

# **JOHN**

*Encountering Living Water*

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN // Women's Bible Study



## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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## **A NOTE FROM COLIE CABALATUNGAN, *women's lead pastor***

Hello ladies!

We are back and diving into the Gospel of John! This is one of my favorite books of the Bible. It gives us such great insight into who Jesus is and unfolds for us both His divinity and His humanity, and how much power lies in that dynamic for us! You feel like you are with a good friend as John tells God's story, and we get an up-close look at who Jesus Christ was, is, and forever will be.

In this session we are going to be exploring different methods of reading the Bible together. The hope is that through practicing and experimenting with different models of studying God's Word, we can extract new observations that will help us to **know** Jesus better. A phrase that has stood out to me this season is, "*Reading for Relationship.*" The goal of reading the Bible is to get to know Jesus better. Not primarily to gain intellectual knowledge or to have the right answer when someone asks you a question, but at the core, we read the Bible to know and love Jesus more.

Think about when you get a letter in the mail from a loved one. You pull out the card and treasure their words and the thoughts penned on that piece of paper because you know the one who sent it. Now think about getting a letter from your credit card company or from LA Power and Water - you read that for facts and information, but there is no connection there, and likely not much joy. Why? Because there is no relationship.

The Bible is God's love letter to the world, and in the book of John we get to experience who Jesus is and what His time on Earth accomplished. John invites us to know Jesus for who He really is - the Gospel incarnate, the Way the Truth and the Life, the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, the Good Shepherd and the True Vine.

Are you ready to fall more in love with Jesus? I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your reading each week as we explore new methods of studying the Bible and that through the Gospel of John, you will truly encounter the living water of Jesus.

Much love,  
Colie Cabalatungan

## **Before We Start:**

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Here are a few things to note before we get started:

### **Bible Version**

This session we are using the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible. We invite you to use whichever Bible version you prefer, and we also encourage you to pull out your actual Bible and take notes as we study the book of John.

### **Experiment**

Each week we will practice using a different method of Bible study. We invite you to give each method a try, no matter what your Bible literacy level may feel like. There is no such thing as failure when it comes to reading God's Word, rather we view each attempt as an exploration to discover more about who Jesus is.

### **Sharing**

We believe in reading the Bible in community and invite you to share as openly and honestly as you feel comfortable doing in your WBS groups, as we often find that vulnerability begets vulnerability. We also ask that whatever is shared in your group be kept confidential. We want to respect each woman's privacy and personal boundaries and be safe companions for our sisters on the journey.

### **Prayer Requests**

We encourage you to write down prayer requests each week so that you can be praying for one another throughout the week. Our hope is that at the end of each session you can look back and see all the prayers that God has answered in your group. He is always at work, and it can be helpful to have your prayers in writing to see and remember God's faithfulness.

### **Music Devotional**

Tommy Walker created a 21-day Musical Bible Reading Experience plan called "*The Book of John in Song*" on the YouVersion Bible app. We encourage you to check it out if you are interested and suggest reading a devotional a week as we move through this 21-week study in the book of John together. You can search "Tommy Walker" on the YouVersion Bible app to find the plan.

## **WEEK ONE: John 1— Introduction**

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### **John 1**

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*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

*19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."*

*24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he*

who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."



**WEEK ONE: Teaching Notes**

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## **WEEK TWO: John 2 — *Lectio Divina***

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### **Reflection**

I have recently fallen in love with Lectio Divina. Maybe it's because my mind can be so easily scattered, or maybe it's because I tend to forget things quickly, but in the past few months this has been my favorite way to read Scripture. I generally pick a passage or chapter and settle into the recess of my big comfy couch, inviting the Holy Spirit to illuminate whatever He wants to show me. I love reading the Bible with this method because it feels like a mystery waiting to unfold, a grand adventure, where with each reading, God can highlight something completely different and relevant for my life. It feels like God is telling me a secret and we are solving a puzzle together as I wait with anticipation to see what He illuminates for me next.

### **Overview**

The Latin phrase "lectio divina" can be translated as "divine reading." As one reads and invites the Word to become a transforming lens that brings the events of daily living into focus, one can come to live more deeply and find the presence of God more readily in the events of each day.

The method of lectio divina follows four steps: lectio (reading), meditatio (meditation), contemplatio (contemplation), and oratio (prayer). The goal of lectio divina is to notice what arises within you as you read the passage. After you read the passage once, you will read it again, and then again, noticing what words and phrases grab your heart and noticing the feelings that arise. You then respond to God about whatever is stirring within as you read and pray with the passage. Finally, you rest and let God speak to you.

### **Read**

Slowly and thoughtfully, read the Scripture passage the first time. What word or phrase captures your attention and grabs your heart? Linger with it.

### **Reflect**

Slowly and prayerfully, read the passage again a second time. What is God saying to you in the passage this time? What is God offering you? What feelings are arising within you?

### **Respond**

Slowly and prayerfully, read the passage a third time. Respond to God from your heart. Speak to God about your feelings and insights. Offer them to God. What is God inviting you to in this third reading?

**Rest**

Sit quietly in God's presence, asking, "What do you want me to see?" Rest in God's love and listen for His voice.

## John 2

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On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust

*himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.*

## **Week 2 - Lectio Divina Practice**

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To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Then do the following:

### **Read**

Slowly and thoughtfully, read John 2. What word or phrase captures your attention and grabs your heart? Linger with it.

### **Reflect**

Slowly and prayerfully, read the passage again a second time. What is God saying to you in the passage this time? What is God offering you? What feelings are arising within you?

**Respond**

Slowly and prayerfully, read the passage a third time. What is God inviting you to? Respond to God from your heart. Speak to God about your feelings and insights. Offer them to God.

**Rest**

Sit quietly in God's presence, asking, "What do you want me to see?" Rest in God's love and listen for His voice.



**WEEK TWO: Teaching Notes**

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## **WEEK THREE: John 3 – *Meditation***

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### **Reflection**

I never realized the power of meditation until I started practicing it a few years back. Meditation and mindfulness has gotten trendy in the past decade, however the Bible has talked about meditating on Scripture for hundreds of years- it's not new to God at all! As we know, what we think about and dwell on tends to be the direction our lives move. Meditating on Scripture puts our minds back on Jesus when they are tempted to wander off to so many other things. I've found that meditating on God's Word has the power to reframe my attitude and heart posture as I move through the various activities in my day. I like to pick one verse out of a passage and try to meditate on it all week. I sometimes write it out on an index card and post it on my bathroom mirror, and then when I am alone, I quiz myself to see how accurate I know the verse. This helps to cement the Word of God deep in my soul.

### **Overview**

To meditate on Scripture is to think deeply about what God has said to us in the Bible and to prepare our minds and hearts for prayer. In meditation we essentially chew on the Word of God- savoring it, reflecting on it, pondering it, turning it over in our thoughts and considering what it means for our lives. Meditation allows us to focus on the Word of God and let it sink deeper into our minds, hearts and lives.

*"Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night."*

Psalm 1:1-2

### **Focus**

Meditate to focus on how God is speaking to you through His living and active Word. What is God saying to you specifically in this passage?

### **Understand**

Meditate to understand what God is communicating to you through his Word. Based on this passage, how does it inform your understanding of God?

**Remember**

Meditate to remember all that God has done through the Gospel of grace. Where have you seen the power of God in your own life?

**Worship**

Meditate to worship the God who deserves all our thanks and praise for who He is and what He has done in Christ. How does this passage cause your heart to praise the Lord?

**Apply**

Meditate to apply what you have read in the Bible to your daily life and to ask for help in prayer. What is God inviting you to do next?

**Holy Spirit**

Meditation happens through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us in our weakness, fixing our eyes on Christ, giving us understanding, bringing to mind God's wonderful works, filling us with joy, and leading us to walk in the Truth. He is our great help and hope. We are never alone when we seek God through meditation, and He effectively prompts us to pray in response. Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you and guide you as you meditate.

## John 3

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Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 (for John had not yet been put in prison).

25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

31 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

## **Week 3 - Meditation Practice**

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To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Read John 3, then do the following:

### **Focus**

Meditate to focus on how God is speaking to you through His living and active Word. What is God saying to you specifically in this passage?

### **Understand**

Meditate to understand what God is communicating to you through His Word. Based on this passage, how does it inform your understanding of God?

### **Remember**

Meditate to remember all that God has done through the Gospel of grace. Where have you seen the power of God in your own life?

**Worship**

Meditate to worship the God who deserves all our thanks and praise for who He is and what He has done in Christ. How does this passage cause your heart to praise the Lord?

**Apply**

Meditate to apply what you have read in the Bible to your daily life and to ask for help in prayer. What is God inviting you to do next?



**WEEK THREE: Teaching Notes**

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## **WEEK FOUR: John 4 – *Ignatian Gospel Contemplation***

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### **Reflection**

During my senior year of college, I did a program on Ignatian Spirituality and learned this beautiful technique of reading Scripture. It literally altered my life. It was the first time I discovered the power of God using the faculties of my imagination to inform me about who He is. I'll never forget sitting in the basement of Raynor Library and reading the road to Emmaus passage (Luke 24:13-35). God tore the veil off my eyes to see Him in full color, sight and sound. I experienced, for what felt like the first time, Scripture becoming alive and active before my very eyes and the Holy Spirit giving me insight and revelation to a passage I had read so many times before. My prayer is that you will carve out time to sit with the Lord in this practice and experience God's Word from a whole new vantage point. May it be life changing for you!

### **Overview**

Centuries ago, Saint Ignatius created a spiritual exercise that helps people envision themselves in the Gospel stories. After having a powerful conversion experience, he wanted others to encounter God and be spiritually transformed like he was.

Gospel Contemplation invites us to insert ourselves into the reading. This allows us to taste, see, smell, hear and feel what is going on in each scene of God's story. We may envision ourselves as an onlooker, character, or even Jesus in any given passage. As we engage our imagination we are able to spend time in Jesus's presence. This allows us to know Jesus more intimately and be led down our own path of discovery, to be truly transformed.

### **Read**

Read the Gospel passage slowly. See where Jesus is interacting with people.

### **Focus**

Focus your heart and mind. God is present and your desire is to encounter God through your reading. Where is He drawing your attention in the story?

### **Re-read**

Go back and read the passage again. Become familiar with the story and its details.

### **Imagine**

Sit quietly and close your eyes and picture the scene. Put yourself in the story. Notice - where is it taking place? Who is there? What is Jesus doing? What are the sights,

sounds, smells? Are you observing the scene as an outsider, are you one of the characters, or are you Jesus? What is the emotional atmosphere of the story? How do you feel? What do you think?

### **Engage**

It may come to life for you in vivid detail. Or you may enter into it through verbally describing what you see, contemplating people's words or actions. Creativity and imagination can be helpful, but are not necessary for this exercise. The aim is to engage with the scene and gain a more personal knowledge of Jesus. What does it feel like to be in the presence of Jesus? What is He inviting you to see? How do you feel? Note your observations.

### **Share**

As you conclude engaging in the scene, take time to talk directly to Jesus about what you experienced. Speak whatever comes to your heart. Ask Him any questions you have and listen for His voice to respond.

## John 4

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Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

43 After the two days he departed for Galilee. 44 (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) 45 So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

46 So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." 49 The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. 51 As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52 So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him,

*"Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. 54 This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.*

## **Week 4 - Ignatian Contemplation Practice**

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To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Read John 4 slowly, then do the following:

### **Focus**

Focus your heart and mind. God is present and your desire is to encounter God through your reading. Where is He drawing your attention in the story?

### **Re-read**

Go back and read John 4 again. Become familiar with the story and its details.

### **Imagine**

Sit quietly and close your eyes and picture the scene. Put yourself in the story. Notice - where is it taking place? Who is there? What is Jesus doing? What are the sights, sounds, smells? Are you observing the scene as an outsider, are you one of the characters, or are you Jesus? What is the emotional atmosphere of the story? How do you feel? What do you think?



**Engage**

It may come to life for you in vivid detail. Or you may enter into it through verbally describing what you see, contemplating people's words or actions. Creativity and imagination can be helpful, but are not necessary for this exercise. The aim is to engage with the scene and gain a more personal knowledge of Jesus. What does it feel like to be in the presence of Jesus? What is He inviting you to see? How do you feel? Note your observations.

**Share**

As you conclude engaging in the scene, take time to talk directly to Jesus about what you experienced. Speak whatever comes to your heart. Ask Him any questions you have and listen for His voice to respond.

**WEEK FOUR: Teaching Notes**

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## **WEEK FIVE: John 5 – *S.O.A.P.***

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### **Reflection**

I've found this method to be a tried-and-true way to read the Bible. Often when I read God's Word without a plan, I can end up flip-flopping around to different books and can feel lost. The S.O.A.P. method offers an easy guide to read the Bible and it gives tools to apply it to my own life. Applying the Bible is one of my favorite challenges as a follower of Christ, and S.O.A.P helps me figure out exactly what God is inviting me to do next. I hope that God's Word jumps out and becomes a tangible stepping stool for your day as you study this method. I always find it fascinating to share with others, because so often I learn from my fellow sisters based on what they took out of the reading.

### **Overview**

The S.O.A.P. method of Bible Study is a way to interact with Scripture, to drink deeply from its truth and experience God in His Word. The acronym S.O.A.P. stands for (S) Scripture, (O) Observation, (A) Application and (P) Prayer.

### **Scripture**

Read the Scripture. Then write out a verse or passage that stands out to you. You will be amazed what God reveals to you just in writing out His Word.

### **Observation**

Observe people, places, actions, repeating words or phrases, questions or anything else that stands out to you and write it down. What do you see in the verses that you are reading? Were there any commands or instructions? What is the author saying?

### **Application**

What is God saying to you through His Word and your observations? How can you apply God's Word to your life today? How might you live differently as a result of your reading? What changes do you need to make? Is there a next step God is inviting you to?

### **Prayer**

Ask God to help you remember and apply His Word to your life. Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time, pray it back to Him. Where do you need Him to help you live in light of His truth?

## John 5

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*After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

*2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.*

*Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” 11 But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”*

*18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*

*19 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. 31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. 33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

## **Week 5 - S.O.A.P. Practice**

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To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Then do the following:

### **Scripture**

Read John 5. Write out a verse or passage that stands out to you. You will be amazed what God reveals to you just in writing out His Word.

### **Observation**

Observe people, places, actions, repeating words or phrases, questions or anything else that stands out to you and write it down. What do you see in the verses that you are reading? Were there any commands or instructions? What is the author saying?

**Application**

What is God saying to you through His Word and your observations? How can you apply God's Word to your life today? How might you live differently as a result of your reading? What changes do you need to make? Is there a next step God is inviting you to?

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you remember and apply His Word to your life. Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time, pray it back to Him. Where do you need Him to help you live in light of His truth?



**WEEK FIVE: Teaching Notes**

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## **WEEK SIX: John 6 – *Praying Scripture***

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### **Reflection**

In my own growth as a disciple of Christ, few things have been as powerful for me as praying Scripture. I was introduced to it by a mentor, and while it might seem like an obvious way to pray for some, I confess I had never done it until someone actually taught me. Praying God's Word is like taking an already formed weapon and heading out into battle with a proven strategy. God's Word is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) so when we use the power of Scripture in our faith-filled prayers, double whammy! My hope is that you will take God's Word in the book of John and form it into your own prayer life as we boldly claim the promises and power of Jesus in our lives, families and communities.

### **Overview**

Praying Scripture is simply taking a passage, verse, or concept in Scripture and using it for specific prayers for your life or community. Instead of forming a prayer from your own heart and mind, you'd pray what's already written in the Word.

Praying Scripture is helpful for a few reasons. First, it prevents us from praying amiss since it comes directly from God's Word (James 4:3). Next, it ensures that God hears and answers our prayers (1 John 5:14-15). When we remain in God's Word by praying it, our hearts become more aligned with God's heart. Instead of being led astray by the world's philosophies, we begin to live our lives more like God intended us to (Romans 12:2).

### **Read**

Read the Scripture. Once you understand what the passage means, it's time to sit with the Holy Spirit and ask Him what He wants you to take away from it. What truth in these words do you need to cling to? Do you struggle with anxiety? Are you worried about anything? Do you feel that you lack peace? Let God speak to you and reveal the things in your heart that need to be addressed.

### **Holy Spirit**

Read the Scripture again. This time, let the Holy Spirit speak to you through the passage. You can simply ask, "Lord, what do you want me to pray about?" Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight what God wants you to see. The answer is often revealed in the areas you feel convicted, encouraged, passionate, or stirred to take action.

**Personalize**

After you've taken some time to sit with the passage, it's time to personalize it. Think about what it would mean if these words were actually true in your life. How would your life be different? Believe that since they are God's inspired words, they can be true in your life.

**Application**

Now that you have personalized the passage, write it down in a journal or say it out loud, or do both! Use your name or the names of people in your life and pray God's Word over them. There is power in praying the Word of God over yourself, friends and family, and the community around you.

## John 6

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After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. 3 Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. 5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

22 On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. 23 Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43 Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

## **Week 6 - Praying Scripture Practice**

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To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Then do the following:

### **Read**

Read John 6. Once you understand what the passage means, it's time to sit with the Holy Spirit and ask him what he wants you to take away from it. What truth in these words do you need to cling to? Do you struggle with anxiety? Are you worried about anything? Do you feel that you lack peace? Let God speak to you and reveal the things in your heart that need to be addressed.

### **Holy Spirit**

Read the Scripture again. This time, let the Holy Spirit speak to you through the passage. You can simply ask, "Lord, what do you want me to pray about?" Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight what God wants you to see in His Word. The answer is often revealed in the areas you feel convicted, encouraged, passionate, or stirred to take action.



**Personalize**

After you've taken some time to sit with the passage, it's time to personalize it. Think about what it would mean if these words were actually true in your life. How would your life be different? Believe that since they are God's inspired words, they can be true in your life.

**Application**

Now that you have personalized the passage, write it down in a journal or say it out loud, or do both! Use your name or the names of people in your life and pray God's Word over them. There is power in praying the Word of God over yourself, friends and family, and the community around you.

**WEEK SIX: Teaching Notes**

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## **WEEK SEVEN: John 7 – *Inductive Bible Study***

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### **Reflection**

I first learned about Inductive Bible Study in Campus Crusade my freshman year of college. I would be lying if I said I was excited about it at first, because it felt like a very long, lengthy and laborious process. Now with more maturity and wisdom, as someone who is seeking God's Truth for how to live, I have found this tool to be immensely powerful in helping me better understand God's Holy Word and live into it. While it can be tempting to just skim the Bible, we miss so much by not seeking to better understand the history, context and background of God's love letter to us. I hope that this method will invite you to go deeper in your faith to uncover more of God's Truth and goodness for you. May you be blessed with God's goodness through this method!

### **Overview**

The inductive Bible study method makes observations on a passage of Scripture and then draws conclusions based on those observations. The following steps follow the inductive method's process of observation, interpretation, and application. This is a more in-depth approach to studying Scripture.

### **Background**

Who is the author? Why was it written? Learn the historical background, dates, key people and so on. Some Bibles have summaries at the beginning of each book that will provide some of this information. A Bible dictionary or online commentary can also be helpful for an inductive Bible study.

### **Personal Paraphrase**

Write out each verse or a section of verses in your own words. This helps you understand each verse in wording that makes more sense to you.

### **Questions and Answers**

Write down and then answer any questions you have about the passage or any confusing terms.

### **Cross References**

Make note of any similar or related passages that come to mind while you're reading, paraphrasing, and asking questions about the passage. Consult a concordance, study guide, or footnotes to collect additional related passages. Blue Letter Bible is a great free app for this!

### **Insights**

If you observe something that relates to any part of the passage, write it down. After completing your own thoughts and analysis, consult a Bible commentary for additional insight.

### **Personal Application**

Example: (1 Timothy 1:1): Just like Paul, I need to see that I'm tasked with being Christ's ambassador, authorized and sent out with a divine message. I'll only be effective in my mission if I'm aware of my status as a divinely appointed witness.

### **Title and Summarize**

After completing a verse-by-verse analysis of a chapter, give it a title and identify a key verse or verses. This helps solidify the chapter's message in your mind. Write a summary paragraph outlining the chapter's thesis.

## John 7

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After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. 3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. 4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For not even his brothers believed in him. 6 Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

10 But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. 11 The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" 12 And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." 13 Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. 15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" 16 So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. 17 If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. 18 The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. 19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" 20 The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" 21 Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. 22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

25 Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? 26 And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? 27 But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." 28 So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you

do not know. 29 I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." 30 So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. 33 Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. 34 You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." 35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?"

37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

40 When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" 43 So there was a division among the people over him. 44 Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" 46 The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" 47 The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? 48 Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? 49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, 51 "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" 52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

[The earliest manuscripts do not include 7:53–8:11.]

53 They went each to his own house,

## **Week 7 - Inductive Bible Study Practice**

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To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Read John 7, then do the following:

### **Background**

Who is the author? Why was it written? Learn the historical background, dates, key people and so on. Some Bibles have summaries at the beginning of each book that will provide some of this information. A Bible dictionary or online commentary can also be helpful for an inductive Bible study.

### **Personal Paraphrase**

Write out each verse or a section of verses in your own words. This helps you understand each verse in wording that makes more sense to you.

### **Questions and Answers**

Write down and then answer any questions you have about the passage or any confusing terms.



### **Cross References**

Make note of any similar or related passages that come to mind while you're reading, paraphrasing, and asking questions about the passage. Consult a concordance, study guide, or footnotes to collect additional related passages. Blue Letter Bible is a great free app for this!

### **Insights**

If you observe something that relates to any part of the passage, write it down. After completing your own thoughts and analysis, consult a Bible commentary for additional insight.

**Personal Application**

How does this passage relate to you personally? How can you apply the Truth that you have learned to your own life today?

**Title and Summarize**

After completing a verse-by-verse analysis of a chapter, give it a title and identify a key verse or verses. This helps solidify the chapter's message in your mind. Write a summary paragraph outlining the chapter's thesis.

**WEEK SEVEN: Teaching Notes**

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## **WEEK EIGHT: John 8 – *Bible Journaling***

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### **Reflection**

I didn't actually know there was a name for this form of Bible study. I used to causally doodle on my Bible in church growing up when I got distracted or bored, but over time I learned that when I pulled out key phrases from God's Word and made it into art, somehow it solidified God's Truth in my heart. With the invention of Pinterest and Etsy, it's easy to find the work of many talented artists who have created beautiful pieces from God's Word. The goal of Bible journaling isn't to create pieces that are stunning, as much as to express in a creative manner, the beauty of God's Word and goodness to us individually. I find this method of Bible Study an artistic invitation to be free, unleashed and known in His presence. My prayer is that you can channel your creative side, whatever that might be, to drink deeply from the well of Jesus' Word and to transform it into a creation that reflects God's powerful Truth.

### **Overview**

Bible journaling is an exciting way to engage with Scripture. It can transform the way you spend time in the Word and it all begins within the margins of the Bible or a journal. The goal is to capture what the Word means to you in an artistic way that helps cement the Truth of what you read in your heart. You don't need to be an artist to be expressive!

With pen in hand, you can visually capture Scripture, meditate on God's Word and memorize the text. Some choose to journal as an expression of private devotion, others journal as an act of worship and there are even some who consider it a creative outlet that can be shared.

### **Read**

Read and reflect on the Scripture passage. In what ways does this Scripture apply to you and your life right now?

### **Keywords**

Pick out words in the passage that stand out to you. Let's call them keywords. Think about how you visualize these words. For example, with the word "Lord," you can use very strong lettering. While with the word "heart," you might use cursive writing and add a heart around it.

**Create**

In your journal, sketch out whatever comes to mind from the passage. You can doodle, write words/stories/poems, draw a scene, pencil characters or highlight words or a verse with colored markers. The sky's the limit.

**Reflect**

Once you are finished with your piece, spend time reviewing your own art, and commit to memorizing the key verses or words that you have been studying that inspired your creation. What impacted you about the words or verses that stood out? Reflect on what God's Word means to you. How might you live out this Word in your life today?

## John 8

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but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 13 So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." 14 Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17 In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. 18 I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." 19 They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20 These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

21 So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." 22 So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" 23 He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." 25 So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. 26 I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from

him." 27 They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. 28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." 30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

48 The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. 50 Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." 52 The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste



death.' 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

## **Week 8 – Bible Journaling Practice**

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To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Then do the following:

### **Read**

Read and reflect on John 8. In what ways does this Scripture apply to you and your life right now?

### **Keywords**

Pick out words in the passage that stand out to you. Let's call them keywords. Think about how you visualize these words. For example, with the word "Lord," you can use very strong lettering. While with the word "heart," you might use cursive writing and add a heart around it.

**Create**

In your journal, or here, sketch out whatever comes to mind from the passage. You can doodle, write words, draw a scene, pencil characters or highlight words or a verse with colored markers. The sky's the limit.

**Reflect**

Once you are finished with your piece, spend time reviewing your own art, and commit to memorizing the key verses or words that you have been studying that inspired your creation. What impacted you about the words or verses that stood out? Reflect on what God's Word means to you. How might you live out this Word in your life today?

**WEEK EIGHT: Teaching Notes**

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