



Reading through the New Testament—Week 15

April 16-22

Reading Plan available on
YouVersion Bible App
(QR Code).



Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This week we continue on our journey through the New Testament by continuing to look at the Gospel of John. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke have similar narratives and stories. They are considered the Synoptic Gospels. However, John looks at the Gospel – the story of Jesus live – in a little different light.

Here is overview of the Gospel of John from OliveTree Bible Overview, which can be found on the OliveTree.com software:

The Gospel of John tells of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus with many unique stories not found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John strongly emphasizes Jesus's divine nature and the gift of eternal life given to those who believe in Jesus as Lord. To make this point, John frequently links the miracles of Jesus with symbolic figures known as the I Am statements, in which Jesus is presented as the exclusive way to salvation.

The Greek word for "gospel" translates as "good news." The term "gospel" appeared as a literary genre in the late second century to describe writings that present the life of Jesus, including his teachings, the discipleship of his followers, and his death and resurrection. The first three Gospels keep to a similar format and narrate several shared stories while John expresses a distinctive style that sets the fourth Gospel apart from the Synoptic Gospels. Though the text is evangelistic in nature to persuade people to believe in Jesus Christ, it has also proved an invaluable tool for those who are being disciplined in their Christian faith (John 20:30-31).

This Week's Sermon Outline

Into the Light

John 3:16-21 and John 8:12

People loved _____ (John 3:19)

Defining Darkness:

Metaphysical:

The _____ in the darkness (John 1:5)

Defining Light:






Verdict: _____ has come into the world (John 3:19)

Living in the Light:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17

New Testament in a Year—April 16-22

John

Chapter 3  4  5  6  7 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

This week as you read, take note of the narratives or stories that stand out to you from each chapter. You can reflect on the readings by asking:

1. **What from this scripture stuck out to me?**
2. **So what connects into my life?**
3. **Now what is being asked of me?**
4. **Pray: God, what are you speaking into my life through this reading?**

John 3: See sermon notes. If you missed this weekend's services, check them out on our YouTube Channel - youtube.com/@stmfw.

John 4: Jesus connects with a community in Samaria. What is the significance of this narrative in light of the first chapters in John?
*Especially in light of John 3:16

John 5: Jesus heals people from many different types of ailments, from physical and mental to spiritual. How does the healing seen in this chapter help us understand God's care for his people?

John 6: What narrative is most impactful for you in the 70 verses of chapter 6? How does the miracle at the beginning of the chapter help gain an understanding of the other narratives within the chapter?

John 7: Go Deeper, search Feast of Tabernacles on BibleHub.com to get context for the location of this chapter. How does the context help gain a better understanding of John 7?

Belonging in Community

Connect groups are communities—a group of Christians who meet together regularly—where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Connection is created through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer.

- Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.
- Take some time to share any reflections of aha's you had from your reading.

This week we are taking a look at the themes of light in the book of John.

- Share about a season of darkness that you have experienced. What were your circumstances? What was your mental health like? Who was with you in this season?

- Seasons of darkness are never good, but God does some powerful work in those seasons. What is a way that you have come to know that God was at work at that time in your life? (Perhaps you can't see that yet...that is an appropriate answer. Sometimes we just don't know.)

- Share about a time you experienced the Light of God in your life? What were your circumstances? What was your mental health like? Who was with you in this season?

What have you experienced being in darkness compared to being in the Light?

Jesus is the Light and we read in John 1 the darkness we experience will never be bigger than Him. Take some time to pray together remembering to ask for the Light of Jesus in your lives.

Blessing the World

Mark Your Calendar

Go and Serve – April 22, 9:00a – noon

Register: stmfw.org/events

Invite a friend and join us at one of the four sites around town that we will be serving at. Watch your email and parish notes in the coming weeks to find out where we will be serving and the projects we will be helping out with. Questions, contact Pastor Shawn (pastordavis@stmfw.org)