

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*JESUS PRAYS - JOHN 17 : 1-26*

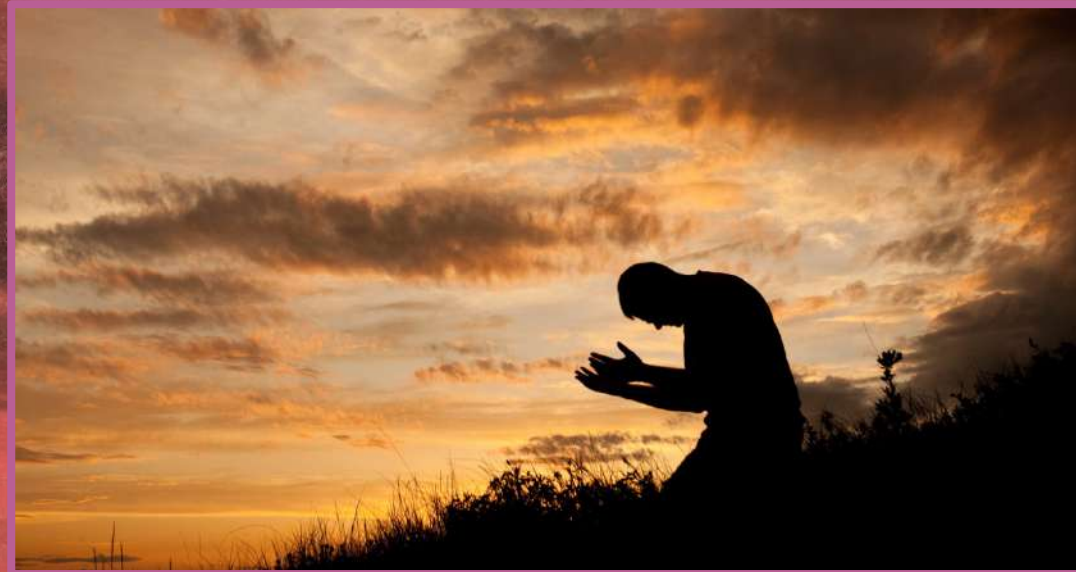
## BIBLE STUDY



### STARTER:

If you were to take a guess at what Jesus would pray for just before his death, what would you say?

Today we are looking at John chapter 17 which gives us a unique insight into Jesus' prayer life at a time of great stress.



**READ THE CHAPTER. AS YOU READ, REFLECT:**

**How might our prayer life reflect the pattern we see modelled here:**

- **FIRSTLY** - Jesus asks for help to bring God glory
- **SECONDLY** - he moves to praying for his disciples
- **AND LASTLY** - he prays for all believers

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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## BIBLE STUDY



### Look at verses 2-4

- How would you describe 'eternal life' to an unbeliever?

- How does Jesus describe eternal life in verse 3?

- How do we attain eternal life?

*If needed, look at John 3 : 15-16, John 3 : 36 & John 10 : 28*

- In verses 6-11, Jesus is praying for his disciples.

*(Note: disciples are followers of Jesus (like us!) and here apostles are those that Jesus chose to send out with the good news of the gospel).*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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## BIBLE STUDY



### Look at verses 11-12

- What is the overall prayer request in this part of Jesus' prayer?
- When might we see protection 'by the power of your name' (v.11) as we are living out our daily lives as believers?



### Look at verses 15-19

- What is the overall prayer request for in this part of Jesus' prayer (v.17; v.19) ?
- What do you think sanctification means for us today?

**Verse 17 teaches us that we are made holy (sanctified) through the Word of God.**

- Where else might we find 'sanctifying truth' as believers?

*Look at John 14:6 and 1 John 5:6.*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JESUS PRAYS - JOHN 17 : 1-26

## BIBLE STUDY



### Read verses 20-26

Jesus moves on to pray for all future believers – that includes you and me!

- **Look at verse 23.** What is his prayer request in this section?
- What is the root of our unity (**v.21**)? What is the purpose of our unity (**v.23**)?
- Why then do you think unity is often something that is missing in the church today?
- How does **Philippians 2:1-4** describe the unity that comes from being in Christ?



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*JESUS PRAYS - JOHN 17 : 1-26*

## THINK & PRAY

**CONSIDERING WHAT  
WE HAVE LEARNED TODAY  
THINK AND PRAY:**

- **What does it mean to have life in Jesus' name?**
- **What does a response to belief in Jesus look like?**



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS DEATH - JOHN 18 : 1-27*

## BIBLE STUDY



### INTRO

Today's study looks at the different ways that Jesus and Peter react as Jesus is placed under arrest and consider what we can learn from what John has highlighted in the passage.



### LOOK AT JOHN 18

**Read verses 1-11**

- What strikes you about Jesus' words and actions in this passage?
- What strikes you about Peter's words and actions?
- Why are they so different?

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS DEATH - JOHN 18 : 1-27

## BIBLE STUDY



### Look at verses 5,6 and 8

- What do you think John wants his readers (including us!) to understand about Jesus as he says the words 'I am he'?  
*(Look at Exodus 3 :14)*
- What was the impact on those around him as he said the words **(v.5)**?

The word "JESUS" is written in large, bold, black, serif capital letters. The letters are raised and appear to be set into a white, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of stone. The lighting creates shadows, giving the letters a three-dimensional appearance.

OF NAZARETH

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS DEATH - JOHN 18 : 1-27

## BIBLE STUDY



### Read verse 11 again

This is a key verse to think about as Jesus sets out towards his death and worth pondering for a few minutes

#### What does 'the cup' mean here?

- We know from **Matthew 26 v 39** that Jesus had already prayed to ask for the 'cup' to be taken away from him. The cup was the heavy suffering that he knew was ahead.
- In **Matthew 26 vv 27-28**, Jesus compared the cup of wine in the supper to his blood - signifying a sacrifice - we understand that the cup was therefore a cup of suffering.
- Here, in **John 18 verse 11**, Jesus shows that he understands this 'cup' to be one which his Father has given him – a purpose to fulfil.

***Pulling this all together - Jesus is walking purposefully but painfully towards a sacrificial death that has been ordained by his Father God***





# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS DEATH - JOHN 18 : 1-27*

## BIBLE STUDY



### Read Isaiah 53 : 4-6 & 10-12

- Why would Jesus go through this suffering willingly?
- Why was it necessary?

### Read John 18 : 15-27

**Contrast what Peter says in his denial of Jesus, with the way that Jesus responds to Annas.**

- What strikes you?
- Why do you think there is such a contrast between their actions in this passage?



**How do you think today's Bible passage fits in with John's statement in chapter 20 v 31?**

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS DEATH - JOHN 18 : 1-27*

## BIBLE STUDY



**CONSIDERING WHAT  
WE HAVE LEARNED TODAY  
THINK AND PRAY:**

- **What does it mean to have life in Jesus' name?**
- **What does a response to belief in Jesus look like?**



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PILATE - JOHN 18 : 28 to 19 : 16

## BIBLE STUDY



### INTRO

Today we are reading about Jesus' infamous trial before Pontius Pilate

As you read today's passage, consider:

- what do you think of Pilate as a leader?
- What do you think lay behind his behaviour? *Think about his identity and purpose.*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PILATE - JOHN 18:28 to 19:16

## BIBLE STUDY



### Read John 18 : 28 to 19 : 16

Throughout his trial before Pilate, Jesus remained calm and his speech was gracious toward those who persecuted Him.

- What does this reveal about Jesus in comparison to Pilate? Think about his identity and his purpose.
- Does the way Christians, and we ourselves, speak represent Jesus well to the world?  
*Think about times and places where we are under pressure; about social media; and other situations.*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*PILATE - JOHN 18:28 to 19:16*

## BIBLE STUDY



Verses 37-38 are extremely topical for us as 21st century believers when truth is so keenly contested

Look at John 1:7; John 1:14; and John 14:6

- What do we learn from these verses about the part that testifying to truth played in Jesus' mission and in John's focus in his gospel?

How does today's passage in fact put Pilate on trial?

Look at John 18:36-38; John 19:10-12



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*PILATE - JOHN 18:28 to 19:16*

## THINK & PRAY

**HOW DOES JESUS' TRIAL  
HELP US TO SEE:**

- **who he is and what he came to do?**
- **what a right response to him looks like?**



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

IT IS FINISHED - JOHN 19 : 17-42

## BIBLE STUDY



### STARTER

Today's momentous passage encompasses a key statement from the Apostles' Creed: 'He was crucified, died, and was buried'.

Why is it so important for us as Christian believers to understand not just **what** happened as Jesus died, but **why** it happened?

*(See John 20 : 31)*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

IT IS FINISHED - JOHN 19 : 17-42

## BIBLE STUDY



### Read John 19 : 17-42

In **verse 19** we read that a notice was fastened to the cross. This was customary to show the crime of which the criminal was accused. Jesus' 'crime' was that he was the King of the Jews.

- How are the words of Jesus' notice significant – for the people looking on and for us today? **Look at verses 19-21.**

### Look at Luke 2 : 34-35

- How did the words of Simeon to the young mother Mary come true in **John 19 : 25-27**?
- How was Mary's servant heart noticed and affirmed by God, even as Jesus was dying?





# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

IT IS FINISHED - JOHN 19 : 17-42

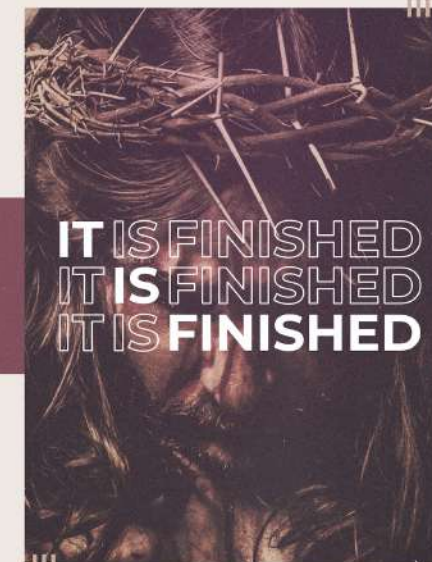
## BIBLE STUDY



Jesus' words 'It is finished' translate from the Greek text as 'It is finished; it stands finished; and it always will be finished!'

- How does this remind us of grace?
- Think about what we have read so far in John's account of Jesus' last days, and his purpose in writing (John 20 : 31). What does John want us to understand from these three words 'It is finished'? (see verses 24, 28 and especially verse 36).

*Note: this phrase is also what an Old Testament priest would say when he examined an animal sacrifice and found it faultless – because of Jesus' death, we are helped to understand the ceremonies and prophecies of the OT.*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

IT IS FINISHED - JOHN 19 : 17-42

## BIBLE STUDY



The sacrificial death of Jesus is a major theme in John's gospel. There are a number of pictures throughout the gospel which make this clear.

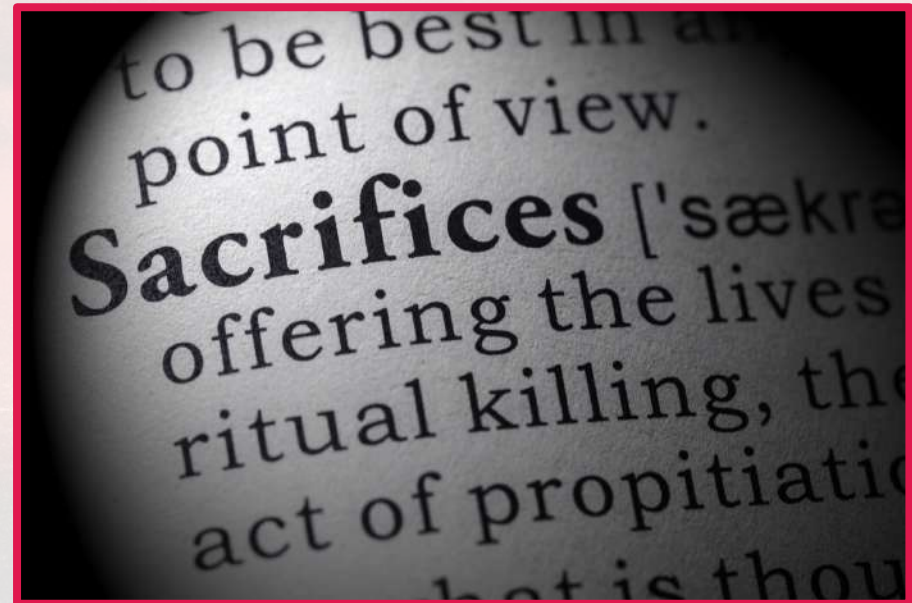
*Look at: the Lamb (John 1 : 29); the temple (John 2 : 19); the snake (John 3 : 14); the shepherd (John 10 : 11-18); the seed (John 12 : 20-25)*

- Why do you think it is so important to understand that Jesus' death was not an accident or a murder, but a mission?

Jesus' body is taken away for burial by two significant figures – prominent members of the Jewish council. Of course, we already know Nicodemus from John 3 – 'the man who...had visited Jesus at night' (**John 19 : 39**)

*Look at Mark 15 : 43; and John 7 : 50-53 to see other places where their actions showed the journey they were on.*

- What strikes you about the journey and the actions of these two men?
- Are there situations in your life currently where you are being challenged to stand up bravely for your faith? **Pray together with your group.**



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*IT IS FINISHED - JOHN 19 : 17-42*

## THINK & PRAY



- How does this passage help us to see that Jesus is the Son of God?
- What does it mean to have life in his name?
- What does a response to belief in Jesus look like?

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

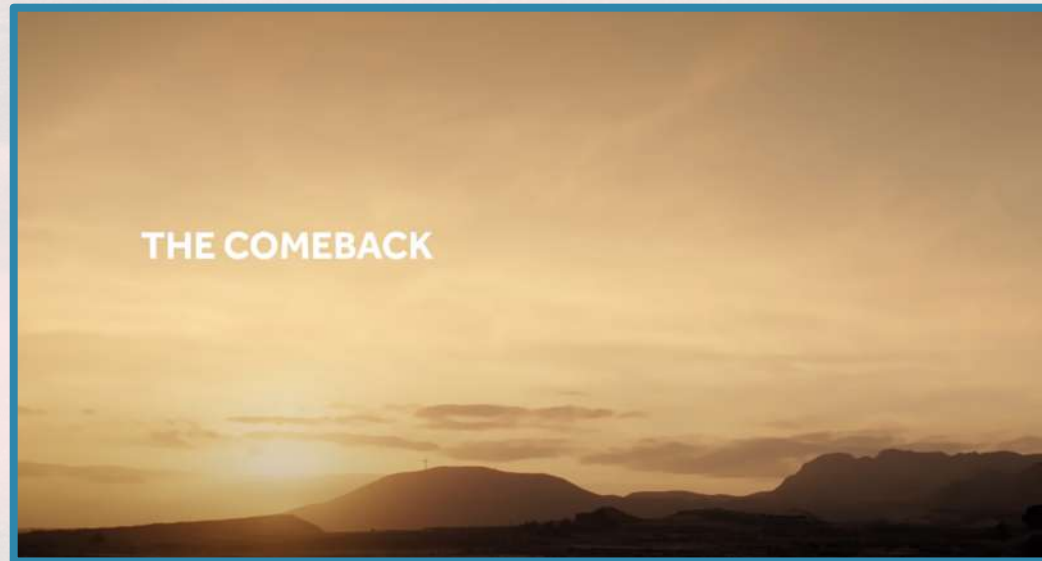
*WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD - JOHN 20 : 1-31*

## BIBLE STUDY



### STARTER

Watch this video  
'The Comeback'  
to start the session  
together



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qShsio3O6MY>

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD - JOHN 20 : 1-31

## BIBLE STUDY



### Read John 20 : 1-31

- Looking back over the chapter (**and also chapter 19 : 38-42**), where do we see the evidence of a physical resurrection?
- Why do you think the resurrection is so important for us as believers?  
*See Acts 2 : 32-33; 1 Corinthians 15 : 13.*
- What would be missing for the disciples, and for us today, if the resurrection hadn't happened?

**This section of John's gospel (chapters 11-20) started with the amazing resurrection of Lazarus and ends with the resurrection of Jesus.**

- With these bookends, what main message do you think John wants us to take away from this part of his gospel?
- Why do we sometimes lose sight of the hope offered by Jesus in the face of death?



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD - JOHN 20 : 1-31

## BIBLE STUDY



In **verse 17**, Jesus gives brave Mary a message to pass on to the disciples, who were 'locked up for fear of the Jews' (v.19)

- How do you think the specific language Jesus uses in this message would have been intensely comforting to the disciples?

**Read verses 19-23.** How specifically did Jesus transform the disciples' fear into courage?

*Note: Verse 23 translates better from the Greek as Jesus teaching the disciples that they did not themselves have the right to issue forgiveness, but that they proclaimed forgiveness through the message of the Gospel.*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD - JOHN 20 : 1-31*

## BIBLE STUDY



**As we look back over this chapter, ask yourself:**

- What changes took place in the lives of the people who met the risen Jesus?
- How was this significant in the birth of the early church?

**Can you testify to this change in your life since you gave your life to him?**

**SHARE SOME OF YOUR STORIES OF HIS TRANSFORMING POWER IN YOUR LIFE.**



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD - JOHN 20 : 1-31*

## THINK & PRAY



- How does this passage help us to see that Jesus is the Son of God?
- What does it mean to have life in his name?
- What does a response to belief in Jesus look like?



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

FEED MY SHEEP - JOHN 21

## BIBLE STUDY



In this final chapter of John, we are focusing on Peter. We saw Peter denying friendship with Jesus at the time of his trial, but we know he went on to be a leader of the early church.

John allows us to see a key conversation with Jesus which turned things around.

### Read John 21

At the start of this chapter, the disciples are out fishing. Of course, this is the profession that Jesus called many of the disciples out of to follow him three years before.

### Look at Luke 5 : 1-11

- What differences do we see between Peter's initial encounter with Jesus at the shores of the lake, and the one described in **verses 1-8 of John 21**?

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

FEED MY SHEEP - JOHN 21

## BIBLE STUDY



### Looking over verses 1-14:

- What do you think John would like us to understand from the miraculous sign of fish, and also from how Jesus interacted with his disciples?
- How is this first part of **chapter 21** related to what Jesus talks to Peter about next?
- Have there been times when you have plunged ahead with something without including Jesus, only to later realise the importance of including him *(or the significance of not including him...)?*

Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him – no doubt echoing the three-fold denial.

- How does Jesus ask Peter to show his expressed love?
- Do you think only those called as leaders are called to 'feed sheep'? Or do you think this is something for every Christian believer?



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

FEED MY SHEEP - JOHN 21

## BIBLE STUDY



We saw in last week's study that Jesus' death is a key theme throughout John's gospel. Now Jesus talks to Peter about Peter's future death, in a way which seems startling and almost callous to our 21st century minds.

- Why do you think Jesus did this?
- **Look at John 12:25** where Jesus was teaching about the perspective we should have on life and death.

*Why is it so hard for us to live this way? What changes could we make to view our earthly lives from an eternal perspective?*



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

FEED MY SHEEP - JOHN 21

## BIBLE STUDY



Look at the exchange between Jesus and Peter when Peter looks back and notices John following them (verses 20-22).

- When might we 'do a Peter' and look around at others, rather than focussing on what Jesus has asked us to do? What might Jesus say to challenge us? (v.22)?

The last verses of John remind us of the importance of 'testimony' and witness in this gospel.

- Why is our testimony today as believers so important?
- Do you know each other's testimonies of faith in your home group? Can you find a time when you can hear more about each other's faith story?



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

FEED MY SHEEP - JOHN 21

## THINK & PRAY



As we finish this series, pause to reflect:

- What has been of most impact to you as we have looked at these studies in John over recent weeks?
- What truths about Jesus have you learned or been reminded of?