooding. They expected God to honor them for their effort.

But we don't come to God with our credentials. God accepts us when we come to him for new life. When we put our faith in him, we are "born again" by the Holy Spirit.

Here is Jesus clear message to Nicodemus. Nicodemus needed to stop

believing in himself. And instead believe in Jesus, because:  
15 everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

Q - Do you believe in Jesus? According to Jesus, what do you have?

A -

Next study, we're going to jump to verses 16-18. These are some of the most important sentences in all of Scripture. Stay tuned!

By the way, if you have any questions, please send an email to:  
[www.everystudent.com/contact.php](http://www.everystudent.com/contact.php) Someone will personally reply to you.

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5th - Knowing God Better - John 3 continued

Today we're going to look at some of the most important sentences in all of Scripture!

Important for you to know (maybe memorize). And great for you to use if you want to explain to someone else how they can begin a relationship with God.

John 3:16 -- Does that ring a bell? Have you ever seen someone hold a sign up at football games with this written on it? Here it is:

16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Please answer the following questions by looking at verse 16:

Q - What was God's motivation?

A -

Q - What action did God take?

A -

Q - Who did he do it for?

A -

Q - What would you gain?

A -

Q - What would you need to do?

A -

Q - If you believe in Jesus, what do you have?

A -

In this gospel, John uses the Greek word, "pisteuo" for "believe."

You will not find the passive noun, "belief" in John's gospel. It is always in verb form. If I'm remembering correctly, Matthew and Mark use it nine times in their gospels, and Luke 10 times. John uses this word 99 times. And it means to fully trust, to fully rely on.

It is more than agreement. It isn't like saying, "Yeah, I believe that plane could get me to Chicago." It is fully trusting. It's where you have to get on the plane.

When we believe in Jesus, we are asking him to enter our lives with an intent to rely on him, as God. When we do, we begin an eternal relationship with him...we are given eternal life.

Q - According to verse 17, what is God's desire?

A -

17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

A lot of people are surprised to find out what the Bible says about being "saved."

The criteria for being saved is given in these verses. Verses 16-18. In verse 18 we're told what it takes to be saved. And what God will judge people for.

What do you think it might be? How many times a person goes to church? How kind they are to others? How well they avoid sins?

Q - According to verse 18, on what basis does God judge people? What criteria is he using?

A -

18 There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged

for not believing in God's one and only Son.

As we go through the Gospel of John, you'll see the massive amount of reasons Jesus gives them to believe in him!

You might want to read through John chapter 3 in full now.

In our next study, we'll see Jesus' conversation with a woman. She also comes to him in private, for fear of what other's might think.

I hope you're enjoying these!

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## 6th - Knowing God Better - John 4

Today's study of John 4 needs a little bit of background.

Samaria was an area a little bit north of Jerusalem, currently in the West Bank.

The Pharisees, whom we studied in John 3, avoided Samaria. Pharisees wouldn't even walk down the same side of the street with Samaritans. They literally would cross the street.

And if a Samaritan touched them, the Pharisees considered themselves ceremonially "unclean" until they washed. Nice guys, huh?

Following the lead of their religious leaders, most Jews avoided the Samaritans.

Jesus was a Jew.

On a trip, Jesus was passing through Samaria and stopped to rest by a well. We'll start at verse 7. (I'm going to skip over a few verses, to keep this shorter.)

Q - Who initiated the conversation?

A -

7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink."

9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I

am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Q - What did Jesus want to do for her?

A -

10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?"

13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

Now Jesus is going to get very personal with this woman.

16 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

17 "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband, 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

When you look at her reaction to this, she doesn't seem to feel condemned by Jesus or ashamed. Instead, she's impressed that he knew that.

So she figures, this is someone who can probably answer a question she's always had.

19 "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. 20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

21 Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.

24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming, the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus told her, "I Am the Messiah!"

What do you suppose her reaction might be to this? Here's a woman likely shunned by her community. I mean after five husbands, she finally gave up and decided to just live with the next guy. You can imagine how the town talked about her.

But here is what she did...

28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?"

30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

The result?

39 Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" 40 When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, 41 long enough for many more to hear his message and believe.

42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

Q - Look below at verses 10 & 14 again. What was Jesus' desire for this Samaritan woman and the town?

A -

10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.

14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving

them eternal life."

Q - Jesus influenced a whole village through the words of a woman they did not think highly of. Do you think Jesus could use you to tell others about him?

A -

I just bet he can!

Next study will be shorter. And a fun one.

Again, any questions, please email: [www.everystudent.com/contact.php](http://www.everystudent.com/contact.php)

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7th - Knowing God Better - John 5

This study is going to be kind of fun. John 5.

Jesus so infuriates the Pharisees, they begin to plot to kill him. Wait until you see what Jesus did that irritated them to this degree.

Here it is. Jesus healed a guy who had been seriously ill for most of his life. The problem was, Jesus healed him on a Sabbath.

What?!

The Pharisees had taken God's law -- that the Sabbath would be a day of rest -- and turned it into an oppressive, legal menace. Absolutely NO work was allowed.

For example, a woman could wear a hair clip, but if she carried it, then it would be considered carrying a burden and forbidden on the Sabbath.

Ok, so here is John 5:5. Jesus sees this guy:

5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?"

7 "I can't, sir," the sick man said..."

8 Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!"

9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, 10 so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! The law doesn't allow you to carry that sleeping mat!"

Can you imagine? The guy hasn't been able to do that for 38 years, and now they tell him it's not allowed?!

11 But he replied, "The man who healed me told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

12 "Who said such a thing as that?" they demanded.

13 The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd.

Later, Jesus went to the Temple, found the man he healed. Jesus told him,

14 "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you."

Q - Could there be sinful behavior that could make someone really physically sick?

A -

(I can think of all sorts of harmful things we can do to ourselves that have natural, physical consequences.)

Q - What do you think of Jesus' attitude toward this man? In verse 14, does Jesus sound angry, condemning, or judgmental?

A -

Here's when things get heated.

15 Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

16 So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules.

17 But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I."

18 So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

Q - The end of verse 18, notice that Jesus referred to God in a very unique way. What correct conclusion did the Jewish leaders draw?

A -

One more bit of background.

In the second book of the Bible, in Exodus, God asked Moses to deliver the Jews from their slavery in Egypt. God told Moses to go to Egypt's ruler and flat out order him to let the Jews go free.

Moses asked God an important question. He wanted to know God's name. "Who shall I say sent me?" Kind of funny, in a sense. Like asking God for his business card.

God answered Moses, "I am who I am." (Exodus 3:13-15)

Well, in the gospels you'll see Jesus refer to himself as "I am" numerous times. Every time is significant. And in John 5, Jesus also refers to God in very intimate terms, as "My Father." And added that he does what his Father does. Here it is again:

17 But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I."

18 So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

Have you ever heard someone say that Jesus never actually claimed to be God? The Pharisees certainly thought he did! And it was on this basis that they sought to kill him.

Q - If someone asked you to prove that Jesus thought he was God, what chapter would you bring them to?

A -

Jesus' identity is central to our faith. He doesn't ask us to merely believe his teachings. He calls us to believe in himself.

Next lesson, we'll continue in John 5. And we'll see how Jesus presses the point even further. He says that to honor the Father, one has to honor the Son.

Feel free to read ahead in John 5.

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### **8th - Knowing God Better - John 5 continued**

Today we're just going to hit a few highlights in John 5:19-47.

In this section, Jesus is trying to get through to these highly religious Jews, who now want to kill him!

Jesus is about to explain further his relationship to the Father.

In the Middle East culture, it is common for someone from Egypt to be called, a "son of the Nile." That means, he comes from Egypt. Or, to be called a "son of the Cedars" that means you are from Lebanon.

Back in verse 18, we've already seen that Jesus "called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God."

The term, "Son of God" means he came from God. It speaks of Jesus' unique origin and relationship with the Father.

Q - In verse 19 & 20 below, what does Jesus say he can see?

A -

19 So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing.

Q - In the next verses below, what else does Jesus say he can do?

A -

21 For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants. 22 In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge,

Q - In verse 23, what conclusion does Jesus want them to reach?

A -

23 so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

Q - In verse 24 below, what does Jesus offer and promise them?

A -

24 "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

John 5:24 is a good summary of much of what Jesus said. It's a great verse to write down, memorize, and share with others!

Q - Skipping down to verse 36 now. What proof does Jesus give that he actually is from God, that he can give eternal life to those who believe?

A -

The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.

Remember, this conversation happens after Jesus healed a man who had been seriously ill for 38 years...who is now walking around well! This is just one of many, many miracles that Jesus performs.

Q - In the next verse below, how is Jesus different from them?

A -

37 And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, 38 and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me--the one he sent to you.

Q - In the next verse below, Jesus is talking about the Old Testament scriptures...from Moses, David, Isaiah, etc. What do you notice in these next statements from Jesus?

A -

39 "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you

eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! 40 Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

The people thought that if they memorized the Scriptures and tried to follow everything in them, they could earn eternal life. Jesus is pointing out that he is central to eternal life.

Q - In these next two verses, Jesus explains their problem. What is it?

A -

44 No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God. 46 If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me.

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. It has been estimated that there are over 300 Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah, that Jesus fulfilled.

We have an article about this, if you're interested:

[www.everystudent.com/wires/judaism.html](http://www.everystudent.com/wires/judaism.html)

Q - How would you summarize the main points you learned in today's Bible study?

A -

It's great to dig through these verses with you! Next study is John 6. We're going to hit just a few verses in it. Jesus talks again about how to have eternal life!

Thank him for giving YOU eternal life!

Questions? Send an email, and someone will personally reply to you:

[www.everystudent.com/contact.php](http://www.everystudent.com/contact.php)

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9th - Knowing God Better - John 6

John, chapter 6 is a long chapter - 71 verses. And a great event.

I'm going to summarize some of it, and we'll look at some key verses.

Q - Verse 2 below. Why were people following Jesus?

A -

2 A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick.

This chapter tells us that the crowd is 5,000 men, plus women and children. Jesus decides to feed them all. And he starts with food they can find...a boy had five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus gave thanks to God, and the disciples handed out the food.

And they all ate as much as they wanted. 12 After everyone was full...13 So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Q - What was the crowd's reaction? Did they realize what happened? (See verses below)

A -

14 When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!"

So, what do you think happened the next day? When Jesus fed the crowd, they were on a mountain slope by the Sea of Tiberias. Jesus left them in the middle of the night, and literally walked on the Sea of Tiberias to get to the other side.

If you ever heard of Jesus walking on water - it's true. It's in John 6:16-21

Ok, so now the crowd wakes up and can't find Jesus. So, they walk all the way around the water to the other side (13 miles long, 8 miles wide), and find Jesus.

Right away, Jesus confronts them.

Q - What does Jesus think they should focus on?

A -

26 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. 27 But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you.

They don't really get it. They try to goad Jesus into giving them more bread, by reminding him that God gave Moses and the Israelites manna (bread) when they were in the wilderness.

Jesus knows that they need more than bread! They have a long discussion and Jesus finally tells them:

33 The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."

35 Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Q - In the following verses (below), how secure is YOUR relationship with Jesus?

A -

37 However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. 39 And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. 40 For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

They begin to argue about who Jesus is. Jesus again repeats that he can give them eternal life. And they're still focused on bread!

So Jesus says something really shocking. He's trying to get their attention, and he might be just a tad frustrated with them.

I am the bread of life! 49 Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. 50 Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever

Jesus goes on to say:

58 I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever."

Obviously, Jesus is seeing things from a different perspective.

Q - What is Jesus' focused on for them? And what are they focused on for themselves?

A -

Jesus really drove home the point hard:

56 Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. 57 I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me.

Even Jesus' disciples are taken back by this. It says that many of them deserted Jesus at that point.

Jesus explains to them that eternal life does not hinge on people's efforts - even eating or drinking. He clarifies:

63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Q - What was Jesus trying to get the people to understand?

A -

Q - Do you think Simon Peter, one of the twelve apostles, got it right? (see below)

A -

You have the words that give eternal life. 69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

It's kind of refreshing, isn't it, to see that religious effort is not what God wants from us. But simply to believe in Jesus.

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## 10th - Knowing God Better - John 7

I hope you're enjoying these! Today I'd like to start by reminding you of a few points made earlier.

-- Jesus came from God (Son of God), sent by the Father.

-- The Old Testament contains prophecies about Jesus.

These points are going to come up again in John 7, in a very cool way.

In John 7, Jesus is at a large religious feast. Again, the people are questioning his identity. They're trying to figure out if he is the Christ, the Messiah. You can read this in verses 1-36.

We're going to skip those and start at verse 37.

37 On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! 38 Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'"

40 When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, "Surely this man is the Prophet we've been expecting."

41 Others said, "He is the Messiah."

Still others said, "But he can't be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born."

43 So the crowd was divided about him. 44 Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him.

45 When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

46 "We have never heard anyone speak like this!" the guards responded.

[The Pharisees replied] Search the Scriptures and see for yourself--no prophet ever comes from Galilee!"

Jesus, in fact, did grow up in Galilee. But he was BORN in Bethlehem!

Here's what happened.

Just before Jesus was born, a tax law required Mary (and Joseph

who was engaged to Mary) to go to their ancestor's place of birth to be registered for the tax. That required them to travel to "the city of David" which is Bethlehem, which is where Jesus was born. (You can find this in Matthew and Luke's Gospels.)

Also, the Gospels show that Jesus was of the royal line of David.

Do you know people who spend a lot of time arguing over the Bible, and miss the main point?

What did Jesus talk about, regarding where he came from? Did he talk about Galilee, or Bethlehem? No.

Q - One way to study the Bible is to notice when something is repeated many times. What does Jesus say repeatedly? (see below)

A -

John 5:23: Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

John 5:24: ...those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life.

John 5:30: I carry out the will of the one who sent me

John 5:36: The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.

John 5:38: you do not believe me--the one he sent to you.

John 6:44: For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me

John 6:46: only I, who was sent from God, have seen him

John 7:28: The one who sent me is true, and you don't know him

John 7:29: I come from him, and he sent me to you

John 7:33: I will return to the one who sent me.

I think you get the point.

Here's a statement from Jesus that I'll leave you with today. It's after Jesus' resurrection. He is talking to his disciples.

John 20:21: As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.

Wow. Huh? Jesus has a mission for us - to tell others about him.

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11th - Knowing God Better - John 8

John 8 starts with a great story of Jesus forgiving a woman who was caught in adultery.

We have a brief article on this one that you might enjoy:

www.everystudent.com/wires/women.html

Today we're going to start at verse 12. This is one of those statements from Jesus that you can bank your entire life on.

Q - What does Jesus promise you? (see below)

A -

12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

Q - What is our responsibility in the above verse?

A -

Q - If we do follow Jesus, what is the result?

A -

I am amazed that we can go through life with the confidence that we don't have to walk in darkness. Jesus offers to be our light. And he asks us to follow him.

Write this verse down and memorize it! During those times when you feel lost, thank Jesus, "Thank you, that you are the light of the world. Thank you that you will lead me. Thank you that you do not leave me in darkness, but will be my light."

Today, I think I'm going to end our study right here. We'll pick up the rest of John 8 next time.

Trust Jesus. He is our light!

If you would like to ask a question, please feel free here:

www.everystudent.com/contact.php

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## 12th - Knowing God Better - John 8 continued

Here we are in John, chapter 8. And people are still asking Jesus about his identity.

You're seeing that Jesus is very unique from leaders of other religions. If you look at Buddha, Mohammad, the Dalai Lama...the conversation is always about what they said, their teachings.

But with Jesus, WHO he is, is the central point. He wasn't asking people to only focus on his teachings. He was asking us to believe him. To rely on him.

So, here we are again, where Jesus is once more trying to help them realize who he is.

Q - What is the ramification if they don't believe in Jesus?

(see verse 23 below)

A -

23 Jesus continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not. 24 That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I Am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins."

Q - How did Jesus view his relationship with the Father? Did Jesus have any doubts about his own identity? (see verses below)

A -

26 I say only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he is completely truthful.  
28 I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. 29 And the one who sent me is with me--he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.

Can you imagine being able to say that about yourself? "I always do what pleases him." ?? I wish!! But Jesus could.

Q - In the following verses, what does Jesus promise us?

A -

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.  
32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you

free."

Jesus already promised to be our light, to keep us from walking in darkness, if we will follow him. Now he is promising to lead us into knowing the truth.

Before I had a relationship with Jesus, I was an atheist. And an existentialist. I always wanted to know the truth about life. I wanted to know what was important. How to live. What I could rely on. When I came to know Jesus, my search ended. He is the truth. He is our light. And he offers to lead us!

Again, I'm going to end here today. The next study is continuing in John 8 - it is when Jesus gets very confrontational with the religious scribes and Pharisees. He puts everything on the table. And they react!

In our study through the Gospel of John, I hope you're hanging in there.

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13th - Knowing God Better - John 8 still continued

You know the common view of Jesus? Kind, patient, meek, mild?

That is true sometimes. But not in John 8.

Jesus really puts it all on the table, and tells the Pharisees what he sees in their hearts.

Jesus just got done telling them that sin enslaves them. But if they will believe in Jesus, he will set them free.

The Pharisees are really put off by that, claiming to be descendents of Abraham, enslaved to no one! Jesus counters, saying if they were children of Abraham, they would do what Abraham did...and listen to God. So, Jesus brings into question who they really belong to.

Starting at John 8:42...

42 Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me.

Q - Now Jesus pulls out all the stops. Summarize what Jesus says is true of them (see below):

A -

43 Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! 44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Then Jesus asks a question of them (of his enemies) that no average person would normally be able to ask:

46 Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin?

Then Jesus finishes the logical progression of his message:

And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

You know how they reacted? They began calling him names! No kidding. They called him a Samaritan (a racist slur). And then said Jesus was possessed by a demon (a religious slur).

Jesus does not back down. He says a few things, then this:

51 I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!"

They immediately retort:

53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

Here is how Jesus responds:

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad."

57 The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?"

Q - Based on Jesus' answer below, what do you think he is saying

about himself? Who is he saying that he is?

A -

58 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!"

Here is their reaction:

59 At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

Remember the phrase, "I Am" is reserved for only God. So, once again, Jesus is clearly putting forth his identity.

Before Abraham was born, Jesus existed. Eternally. "I am."

Those who say that Jesus never claimed to be God, have never read the gospels!

Next study is John 9, which is pretty comical. Even sarcastic. Looking forward to it with you!

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## 14th - Knowing God Better - John 9

John 9 opens with the disciples asking a very surprising question.

1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?"

They felt comfortable asking Jesus anything...any question about life, the universe, ANYTHING! And (rightly) believed that Jesus would know.

Here was Jesus' answer...

3 "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. 4 We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. 5 But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."

And then Jesus did this...

6 Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes.

Q - In verse 6 (above) did the blind man believe in Jesus, and cooperate with Jesus putting mud on his eyes? Or did Jesus forcefully do this to him? (Warning: This is a trick question.)

A -

There is not enough information in that verse to know. But if we keep reading, we do know! (Keep that in mind. Sometimes you need to just keep reading.)

Jesus then told the man...

7 "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam"...So the man went and washed and came back seeing!

Q - Did the man believe in Jesus?

A -

John 9 continues in a rather comical way. This man, born blind, can now see. And the crowd, and especially the Pharisees, are trying to figure out if this is true. And if so, how did it happen? (You should read the whole chapter.)

Q - According to the verses below, why did the crowd take the man to the Pharisees?

A -

13 Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, 14 because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him.

The man explained how he was healed.

Q - What do you think of the Pharisees' conclusion, in verse 16?

A -

16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath."

Q - According to the next verse, how desperate were the Pharisees?

A -

18 The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents.

Q - They asked the parents if this was indeed their son, and if he really was born blind. According to the parents' answer below, what was important to his parents?

A -

20 His parents replied, "We know this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue.

Q - In the verses below, look at this man's answer. What does this show you about how YOU can speak about what God has done in your life?

A -

24 So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner."

25 "I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

After the Pharisees threw the man out of the synagogue, Jesus found the man, and asked the man this question...

35 ..."Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him."

37 "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!"

38 "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

Q - What does this show you about Jesus' heart?

A -

Next study will be John 10, which might be my favorite chapter.

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15th - Knowing God Better - John 10

In the first five verses of John 10, Jesus talks about sheep and the job of a shepherd. I'm a city girl (Chicago). So it was a little hard for me to picture all of this. Then it says...

6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant

So that puts me in good company! Ha ha. The next verse shows Jesus' gracious heart: "So he explained it to them..."

Those involved in this parable: the sheep, a hired hand (who doesn't care about the sheep), and the good shepherd.

Picture a small field, with a fence around it, and a gate at the opening. The sheep are gathered behind a gate. And the shepherd's job is to stand guard at night, against thieves and wolves.

During the day, so the sheep can graze, the shepherd leads the sheep in and out of the gate. They know the shepherd, and they simply follow his voice.

Jesus says...

12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

Q - How does Jesus identify himself in this parable? And what does he offer (us) the sheep? See below.

A -

"I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. 9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures...My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Q - According to the verses below, what did Jesus say he would do for us?

A -

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

17 "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. 18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again.

Q - In those verses you just read, why do you think Jesus states this so many times?

A -

It is going to soon appear that Jesus is forcefully arrested, crucified, at the decision of the Pharisees and Romans. Jesus will look like he has no control over the situation.

Q - According to the verses above, who is in control of Jesus' crucifixion and death?

A -

In the next study, we will finish John 10, where Jesus describes our intimate relationship with him.

I hope you are enjoying studying God's Word!!

If you would like to ask a question, here you go:

www.everystudent.com/contact.php

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## 16th - Knowing God Better - John 10 continued

We are finishing up John 10. Jesus has been describing himself as our good shepherd. The one who cares for us. The one who will lay down his life for us.

In John 10:22, Jesus is now in the Temple, during the religious Festival of Dedication.

24 The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me.

Q - In Jesus' next statement, what reason does Jesus give, that they should believe in him by now?

A -

(25)The proof is the work I do in my Father's name.

Jesus is referring to the miracles that they are seeing him do. (You know, all of those miracles that Jesus does, even on the Sabbath!)

Jesus goes on to describe those who do believe in him. In his next statements, Jesus implies three things he does, and three things his sheep do.

Q - What are those three actions Jesus' takes? And what are the three actions of his sheep? (see below)

A -

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

Just so you get this one. Here they are:

Jesus: speaks to us, knows us, gives us eternal life

We: listen to his voice, follow him, never perish

Q - How secure does Jesus say, is our relationship with him? (see below)

A -

No one can snatch them away from me, 29 for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are one."

What do you suppose the people's reaction is to this? You guessed it!

31 Once again the people picked up stones to kill him.

32 Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?"

33 They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God."

At least they understood.

Jesus tried once more to move them toward faith.

37 Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work.

38 But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

Q - Summarize all that you know to be true of Jesus, and your relationship with him, just from today's study.

A -

"Jesus, you are far more gracious than we will ever deserve. Thank you for giving us reason to believe in you. Thank you for caring about us to the point of death. Thank you for speaking to us. For leading us so that we may follow. And for knowing us, when we don't merit your intimacy. Thank you for holding us tightly in your hand."

Next study - John 11. Jesus does the spectacular!

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17th - Knowing God Better - John 11

In John, chapter 11, we're going to see Jesus with three of his best friends. They are a family comprised of one brother and two sisters.

He hangs out with them often. Two other places in the gospels you see Jesus in their home. They're close friends. And Jesus clearly loves them. It even says so.

In today's chapter we're going to see what Jesus does for his friend, Lazarus, the brother.

He lets him die. He literally stood by, and let him die.

Rather shocking if you've ever heard the song, "What a friend we have in Jesus..."

Please read John 11 on your own, then come back.

Here it is online for you:

<http://tinyurl.com/8ag77be>

Q - Verse 3 (below), what do you think Mary and Martha were expecting? Why should they expect it?

A -

So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him,
"Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

Everything they had watched Jesus do. Everything they knew about him and about their friendship with him. Of course they would send this message!

They knew where Jesus was. All they had to do was send a message.

Q - In the verses below, what two reasons does Jesus give for NOT going to Lazarus?

A -

4...it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this."

15 I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

Next, we will finish this study of John 11. It's powerful.

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### 18th - Knowing God Better - John 11 (continued)

Mary and Martha had the same conclusion. If Jesus had come, their brother wouldn't have died. But Martha adds this comment of faith:

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

Martha is a rock. Her faith in Jesus is steady even in the moment.

Q - Does Martha believe Jesus is going to raise Lazarus from the dead right then? (see below)

A -

23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

Q - Is Martha's faith focused on her needs, on Lazarus' well-being, or on Jesus? (see below)

A -

25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."

Mary is not so calm.

32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.

The translation we're reading is unusual in wording it as, "a deep anger welled up within him." Other translations say Jesus was:

deeply moved in spirit and troubled

deeply moved within

his heart was troubled very much

he groaned

So I guess translators have a hard time putting into words Jesus' emotions. They were extremely intense, however you word it.

Q - In light of Lazarus' death, people wailing, his good friends suffering, how else did Jesus' react? (see below)

A -

35 Then Jesus wept.

Again, in verse 38. I'll bracket these words...

38 Jesus was [still angry, deeply moved] as he arrived at

the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.  
39 "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

Logical Martha protests:

"Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

Martha's unwavering faith in Jesus just took a left-turn. Jesus had to remind her:

40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"

This comes next:

41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me."

43 Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

Q - What was the outcome of Jesus making Lazarus alive after being buried for 4 days? (see below)

A -

45 Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.

46 But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 53 So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death.

Q - Based on this chapter, when the circumstances look dismal in your life, is Jesus aware of your circumstances and does he have a big picture in mind?

A -

Q - As you look at Jesus' emotions here, do you think Jesus' cares about you?

A

Q - What does he want you to do? Find a verse above that summarizes what God wants you to do.

A -

If you want to know the heart of Jesus, this chapter tells you a lot. It's in Scripture, so that we can know him and trust him.

Hope you're enjoying these. If you ever have questions, or want to find out how connect with other Christians, email us:

[www.everystudent.com/contact.php](http://www.everystudent.com/contact.php)

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19th - Knowing God Better - John 12

What do you do when your brother, who was dead and buried in a tomb for four days...comes back to life?

You throw a party!!!

So Mary, Martha, Lazarus have a party, in Jesus honor. (How do you thank someone who brought your brother back to life?)

9 When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead.

Q - And in true form, the religious leaders weigh in. According to these verses (below), why were the Jewish priests so opposed to Jesus?

A -

10 Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too,
11 for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

Sometimes you'll find in a section of Scripture, a main point repeated. In today's study we're going to see one of these.

Glory The priests wanted glory. In verses 12-15 we see instead, the crowd giving Jesus glory. They put palm branches on the road, and Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while the crowd cried out:

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

We're told that Jesus did this, "just as it is written." Meaning, in the Old Testament, (in this case, by the prophet Zechariah.)

Then you see an interesting comment in verse 16:

16 His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

When did Jesus enter into his glory? It wasn't now, as he is receiving the crowd's praise. Here's a clue. See what Jesus said:

23 ...Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory.
27 Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came!"
28 Father, bring glory to your name.
32 And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.
33 He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

Q - According to the verses above, why did Jesus come?

A -

The crowds are hoping that Jesus will be their new King. But Jesus is entering Jerusalem with a whole different agenda.

35 Jesus replied, 'My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. 36 Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.'

Chapter 12 continues, and quotes the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah.

Then adds this interesting comment about Isaiah (who lived 700 years before Jesus):

41 Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he said this, because he saw the future and spoke of the Messiah's glory.

In contrast, we read:

42 Many people did believe in him, however, including some of

the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue.

And this is the zinger close:

43 For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

Q - On a personal level, do I, do you, live for the praise of men or the praise of God?

A -

Jesus calls us to focus on him:

46 I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

An amazing offer, don't you think?

I hope you are enjoying this study of the Gospel of John. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at EveryStudent.com. Specifically here: www.everystudent.com/contact.php

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## 20th - Knowing God Better - John 13

Thanks for staying with me through all of these!

When we get to John 14 through 17, we're going to slow down a little. So we're going to take a quicker look at John 13.

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Maybe? But not to where they had you killed! (I mean, you're still here, right?)

At this "Last Supper" Jesus tells his disciples that one of them will betray him. In verse 18 and 19, Jesus says,

...this fulfills the [Old Testament] Scripture that says, 'The one who eats my food has turned against me.' 19 I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I Am the Messiah.

It is Judas who goes to the Jewish authorities and, for money, tells them when and where to arrest Jesus.

(Read chapter 13, to see the full story of Jesus' interaction with Judas. Here's a link: <http://tinyurl.com/32rpg97> )

Jesus' desire is that the disciples to know that he is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God (all various titles that mean the same thing).

But Jesus also wants them to know he loves them.

John 13 opens with this statement: (I'm going to quote from a different translation, just because I love the way it's worded):

1 ...when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

That is such a true statement of Jesus' relationship with us. "...having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

At this "last supper" Jesus chose the role of the lowest servant, and washed each of the disciples' feet. He then talked about their need to also be humble. And to serve others.

Jesus always seemed concerned with heart motives, right attitudes.

In earlier chapters of John, we looked at some of the laws the Pharisees had. They were obsessed with outward behaviors and rules. Now Jesus brings them a new law:

34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

Q - What do you think of Jesus' commandment?

A -

Q - How would they know how to love? What does Jesus point to that would help them know how to love? (see verse 34 above)

A -

In our roles and responsibilities, there are certain standards we are measured by. It might be productivity, timeliness, ideas, what we accomplish, etc.

Jesus tells us how we show others that we are followers of him:

35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

In chapters 14 - 17, we will look at HOW we're able to love one another. Jesus is our model. But he's much more than that. He is also God, and the one who can live in us and love others, through us. You'll see!

Just in case you're not sure you have a relationship with God, this explains how you can:

[www.everystudent.com/features/gettingconnected.html](http://www.everystudent.com/features/gettingconnected.html)

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21st - Knowing God Better - John 13 continued

Today's study will be about what it takes to get to heaven.

We're going to start in verse 31. Judas is leaving. He's going to betray Jesus to the Jewish authorities, to help them arrest Jesus.

At this point, Jesus brings up an uncomfortable topic.

Jesus is talking about leaving the disciples. But this time, the disciples cannot go with him.

31 As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. 32 And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will soon give glory to the Son.

33 Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going.

This is one of those times when you need to keep reading to find out what Jesus is talking about.

The disciples were confused about this.

36 Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?"

And Jesus replied, "You can't go with me now, but you will

follow me later."

As John 14 starts, we begin to understand. Jesus says:

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

Q - Where is Jesus preparing a place for them? (see above verses)

A -

Q - Often Jesus talked about being sent by the Father, who is in heaven. Jesus came from the Father. So where is Jesus going?

A -

If you're still not sure what's going on here, the disciples were confused also.

Jesus said to the disciples:

3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.

5 "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Here is Jesus' reply. It is a monumental comment! It's one that you should consider writing down and memorizing. Here you go:

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

So now Jesus has clarified that he is going to the Father, and he is preparing a place for them to be with him, with the Father.

Q - When Thomas asked him how they could possibly know the way, how did Jesus answer him? What is the way to the Father in heaven?

A -

Jesus is not merely a way to the Father. He isn't like a great teacher or a prophet that points people toward God. It isn't like he's just saying, "Listen to what I tell you, and it will tell you how to get to heaven."

Jesus said that he is THE way, and in fact no one can get to the Father except through him. He is the truth. He is eternal life.

He's why Jesus is not just A way to the Father. Here are verses 7 through 11, Jesus' speaking:

7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?"

The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

Jesus is reminding them of all they have seen...Lazarus being raised from the dead. A man born blind able to see. Feeding five thousand people, starting with five loaves of bread and two fish.

Q - Are there times when the current circumstances have you so confused, so focused on the problems, that you forget what you know about Jesus?

A -

I'm going to cheat a little and give you a statement that Jesus makes in John 16 (which we haven't come to yet). But it lands the plane for you. Jesus tells his disciples:

27 for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God. 28 Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father."

Q - What is the main verse for you to know and believe about Jesus from today's study of John 14?

A -

There may be several. Make sure you catch John 14:6.

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.

And Jesus explains why this is true:

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!
I am in the Father and the Father is in me.

For those who believe in him, he is preparing a place for us. And he will bring us there, to be with him forever!

Next study...some here-in-this-life help for us!

If you are looking for a way to tell friends or relatives about Jesus, I have an idea for you.

You could email or message them this link:

<http://www.everystudent.com/features/faith.html>

Or you could post that link to your Facebook page or in Twitter.

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## **22nd - Knowing God Better - John 14**

In John 13, we saw Jesus at his last supper with his disciples.

In John 14, Jesus is now sounding urgent, very parental with his disciples. Protective.

He knows he's leaving them soon. The crucifixion is near, and Jesus knows it. He also knows that this is going to be a very stressful, unsettling time for them. So he has some important words for them...which he repeats several times.

Q - In these verses below, what is Jesus' instruction to them?

A -

15 If you love me, obey my commandments.

21 Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me.

23 ...all who love me will do what I say.

Q - What does the following verse tell you what Jesus cares about, and modeled to them?

A -

31 I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father.

Amazing consistency. Jesus was so clear.

Would they be able to obey Jesus once he leaves? Here's what Jesus says:

16...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.

17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth...you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans--I will come to you.

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will live in them. To those who desire a relationship with God, who believe in Jesus, God does not remain outside our lives. He is not "out there" and we simply do our best to obey him. No. He comes to live inside of us, giving us his life in us. Giving us the power to obey him.

Jesus says in these verses:

20 When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

23...and we will come and make our home with each of them.

Q - According to these verses, who lives in the lives of believers?

A -

verse 17 -

verse 20 & 23 -

You can see here, and in many other places in Scripture, Jesus clearly describes the Father, the Holy Spirit, and himself in a unique relationship with each other. Jesus asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit. And "they" as one God, reside in us who believe. This is a great illustration of the Trinity - three, yet only one God.

If you want a further description of the Trinity, please see

[www.everystudent.com/forum/trinity.html](http://www.everystudent.com/forum/trinity.html)

And if you have any questions, please feel free to email us:

[www.everystudent.com/contact.php](http://www.everystudent.com/contact.php)

Next chapter, Jesus will tell us how to rely on his love!

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23rd - Knowing God Better - John 15

What do you know about growing grapes?

I'm from Chicago. I know zip about farming, or gardening.

Yet, John 15 is all about growing grapes. It was a familiar picture for the disciples, so Jesus used it to teach them about his love. And also the importance of staying connected to him.

Ok, so grapes. I had to do some hunting on the Internet. Here's a great picture I found. Please take a look at it:

<http://www.everystudent.com/grapes.jpg>

You'll notice that there are three parts:

- the vine is the thick stalk that connects to the ground
- the branches are skinnier and up on the trellis
- the grapes are attached to the branches

What is the goal of someone who runs a vineyard? To produce the most grapes possible, with his land. And he/she probably cares about the quality of the grapes.

Jesus gives this directive:

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

5 Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

What kind of fruit is Jesus looking for?

What have we been hearing him say? "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." "If you love me, obey my commands." "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you have love for one another." Right?

Picture a branch that is broken or cut away from the vine. It's lying alone on the ground. Can it produce grapes? Why not? Because it's dead and has no life in it.

In John 14 we learned that the Holy Spirit will live in us, and never leave us. Jesus said, "Because I live, you will live also."

Look at verse 5 again:

5 Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Jesus is showing them that they need to rely on the vine for life. The branches can do nothing on their own. They can only produce fruit because of the vine.

I'm pretty sure that the nutrients come from the vine which is in the ground. The water they need also comes through the vine.

The branches simply are "there" to let the vine produce grapes, produce fruit. Their main job is to stay attached!

Here then is Jesus speaking - verses 9-12

9 I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

Q - According to the next verse, why is Jesus telling them this?

A -

11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Doesn't it seem a little ironic that Jesus would be talking about them being joyful, when he's heading toward the cross?

Q - What will bring them joy? (see verse 9, repeated below)

A -

9 I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.

And again, Jesus talks about the grapes, the fruit he wants to produce in us:

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

Q - Do you think loving others is also what will bring joy to our lives?

A -

16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

17 This is my command: Love each other.

Conclusion.

What does Jesus offer us? (verse 9)

What does he want us to do? (verse 9)

What will he produce in us, if we remain in his love? (verse 16 and 17).

Our main job...rely on the vine, and let him produce the fruit. Let him love others through us. That is his desire.

Next lesson we'll finish up John 15 where he talks about real opposition.

If you want to offer this study of John to anyone else, it is available for them here:

<http://www.everystudent.com/knowingGod.html>

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## 24th - Knowing God Better - John 15 (continued)

I like people who simply state what's true. It sometimes takes courage to tell the truth, to not sugar-coat it. Especially tough when its the last thing the person wants to hear, but needs to.

We're going to see Jesus tell the disciples some really tough news. Jesus is about to go the cross soon. And his message to them is this: you're going to suffer too.

See, you're not sure YOU even want to read this.

We hate suffering!

But Jesus wants them to be prepared. He doesn't want them surprised by this. And, he tells them some good news in the midst of it. So here goes...

These are Jesus' disciples, whom he chose, and they indeed left everything and followed Jesus. So now Jesus is preparing them for his departure. John 15:

18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.

19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you....Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.

Q - The disciples are obviously going to stay in the world a while. They're not going to die soon. So what did Jesus mean by "I chose you to come out of the world"?

A -

The world, the Jews and the Romans will hate them and persecute them because their lives have been changed by Jesus, and they're going to talk about it! If they kept silent. If they went back to fishing, or collecting taxes, or whatever their occupation, they probably would be fine. But Jesus chose them to live differently.

To live for him.

He knew they will spend the rest of their lives telling others that Jesus is the Christ. And, because of Jesus' life in them, they would display a character that would be different from others.

Q - How about you? What do you do when our culture goes a certain way, and you choose another way because of your relationship with Jesus? Can you give one example where that's happened in your life?

A -

Jesus tells them that the world's hatred for Jesus is not rational. It's without cause. And the world's treatment of the disciples will be the same. They will suffer for the same reason - some people choose to reject God.

21 They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the One who sent me. 22 They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Anyone who hates me also hates my Father.

24 If I hadn't done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. 25 This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: 'They hated me without cause.'

So Jesus is telling them, be prepared, they're going to hate you too, and it will also be unfair. Without justification.

In John 16, Jesus gets very specific:

2 For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. 3 This is because they have never known the Father or me.

So Jesus is giving them the truth so they will stay strong, and understand why this is happening.

We'll end with these last statements in John 15...the good news.

Jesus is not leaving them to fend for themselves. They will not be telling the world about Jesus on their own. Whew.

Jesus tells them again that he will send them the Holy Spirit:

26 "But I will send you the Advocate--the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. 27 And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

This week, ask God to give you an opportunity to testify about Jesus. Remember the vine & branches? Ask Jesus to convey his love through you.

And tell them something about Jesus that might be helpful for them to know.

If you get asked a question you don't know how to answer, tell the person to go to: [www.EveryStudent.com](http://www.EveryStudent.com) . That's not cheating. That's serving a person well, in helping them consider reasons to believe in Jesus.

Maybe email them a link to an article.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. He will. More on the Holy Spirit in our next email.

A verse I like: "And I pray that the sharing of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Philemon verse 6, RSV)

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25th - Knowing God Better - John 16

The last lesson was about Jesus giving the disciples some really tough news: They would be persecuted also.

In this chapter we'll see that they won't be on their own! Life and difficulties are not going to be solely on their shoulders.

Isn't that great news? We can handle difficulties. What's awful is when we have to be all alone! And figure everything out on our own.

But this never needs to be the case for us. This chapter explains why.

Jesus is telling them that he is going away (back to the Father), but he will send them "the Advocate." (John 16:7)

Jesus primarily refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of truth."

Q - Look at the following verses. After Jesus' resurrection, what will the Spirit of truth do for the disciples?

A -

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard.

He will tell you about the future.

14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

...The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.

I picture the Holy Spirit as somewhat of a coach. "Ok, guys, here's the plan. He's what you need to know... He's what I need to fill you in on."

Sometimes when I'm in a situation, I'll get out my Bible and a piece of paper. At the top of the paper I'll write a brief description of what's going on in my life. Then I'll write, "God, what would you like me to know about you pertaining to this situation? How do you want me to trust you? What would you like me to know?"

God always seems to answer that prayer. I want to trust him. I want him to tell me whatever perspective I need. Correct my thinking, my motives, my understanding of life. And show me what about himself that I need to know, to trust him better.

This is what the Holy Spirit does for us. He is the Spirit of truth.

Q - Why can we ask God to do this for us? (see verses below)

A -

27 for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God.

also

you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. 24 You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

I'm not saying that we get to go through Scripture and pick out what we want to believe God will do for us. I'm not talking about the situation or the end result. We don't dictate to God.

Instead, the prayer that I've seen God faithfully answer is this one: what about You do you want me to know and rely on?

No matter what's going on in our lives, Jesus says that he is able to give us peace. And I believe that happens as we choose to trust him.

Here's how Jesus wraps up his comments about his leaving, their

future suffering, the Holy Spirit guiding them into truth...

33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

Q - As you read Jesus' statements, what does the world give us? And what does Jesus give us? (see verse 33 above)

A -

Q - Which is more powerful (the world or Jesus)?

A -

I heard someone once say, "When the world seems to be falling apart around us, Jesus can keep us together, because he has overcome the world." I've found that to be true.

Next study is in John 17....an awesome chapter!! We get to hear Jesus pray to his Father. We get to see what's on his heart and what's important to him.

(By the way, if you have questions about prayer - which prayers God answers, here's an article that might help:

www.everystudent.com/wires/prayers.html)

Any questions, here you go: www.everystudent.com/contact.php

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## 26th - Knowing God Better - John 17

In the Old Testament when God spoke with Moses, God told Moses to take off his shoes, for the place he was standing on was "holy ground."

I kind of feel that way when we come to John 17.

We're listening in on a very intimate conversation between Jesus and the Father. Shhhhh.... listen....

1 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.

Does this remind you of anything?

Way back in John 5, Jesus rightly accused the Pharisees of only wanting praise and glory from the people. Their hearts and lives were not set on bringing glory to God.

But look at Jesus: Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.

Brace yourselves for this one. Jesus goes on to say:

4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

Wow, huh? We can only aspire to one part of this - to bring God glory by completing the work he gives us to do. But we can't touch verse 5.

Ok, jumping back up to verses 2 and 3, which I skipped, Jesus talks about eternal life. Referring to himself, Jesus says:

2 For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him.

Q - According to his next statement (verse 3 below) how can we have eternal life?

A -

3 And this is the way to have eternal life--to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

Jesus then refers to his disciples. As you read the following verses, ask yourself...

Q - Is this also true of you?

A -

6 I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, 8 for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

Q - As you read the following verses, what is Jesus' purpose for your life? (If you've ever searched for a life purpose, this is it!)

A -

9 My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. 10 All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory.

I'm going to end here, and next lesson we'll see how Jesus prays for the disciples...and for us (literally)...verse 20:

20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message

That's us!

We'll pick this up next. Stay tuned!

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27th - Knowing God Better - John 17 continued

Before we keep going on John 17, I'd like to interject a quick comment. In John 17 we're listening in on an incredibly unique conversation:

God the Son, talking with, God the Father.

Obviously, some of what Jesus says in that prayer is going to be foreign to us. The nature of God is different from our human nature.

For one thing, we live in a 3-dimensional world. I, as a person, am separate from another person. God is not limited by spacial dimensions. So, the Son can be separate from the Father, and yet not.

Ok, starting at John 17:9

9 "My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

Jesus is very mindful of the disciples, whom he is soon leaving. He really cares about them and their welfare. The majority of Jesus' prayer is focused on them.

11 Now I am departing from the world...protect them by the

power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. 12 During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them.

13 I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy.

Jesus then mentions that the world hates the disciples, just like they hated him. So he prays:

15 I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.

Do you know who Jesus is referring to by "the evil one?" Satan.

In John 8:44, Jesus describes Satan as "a liar and the father of lies." So it makes sense that Jesus then goes on to pray:

17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. 19 And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

Q - Jesus has prayed for their protection in the world. What does Jesus mention as a protection for them? Look at the following verses:

A -

11 ...protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. 12 ...I protected them by the power of the name you gave me.

For those who believe in Jesus, we belong to him. We have become his child (John 1:12) and bear his name (Christian - Christ in one, or inside one.) So, simply belonging to him is one level of protection.

Q - What other protection does Jesus give us? (see below)

A -

17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

Q - And finally, what else does Jesus mention as our protection from the evil one and the world?

A -

21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one--as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.

25 "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me.

26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

So, in summary, Jesus is about to go to the cross, and leave the disciples. He is concerned for them and wants to protect them through:

his name (belonging to him, God as our Father)

his word, which is truth

his love in us

himself in us

Q - Can we securely go through this world if we have that?

A -

Jesus does not pray or promise that they will escape all pain or all problems. But as we go through this world, this is what we have from him.

I skipped verses 20 and 21, so let me give them here:

20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one--as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

Next chapter...Jesus is arrested. Isn't it amazing that he would be so mindful of the disciples (and us) right before what he knew he would soon endure?

You don't need to wonder if God is aware of you or if he cares about you. If you are tempted to doubt that, look at what he says here.

Next chapter, things get intense.

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## **28th - Knowing God Better - John 18**

I hope you're enjoying these studies. We're able to only hit some of each chapter. So I hope you're able to take time to read the whole chapter.

You might remember, Judas was one of Jesus' 12 apostles. He spent three years with Jesus and the other disciples. But at the end, helped the Romans arrest Jesus.

3 The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.

Jesus shows his desire to protect the disciples who were with him:

4 Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them.

8 ..."And since I am the one you want, let these others go."

The rest of today's study is going to focus on Peter.

Earlier in John 13, Jesus had told Peter that Peter would deny that he even knew Jesus. Not just once, but three times before the morning (before the rooster crows).

Can you imagine blowing it, not once, but three times? Yes, we can relate!

So here we are in John 18.

Q - From the verses below, how many disciples followed Jesus as he was arrested and brought to the high priest?

A -

15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another of the disciples. That other disciple was acquainted with the high priest, so he was allowed to enter the high priest's courtyard with Jesus.

John rarely refers to himself by name in his gospel. So it's likely John who is there, with Peter. (John also shows up at Jesus' crucifixion.)

Q - When Peter denied Jesus, was it under pressure from the high priest? How scared was Peter? Who did he cave into? (see below)

A -

16 ...the woman watching at the gate, and she let Peter in.  
17 The woman asked Peter, "You're not one of that man's disciples, are you?" "No," he said, "I am not."

Q - Who else did Peter give in to? (see below)

A -

18 Because it was cold, the household servants and the

guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself.

25 they asked him again, "You're not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "No, I am not."

Q - Who else did Peter deny Jesus to? (see below)

A -

26 But one of the household slaves of the high priest... asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" 27 Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.

Usually we stay in the Gospel of John. But I want you to see something from Luke's gospel. Luke included more of the conversation between Jesus and Peter, when Jesus told Peter this would happen.

(By the way, Peter is often called "Simon Peter.")

From Luke 22:31-34: Jesus says:

32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

We'll see that Peter became one of the bravest leaders of the early church (of the early Christians), boldly proclaiming Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Can you imagine Jesus praying for you? Knowing your faith would fail, but praying for you? Praying that you would become the one to strengthen others?

Don't be discouraged by your failings. Jesus has not deserted us. He promises to never abandon us. (Hebrews 13:5)

If you have signed up for this study and are not sure you have ever received Jesus into your life, this explains how:

[www.everystudent.com/features/gettingconnected.html](http://www.everystudent.com/features/gettingconnected.html)

If you have begun a relationship with him, and sometimes get discouraged that you're not a "better" Christian, I'd invite you to sign up for this series: "Skip the Stress"

[www.startingwithgod.com/skip-the-stress/](http://www.startingwithgod.com/skip-the-stress/)

Next study...Jesus' conversation with Pilate (who orders his crucifixion).

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29th - Knowing God Better - John 18 (continued)

Ok, today we'll begin with a quick history lesson.

Jerusalem, in Israel, is where Jesus was on trial. In Jesus' time, though most of the residents were Jews, the Roman government was in control.

The Jews did have judges over their own religious laws. But in this case, they brought Jesus to the Roman government. In a minute you'll see why.

Pilate was the Roman "curator" (the governor) in charge.

We see Pilate, scratching his head, trying to figure out what crime Jesus has committed:

35 "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?"

Q - Why did the Jews bring Jesus to the Romans, rather than deal with Jesus themselves? (see verses below)

A -

29 So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, "What is your charge against this man?"
30 "We wouldn't have handed him over to you if he weren't a criminal!" they retorted.
31 "Then take him away and judge him by your own law," Pilate told them.
"Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone," the Jewish leaders replied.
32 (This fulfilled Jesus' prediction about the way he would die.)

So, you get that the Jews wanted Jesus killed. They wanted him gone.

Pilate tried to persuade the crowd to let Jesus go. But first, he tried to appease the crowd, by torturing Jesus some. (John 19):

1 Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. 2

The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. 3 "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

The whip was called a "cat-o-nine-tails." It had metal or bone-tipped ends on 9 straps of leather. Usually they limited the whipping to 40 times, which was enough to cut down to the person's bones.

After Jesus' beating, Pilate then tries to release Jesus:

4 Pilate went outside again and said to the people, "I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty."

Q - Looking at the verses below, what was the single reason the Jews wanted Jesus killed?

A -

6 When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"
"Take him yourselves and crucify him," Pilate said. "I find him not guilty."
7 The Jewish leaders replied, "By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God."

To the Jews, they had only two choices: believe that Jesus was who he claimed to be, or charge him with blasphemy, punishable by death.

Today, we are presented with the same question. There is no middle ground. We either believe Jesus is equal to God, as he claimed, or believe he was lying or insane.

(Here is an article which discusses these possibilities, and why Jesus willing went to the cross for us:

www.everystudent.com/features/faith.html)

Jesus didn't ask us to decide about his teachings. He asks us to decide about his identity.

Next, we'll finish up John 19, where John gives us his report of Jesus' crucifixion.

If you have any questions, remember you can always email your question here: www.everystudent.com/contact.php

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### 30th - Knowing God Better - John 19

Regarding Jesus' crucifixion...not only did Jesus know what was going to happen, but many Old Testament prophets had already written about it.

In John 19, you'll see these statements:

24...This fulfilled the Scripture that says...

28...and to fulfill Scripture he said...

36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say...

Isaiah was just one of the prophets who wrote about the coming Messiah. Isaiah lived 700 years before Jesus. Isaiah describes the Messiah's crucifixion in detail (hundreds of years before crucifixion was invented as a form of death).

Before we look at John 19, in today's study, let's just read excerpts from Isaiah, chapter 53.

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,  
nothing to attract us to him.

3 He was despised and rejected--

a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.

He was despised, and we did not care.

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;

it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,  
a punishment for his own sins!

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion,  
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on him

the sins of us all.

7 He was oppressed and treated harshly,  
yet he never said a word.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.

And as a sheep is silent before the shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

8 Unjustly condemned,

he was led away.

No one cared that he died without descendants,  
that his life was cut short in midstream.

But he was struck down

for the rebellion of my people.

9 He had done no wrong

and had never deceived anyone.

But he was buried like a criminal;

he was put in a rich man's grave.

10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him  
and cause him grief.

Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,  
he will have many descendants.

He will enjoy a long life,

and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.

11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish,  
he will be satisfied.

And because of his experience,

my righteous servant will make it possible

for many to be counted righteous,

for he will bear all their sins.

Next study, we'll look at John 19. In the meantime, thank Jesus for paying for your sin. He did. Your sins are fully paid for. All of them..."he will bear all their sins."

It is sobering, because we are guilty...but he took away not only our sins, but our guilt. If we believe in Jesus, and what he did for us, we are forgiven. (See Colossians 1:13-20)

Ok, I was tempted to write out that section from Colossians. Here it is, if you have time to read it: <http://tinyurl.com/9sauoqa>

John 19 next!

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31st - Knowing God Better - John 19 (continued)

Last study we read the prophet Isaiah's description of the Messiah being crucified: beaten, whipped, pierced for our rebellion, etc.

Ok, in John 19...

16...So they took Jesus away. 17 Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull...
18 There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Look at these verses:

23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.
24 So they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it."
This fulfilled the Scripture that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing."
So that is what they did.

Look at what the prophet David said in Psalms 22 (another chapter from the Old Testament, that describes Jesus' crucifixion):

16 My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs...
They have pierced my hands and feet.
17 I can count all my bones.
My enemies stare at me and gloat.
18 They divide my garments among themselves
and throw dice for my clothing.

Crucifixion was the Roman form of torture, always leading to death.

They nailed Jesus' wrists and feet to a cross. The cross was then raised.

Yet, in that state, look at Jesus' concern for his mother...

26 When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved...

(This is how the apostle John referred to himself in his gospel. He viewed his highest worth in terms of Jesus..."the disciple whom Jesus loved.")

Jesus said to his mother, Mary:

26..."Dear woman, here is your son." 27 And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Q - According to the next verse, how would you describe Jesus' mission on earth?

A -

28 Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty."

See Psalms 22 again:

14 My life is poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart is like wax,
melting within me.
15 My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay.
My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.

Back to John 19:

29 A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. 30 When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.

This is Jesus, who healed the blind, the lame, the demon-possessed. He brought Lazarus and others back to life. Clearly, the nails did not keep him on the cross.

Q - According to Jesus' statement from John 10 (below), were the Jews and Romans in control of Jesus' crucifixion?

A -

18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again.

Before they took Jesus down from the cross, they wanted to make sure he was dead.

33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead... 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

I am told that a medical evidence of death is when blood and water separates.

I love John's added note here. He sounds like a coroner:

35 (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.)

Next study will be the burial and the resurrection of Jesus!!

32nd - Knowing God Better - John 20

I'm going to start off today with a question:

Q - Who the two men who took Jesus down from the cross? And what was interesting about them? (see below)

A -

38 Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. 39 With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night.

You can find Nicodemus in John, chapter 3. Both of these guys were "secret" believers in Jesus, who didn't want others to know about it. But now, they both felt compelled to show up.

We're told that they brought with them 75 pounds of perfumed ointment and long sheets of linen cloth. This was the common approach in preparing a body for burial. The gummy ointment would be spread between the strips of linen cloth, wrapped around the body. It would harden like a tight casing.

39 He brought seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. 40 Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth.

We know from the other gospels that they placed Jesus in the tomb was Joseph of Arimathea's own tomb.

41 The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. 42 And...they laid Jesus there.

The other gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) fill in a little detail that John doesn't mention in his gospel.

The Jews knew that Jesus had said he would rise from the dead.

So, at the request of the Jewish leaders, the Romans affixed an official Roman seal from the boulder to the tomb's entrance, and posted a trained guard of Roman soldiers at Jesus' tomb.

John 20:

1 Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb...

We know from the previous chapter that Mary Magdalene had been at Jesus' crucifixion. When she got to the tomb, what happened?

1...and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 2 She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. [meaning, John]

She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. 4 They were both running, but the other disciple [John] outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

Q - What did John see in the tomb? It wasn't completely empty. What did he see? (see below)

A -

5 He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in.

6 Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, 7 while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings.

Q - What happened when they saw the linens, but only the linens? (see below)

A -

8 Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed--9 for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.

Next study you'll see even more proof of Jesus' resurrection...

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### 33rd - Knowing God Better - John 20 (cont.)

I realized that in the last study, I never really explained what a tomb looks like. Jesus wasn't buried in the ground.

Instead, he was put in something that looked like this (take a look):  
<http://tinyurl.com/yhw4vgy>

Ok, in the last lesson we noticed that Peter and John SAW something where Jesus was buried. No body. But empty linens that had been around Jesus' body and head.

Today, we'll see that Mary Magdalene also saw something. (Mary was the first one to see the open tomb and ran and got Peter and John.) Now, Peter and John have left. But Mary is still at the tomb...sobbing.

Q - What did Mary see? (see below)

A -

11 Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. 12 She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.

The angels asked her, "Why are you crying?"

Q - Did Mary realize that Jesus had been raised from the dead? Look at Mary's explanation for her weeping. (see verse below)

A -

13 Because they have taken away my Lord...and I don't know where they have put him.

So then someone else shows up and asks her the same question, "Dear woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" But the really cool part is...the person was Jesus!

14 She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. 15 "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said,

"if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

I love Jesus' reply!!

16 "Mary!" Jesus said.

That was all she needed. Verse 16 continued:

She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").

It makes sense that Jesus' next words are "Don't cling to me..." That is exactly what Mary wanted to do!!!

But Jesus has instructions for her, and she follows them. Here they are:

17 "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

Mary Magdalene was someone that Jesus cast 7 demons from. (see Luke 8:2). She followed Jesus from then on, literally all the way to his crucifixion, and now to his tomb, wanting him to have a proper burial.

Jesus appeared to her, turning her sorrow into joy (something he promised the disciples he would do through his resurrection).

It is against all Jewish norms for Jesus to choose a woman to first appear to. She was also the one who first grabbed Peter and John to come to the tomb. And now she is the first one to announce that she had seen Jesus risen!!

Some have pointed to this as further confirmation that the gospels are accurate, because no one would have scripted it this way!

But Jesus did. He often delivers the surprising.

Next lesson, we'll see what Thomas sees.

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34th - Knowing God Better - John 20 (still)

We are nearing the end. But not quite. Still John 21 to go. Today we're going to finish up John 20.

Ok, Peter and John saw empty grave linens. Mary saw two angels, plus Jesus himself! Now the disciples will see something.

Remember when Jesus was arrested? Peter was in the courtyard so scared he denied he even knew Jesus. When your leader is sentenced to the most brutal torture imaginable, until death, it certainly would unnerve the followers.

So it makes sense that we see:

19 That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said.

Q - Did they recognize Jesus? (see verse 20 below)

A -

20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!

Q - What message did Jesus have for them? (see verse below)

A -

21 Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

In John 14 we saw that Jesus said he would send them another Counselor to be with them forever. Jesus referred to him as "the Spirit of Truth."

As soon as Jesus was raised, he sent the Holy Spirit into the lives of those who believed in him. It's the same way for us. When we believe in Jesus and ask him into our lives, we also receive the Holy Spirit, right then.

(For more on the Holy Spirit, see <http://tinyurl.com/8gjw5px>)

There was one disciple missing from this. Thomas.

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas...was not with the others when Jesus came. 25 They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Q - What was Thomas' reply? What did he want? (see below)

A -

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

If you've ever heard the phrase "doubting Thomas" - this is where it comes from. Here his best friends tell him something wonderful, but he is not quick to believe.

What does Jesus do with this? He lets Thomas stew on this for eight days. I'm sure Mary, Peter, John and all the rest of the disciples were trying to convince Thomas from what they'd seen. But he wouldn't bend.

Until this...

26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said.

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

Thomas' reply:

28 "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

Q - Did Thomas go too far, referring to Jesus as his God? (see Jesus' response below)

A -

29 Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

I love that Jesus gives us credit for believing without seeing. At the same time, we've seen so much in this gospel, we're not without convincing proof!

John ends this chapter in a profound way. I will leave it without comment. It's worth writing down!

30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Next lesson, John chapter 21.

A reminder, if you have any questions you can send an email here, and someone will personally reply to you:

www.everystudent.com/contact.php

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### 35th - Knowing God Better - John 21

I've really enjoyed being in this study with you. At the start, I thought I'd be writing maybe 7 or 8 emails. But once you get into Scripture, it's tough to pull out or hit the surface.

When I first received Christ, I was so excited to read the Bible and see God's perspective on life. At the time, I was a student, the very end of high school. I realized that I had to alternate nights...studying one night, reading the Bible the next.

It was the only way to get the studying in!

Well, here we are at the last chapter of John. The disciples are probably still trying to figure out their lives now that Jesus is not with them. Peter does the sensible thing and goes fishing. back to his normal way of life: fishing.

3 Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing."

"We'll come, too," they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

Bummer to try to return to your old, familiar way of life, only to find out it isn't working any more.

4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples

couldn't see who he was. 5 He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?"

"No," they replied.

6 Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

They'd seen miracles before.

7 ...the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!"

There's John again, referring to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved." When they got to shore, Jesus had breakfast ready for them.

10 "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said.

11 So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn.

12 "Now come and have some breakfast!" Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

I'm wondering why it would cross their minds to ask who he was. Maybe Jesus didn't look quite the same. Maybe it now took some faith to know him...just like we know him, not based on physical appearance.

13 Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. 14 This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

Now we see an interesting dialogue between Jesus and Peter.

15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you."

"Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.

If you'll read John 21, you'll see that Jesus asks him this question three times, which hurt Peter's feelings some. Jesus told Peter to feed and take care of his sheep.

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."

You know that Jesus isn't talking literally about sheep. He's referring back to what we read in John 10:14:

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep."

And John 10:27:

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me...

So Jesus is now telling Peter to feed his sheep.

Q - Why do you think Jesus asked Peter if Peter loved him?

A -

Q - Why do you think Peter's love for Jesus would be the requirement for Peter's job of feeding Jesus' sheep?

A -

Here's why I think Peter would need to love Jesus in order to do this job. Peter would face persecution, just like Jesus did. Jesus talks about this next:

18 "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."

There is only one motivation strong enough to endure that...if you love Jesus. If you are convinced that he is the Lord, the Savior of the world.

I used to think it was kind of mean for Jesus to tell Peter this. But then I wondered if it might have been extremely kind. Here's why.

After Jesus' arrest, Peter (out of fear) had denied he even knew Jesus - not once, but three times. Jesus was now telling Peter that Peter would be faithful to Jesus for the rest of his life, until death.

In some ways, that would be encouraging to Peter. It would give him confidence in his leadership role, in feeding other believers, in helping others know Jesus, like he knew Jesus.

Next lesson will be our last. I'll wrap up the end of John's gospel.

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36th - Knowing God Better - John 21 (last message)

This is it. The last lesson in the Gospel of John.

You should get a gold star for hanging in there! I hope you're encouraging others to this study also. Here is where they can sign up:

www.everystudent.com/knowingGod.html

John, chapter 1, started out declaring Jesus to be the Word of God...who now came.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John now ends his gospel, his report, this way:

24 This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate.

25 Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

Of course, Matthew, Mark and Luke also wrote accounts of Jesus' life. They are also found in the beginning part of the New Testament.

Luke also wrote the book of Acts. He starts out, referring to his gospel. Acts 1:1 --

1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven...

Q - What does Luke say that Jesus did for 40 days after his resurrection? (see below)

A -

3 During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, Luke records one of those times that Jesus appeared to them. The disciples were still trying to figure out why Jesus' tomb was empty.

So Jesus appeared to them, and explained a few things to them – Luke 24:25-27

25 Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures.

26 Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?"

27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Wouldn't THAT have been a great Bible study to be in?!

Q - Now going back to Acts 1, Luke is talking about yet another time that Jesus appeared to them. Why did Jesus explain all of the Scriptures to them? (see verses below)

A -

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me

everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Thank you for joining me in this study. Let me end reviewing a few offers for you.

If you have not yet received Jesus into your life, I'd encourage you to read this, and do so:

<http://www.everystudent.com/features/faith.html>

If you do believe in Jesus, and have not yet received "The Spiritual Starter Kit" it is available here:

www.startingwithgod.com/starter-kit/

And, if you have already begun a relationship with Jesus, and you'd like to understand better how to trust him, this might be helpful:

www.startingwithgod.com/skip-the-stress/

May you continue to trust God, for he is worthy of your trust!

Sincerely,
Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com
and StartingwithGod.com

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