



Reading through the New Testament—Week 16

April 23-29

Reading Plan available on
YouVersion Bible App
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Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

The Gospel of John. If someone were to ask me (Pastor Goff) where they should start in reading the Bible, I would suggest the Gospel of John. While all four Gospels give us a summary of the life and ministry of Jesus, John's Gospel account seems to be often favored as the one giving us the most direct words and teaching of Jesus. As you read through John, see it as distinct from the other three Gospel accounts.

One reason that the Gospel of John is unique is that nearly 90% of it lacks direct verbal parallel to the other three Gospels. John's Gospel does not contradict the other three, but rather supplements them. All the material in John 2-4, Jesus' early Galilean ministry, is not found in the other three. Prior visits of Jesus to Jerusalem before the passion week are mentioned in John but not found in the other three. The resurrection of Lazarus (John 11), as well as the extended "farewell discourse" (John 13-17) are not found in the synoptic Gospels.

A key verse to keep in mind as you read John's Gospel is John 20:30-31, "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." That was John's goal in writing this Gospel.

Remember, if you have gotten behind in your reading or maybe you have not started yet, the Gospel of John is a good place to jump in.

This Week's Sermon Outline

"Sir, We Would Like to See Jesus"

John 12:21

"Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

Those who asked the question, wanted to see Jesus as . . .

- miracle worker
- divine healer
- great teacher

What does it mean to see Jesus?

1. To see the _____ of His _____.

"Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.'"
(12:23-24)

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.'" (12:27)

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)

2. To see the _____ of His _____.

"Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'" (12:23)

"Father, glorify Your name." (12:28)

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power . . ." (Revelation 4:11)

3. To see the _____ of a _____ with Him.

"Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus." (12:22)

New Testament in a Year—April 23-29

John

Chapter 8  9  10  11  12 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

One of the unique stories, which only appears in John's Gospel account, is the raising of Lazarus in chapter 11. As you read through that story, think through the following:

- When Jesus first heard that Lazarus was sick, He (Jesus) stayed two more days before He went to Bethany. Why?
- When Jesus arrives at the home of Mary and Martha, what do we learn about Martha from what she says to Jesus? How does Jesus stretch her faith by what He says in v. 25?
 - When have you been in a difficult situation that stretched your faith?
- Mary's words to Jesus in v. 32 sound like the same as what Martha said in v. 21. Were they expressing the same thing?
- Is Martha's comment in v. 39 a contradiction to what she said in vv. 22-27?
- Why did Jesus weep (v. 35)?
- Consider what Jesus did when He showed up at the home of Mary and Martha after the death of Lazarus.
 - He came to give them hope (vv. 23-27)
 - He came to comfort them (vv. 32-36)
 - He came to put life and death in perspective (vv. 23-27, 38-44)

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 ponder where we see God and what is our response when we see Him. As we think on this a little more, we consider what it is to practice the presence of God. This is where we grow to acknowledge, that God is everywhere at all times and in light of this awareness we develop the ability to see the extra-ordinary in daily life. We recognize Him, listen to Him, worship Him, and talk with Him as a common part of our day.

Allow each person to answer several of these questions that point to ways we can see God in our everyday lives.

- Where have you seen God lately?
- What beauty has caused you to stop and praise God?
- What pain has driven you to God?
- What gratitude has overflowed from you?
- What joys can you recite?
- What kindness have you witnessed/received lately?
- Where have you had the chance to be a blessing?

Next, share where you can be intentional about seeing God in your day to day life and what you will do when you do.

Spend time in prayer thanking God for his presence and asking for the ability to see Him more and more.

Blessing the World

We see through the lives of the disciples and the stories in the Gospels the desire to see Jesus. Today, we have the same desire and, in turn, we help others see Jesus by being His hands and feet where He has placed us. Think about three people who you can be the hands and feet of Jesus too this week.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

God, use me to be your hands and feet to _____ this week. Amen.