

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 at it again: diving into Holy Scripture in the book of John to learn more about Jesus Christ and the incredible love that He offers to all who will receive Him.

This session we are going to be circling back to seven of the Bible study techniques that we used in our first session. You know what they say, "Practice makes perfect!" Since last session we introduced you to new study method each week, we want to give you a chance to further hone those study skills in order to glean the most out of God's Word. We will be repeating the lessons again, only this time we are moving further along in the story of Jesus, so each study method will be used on a new chapter!

Jesus is continually gracious in allowing His disciples the opportunity to know Him, see Him, experience His goodness, witness His glory, and explore His power alongside of Him. He is faithful to cultivate the truth so that we may all be set free. In John 14:6 Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth and the life." and this is what we will unpack this session.

Jesus is the centrality to all that we need; may this ring true and clear and rich in your study of this portion of John.

As always, grab some gal pals to read John with as Scripture was meant to be read and studied in community where we can grow and learn together.

Our Women's Ministry team is praying for you, that you will encounter the Living Word and be encouraged at how much Jesus Christ is for you and is chasing after you with His relentless love. He desires to be known by you, so we now embark on that beautiful journey together.

Much love, Colie Cabalatungan

Before We Start:

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 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.

John 9

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him,

"What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains. WEEK NINE: Teaching Notes _____

WEEK TEN: John 10 – *Lectio Divina*

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 10

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" ²¹ Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" ³³ The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? ³⁵ If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—³⁶ do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; ³⁸ but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." ³⁹ Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

⁴⁰ He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. ⁴¹ And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." ⁴² And many believed in him there.

Week 10 - Lectio Divina Practice

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

Read

Slowly and thoughtfully, read John 10. 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 10 RECAP: Group Time Questions____

1) What did you learn this week in God's Word?

2) How is the Lord inviting you to live differently based on the passage you read?

3) What did you most enjoy about this week's Bible study method and what did you find challenging?

4) Write down one Bible verse that you want to remember from this week and take with you as you go.

5) How can your group pray for you this week?

WEEK TEN: Teaching Notes_____

WEEK ELEVEN: John 11 – *Meditation*

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 11

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When

Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

⁵⁴ Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶ They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?" ⁵⁷ Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

Week 11 - Meditation Practice

To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Read John 11, 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 11 RECAP: Group Time Questions_

1) What did you learn this week in God's Word?

2) How is the Lord inviting you to live differently based on the passage you read?

3) What did you most enjoy about this week's Bible study method and what did you find challenging?

4) Write down one Bible verse that you want to remember from this week and take with you as you go.

5) How can your group pray for you this week?

WEEK ELEVEN: Teaching Notes_____

WEEK TWELVE: John 12 – Gospel Contemplation

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. Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. ³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹ When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies,

it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴ So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

³⁹ Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

⁴⁴ And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

Week 12 – Gospel Contemplation Practice

To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Read John 12 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 12 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 12 RECAP: Group Time Questions__

1) What did you learn this week in God's Word?

2) How is the Lord inviting you to live differently based on the passage you read?

3) What did you most enjoy about this week's Bible study method and what did you find challenging?

4) Write down one Bible verse that you want to remember from this week and take with you as you go.

5) How can your group pray for you this week?

WEEK TWLEVE: Teaching Notes

WEEK THIRTEEN: John 13 – *S.O.A.P.*

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 13

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought

that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

Week 13 - S.O.A.P. Practice

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

Scripture

Read John 13. 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 13 RECAP: Group Time Questions___

1) What did you learn this week in God's Word?

2) How is the Lord inviting you to live differently based on the passage you read?

3) What did you most enjoy about this week's Bible study method and what did you find challenging?

4) Write down one Bible verse that you want to remember from this week and take with you as you go.

5) How can your group pray for you this week?

WEEK 13: Teaching Notes_____

WEEK FOURTEEN: John 14 – *Praying Scripture*

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 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. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

Week 14 - Praying Scripture Practice

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

Read

Read John 14. 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 14 RECAP: Group Time Questions____

1) What did you learn this week in God's Word?

2) How is the Lord inviting you to live differently based on the passage you read?

3) What did you most enjoy about this week's Bible study method and what did you find challenging?

4) Write down one Bible verse that you want to remember from this week and take with you as you go.

5) How can your group pray for you this week?

WEEK FOURTEEN: Teaching Notes_____

WEEK FIFTEEN: John 15 – *Inductive Bible Study*

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 15

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Week 15 - Inductive Bible Study Practice

To begin, open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your time. Read John 15, 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 15 RECAP: Group Time Questions____

1) What did you learn this week in God's Word?

2) How is the Lord inviting you to live differently based on the passage you read?

3) What did you most enjoy about this week's Bible study method and what did you find challenging?

4) Write down one Bible verse that you want to remember from this week and take with you as you go.

5) How can your group pray for you this week?

WEEK FIFTEEN: Teaching Notes_____