



# the gospel of JOHN

a 4 part series exploring the life of Jesus through John's gospel

## SERIES SUMMARY

The Gospel of John is not written as a neutral biography. It is written as a carefully shaped testimony. John does not merely want you informed about Jesus. He wants you to be confronted by Jesus, drawn toward Jesus, and invited to decide what you will do with Him. John selects signs, conversations, and turning-point moments to form a single, pressing invitation. Believe, and in believing, find life.

John's Gospel is written for thinkers, seekers, skeptics, and believers alike. It assumes questions. It welcomes examination. It does not rush to conclusions. Over the coming weeks, we will slow down and let the text speak for itself, allowing Scripture, not assumptions, to shape what we believe about Jesus, about ourselves, and about the kind of life God offers.

John also writes as someone who understands the big questions we all have. This Gospel does not ignore questions, grief, disappointment, confusion, or complexity. It dares to speak to the places where people actually live. The places where we wonder if God is real, if love is possible, if truth is knowable, and if suffering has the final word. John insists that the answer is not a philosophy, a principle, or a program. The answer is a person.

Most importantly, John begins where we do not expect. He begins before Bethlehem. He begins before time. He begins in the beginning. In doing so, John tells us what this entire series will be about. We will not merely study the teachings of Jesus. We will encounter the identity of Jesus. We will not merely learn religious concepts. We will be invited into a reality where Jesus is the foundation of existence, the source of life, and the light that makes sense of the world.

John 1:1-4 is the doorway into the whole Gospel. It echoes Genesis 1, where God speaks light into darkness. John tells us that the One who speaks in Genesis is not distant from us. He has stepped toward us. The Logos, the Word, is not only the voice of creation. He is the face of God revealed. This series will help you look honestly at Jesus, without pressure, without pretending, and without rushing to conclusions. Regardless of how long you've been following Jesus, this is an invitation to look again.



the  
gospel  
of

# JOHN

part one:  
*who is  
Jesus?*

# WEEK ONE READING PLAN

## WHY JESUS?

WEEK OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026  
THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

JOHN 1:1-4



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# JOHN

who is Jesus?

# WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEK OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

## WHY JESUS?

This week focuses on John 1:1-4, where John introduces Jesus as the eternal Word. These verses reveal Jesus as existing before creation, acting in creation, and giving life that becomes light for humanity. John is teaching that reality is not an accident. It is not chaos. It is not merely atoms and impulses and appetite. Reality has order because it has an origin, and its origin is personal.

John begins with the Word because he wants us to understand that the universe is not only made. It is spoken.

That means creation carries meaning. A spoken world is a world with intention. A spoken world is a world that can be known. A spoken world is a world where human longing for truth, goodness, and beauty is not a cosmic mistake. It is a clue.

Across the week, you will see the same theme from multiple angles. **Jesus is not a helpful add-on to life. He is the source of life.** Jesus is not merely light in the sense of comfort. He is light in the sense of revelation. He makes the world intelligible, and He makes us honest. The invitation this week is not to be impressed. The invitation is to come into the light.



JOHN 1:4  
JOHN 1:4  
**SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON  
AND MEMORIZE THIS WEEK**  
JOHN 1:4  
JOHN 1:4

*In Him was life, and  
that life was the  
light of all mankind.*

JOHN 1:4

Spend a few minutes each day repeating this verse aloud slowly. Ask the Lord to make it true in you, not merely known by you.

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

## *“Before Everything Else”*

### READ

John 1:1-2, Genesis 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17

### REFLECT

John begins with a phrase that sounds familiar because he wants it to sound familiar. In the beginning. Those three words take you back to Genesis, back to the first page of Scripture, back to the origin of everything. John is not borrowing poetry. John is making a claim. Before anything existed, the Word already was. The universe has a beginning. The Word does not. Creation is contingent. The Word is eternal. That difference matters because it means Jesus is not part of the system. He is the one the system depends on.

Then John says, "The Word was with God." Before there was matter, there was relationship. Before there was space, there was communion. This is one of the most imagination-capturing truths in all of Scripture. Love is not a late development in the universe. Love is foundational. Reality is not built on loneliness, survival, or competition. It is built on fellowship with God Himself. Colossians echoes this by saying all things were created through Jesus and for Jesus, and that in Him all things hold together. That means your life is not drifting through an indifferent cosmos. You are living in a reality made by Christ and oriented toward Christ.

### QUESTIONS

- What changes in you when you realize Jesus is not a figure inside history but the foundation beneath history?
- Where are you trying to carry your life on your own instead of receiving it from God?

# TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

## *“Held Together By the Word of God”*

### READ

John 1:3, Psalm 33:6-9, Hebrews 1:1-3

### REFLECT

John moves from eternity to creation, and he does it without hesitation. Through Him all things were made. John does not give a list. He does not qualify the statement. He makes it total. Everything you can name and everything you cannot name belongs in that sentence. Galaxies and gravity. Cells and consciousness. Oceans and oxygen. Time and space. There is no corner of reality that is not downstream from Christ. This means the world is not a closed machine. It is a crafted work. A world that is made can be understood. A world that was spoken into existence can be interpreted. A world that comes from the Word can be studied.

Psalm 33 describes creation as the result of God speaking, and Hebrews says the Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. That is the truth that should capture you today. Jesus is not only the Creator at the beginning. He is the Sustainer in the present. The same Word that spoke the world into existence is still holding it together right now. Nothing about your life is accidental. Even your next breath is a gift from the One who sustains life.

### QUESTIONS

- How does it change the way you see your ordinary day to remember that Christ is sustaining all things right now?
- What part of your life feels unstable, and what would it look like to place that instability under the sustaining Word?

# WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

## *“Life at the Source”*

### READ

John 1:4, Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Acts 17:24-28, Psalm 36:7-9

### REFLECT

John takes the conversation from what exists to what it means. In Him was life. John is not simply describing biological vitality. He is describing the kind of life that is whole, grounded, and overflowing. Scripture often distinguishes between mere survival and true life. Deuteronomy calls the people of God to choose life, not as a motivational slogan but as a covenant reality. Acts 17 says that in God we live and move and have our being. That is more than poetry. It is ontology. It is a statement about what you are. You are not self-originating. You are dependent, moment by moment, on God's generosity.

Psalm 36 adds a line that pairs perfectly with John 1. With you is the fountain of life. In your light we see light. Light is not only something we see. Light is what makes seeing possible. John is teaching you that Jesus does not merely offer encouragement when life feels dark. Jesus is the condition for clarity. Many people today feel anxious because reality feels fragmented and frightening. Our minds are flooded with options, fears, information, and outrage, yet we cannot make sense of ourselves. John is saying we were made to live connected to Jesus. When we lose that connection, life doesn't stop; it just feels heavier and unbearable.

### QUESTIONS

- Where do you feel fragmented or internally divided right now, and what might it mean to bring that to the fountain of life?
- What are you holding onto that's keeping you from trusting Jesus more fully?

# THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

## *“The Light Tells the Truth”*

### READ

John 1:4-5, Isaiah 9:2, Psalm 27:1, 2 Corinthians 4:6

### REFLECT

John now introduces light, and he does not present it as sentimental. Light is revelation. Light tells the truth. Light creates distinction between what is real and what is false. Isaiah speaks of people walking in darkness who have seen a great light. That prophecy is about deliverance from deception, oppression, and despair. Psalm 27 says the Lord is my light and my salvation. The connection is important. Light and salvation belong together because you cannot be saved without being seen, and you cannot be healed without truth.

Second Corinthians says God has made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. The light of God is not merely a concept. It has a face. Christianity does not proclaim a system. It proclaims a Savior. Jesus is not a flashlight that helps you navigate your own life on your own terms. He is the sunrise that redefines the entire landscape.

When sunrise comes, you realize that the path you're walking was actually a cliff you were about to go over. You realize what you were trusting was fragile. You realize what you were ignoring is now undeniable. That is why some resist the light. Not because they cannot see it, but because they can.

### QUESTIONS

- What might you be afraid God will reveal if you truly come into His light?
- How would your decisions change if you treated truth as grace instead of a threat?

# FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

## *“Built on What Lasts”*

### READ

John 1:1-4, Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 11:33-36, James 1:16-18

### REFLECT

Today you're reading John 1:1-4, but with a new question. What does it mean for Jesus to be the foundation rather than an addition? Many people try to add Jesus to an already-built life, as if faith were a helpful accessory. John will not allow that. If all things were made through Him, then all things find their rightful place only in relation to Him. Proverbs calls you to trust the Lord with all your heart and not lean on your own understanding. That does not mean God is against understanding. It means your understanding is not a sufficient foundation for your life. Your mind is a gift, but it is not God.

Romans 11 erupts into worship, saying from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. James reminds you that every good and perfect gift is from above. If Jesus is Creator and Sustainer, then gratitude is not just an emotion we're supposed to feel at certain times when things are going well for us. Gratitude is spiritual alignment. It is the soul recognizing reality. When you wake up, you are not beginning the day from scratch. You are stepping into a world upheld by Christ. That truth begins to quiet anxious striving because you are no longer carrying the weight of being your own source.

### QUESTIONS

- Where are you leaning on your own understanding as if it is enough to sustain your life
- How will you practice gratitude today as an act of trust and alignment?

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

## *“The Word Brings Life”*

### READ

John 20:30-31, John 1:1-4, Psalm 119:97-105, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

### REFLECT

John eventually tells us why he wrote this Gospel. These things are written so that you may believe, and by believing, have life. John is not writing to win an argument. He is writing to bring you to a crossroads. The goal is not mere information. The goal is transformation. Psalm 119 describes the Word of God as a lamp and a light, which means Scripture is not merely inspirational. It is directional. It exposes what is true and guides you into what is good.

Second Timothy says Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. God does not reveal truth merely to inform you but to form you. Many people want Scripture to comfort them, but not confront them. John will do both. He will show you a Jesus who is tender with the broken and unyielding toward hypocrisy. A Jesus who welcomes doubters and challenges pretenders. A Jesus who heals broken bodies and exposes what's really in our hearts. If you give yourself to this Gospel slowly, it will not simply add religious content to your mind. It will reorder your life from the inside out.

### QUESTIONS

- What kind of reader do you want to be during this series, and what habits will support that?
- Where do you most need Scripture to form you, not merely inform you?

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

## *“The Light That Makes All Things New”*

### READ

John 1:1-4, Genesis 1:26-28, Revelation 21:1-5, Ephesians 1:17-19

### REFLECT

The Bible begins with creation and ends with renewal. Genesis shows God speaking a world into existence, and Revelation shows God making all things new. John places Jesus at the center of both. The Word who was in the beginning is the Word who will bring the end to its intended completion. This is not cyclical history where everything repeats forever. This is a story moving toward restoration. The God who created is also the God who redeems.

Ephesians prays that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which He has called you. When John calls Jesus, “The Light,” he is not merely referring to intellectual clarity. He’s saying Jesus will change our perception of reality. God wants to help us learn to see reality as it truly is. As you gather for worship, remember that you are not showing up merely to learn a lesson. You are coming into the presence of the One who is the Author of life itself. The goal of the Gospel of John is not to give you mere facts about Jesus. It is to bring you into the light of Jesus, where belief becomes life, and life becomes a witness.

### QUESTIONS

- What would it look like for the eyes of your heart to be enlightened in this season and to see Jesus more clearly?
- How does the promise that God is making all things new strengthen your faith today?

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part one:  
*who is  
Jesus?*

# WEEK TWO READING PLAN

## LIGHTS ON

WEEK OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026  
THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

# JOHN 1:1-5



the  
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of

# JOHN

*who is Jesus?*

# WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEK OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

## LIGHTS ON

John does not allow us to remain neutral about Jesus. John says that Jesus is the light, and because the light has come into the world, a response is unavoidable. Light reveals what is already there. It does not force belief, but it does force honesty. Throughout this week, we will watch how people respond when Jesus brings light into dark places. Some resist because the light threatens their control. Some receive the light and begin to see with increasing clarity. Others reflect the light, becoming witnesses to what God has done in them. John wants us to understand that belief is not simply knowing facts about Jesus. Belief is responding to Jesus. And how we respond to the light determines what we see next.

This week invites us to slow down and examine our own posture. Are we resisting what Jesus reveals? Are we receiving what He offers? Are we reflecting the light we have already received? The light is not the variable. Our response to it is.

WEEK TWO READING PLAN

JOHN 1:5

**SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON  
AND MEMORIZE THIS WEEK**

JOHN 1:5  
JOHN 1:5  
JOHN 1:5  
JOHN 1:5

*The light shines in  
the darkness, and  
the darkness has not  
overcome it.*

JOHN 1:5

Spend a few minutes each day repeating this verse aloud slowly. Ask the Lord to make it true in you, not merely known by you.

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

## *When the Lights Come On*

### **READ**

John 1:5, John 1:10-11, John 3:19-21, Isaiah 6:9-10

### **REFLECT**

John tells us that the light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness does not receive it. This is not because the light is unclear, but because the light reveals what we would rather keep hidden. Light exposes reality as it truly is. When Jesus enters a life, He does not merely add comfort or inspiration. He reveals motives, desires, fears, and misplaced trust. That is why resistance to the light often feels reasonable. It protects what we have learned to manage on our own.

Throughout Scripture, resistance to God's revelation is rarely framed as ignorance. It is framed as unwillingness. Isaiah describes people who can see and hear but refuse to perceive. Jesus later says people avoid the light because it exposes their deeds. John wants us to understand that rejecting the light is not a failure of information. It is a posture of the heart that resists surrender.

### **QUESTIONS**

- What has Jesus revealed that feels uncomfortable
- or threatening right now?
- What might you be protecting by avoiding the light?

# TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

## *The Cost of Certainty*

### READ

John 9:13-16, John 9:35-41, Proverbs 26:12, Romans 10:2-3

### REFLECT

In John 9, the religious leaders encounter undeniable evidence of God's work. A man born blind can now see. Yet instead of celebrating, they interrogate. Instead of rejoicing, they defend their system. Their certainty becomes the very thing that blinds them. Jesus tells them that their claim to sight is what keeps them from seeing. This is one of the most sobering warnings in Scripture.

Spiritual certainty that refuses correction becomes dangerous. When we assume we already see clearly, we stop listening. When we stop listening, we stop growing. John shows us that humility opens the door to clarity, while arrogance locks it shut. The issue is not knowledge. It is posture. God resists certainty that refuses dependence, but He gives grace to those willing to be taught.

### QUESTIONS

- Where might certainty be preventing you from seeing clearly?
- What would humility look like in your relationship with God right now?

# WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

## *Receiving the Light*

### **READ**

John 1:12-13, John 9:17, John 9:30-33, Ephesians 2:8-9

### **REFLECT**

John makes it clear that receiving the light is not the same as understanding everything. To receive Jesus is to welcome Him, to trust Him, and to open yourself to His work. The man born blind demonstrates this beautifully. His understanding of Jesus grows gradually. He does not begin with a fully formed theology. He begins with honesty. He responds to what he knows, and as he does, clarity increases.

This is how belief works. Faith is not instant certainty. It is progressive sight. As we receive Jesus, our lens begins to realign. We start seeing God differently. We start seeing ourselves differently. We start seeing the world differently. This new sight is not earned. John says it is given. We are not reborn through effort or willpower, but through God's gracious initiative.

### **QUESTIONS**

- What has Jesus brought to light in your life that helped you grow?
- Where have you been waiting for certainty instead of choosing trust?

# THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

## *From Sight to Identity*

### **READ**

John 1:12, John 9:35-38, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 4:4-7

### **REFLECT**

When John says those who receive Jesus become children of God, he is describing a change of identity, not just belief. The man in John 9 not only gains vision. He gains belonging. When Jesus finds him again, the man moves from healing to worship. He no longer speaks about Jesus from a distance. He responds to Jesus personally.

New sight leads to a new identity. When we receive the light, we do not simply gain insight. We are adopted into a new relationship with God. Scripture consistently connects belief with belonging. We are no longer defined by our past blindness, but by our present relationship with Christ. Seeing rightly reshapes who we understand ourselves to be.

### **QUESTIONS**

- How has Jesus reshaped the way you see yourself?
- What old identity or narratives might you still be carrying that the light has challenged?

# FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

## *Reflecting What You Have Seen*

### **READ**

John 1:6-8, John 9:24-27, Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 4:6

### **REFLECT**

John the Baptist was not the light, but he testified to the light. The healed man in John 9 does the same. He does not argue theology. He tells the truth about his experience. I was blind. Now I see. Reflection is not performance. It is alignment. When light has done its work in us, it naturally begins to shine through us.

Witness does not require mastery. It requires honesty. When we reflect the light, we point away from ourselves and toward Jesus. Scripture never calls believers to generate light. We are called to walk in it. Reflection flows from clarity, and clarity grows as we stay oriented toward Christ.

### **QUESTIONS**

- How can you be a better reflection of the light you have received?
- What fear keeps you from sharing what God has done in your life?

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

## *Staying Turned Toward the Light*

### READ

John 8:12, Psalm 36:9, Psalm 119:105, 1 John 1:5-7

### REFLECT

Light is not a one-time experience. It is a direction we choose to face. Scripture often describes faith as walking in the light, not standing still in it. As we follow Jesus, clarity continues to grow. When we turn away from the light, vision dims. When we stay oriented toward it, understanding deepens.

John's invitation is not to perfection, but to proximity. Staying turned toward the light means returning again and again to Jesus as the source of life and truth. Over time, what once felt confusing begins to make sense. Not because life becomes easier, but because our vision becomes clearer.

### QUESTIONS

- What practices or habits help you stay oriented toward Jesus?
- Where do you notice your vision dimming when you drift from the light?

the  
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of

# JOHN

part one:  
*who is  
Jesus?*

# WEEK THREE READING PLAN

## NO FILTER

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026  
THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

## JOHN 1:14

the  
gospel  
of

# JOHN

who is Jesus?

# WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2026

## NO FILTER

John has already shown us that Jesus is the light and that our response to that light determines what we see. Now he takes us deeper. The Word did not remain distant. He became flesh and dwelt among us. **Grace and truth arrived not as abstract ideas but as a person.** God did not send information. He came Himself.

This week we explore what it means for God to come close. We will consider why grace must heal rather than merely affirm, why truth must reveal rather than flatter, and why the incarnation changes everything about how we understand God. If Jesus shows us what God is actually like, then our assumptions about God must yield to what we see in Christ. The invitation this week is simple and profound. Let the nearness of Jesus reshape how you see God and how you live before Him.

This week invites us to slow down and examine our own posture. Are we resisting what Jesus reveals? Are we receiving what He offers? Are we reflecting the light we have already received? **The light is not the variable. Our response to it is.**

JOHN 1:14  
**SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON  
AND MEMORIZE THIS WEEK**  
JOHN 1:14

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**JOHN 1:14**

Spend a few minutes each day repeating this verse aloud slowly. Ask the Lord to make it true in you, not merely known by you.

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

## *God Came Close*

### **READ**

John 1:14; Exodus 33:7-11; Leviticus 26:11-12; Matthew 1:23

### **REFLECT**

John's statement that the Word became flesh is one of the most stunning claims in all of Scripture. God did not remain distant. The language of dwelling echoes the tabernacle in Exodus, where God's presence filled the tent among His people. That earlier dwelling was partial and veiled. Now John says the fullness of God's glory is revealed in Jesus. The incarnation is not God visiting briefly. It is God stepping into human history in weakness, vulnerability, and proximity.

This matters more than we often realize. Many people imagine God as remote, detached, or waiting for us to climb toward Him. The incarnation corrects that. God moves first. God draws near. The nearness of Jesus means no corner of human life is beyond His understanding. Suffering, fatigue, rejection, joy, friendship, hunger, celebration, grief. He has entered it all. When you feel unseen or alone, remember that the God you worship chose closeness over distance.

### **QUESTIONS**

- Where have you been assuming God is distant rather than near?
- What would change if you truly believed God understands your lived experience?

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

## *Grace Upon Grace*

### **READ**

John 1:16–17; Romans 5:6–11; Ephesians 2:1–9; Titus 3:3–7

### **REFLECT**

John describes grace as something we receive from the fullness of Christ. Not a single act of kindness, but grace in layers. Grace upon grace. The law given through Moses revealed God's holy standard. It showed humanity what righteousness looks like. But the law could expose sin without curing it. In Jesus, grace does not cancel the law. It accomplishes what the law could not. It heals what sin has fractured.

Grace is not permission for self-indulgence. It is restoration. It does not minimize the wreckage of sin. It addresses it. If someone survives a car crash, survival alone is not enough. Healing is required. In the same way, surviving sin is not thriving in life. Grace is God moving toward us in our weakness to restore what has been damaged. Grace is not earned. It is received freely as a gift from God. And it changes us from the inside out.

### **QUESTIONS**

- Where have you mistaken grace for simple affirmation rather than restoration?
- In what area of your life do you need healing more than approval?

# TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

## *Truth That Sets Free*

### **READ**

John 1:17–18; John 8:31–36; Psalm 119:160; Colossians 1:15–20

### **REFLECT**

Truth in John's Gospel is not a human invention. Truth is God showing us who He really is. Jesus does not merely give information about God. He makes the unseen God known. To see Jesus is to see what God is actually like. That means our assumptions must be reshaped. Truth does not bend to our preferences. It invites us into alignment with God's character.

Many resist truth because they assume it will crush them. Yet Jesus pairs truth with grace. His truth exposes what harms us so that we can be healed. When Jesus says truth sets people free, He is not speaking about intellectual discovery alone. He is speaking about liberation from deception, sin, and bondage. Truth is not harsh when it comes from a loving Savior. It is clarifying and life giving.

### **QUESTIONS**

- How have cultural definitions of truth shaped your thinking?
- What might it look like to let Jesus redefine how you understand God?

# WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

## *No Filter*

### **READ**

John 1:14; Hebrews 4:14–16; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Philippians 2:5–11

### **REFLECT**

The incarnation removes the filter. God does not present Himself through distance or illusion. He steps into flesh. The humility of Jesus shows us that God's glory is not detached power but self-giving love. In Christ, we see strength expressed through sacrifice and authority expressed through service. This reframes how we interpret divine power.

Because Jesus has entered our weakness, we approach God with confidence. Hebrews reminds us that we have a High Priest who understands our frailty. There is no need to curate ourselves before Him. He already knows. He has already drawn near. When we stop filtering ourselves before God, we open ourselves to transformation.

### **QUESTIONS**

- Where are you tempted to present a filtered version of yourself before God and people?
- How might honesty before Christ open the door to deeper healing in your life?

# THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

## *From Surviving to Thriving*

### **READ**

John 10:10; Isaiah 61:1–3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20

### **REFLECT**

Jesus declares that He came to bring abundant life. Not mere survival. Not grueling endurance. Abundance does not mean ease or wealth. It means wholeness. Restoration. Flourishing in alignment with God's purposes. The grace of Christ does not leave us limping through life. It strengthens us to walk forward renewed.

Transformation is gradual. Just as vision sharpens over time when the lens is aligned, so spiritual clarity grows as we trust Christ. We are new creations in Him. That identity reshapes how we see ourselves and how we live. Thriving is not self-improvement. It is Spirit empowered renewal rooted in grace and truth.

### **QUESTIONS**

- In what area are you surviving where God desires you to thrive?
- What action could move you toward wholeness this week?

# FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

## *Seeing the Father*

### READ

John 14:6–9; John 12:44–46; 1 Timothy 6:15–16; 2 Corinthians 3:18

### REFLECT

John insists that no one has seen God, but the Son has made Him known. To see Jesus is to see the Father. This anchors Christian faith in revelation rather than speculation. We do not guess what God is like. We look at Christ. His compassion, His justice, His mercy, His holiness. These are not traits separate from God. They are the clearest picture of Him.

As we behold Christ, we are changed. Paul writes that we are transformed as we behold the Lord's glory. The more we see Jesus rightly, the more our lives align with Him. The goal is not information accumulation but relational knowledge that reshapes us.

### QUESTIONS

- How does seeing Jesus clearly reshape your understanding of God?
- What attribute of Christ do you need to reflect more faithfully?

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

## *Living in Grace and Truth*

### **READ**

John 1:16–18; Colossians 2:6–10; James 1:22–25; 1 Peter 2:9–12

### **REFLECT**

Grace and truth are not just how we begin with Jesus. They are how we continue with Him. Having received Christ, we continue to live for Him. We become rooted so we can be built up and established in faith. Grace reminds us we are loved. Truth reminds us we are called to something better. Together, they steady us and strengthen us.

Living in grace and truth means walking honestly, loving deeply, and standing firmly. It means reflecting the character of Jesus in a world confused about both love and truth. We do not choose between them. In Christ, they belong together. And when we live from that fullness, others begin to see Him more clearly through us.

### **QUESTIONS**

- How can you embody both grace and truth in your relationships this week?
- What practice could help you remain rooted in Christ daily?



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# JOHN

part one:  
*who is  
Jesus?*

# WEEK FOUR READING PLAN

WHO ARE YOU  
FOLLOWING?

WEEK OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026  
THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

JOHN 1:12

JOHN 1:12  
JOHN 1:12  
**SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON  
AND MEMORIZE THIS WEEK**  
JOHN 1:12

*Yet to all who did receive  
him, to those who  
believed in his name, he  
gave the right to become  
children of God.*

**JOHN 1:12**

Spend a few minutes each day repeating this verse aloud slowly. Ask the Lord to make it true in you, not merely known by you.

the  
gospel  
of

# JOHN

who is Jesus?

# WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEK OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2026 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> 2026

## WHO ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

John 1:19-42 is more than history. It is a turning point. It forces us to confront the shaping power of influence in our lives. In this passage, identities are clarified, burdens are exposed, and loyalties begin to shift. John the Baptist is interrogated about his identity, and he refuses to accept titles that do not belong to him. He anchors himself in Scripture and directs every ounce of attention toward Jesus. Then he names Christ as the One who carries what no one else can. From there, the story moves from testimony to transformation. Disciples begin to follow. They stay with Jesus. They bring others. A fisherman is given a new name. Everything begins to change.

This week is about allegiance. Every day, you are being shaped by someone or something. Voices compete for your trust. Expectations press in. Invitations pull at you. The question is not whether you are following. The question is who. As you read, ask the Spirit to reveal what is shaping you beneath the surface. Notice where you feel pressure, what you are carrying, and whose voice you are trusting. John is not merely informing you about Jesus. He is inviting you to decide whether you will follow Him.

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

## *A Clear Voice in a Loud World*

### READ

John 1:19–23; Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1–3; Galatians 1:10

### REFLECT

John the Baptist is questioned by religious leaders who want to categorize him. *Are you the Messiah? Are you Elijah? Are you the Prophet?* John answers each question clearly and without hesitation. He does not inflate himself. He does not soften the truth. He knows who he is not. Instead of accepting titles that would elevate his status, he defines himself as a voice. Not the Word. Not the Savior. A voice. A messenger sent to prepare the way for the One who is before all things.

In a culture that pressures you to curate an identity, to perform, to prove your worth, John's clarity is liberating. He is not scrambling for recognition. His life is rooted in God's calling, and His Word has shaped his identity. John knows where he fits in the story of God. That clarity frees him from comparison and competition. You do not have to be everything to everyone. You are called to be faithful where God has placed you.

### QUESTIONS

- Where do you feel pressure to prove yourself?
- What role or responsibility might you be trying to carry that does not belong to you?

# TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

## *Rooted, Not Reactive*

### **READ**

John 1:22–23; Psalm 1:1–3; Colossians 2:6–7; Ephesians 4:14–15

### **REFLECT**

When pressed for an answer, John quotes Isaiah. He does not shy away from responding. He draws his identity from Scripture. His identity is rooted in the story that God is writing. Because he is anchored in God's Word, he is not shaken by people's opinions of him. He is not defined by other people's expectations of him. He knows the larger story and his part in it.

When your identity is rooted in God's truth, you are less likely to drift when questioned, criticized, or misunderstood. The world constantly invites you to rebrand and reinvent yourself. Scripture invites you to find your identity, calling, and purpose in Him.

### **QUESTIONS**

- What voices most shape how you see yourself right now?
- How might deeper immersion in Scripture shape your identity?

# WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

## *The Weight You Were Never Meant to Carry*

### READ

John 1:29–31; Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:6–7; Hebrews 12:1–2

### REFLECT

John sees Jesus and shifts people's focus away from himself and to the Lamb—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is not merely metaphorical language. It is deeply personal. Sin is much more than just wrongdoing. Sin is a burden we all carry. We have all sinned and been sinned against. As long as our sin isn't removed, we live in shame. We hide behind our performance, yet we experience exhaustion. Jesus does not simply expose sin. He removes it. The invitation is not to try harder. It is to release what is crushing you.

You may be carrying expectations that are breaking you. Guilt you have not confessed. Fear that you will not measure up. Jesus steps into the scene not to condemn but to shoulder what you cannot sustain. The burden shifts from you to Him. Freedom begins not when you perfect yourself, but when you trust the One who came to carry you.

### QUESTIONS

- What weight have you convinced yourself you must carry that Jesus never asked you to bear?
- What would it look like to surrender that burden this week?

# THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

## *Freedom That Reorders Your Life*

### **READ**

John 1:30–34; Romans 8:1–4; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:1

### **REFLECT**

John declares that Jesus ranks above him because He existed before him. The recognition of Christ's supremacy changes everything. Freedom is not simply relief from guilt. It is realignment under rightful authority. When you recognize who Jesus truly is, your priorities shift. Your decisions are filtered through allegiance to Him. Freedom is not found in living life on your own terms but in surrendering to His demands on your life.

The Spirit descending and remaining on Jesus signals divine confirmation. God Himself testifies to the identity of the Son. When you anchor your life in that reality, you are not tossed about by the tempest of life's pressures to constantly conform. You are secured by something eternal. The freedom Jesus provides is not found in self-reliance and independence, but in surrender and dependence on Him to sustain you.

### **QUESTIONS**

- In what areas of your life have you kept control instead of surrendering to Christ's authority?
- What practical change could you make that would demonstrate how Jesus truly ranks first in your life?

# FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

## *Come and See*

### **READ**

John 1:35–39; Psalm 34:8; Matthew 11:28–30; Luke 9:23

### **REFLECT**

Two disciples hear John's testimony and begin following Jesus. When Jesus turns and asks what they want, they reply, "Where are you staying?" They desire proximity and want to be in His presence. Jesus doesn't reject them; rather, He invites them to come and be with Him. They stay with Him. Being a follower of Jesus begins not with fully understanding everything but with a desire to be with Him.

Following Jesus is not merely saying you agree with certain ideas about God. Following Jesus means reordering and reprioritizing your life around being with Him. It is making space for Him to dictate and direct your schedule. It is desiring to sit at His feet and learn from Him. You become like who you follow and hang out with. If your schedule leaves no time to spend with Christ, it should not surprise you if your life reflects someone or something else.

### **QUESTIONS**

- What competes with your time with Jesus right now?
- What would it look like to reorder your week around being with Him?

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

## *Bring Someone With You*

### **READ**

John 1:40–42; Matthew 4:19; 2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 10:24–25

### **REFLECT**

Andrew finds his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus. There is no sermon. No debating or arguing. Just an invitation. The natural result of following Jesus will mean inviting others to join us in following Him. When you find something life-changing, you want others to experience it, too. Andrew does not try to fix Simon's life. He simply introduces him to Jesus. Jesus renames Simon, marking the beginning of a transformation.

God wants to use you to reach your family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. He is already at work in them. You have not been called to fix them. You have been called to invite them to follow. This week, consider who in your life needs a gentle invitation? Not pressure, but presence. When we keep showing up for those who need His hope, we find we become more and more like the One we follow.

### **QUESTIONS**

- Who in your life needs your invitation to experience the hope and help only Jesus can give?
- What simple step could you take this week to show up for someone who needs an invitation to follow Jesus?