

John Reading Plan

<i>Week</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Apr. 21 - Apr. 27	□1:1 - 1:34	Aug. 4 - Aug. 10	□13:1 - 13:38
Apr. 28 - May 4	□1:35 - 2:12	Aug. 11 - Aug. 17	□14:1 - 14:31
May 5 - May 11	□2:13 - 3:36	Aug. 18 - Aug. 24	□15:1 - 16:15
May 12 - May 18	□4:1 - 4:42	Aug. 25 - Aug. 31	□16:16 - 17:26
May 19 - May 25	□4:43 - 5:29	Sept. 1 - Sept. 7	□18:1 - 18:40
May 26 - June 1	□5:30 - 6:21	Sept. 8 - Sept. 14	□19:1 - 19:42
June 2 - June 8	□6:22 - 6:71	Sept. 15 - Sept. 21	□20:1 - 20:30
June 9 - June 15	□7:1 - 7:36	Sept. 22 - Sept. 28	□21:1 - 21:25
June 16 - June 22	□7:37 - 8:20		
June 23 - June 29	□8:21 - 8:59		
June 30 - July 6	□9:1 - 9:41		
July 7 - July 13	□10:1 - 10:42		
July 14 - July 20	□11:1 - 11:44		
July 21 - July 27	□11:45 - 12:19		
July 28 - Aug. 3	□12:20 - 12:50		

August 4 - August 10

John 13:1 - 13:38

As You Read

Jesus and his disciples celebrate the Passover in a private setting. Jesus washes the disciples feet, then begins to give them one final teaching before His death.

1) What do we learn about Jesus through His words and actions?

2) Pay close attention to how Peter responds to Jesus's words and actions. What does Peter do/say? Why do you think he does/says those things?

Digging Deeper

When Jesus predicts that He will be betrayed, He says it is to fulfill **Psalm 41:9** which says: "Even my close friend in whom I have trusted / who ate of my bread, has lifted the heel against me." "Lifting the heel" is a Hebrew idiom about conflict. In the Old Testament, Jacob's conflict with his brother is symbolized by him "grabbing at his heel" (**Hosea 12:3**). Heels also show up when God talks about the conflict between the Serpent who deceived humanity and the children of Eve (**Genesis 3:15**). By quoting Psalm 41:9, Jesus is connecting his crucifixion to these ancient stories of conflict between humans, God, and Satan. Why is this important?

John 13:1 - 13:38

Reflecting

In this section, Jesus teaches us that we are to serve others the way that He serves us. He served not only His friends, but also the people who would betray or abandon him later. He didn't only wash their feet for them: He suffered, died, and conquered death for them (c.f. Romans 5:8)

Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight some people in your life who you can serve this week. Maybe it's a relative, a friend, or a coworker. Write their name(s), then think of a creative way that you can sacrificially serve them. If you're unsure of what to do, ask someone you trust for wisdom.

After you're finished, take some time to ponder what you read and what you wrote. Pay attention to what your soul feels, and anything the Holy Spirit might have to say to you.

August 11 - August 17

John 14:1 - 14:31

As You Read

Jesus continues His final teaching to His disciples before His death.

1) According to Jesus, how can we know anything about the Father or know how to get to eternal life?

2) Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit in this chapter. What can we learn about who the Holy Spirit is or what the Holy Spirit does from this chapter?

Digging Deeper

Jesus will continue teaching about the Holy Spirit in the book of John. John is concerned about how the Holy Spirit helps us when Jesus isn't physically present, and especially when life gets really difficult. Paul talks about the Holy Spirit in a similar way in **Romans 8:1-30**. What additional things can we learn about the Holy Spirit from Romans 8? How can these truths help us when we feel alone or when our faith gets difficult?

Reflecting

Jesus teaches that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He reveals the Father to us, leads us to eternal life, and much more. Even though we don't have Jesus physically present with us, we can see Him and know Him through the Holy Spirit. In this chapter, we learn that the Holy Spirit does this in two ways: He *teaches* us and He *reminds* us.

Is there anything you need wisdom on? Maybe you're facing a difficult situation, or you feel confused about something, or you just have a curiosity. Write those things down. Throughout the week, ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom (c.f. James 1:5). If you're doing this guide with others, ask them to pray for you, too!

Take some time and ask the Holy Spirit if there's anything He needs to *remind* you of today.

After you're finished, take some time to ponder what you read and what you wrote. Pay attention to what your soul feels, and anything the Holy Spirit might have to say to you.

August 18 - August 24

John 15:1 - 16:15

As You Read

Jesus continues His final teaching to His disciples before His death.

1) Jesus gives us a metaphor for faith and belief in this section (John 15:1-11). Notice that “belief” is not about head knowledge. What can we learn about true faith and belief from Jesus’s metaphor?

2) Jesus teaches more about the Holy Spirit in this section. What can we learn about who the Holy Spirit is or what the Holy Spirit does from this chapter?

Digging Deeper

The Old Testament frequently compares God’s people to vines or vineyards. Two important passages are **Psalm 80:8-15** and **Isaiah 5:1-7**. Why is it important for God’s people to “bear fruit?” What kind of “fruit” are we supposed to bear as God’s people?

Reflecting

Faith is all about abiding with Jesus. When we abide with Jesus, the “fruit” that we bear is love for one another.

We cannot force our lives to be fruitful, but we *can* be intentional about abiding with Jesus. Abiding with Jesus is about being aware of His presence with us everywhere we go. What are some ways that you could abide with Jesus more throughout the week?

**suggestions: prayer walks, 10 minute breaks in the day, memorizing and meditating on a Bible verse, having a meal with faith-filled friends.*

Loving others is Jesus’s greatest commandment. Even though it’s an old command, it’s new every day for us. Are there any specific people whom the Holy Spirit has been challenging you to love? Are there any specific things you sense the Holy Spirit challenging you to *do* to love them?

After you’re finished, take some time to ponder what you read and what you wrote. Pay attention to what your soul feels, and anything the Holy Spirit might have to say to you.

Aug. 25 - Aug. 31

John 16:16 - 17:26

As You Read

Jesus finishes teaching His disciples, then prays for them one last time before His death.

1) Jesus and his disciples have an interesting interaction in verses 16:25-33. Do you think the disciples *really* understood what Jesus was saying? Why or why not?

2) What stands out to you from Jesus's prayer? Pay special attention to verses 17:20-24. That is Jesus's prayer for **you!**

Digging Deeper

In verses 16:16-22, Jesus teaches that the crucifixion will be sad for the disciples, but it will also be a reason for the world to rejoice. The same is true about our suffering - the pain and sorrow we feel in life are real, but we can also find hope in the middle of it. **Read Romans 8:18-39**. How can Jesus's words and Paul's words help us navigate our faith when life gets difficult?

John 16:16 - 17:26

Reflecting

Even when Jesus says things plainly, He questions whether the disciples really understand and believe (John 17:31-33). Faithfulness and belief are different than *knowing* the truth. Faithfulness and belief are about *living* the truth.

Take a moment to list what we've learned about Jesus in the book of John. If Jesus really is who the book of John says He is, what would have to change about the way you live your life?

Sometimes our pain, sorrow, and anger can get in the way of us seeing or living out the truth. Jesus is capable of bringing us comfort and truth in the middle of our pain. Take a moment and tell Jesus about any pain, sorrow, anger, confusion, or frustration you feel - He cares about you! Then, ask Him to help bring you comfort and truth. If you are with people, ask them to pray for you.

After you're finished, take some time to ponder what you read and what you wrote. Pay attention to what your soul feels, and anything the Holy Spirit might have to say to you.

Sept. 1 - Sept. 7

John 18:1 - 18:40

As You Read

Jesus is betrayed and arrested. While Jesus is being questioned by Caiaphas the high priest, Peter denies Jesus. Jesus is then questioned by Pilate, a Roman official.

1) How would you characterize Jesus's response to the situation?

2) How would you describe Peter's demeanor in this chapter? How about Pilate? How are they different from Jesus?

Digging Deeper

When Jesus says "I am" while He is being arrested, the people around him fall over. This is probably because the phrase "I am" is how God revealed Himself to Moses in **Exodus 3:13-15**. Jesus is saying that He is the same God who delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Why is it important for us to remember this while Jesus is being arrested?

Reflecting

When humans are put under pressure, we tend to respond through anxiousness, aggression, or avoidance. Jesus doesn't do these things, though. He does not try to micromanage the outcome the situation, fight back, run away, or avoid confrontation. He responds to pressure truthfully, calmly, and peacefully.

Think about the last few times your faith under pressure. How did you respond? What would it look like to respond the way Jesus responds in this chapter?

Are there any situations in your life right now where you feel like you're under pressure? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you respond like Jesus might respond to the situation. If there are people with you, ask them to pray for you.

After you're finished, take some time to ponder what you read and what you wrote. Pay attention to what your soul feels, and anything the Holy Spirit might have to say to you.

Sept. 8 - Sept. 14

John 19:1 - 19:42

As You Read

Jesus is beaten, mocked, crucified, and buried.

1) Earlier in John, Jesus said that when He is “lifted up” He will be revealed, will draw people to Himself, and give people eternal life (John 3:14; 8:28; 12:32). What can we learn about Jesus as King and God from this chapter?

2) Take note of how the different characters in this passage relate to Jesus in his suffering (Pilate, the Judeans, the soldiers, the women, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea).

Digging Deeper

The gospel writers rely on the imagery of **Psalm 22** to describe Jesus’s suffering (e.g. John 19:24). Psalm 22 does not *only* describe the suffering of the Messiah, though. It also talks about the *result* of the Messiah’s suffering. Read Psalm 22 - what does it reveal to us about God’s saving power? What does it reveal to us about God’s vision for the world?

Reflecting

In this chapter we see different characters respond to the suffering of Jesus. Pilate responds in fear. Joseph and Nicodemus continue following Jesus, but only do so secretly. The disciples have either betrayed or abandoned Jesus. The only people who remain with Jesus are the women and the “beloved disciple.” They

When we come face-to-face with suffering or doubt, it can be hard to remain with Jesus. Can you think of a time where you had to “remain with Jesus” through a difficult season? How was God faithful to you? Are there any things about your life that make it difficult to “remain with Jesus?” What are some truths about Jesus that might make it easier to remain with Him through this season?

Following Jesus through difficult times can feel lonely. This is why Jesus chooses the crucifixion as the moment to place his mother and the beloved disciple into a new family (John 18:25-27). If you are going through a difficult time, remember that you aren’t alone. He has placed you in the Family of God. Make a list of the people who you’d call your spiritual family. The next time your faith is tested, reach out to them for help! If your faith is being tested right now, ask these people to listen to you and pray for you.

After you’re finished, take some time to ponder what you read and what you wrote. Pay attention to what your soul feels, and anything the Holy Spirit might have to say to you.

Sept. 15 - Sept. 21

John 20:1 - 20:30

As You Read

Jesus performs his greatest sign - rising from the dead - and the disciples respond.

1) Pay attention to how the different characters respond to the resurrection of Jesus. Why do you think each character responds the way they do? How does Jesus respond to these characters?

2) Pay attention to verse 31. How has your faith in Jesus grown or strengthened while reading John? How has it been challenged or changed?

Digging Deeper

In this chapter, the grave is compared to two special locations in the Old Testament: the Holy of Holies and the Garden of Eden.

In **Leviticus 16**, the High Priest atones for the sins of Israel. He puts on special linen garment, then when he finishes his work, he takes the garments off and leaves them behind (v. 23). Compare to John 20:6-7 and John 11:44. What can we learn about what Jesus accomplished in the resurrection from this parallel?

In **Genesis 3**, we can read about God's encounter with Eve in the garden. Mary Magdalene, another woman, encounters the risen Christ in a garden (c.f. John 20:15). How are these two garden encounters different from each other? What can we learn about what Jesus accomplished in the resurrection from this contrast?

Reflecting

There are three responses to the empty tomb in this chapter. Peter and John believe in Jesus, even though they don't fully understand what was happening. Mary is sad about Jesus's absence, and Thomas is doubtful because he could not see evidence of the resurrection.

How would you characterize your faith in Jesus? Is it more like Peter and John, where you believe Him even though you don't fully understand Him? Or is it more like Mary or Thomas, where you need more comfort and evidence?

Notice that Jesus does not judge Mary or Thomas. He gives them the presence, comfort, and reassurance they need. The Holy Spirit can do this for you too. If you are experiencing doubt or grief in your faith, tell Him! Take a few minutes to listen to Him. If you are with other people, ask them to pray for you.

After you're finished, take some time to ponder what you read and what you wrote. Pay attention to what your soul feels, and anything the Holy Spirit might have to say to you.

Sept. 22 - Sept. 28
John 21:1 - 21:25

As You Read

Jesus does one final miracle and has a redemptive conversation with Peter.

1) The disciples are back in a fishing boat, which is where they were before Jesus called them. Why do you think this is significant?

2) Pay close attention to the conversation Jesus has with Peter. Write down any details that stand out to you.

Digging Deeper

Compare this story of Peter in a boat to **Matthew 14:22-33**. How does Peter act differently in these two stories? What do you think has changed in his heart?

Reflecting

Throughout the gospel of John, we've seen that faith in Jesus isn't just knowing facts about Him. Faith is ***abiding in Jesus's love***. This is the lesson that Peter learns. Our maturity in faith is measured by how we experience God's love, how we love God, and how we love others.

How do you experience God's love? Over the course of reading John, has your sense of His love for you grown or changed? What would it look like to continue to abide in His love more?

How do you express your love for God on a daily basis? Over the course of reading John, has your love for Him grown or changed? What would it look like to continue to respond to His love more?

Over the course of reading John, have you been challenged to love others in any new or uncomfortable ways? Do you sense that God is calling you to serve any specific people in any specific ways in the near future?

Take a moment and remember your journey through the book of John. Look through the notes you've taken over the last few months. Write down, in your own words, what John is about. Write down what you have learned and how you have grown.