



Personal Bible Study Program 2006

John 9-13

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

To help you get the most out of bible talks on Sunday we have designed a daily bible reading program that will help you to read and apply each bible passage during the week before the bible talk. This can be a supplement to your existing bible reading program if you already have one.

We hope that you will make the most of this Bible reading program by setting aside the time to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”.

How to use the readings:

- Print the studies out double-sided and staple the pages as a booklet
- Set aside time
- Pray for understanding
- Read the passage
- Answer the questions
- Meditate on what you learn
- Apply what you learn
- Pray in response

This Bible reading guide is available for download from the ‘Resources’ page at www.bpc.org.au

Please note that we are open to feedback on how to improve this resource. Please email your comments to office@bpc.org.au

Introduction to John’s Gospel

Towards the end of his gospel, John presents us with his purpose of writing:

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But 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.

John 20:30, 31

Everything John writes drives towards this purpose – to convince his readers of the right identity of Jesus as well as the right response to him.

As you read each passage, keep thinking about these questions:

- How does this passage help me to believe that Jesus is the Christ?
- How do I rightly respond by believing in his name?

A helpful way to get into John’s gospel is to read it right through and get a feel of the structure and themes of John’s gospel. One of the most helpful ways to understand the structure of John is to look out for the ‘signs’. These ‘signs’ are the way that John structures his gospel. Each sign and its explanation teach something important about Jesus.

John’s gospel draws heavily from the Old Testament as there is a strong Jewish background to this gospel. So to get the most out of John, it is worth doing a bit of digging into the OT. With each of the studies, there will be a section for you to dig into the OT to help you to understand the passage a bit better as well as to appreciate the OT.

Enjoy John’s gospel and be blown away by what you learn of Jesus the Christ! But don’t just learn *about* him, respond by *believing in* our glorious Christ.

NB: The gospel of John is full of riches. Some of these riches will occupy a lifetime of reflection. So don’t be too worried if you can’t find a simple answer to all of the bible study questions. They are written to help you to think.

John 9

for bible talk on 20 Aug



Day 1 (Read John 9)

1. In what ways are some of the themes of Chapters 7 and 8 (e.g. questions about Jesus' identity) present in chapter 9?
2. How does seeing these links help you understand chapter 9?
3. How does chapter 9 illustrate what is taught in chapters 7 and 8?

Day 2

1. What can we learn of the relationship between sin and sickness here (vv. 1-5)? Compare this to 1 Cor 11:29-32, Job 2:1-13.
2. Is all or any sickness the result of sin? Who can tell in the individual case? Should knowing or speculating about the relation between someone's sickness and sin affect the way we respond to them in their illness?
3. This man had been blind from birth (v. 1). In your experience is there some hardship you have endured which later on has been the context for seeing 'the work of God'? Does Jesus' reply help you endure present hardship?
4. Jesus can heal with a word. Why might he have used clay this time? (vv. 6-11)

Day 3

1. Trace out for yourself the stages in the blind man's growing understanding of who Jesus is.
2. What helped him develop his understanding?
3. In your experience has opposition to your beliefs helped you clarify and confirm them?
4. In all the questioning what was he sure of? (v. 25). How did that certainty help him in the midst of authoritative denials of Jesus? What one thing can every Christian be sure of?
5. Is the blind man right to worship Jesus (v. 38)? Why?

Day 4

1. The Pharisees debate the significance of Jesus' work (v. 16). What stops them from trusting Jesus (vv. 18-34)?
2. Elsewhere Jesus says He did not come into the world to judge the world (3:17, 12:47-48). What is the nature of the judgement (9:39) Jesus exercises in this world? How do you see this working out in the world today?
3. What was the sin of the Pharisees (9:41)?

John 10:1-21

for bible talk on Aug 27



Day 1 (Read 10:1-21)

1. Focus on verses 1-6. What are the metaphors used in Jesus' parable?
2. Skim chapter 9, who might be listening to Jesus as he teaches? (see 9:38, 40)
3. Write down your initial thoughts of what a "good shepherd" might look like?

Day 2 (Read Ezekiel 34 The Shepherd and the Sheep)

1. Ezekiel 34 is important background to this passage. Set aside time to read it. This was written during the Babylonian exile when the Israelites were judged by God for their disobedience. A major reason for their disobedience was due to poor leadership. Describe the poor quality "shepherds of Israel" in Eze 34.
2. What will God do about the bad shepherds of Israel?
3. What will God do for his sheep (Eze 34:22-24)?
4. Why do you think God's people need a good shepherd?

Day 3 (Read 10:1-10 The Gate and the thieves and robbers)

1. What does it mean that Jesus is "the gate" by which we can be saved? (See 1:51 for some help). How does this help us to think about other religions?
2. Who are the "thieves and robbers" that Jesus is talking about? How do they compare to the bad shepherds of Ezekiel 34:2-6?
3. Describe the treatment of the blind man by the Pharisees (9:28-34). Compare that to how Jesus treats the blind man.
4. Have you ever experienced "bad shepherding"? How has Jesus treated you differently to these bad shepherds?
5. In the gospel of John, what do you think it means to have "life to the full" (10:10)? How can you say that you have experienced this 'full life'?

Day 4 (Read 10:11-13 The Good Shepherd and the hired hand)

1. What is the key difference between Jesus (the Good Shepherd) and leaders like the Pharisees (the hired hands)?
2. How far will Jesus go in caring for his sheep as the Good Shepherd?
3. How is Jesus unique compared to any other 'shepherd' that you know?

Day 5 (Read 10:14-21 The Good Shepherd, his flock and the response)

1. Describe the relationship between Jesus the Good Shepherd and his flock (also see 10:3). How does this relationship relate to the relationship between Jesus the Son and God his Father?
2. Jesus says he has *other sheep*. Who do you think these sheep are and why do you think it is important to keep testifying about Jesus to anyone who will hear?
3. What does it mean to listen to the voice of Jesus, and how does this relate to you personally?
4. In the heat of opposition towards Jesus and rejection of him (eg. 10:20) by those around us, how can we keep "listening to the voice" of the Good Shepherd?

Extra: Spend time memorizing and meditating on the words of Psalm 23. Thank God that Jesus is your Good Shepherd

**Day 1 (Read 10:22-42 “If you are the Christ”)**

Setting: The Feast of Dedication (Hannukah) celebrated the rededication of the temple after it had been profaned by Antiochus Epiphanes – the King of Syria. Although this was not an OT feast, Jesus took the opportunity to do more teaching. And walking through Solomon’s colonnade would ensure that there were many people there to listen to him.

1. Focus on verses 22-30. What is it that ‘the Jews’ (v.24) want from Jesus in asking him if he is the Christ? Do you think they genuinely want to follow him on his terms?
2. Jesus had given them enough evidence to decide if he was the Christ (see 7:25-30), but according to Jesus what determines whether a person is a true believer in Christ?
3. According to Jesus, why do you listen to him and follow him? Why do others, like ‘the Jews’ (v.24) in this passage, reject him even with such good evidence to believe him? (also see 6:37, 44)

Day 2 (Read 10:25-30 “My sheep listen to my voice...no one can snatch them from my hand”)

1. Again, Jesus refers to his picture of the Shepherd and his sheep. Compare what he says here with what he said months before in 10:14-16. What is the key feature of being a true sheep? Describe the power of the Shepherd.
2. According to Jesus, what’s a good test to know if you are *really* a Christian?
3. According to Jesus, how do you know if you will *last* as a Christian? (also see 6:39,40; Jude 24,25; Phil 1:6)

Day 3 (10:30-36 “I and the Father are one”)

1. ‘The Jews’ (v.24) want to know if Jesus is sent from God (the Christ). Jesus goes even further to say “I and the Father are one” (v.30). What evidence does he show of this relationship with God in: (a) His miracles; (b) His followers; and (c) The Scriptures
2. ‘The Jews’ (v.31) understood exactly what Jesus was claiming, that’s why they wanted to stone him to death. Why is it necessary for us to accept that Jesus the Son and God the Father “are one”?
3. How does this shape our worship of Jesus and obedience to him?
4. Why is Jesus and the Father being one, necessary for us to be saved by Jesus?

Day 4 (10:37-42 “All that John said about this man was true”)

1. Jesus makes a final appeal for them to believe him and his miracles. But their reaction is negative and they try to kill him. On the other hand, there are those who believe (v.42). How does this passage help us to accept the two contrasting responses to Jesus (those who reject and those who believe)?
2. “If God chooses people to be Christians, then what is the role of *believing in Jesus*”. Respond to this statement using the words of Jesus from this passage (hint: see v.27).
3. If God chooses people to be Christians, then it doesn’t matter if I tell others about Jesus or not”. Respond to this by using the example of John the Baptist (v.41)

**Read John 11****Day 1 (11:1-16)**

1. What are we told of Martha, Mary and Lazarus and Jesus’ relationship with them? In light of this how should we understand Jesus’ delay in going to them?
2. What has this to say to us when God doesn’t do something we ask in the way we want it done or when we want it done?
3. Have you ever felt like Thomas – not seeing the sense of what Jesus is asking you to do, but going along and doing it for Jesus’ sake? What does John 11 have to say to us when we feel like that?

Day 2 (11:17-37)

1. Some seem to find it easy to doubt the reality of Jesus’ compassion (v. 37). Why? How does John 11 address their criticism of Jesus?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says “I am the resurrection and the life...”?
3. Have you ever heard those verses read at a funeral? What comfort is there for you in them when contemplating your own end or the death of ones you love?

Day 3 (11:38–44)

1. In what way do we see the glory of God (v.40) in the raising of Lazarus?
2. Why does Jesus pray? What must we believe about Jesus’ works and words?
3. Looking ahead, why would someone with this relationship with the Father and this power die? In what ways will Jesus’ resurrection be different from Lazarus’ experience? (compare with 10:17-18)

Day 4 (11:45-57)

1. What motivates the opposition of the Pharisees (v.48)? What are the dangers when we try and do God’s work (e.g. protecting and preserving His people) for Him (v.53)?
2. What is the scope of Jesus’ work on the cross?
3. God can cause those who do not know or love Him to say true things (Balaam, Caiaphas) (vv.49-51). Does that surprise you? Knowing this, what should be the test of a person’s claim to speak for God?

**Day 1 (11:45-57)**

1. How do 'the Jews' respond to the miracle of raising Lazarus (vv.45,46)
2. The Jewish leaders plot to kill Jesus. What made them fearful of Jesus? (vv.47,48) Why do the miracles have so little affect on them?
3. How does John interpret the High Priest's plan for solving 'the problem' of Jesus? (vv.51,52). Think about how even in their worst moments of plotting against the plan of God the leaders merely succeed in accomplishing God's purpose (compare with Psalm 2, Acts 2:22-24).

Day 2 (11:55-12:11)

1. How does Jesus prevent the plans of the leaders being carried out at that time? (v.54). Why does Jesus do this?
2. The crowds are again coming to Jerusalem for the Passover. How does Jesus again prevent them easily finding him?
3. In Bethany, Mary performs a special act of thanksgiving to Jesus for raising Lazarus. What impact does this have on the disciples? On Judas in particular? How does Jesus interpret the act? Think of blowing a years' salary on a gift to someone. What would you give? Why would you do it?
4. The Pharisees find the evidence of Jesus' power inconvenient. What are they going to do about it? (12:10,11)

Day 3 (12:12-19)

1. How do the crowds react to the news of Jesus' coming? (vv.12,13)
2. What do they shout? What does it mean?
3. A few days later Jesus is killed under a sign that says "King of the Jews". How could people so quickly change their minds? What kind of king is Jesus? (Read chapters, 13, 18 and 19 with a special reference to the idea of Jesus' kingship. We won't get to chapters 18 and 19 until 2007!)

Day 4

1. Jesus makes a triumphal entry into Jerusalem. What is the significance of this sign?
2. John says the disciples did not understand it at the time. When and how did they discover its meaning? Read the references Psalm 118 and Zech 9:9
3. Who becomes Jesus' main advocate at this time? (v.17)
4. How does this affect the Pharisees? (v.19) What do you think John means by "the whole world is going after him"?

Day 5 Bonus Reading

Read the accounts of the Triumphal Entry (Matt 21:4-9, Mk 11:7-10, Lk 19:35-38)
What does it reveal to you about Jesus?

**Day 1 (12:20-50)**

1. The Greeks (v.20) rather than 'the Jews' want an introduction to Jesus. How do they try and organise this?
2. John doesn't tell us anything about Jesus' interaction with the Greeks. What does it provoke in Jesus? Why are 'the Greeks' mentioned here do you think? (10:16, 12:32) What needs to happen for the gospel to be proclaimed to 'the Greeks'?
3. Several times there is reference in the gospel to the time not having come (8:20). What does Jesus now mean that the hour has come? What is the content of his hour (vv.31-33)?
4. Write out v.24 on a piece of card and begin learning it.

Day 2

1. What does Jesus mean by loving your life and so lose it, or hating your life and so gaining it? This is a theme of a number of parables. (eg Matt 10:38,39 Luke 17:33) How does this contrast with the world around us?
2. Spend today memorising (v.24). How does it illustrate what Jesus talks about in (v.25)? How does it apply to Jesus; and to us?
3. In view of your answer to question 2, what is involved in following Jesus? How does this work out in practice for us (v.26)?
4. What attitude does Jesus show which we should try to replicate (vv.27,28)? How does the Father confirm Jesus words to the crowds? (vv.28-33)

Day 3

1. The crowds challenge Jesus because he doesn't fit their idea of a Messiah. How was their thinking wrong? (v.34)
2. Verse 35, 36 are the last words John records as presented to the crowds. (vv.44-50 is perhaps taken from another occasion.) How does Jesus appeal to the people?
3. What is meant by walking and believing in the light?
4. How can you apply the words of v.36 to yourself today?

Day 4

1. In the face of clear evidence people still refuse to believe. What explanation does John give for this unbelief? (vv.37-41)
2. Some did believe but were frightened to openly admit it. What does John think of them? (v.43)
3. The last section is the seriousness of rejecting Jesus (vv.44-50). Why is it so serious to reject Jesus? Who will judge the disobedient?

Day 5

Can you quote verse 24? What about putting the card you wrote out in clear view on your work table. Paste it up in the toilet! Pray the Lord will give you a chance to be light. See the relationship of Jesus with his Father throughout this passage. How is my relationship with Jesus like Jesus' relationship to his Father? (Heb 12:2,3)



Day 1 (13:1-5 Getting ready to die)

1. Here is a man preparing for his own death. What is Jesus priority as his death approaches? What would your priority be? Are you prepared for death?
2. What is the connection between what Jesus does here, and his approaching death on the cross?
3. Imagine a Christian leader who you admire and respect kneeling to wash your feet. How does that alter the relationship? Are you prepared to serve others even in the most menial tasks? (This was a job often performed by slaves)

Day 2 (13:6-10 Jesus washes the disciples' feet)

1. Read verses 7 & 8. What is it that happens later that will help Peter to understand why Jesus is washing his feet? (John 16)
2. Peter persists in trying to dictate the terms of how he will be washed by Jesus. Why do you think that he does so? What kind of 'clean' do you think Jesus is referring to?
3. How did Jesus know who was going to betray him?

Day 3 (13:12-17 The Servant King)

1. Jesus is not afraid to accept the titles of 'Teacher' and 'Lord'. However he radically re-defines the nature of leadership among those who call him Lord. What is the essence of leadership according to Jesus?
2. It looks as though Jesus expected his disciples to serve each other even in the menial tasks of life. How can this be put into practice in the church?
3. In what practical way are you currently serving your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Day 4 (13:18-30 Judas' Last Chance)

1. Follow the progress of Satan's activity in the heart of Judas (See 6:70; 12:4-6; 13:2,27)
2. The conversation in verses 25 & 26 was probably inaudible to the others (hence the significance of the detail: "leaning back against Jesus"). If giving the dipped bread was normally a mark of honour, what is Jesus really offering to Judas?
3. What does it mean that 'the devil prompted Judas' to betray Jesus?
4. How can Judas be held accountable for his actions if "...Satan entered into him"?

Day 5 (13:31-38 Love one Another)

1. Francis Schaeffer, a famous theologian of the 2nd half of the 20th century once said: "The mark of the Christian is love." Do you agree, and do you think that that is what Jesus is teaching here?
2. According to Jesus how does the world (non-Christian society) recognise his followers? Would the world recognise us as the followers of Christ?
3. Where was Jesus going? Why could the disciples not follow him, until later?