



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LIFE GROUPS
STUDY GUIDE
APRIL 2021

LIFE GROUPS

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



Study of John

INTRO TO JOHN

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JOHN 1:1-5; 2:1-11; 14:6; 15:5; 20:30-31

INTRO TO JOHN

STUDY GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS

TAKEAWAY: THOSE WHO BELIEVE JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD WILL FIND LIFE IN HIS NAME.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: JESUS IS THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH PEOPLE MIGHT RECEIVE SALVATION.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: JESUS IS THE WORD MADE FLESH WHO CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SHINE LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 If a book were written about your life, who would you want to write it? Why?
- 2 Name two or three main themes that a book about you should express.

Notes:

Words are more than a form of self-expression; they are our primary means of self-revelation. People really get to know who we are through our words. When John wrote his Gospel letter, he chose his words carefully. He used a variety of themes and techniques to express the truth about Jesus. John's Gospel takes us back to creation, details seven signs of Jesus, and recounts seven "I am" statements Jesus made—all so that we might believe He is the Son of God and have life in His name.

Where the other Gospel writers focused mostly on the facts of Jesus' life and ministry, John focused on the meaning behind those facts from the beginning. In His prologue, John connected Jesus' earthly life with His eternal status as the Word, God made flesh.

UNDERSTANDING

> READ JOHN 1:1-5.

- What do we learn about Jesus from the introduction of John's Gospel letter?
- Why do you think John began his Gospel by emphasizing the eternal nature of Jesus?

By describing Jesus as “the Word,” John presented Jesus as God’s self-expression to us. Through creation and then again in His incarnation, Jesus revealed what God wanted us to know about Him and who we are in Him. Before Jesus was born in a manger, before the angel told Mary she was pregnant, before any of the Old Testament prophets spoke about a Messiah, Jesus was with God, and He was God.

Notes:

- Why was it important for John to point out that Jesus had a role in creation (v. 3)?
- What similarities do you see in Genesis 1 and John 1:1-5?

God the Father brought physical life through Jesus in creation (see Ps. 33:9), and He also brought spiritual life through Jesus in the incarnation. Jesus came to earth to be the One through whom God brought salvation and redemption (Heb. 10:10). In the end, Jesus will also be the One through whom creation is restored to its former glory. John points to the Son’s oneness with the Father, a thread we see throughout all of Scripture. John 1:1-4 lays the foundation for the good news of the gospel: Jesus is the Son of God and in Him is eternal life.

> READ JOHN 2:1-11; 20:30-31.

- What was Jesus saying about Himself in John 2:4? Would you have expected Him to respond differently?

Although Jesus’ words in verse 4 may seem harsh to us, He was respectfully clarifying that His life and mission would be determined by His Heavenly Father, not earthly relationships. Mary had a clear picture of how Jesus could help her friends. However, in that moment of crisis, she didn’t seem to have the same grasp on the reason Jesus had come into the world. As He reminded her, His work had to be done in a way that accomplished His mission.

- What else can we learn about Jesus from this miracle?

Notes:

- After saying it wasn't His hour, why did Jesus perform a miracle anyway?

Jesus didn't hesitate to meet the need Mary brought to Him. But, as with most of Jesus' signs, a natural element accompanied the supernatural. Mary had to ask. The servants had to obey. The guests had to taste. This first sign John recorded leads us to see the wisdom in making Christ the Lord of our lives. We can be assured that He's concerned about us, and we can count on Him to meet our needs. Therefore, we can trust Him to guide us in a way that will glorify Him.

- Do you think it would be easier to have faith if you had walked with Jesus during His earthly ministry? Explain.
- In what way are those who believe without seeing blessed differently than those who did get to see?
- How does John 20:31 help answer that question?

The disciples witnessed many signs and miracles that proved Jesus was the Messiah. John wrote about seven such signs in his Gospel letter (see John 4:46-54; 5:1-15; 6:4-14,16-24; 9:1-7; 11:1-45) so that we would know Jesus is God's Son and have life in His name. Those who believe in Jesus today have a more full picture of Jesus' life and ministry—and the implications for our lives now as His people—through the four Gospels and the rest of the New Testament.

> READ JOHN 14:6; 15:5.

In addition to the seven signs, John also recorded seven “I am” statements Jesus made about Himself. These verses contain two of them (see John 6:35; 8:12; 10:9,11; 11:25-26). The inclusion of these statements is also meant to help us know and believe Jesus is God’s Son and have life in His name.

Notes:

“I am the way” is the central claim of John 14:6. Under the Old Covenant a priest was allowed to enter the presence of God once a year. Jesus fulfilled the levitical law and sacrificial system in His person. In Him alone, the fullness of God was pleased to dwell (Col. 2:9). Anyone seeking the way to God has no need to look any further than Jesus.

- What does it mean to say Jesus is the truth?

- How is this different than the world’s definition of truth?

- Read John 11:25. What was Jesus claiming when He said He was the life?

Many people view truth as a set of ideas to be known and interpreted intellectually, but the Bible sees truth as something more. Jesus Christ is truth itself. Truth is not a series of facts or ideas discovered by our intellect, but rather truth is found by entering into a personal relationship with the source of all truth. Jesus is also life because He gives eternal life to His followers. Since He is truth and life, He is able to say that He is the only path to God the Father.

- From John 15:5, what do we learn about who Jesus is? About who we are?

- What does it mean to remain in Jesus? How do we do this?

Notes:

The Greek word translated “remain” means “to abide” or “to dwell.” Believers have spiritual life through living in Christ, and they produce spiritual fruit by abiding in Him. We can do nothing without Christ. Only with Him living and working in us can we spiritually grow to produce fruit and make a difference in the world.

APPLICATION

- How would you respond to someone who wants to know who Jesus is?
- In the story of your life, where does Jesus come in? What role does He play?
- How does John’s account of Jesus help you share the gospel with others?

PRAY

Thank Jesus for giving you life in His name. Invite Him to draw you closer to Him and show you who He is so that you might reveal His nature and character to others around you.

LIFE GROUPS

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



Study of John

APRIL 11

21

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1:1-1

APRIL 11, 2021

STUDY GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS

TAKEAWAY: JESUS, THE WORD, IS GOD. HE EXISTED IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD, AND HE WAS ACTIVE IN CREATION.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: IN COMING TO EARTH, JESUS BROUGHT THE HOPE OF SALVATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR US "TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD" BY BELIEVING IN HIM.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: WHILE REMAINING COMPLETELY GOD, JESUS BECAME COMPLETELY MAN AND LIVED LIKE US. HIS MINISTRY ON EARTH BEGAN AT BIRTH AND ENDED IN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. IT'S ONLY THROUGH JESUS THAT WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What is the weirdest Bible story or command you've ever heard?
- 2 If you were given the chance to ask God to explain one thing about the Bible, what would it be and why?

Notes:

Words are more than a form of self-expression; they are our primary means of self-revelation. People really get to know who we are through our words. Jesus was called the Word of God in John 1, meaning He is God's revelation of Himself to us. When the Word became flesh, Jesus brought the hope of salvation and the opportunity for us to become children of God by believing in Him.

While the basic message of the gospel is simple and clear, there are many elements of the Christian faith that are not easy to understand. One of those is how Jesus could be both God and man at the same time, and why God's love for us required Jesus to be just that. Today's study of John 1:1-18 teaches that Jesus was both God and man and helps us understand how important this truth is to the gospel we share with others. Love caused God to act by sending Jesus, love requires that we act too.

UNDERSTANDING

Unlike the other Gospel writers, John didn't begin with a genealogy or a background overview. He opened his book by describing Jesus the Messiah, or Chosen One. John made it clear from verse 1 that Jesus is God, and his entire Gospel would be geared toward proving that fact.

Notes:

> READ JOHN 1:1-4.

- Why do you think John began his Gospel by talking about how Jesus existed from eternity past?

Many people argue that Jesus was a prophet who did good works but wasn't the Son of God. How do John's words argue against that idea?

- What does it mean that Jesus is "the Word"?

By describing Jesus as "the Word," John presented Jesus as God's expression of Himself to us. Through creation and then again in coming to earth, Jesus revealed what God wanted us to know about Him and about who we are in Him. Before Jesus was born in a manger, before the angel told Mary she was pregnant, and before any of the Old Testament prophets spoke about a Messiah, Jesus was with God, and He was God.

- Why was it important for John to point out that Jesus had a role in creation (v. 3)?
- Read Genesis 1. What words or phrases are the same or similar in Genesis 1 and John 1:1-5?

In the same way that God the Father brought physical life through Jesus in creation (Ps. 33:9), He also brought spiritual life through Jesus. Jesus came to earth to bring salvation to mankind. John points to the Son's unity with the Father that we see throughout all of Scripture. John 1:1-4 sets the stage for the good news of the gospel: Jesus is the Son of God, and in Him is eternal life.

Notes:

> READ JOHN 1:10-11,14-15.

- Some people claim that Jesus was not actually a real historical person. If Jesus was completely human, what facts about Him must be true? (Encourage such answers as "He must have a human body, emotions," etc.).
- Why is it necessary for people to understand Jesus is fully human?

A major theme in John's Gospel is the rejection Jesus encountered, including from many Jews who didn't recognize Him as the Messiah. Even with the countless signs, fulfilled prophecies, and Jesus' own statements about Himself, they did not accept Jesus as God's Son. Although they were a religious people, they did not understand who Jesus was because they expected something totally different.

- God wasn't trying to disguise Jesus from anyone. Why, then, did Jesus seem so different from what everyone expected?
- What kind of savior do you think the Jewish people expected?

- What kind of savior are the people around you looking for?

Notes:

> READ JOHN 1:12-13,16-18.

Jesus came to restore the whole world back to a right relationship with God. Our physical bloodlines don't decide where we will spend eternity; only a personal relationship with God through Jesus, the Messiah, can make that happen. Because He loves us, God made a way for us.

- Why do you think the Jewish people had a hard time accepting that Jesus came to save the whole world and not just the Jews?

To think that God wanted to save the entire world was a crazy idea to the Jewish people. They grew up believing the Messiah would save only the Jews. No wonder so many Jews thought Jesus was preaching false words.

- How has your family or cultural background shaped your spiritual journey?
- How has family or cultural background shaped the spiritual journey of a non-Christian you know?

In verses 16-17, John reminded his readers that Christ is superior to the Old Testament law. The Mosaic law, a law we could never live up to, wasn't intended to bring salvation but to highlight our need for a Savior. Christ lived in perfect obedience to the law and fulfilled it so we don't have to. As a result, we can rest in God's abundant and ongoing "grace in place of grace" (v. 16).

- What did Jesus' death and resurrection accomplish for us?

Notes:

- If you're a Christ-follower, how have you experienced the "grace in place of grace" John talked about in verse 16?

When Jesus moved into our neighborhood, He came bearing the full glory of God—the same glory that sent fire from heaven and filled the temple with a bright cloud (2 Chron. 7:1-3; 5:14). Through Christ, the very glory of God became accessible to everyone, and we're all invited into His presence. But we can't miss the fact that when Jesus "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (v. 14). He literally became human, meaning He lived like us. He was susceptible to sickness, death, and a full range of emotions. Jesus is both God and man, and while it may be challenging for us to grasp this, we can't minimize either His humanity or divinity.

God did more than shout down from heaven, "I love you!" to the people on earth. He demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to die on the cross. That's the nature of love—it's more than mere emotion or sentiment. True love is intentional and action-oriented. When we begin to grasp the depth of Jesus' love for us, we will find ourselves freed to love each other in that same sacrificial and intentional kind of way.

APPLICATION

- Why is it dangerous to think of Jesus as only God and not also fully human? What is the danger of seeing Him as a man, but not God?
- What did love require God to do when He saw that humanity was lost and selfish?
- What does love require us to do when we see that same qualities in our families, coworkers, and neighbors?

Notes:

PRAY

To close today's group time, thank God for sending His love and grace to us through His Son. End the time praising God for the sacrifice He made on our behalf. Challenge your group members to be motivated by the gospel in the coming weeks.

LIFE GROUPS

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

FW

Study of John

APRIL 18

21

FOLLOWING THE LAMB

JOHN 1:19-50

APRIL 18, 2021

STUDY GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS

TAKEAWAY: JESUS CALLED HIS FIRST DISCIPLES, IGNITING THE FIRE OF DISCIPLESHIP THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BURN INTO ETERNITY.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: WE ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS IN THE SAME WAY HE CALLED THE FIRST DISCIPLES.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: AS WE EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CHRIST IN OUR LIVES, WE ARE CALLED TO INVITE OTHERS TO "COME AND SEE," SO THAT THEY MIGHT EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL AS WELL.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you had a mentor you “followed around” when you first became a young adult, or at another time in life?
- 2 If this person had asked you what you wanted, what would you have said?

Notes:

Many people look for mentors to “show them the ropes.” The disciples had the greatest teacher and mentor in history: Jesus. After writing on Jesus’ identity as the eternal Word of God, John switched to a historical account of Jesus’ selection of His first disciples. The interesting thing here is that Jesus did not directly recruit some of them, as seems to be the case most often in the Gospels (Matt. 9:9; Mark 1:16–17, 19–20), but the new disciples went out and recruited other disciples. In these stories, we find some of our best examples of evangelism—telling someone else what we have experienced in Jesus Christ. Andrew brought his brother Peter, while Philip went out and recruited his friend Nathanael.

UNDERSTANDING

> READ JOHN 1:19-34.

- How does our culture determine who is important or worthy of attention?

John moved out into the middle of the desert. He lived as a hermit, wore clothes made out of camel hair, and ate locusts (Matt. 3:4). He made a point to insult pretty much everyone of importance. For example, he called the religious Pharisees a brood of snakes (Matt. 3:7). He publicly rebuked the ruler of the region and later got himself thrown in prison and ultimately

beheaded (Matt. 14:3-10). Some might think of John the Baptist as a man of wasted potential. But John's life can be summed up in John 1:29, when he said, "Look, the Lamb of God."

- How did John point others to Jesus instead of pointing to himself?
- What can we learn about following Jesus from John's words and actions?

Notes:

There was a time when we all might have known facts and stories about Jesus but not have believed in His true identity and confessed Him as Lord. At some point, though, we had a personal encounter with Jesus and saw Him as He really is. For John, that moment came during Jesus' baptism. John suddenly realized that his relative, whom he thought he knew for so long, was more than just a relative. He is the Messiah, the one and only Son of God.

- What are some experiences that have shaped your understanding of Jesus?
- How has encountering Jesus transformed your life?
- What are some things that help you remember your encounter with Christ and remain focused on Him?

> READ JOHN 1:35-42.

- In what ways was Jesus' question in verse 38 so unexpected and challenging?

- What are most people looking for in life today? Why do you believe that?

Notes:

The calling of the first disciples is packed with some great moments! John the Baptist had disciples who followed him, and when he made a comment about Jesus being “the Lamb of God,” two of his disciples slipped away and began following Jesus from a distance. Jesus’ question of them in verse 38 was on point. He knew the two men were searching for something in life. His question challenged them to think about what really mattered. This very question can still be asked of people today: “What are you looking for?”

The two followers asked Jesus a question, but Jesus chose not to answer it directly. (See the last part of verse 38). This probably caused the men to be even more curious about Jesus. They committed to spend the day with Him and learn more about Him.

After a time, one of the two followers, Andrew, became convinced that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. He found his brother, Peter, and brought him to meet Jesus. Immediately Jesus spoke to Peter and called him by name. Then He gave him a new name.

- Why is it significant that Peter got a new name?
How does one’s name influence his or her identity?

- When has God “called you by name” and “given you a new name”?

It is important to note that Jesus called Peter by his name. Jesus knows each of us by name, and Scripture says that He even knows the number of hairs on our head. (See Luke 12:7.) When Jesus calls us to be His disciples, He does so knowing everything about us—the good and the bad. Nothing is hidden

from Him. In spite of our shortcomings, Jesus still calls us to “come ... follow.” Jesus’ giving Peter a new name signifies Peter’s new identity—he became a follower, a disciple of Jesus.

- Can you name any other people in Scripture whom God gave new names?

Notes:

> READ JOHN 1:43-51.

- What was the last thing you discovered that was so good, you could hardly wait to tell someone?
- When you have good news to share, who is the first person you want to tell?

The calling of the first disciples continued the very next day. When Jesus saw Philip, He stopped and told him to “Follow Me!” Philip did what Andrew had done the day before – he went to someone he cared for, Nathanael, and challenged him to come and meet with Jesus. Philip believed Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah.

A wonderful pattern emerges in these verses. Jesus calls people to “Follow me,” and those people in turn call others to “come and see,” to follow Jesus as well. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you can ask friends and family to “come and see” Jesus, too. That was the pattern among Jesus’ first disciples. They were called. They called others.

- When you consider that Jesus knows everything about you, how does that make you feel? (i.e. Proud – I am living my life to please Him; Afraid – I worry about being punished for wrongdoing; Thankful – I am grateful He knows me personally; Amazed – With the billions of people on the planet, how can He know me?)

Jesus proved He was the Messiah by revealing knowledge of Nathanael's activities just before their meeting—Jesus saw him sitting under a fig tree, perhaps taking a break from his work or enjoying the shade on a hot day. Nathanael quickly acknowledged Jesus' deity (v. 49). Jesus' calling of the first disciples was done in a personal way. Jesus singled out people He called to be His disciples, and He called some of them by name. He knew things about them that only God could know. He called these men to a life of discipleship, and He is doing the same thing today.

Notes:

Jesus knows you. He knows us all. And He calls us to follow Him, making Him the Lord (boss) of our lives. Jesus loves you just as you are, with all of your imperfections and weaknesses. He knows your potential, and He has great things planned for your life. What Jesus told Nathanael could be said to you and I today: "You will see greater things than that." God has a wonderful plan for your life, and it begins with you saying "yes" to the call to follow Him as a disciple.

APPLICATION

- Just as the twelve disciples had to learn what it meant to follow Jesus, so do we. What have you been learning recently about what it means to be Jesus' disciple?
- As a group, how are we doing at following Jesus? How can we do better, so that people will recognize our commitment to be His disciples and want to "come and see"?
- Who can you reach out to, like Andrew and Philip did, and invite to this group to learn about Jesus?

Notes:

PRAY

Thank God for His personal and distinct call on your life to follow Jesus. Ask Him to help you continue learning who He is and what it requires for you to be His disciple. Ask Him for opportunities this week to invite other people to "come and see."

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



Study of John

APRIL 25

21

WATER TO WINE

JOHN 2:1-25

APRIL 25, 2021

STUDY GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS

TAKEAWAY: JESUS' SIGNS AND WONDERS LEAD US TO RESPOND WITH AWE, JOY, AND FAITH.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: WE SHOULD NOT PRIMARILY SEEK SIGNS AND WONDERS BUT INSTEAD MUST SEEK JESUS.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: JESUS' MIRACLES ARE NOT MEANT TO STAND ON THEIR OWN BUT TO POINT US TO HIS IDENTITY AS GOD.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What's the most memorable magic trick you've ever seen?
- 2 What are miracles? How are miracles different than magic?

Notes:

Part of the reason Jesus initially gained popularity was His miraculous displays of power. Regardless of what people thought of Jesus' identity, they were interested in Him because He was a miracle-worker. But Jesus' miracles were not meant to entertain or impress—rather, they reveal something about Him.

UNDERSTANDING

> READ JOHN 2:1-5.

- Imagine you are at a wedding and you find out the food's run out before you can enjoy dinner. How would you react?
- Why might running out of wine at a wedding be a problem?

In Jesus' culture, weddings were a time of massive celebration and generosity. Running out of wine during a wedding would have been a major embarrassment to the bride and groom, as well as their families.

- Why do you think Mary shared the problem with Jesus? What does this show about the nature of their relationship at this time?

- What's your reaction to Jesus calling Mary "woman"? What do you think He meant by this?

Notes:

When Jesus called Mary "Woman," it sounds rude to our ears, but it's actually a title of respect. It would be like calling a woman today "ma'am" or "madam." But even with this sign of respect, Jesus offered a very mild rebuke, saying, "My hour has not yet come" (v. 4).

- Read John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1. Based on these verses, what was Jesus talking about when He said "my hour"?

Throughout the Book of John, the phrase "my hour" was meant to point forward to the events of Jesus' death and resurrection—the time of His victory over sin and death.

- Why would Jesus be reluctant to perform a miracle? Have you ever been frustrated at His timing? Has there been a time when you asked Him to intervene in a situation in your life, and He responded that it wasn't the right time?

Jesus was reluctant to perform the miracle because He knew the people's misconceptions about the Messiah. They were expecting a military leader, a mighty warrior to overthrow the Romans and bring power and prosperity to Israel once again. Instead, Jesus came as a humble servant to die on the cross to pay for the sins of His people.

- What do you have to believe about the nature and character of Jesus in order to accept His timing even when it's not convenient for you?

> READ JOHN 2:6-11.

- Read Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13-14; Jeremiah 31:12. According to these passages, what is wine a symbol of?
- Why is it significant that Jesus made a better kind of wine?

Notes:

Jesus was brought six jars that were used for purification rites, and from the water poured into them, He made wine. And He didn't just make good wine, but the best wine!

- What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?
- In what way is Jesus' whole ministry about making something better than what people previously had?

In Jesus' first sign, He revealed Himself as the Giver of great blessings. He gave the best wine, and in doing so, He multiplied exponentially the joy of the wedding feast. But Jesus isn't content to give us temporal blessings. He didn't come to give us abundant life only in the here and now. He came so we can enjoy eternal joy and blessing with Him as our Bridegroom and the church as His bride! People are no longer bound to the old wine of the law; there is the new wine of Jesus.

> READ JOHN 2:12-22.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, the Passover was near. Because of this, people would need to make sacrifices. The court of the Gentiles, the outer part of the temple where all people were welcomed, was filled with people selling the

animals that would have been required for Passover sacrifices. Jesus became angry because these sales were occurring “in the temple courts” (v. 14).

Notes:

- Read Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11, which Jesus referenced in Matthew’s account of the same event (Matt. 21:12-13). How had the money changers taken something sacred and made it common?
- Since we know Jesus never sinned, we know that His anger was righteous. Read Ephesians 4:26. When is it good and right to be angry?

The temple was where the presence of the Lord dwelled among His people. While it was the center of Jewish worship, it was not only for the Jews. The temple was a to be the house of prayer for all people. God has always had a global purpose to include people of all nations in His distinct people. The commerce angered Jesus because the money changers were treating the temple flippantly and not reverently. He was right to be angry, and His anger motivated Him to action—turning over tables and driving money changers out. The Bible makes a distinction between righteous and unrighteous anger, and as we grow in the Holy Spirit, we learn to tell the difference between the two.

- Compare and contrast the disciples’ response to Jesus and the Jews in the temple? How did the Jews misunderstand and misinterpret Jesus? What did they not understand about the temple?

The temple was holy because of the presence of God, not because of a location or place (John 4:21-24). The Jews did not connect the Messianic prophecies as Jesus’ disciples did. Jesus was the presence of God in bodily form in the temple. It was His temple, and He was able to do as He pleased. Today, the temple of God is in believers of Jesus because the presence

of God dwells in us through His Spirit. The temple is where we are. For this reason, we cannot take our actions lightly. We must be governed by what God finds acceptable, rather than what is acceptable in our culture.

Notes:

- How should being a temple of the Holy Spirit change the way that we live? What is one concrete way the Holy Spirit has changed you?

> READ JOHN 2:23-25.

- Look back at verse 18, and then verse 23. What causes the “many” to follow Jesus? Why was this not enough for true faith (v. 24)? How was their faith misplaced?
- Can you identify any part of yourself or people you know in the variety of response to Jesus in John 2?
- How did the common understanding of faith in the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry keep them from seeing who He really was? What keeps people today from seeing Jesus for who He is?

John frequently used the word “sign” to describe Jesus’ miracles. Many people followed Jesus because of His power, but not because of His identity. John condemned such belief because it was not centered on the person of Christ. God is not fooled or convinced by insincere worship which the first century cultural climate—and our own—made room for. People did not want to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord for the same reasons people reject Him today: it’s inconvenient and brushes up against our preferred understanding. However, we must always pursue truth where it is found—in Jesus Himself.

APPLICATION

- Read John 2:11 again. How does Jesus want us to go beyond the miracles? What does He want us to see about Him?
- How have you seen God's glory in a way that has led you to trust Jesus more deeply than you did a year ago? Ten years ago? Last week?
- How has this study shown you Jesus is more than a miracle worker? How has it strengthened your desire to focus on His mission rather than your ambitions?

Notes:

PRAY

Pray that we would see Jesus, not just as a miracle worker, but as our Lord and Savior who loves us and wants us to look more like Himself. Pray that we would be concerned about His mission and not our own desires.