

# Names of Jesus

40 Days of Readings  
from the  
Gospel of John

*Compiled and written by Suzanne Benner*



## Triads

At the conclusion of our Congregational health Assessment Survey, it was suggested that an important next step for us as a church family was to be in a very specific prayer process – Triads.

As we approach the Easter Season, we have even more incentive to follow this advice, as Easter and the Resurrection are the key ingredients for the power of the Gospel.

For the 40 days of Lent, you can get involved with two other believers to walk together through Scripture and to spend a bit of time in prayer.

**The Ask:** You are being asked to do two things.

**First: Daily** – during Lent – read a portion of scripture each day of the week that leads us up to Easter, and then ask yourself a few simple questions. The passages, from the Gospel of John, remind us of just who Jesus was by highlighting the names of Jesus. This should take you about 10 minutes a day.

**Second: Weekly** – during the Lent period – connect with two other people (that is why it is called a Triad!) to reflect on your daily reading and to pray together.

**Purpose:** To study God’s Word individually and come together to pursue God.

**Make-up:** Ideally three men or three women.

**The Triad Process:**

- A. Get into the Word** (individually). Come to that process...
  - a. With an expectation that God wants to speak to you from His Word.
  - b. Asking God to reveal Himself to you through His Word.
  - c. Ready to be taught - Understanding that God’s Word and His Holy Spirit have a desire to speak into your daily life, ideas, and even your traditions.
- B. Set a time and make a commitment to come together with your triad.**
  - a. Be prepared to ask each other and ready to answer a few simple questions.
    - i. How has God revealed Himself through His Word since we last met?
      1. Share specific verses or insights that stood out to you.
    - ii. How is your heart?
      1. Is it yearning, breaking, joyful, weary, or anxious? Why?
  - b. Pray together:
    - i. Pray about yourself - This group is about your personal journey to know God, to be transformed by Him and to follow Him, so be comfortable to focus your prayers on that. Pray about attitudes, character qualities, and motivation more than the typical physical things we tend to focus on.
    - ii. Pray for your triad members. Is there something that they shared that stood out to you, either as a praise or a request? Take it to God who hears and works powerfully in the lives of His people.
    - iii. Pray for the Church. That God will lead us powerfully into His future for us as a church family.
- C. Set a time for the next Triad gathering.**

**How:** A video calling app like Signal, WhatsApp, or Google Hangouts is a way to meet during COVID.

Thank you for joining us in reading John's gospel during the 40 days leading up to Easter.

As disciples of Jesus, we seek relationship with God. Rather than simply looking for intellectual information, a solution to our problems, comfort, or security, we want to know God Himself. Our goal is nothing less than intimacy with God Almighty, the Creator of the Universe.

As you read the Scripture, notice the names of Jesus – highlighted in **green**. Each day humbly ask God to reveal Himself to you through His Word. We follow Jesus by reading, studying, and meditating on who He is. When we seek Jesus in this way, His Holy Spirit transforms us into His likeness.

**John 1:1-18 (NIV)      The Word**

In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

**The true light** that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

**The Word** became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of **the one and only Son**, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but **the one and only Son**, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

In Genesis, we read that God spoke creation into being (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26). Here, John explains that all things were created through Jesus (1:3). In the past, God revealed Himself by speaking through the prophets. Here God reveals Himself through Jesus, the Word of God (1:1) become flesh.

As you read through John, list the titles of Jesus, and note who gives Him that title (the writer John, Jesus Himself, or someone else). List the titles you've read so far:

We call the Bible God's Word and John calls Jesus the Word. What is the connection?

How does the title "the Word" help you understand Jesus?

What one aspect of Jesus will you think on today?

**John 1:29-42 (NIV) Lamb of God**

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, **the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is **God's Chosen One**."

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, **the Lamb of God!**"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "**Teacher**"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found **the Messiah**" (that is, **the Christ**). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

The story of the substitutionary lamb began on Mount Moriah. There God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19). Then, in Egypt, before God led out the Israelites, the people sacrificed a lamb and put its blood over their door frames (Exodus 12:1-30). In this way, they redeemed their firstborn sons and the angel of death passed over them. These, and other events, foreshadowed that God would send the Messiah, His Anointed One, the Lamb of God, to redeem people from their sins.

List the titles of Jesus:

What does this passage say about who Jesus is?

How should this information impact your relationship with Jesus?

Is there something you need to do? If so, what?

**John 1:43-51 (NIV)      Son of God**

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are **the Son of God**; you are **the king of Israel**."

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' **the Son of Man**."

Every time John (the writer) or Jesus used the title "the Son" or "the one and only Son" they referred to the fact that Jesus is God's Son. The Jews understood that title to mean Jesus was not only equal to God (5:18) but, in fact God Himself (1:18).

What does knowing that Jesus is God tell you about Jesus?

What ramifications does this information have on your life?

Write a prayer to Jesus:

**John 2:13-25 (NIV) This Temple**

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

Paul tells believers that their bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). So, it is not surprising that Jesus referred to Himself as the temple.

God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle, and later, Solomon to build a temple, as a place to meet with God. God caused His Spirit to dwell there, so that Moses or the high priest could come into His presence. In a very real way, Jesus brought God's presence to earth.

What does this passage say about who Jesus is?

How should this information impact your relationship with Jesus?

Is there something you need to do? If so, what?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:



John 3:12-21 (NIV)      **Son of Man**

I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the **Son of Man**. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so **the Son of Man** must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

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. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s **one and only Son**. This is the verdict: **Light** has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

“Son of Man” is a specific title that the prophet Daniel gives to the One whom God gives an everlasting kingdom and dominion over all people (Daniel 7:13-14). Here, Jesus claims this title for Himself. So, rather than stating the humanity of Jesus, the title “Son of Man” declares the divinity of Jesus. He is the Anointed One, predicted long ago, who would bring good news of salvation. He would free people from their sins. He is also the One who will come again to judge the earth and set up His eternal kingdom.

Spend some time thinking about the title “Son of Man”. Record your thoughts and questions.

How does Jesus predict His death? (3:14)

Why do people love darkness? (3:19)

How do we come into the light? (3:21)

John 4:4-26 (NIV)      **Messiah**

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that **Messiah**" (called **Christ**) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

Both the terms Messiah (Hebrew) and Christ (Greek) mean "anointed" and refer to the One God promised to send to save His people. Isaiah's well-known prophesy (Isaiah 9:6-7) states that this Anointed One would come from the line of King David.

What does this passage say about who Jesus is?

**John 4:27-42 (NIV) Saviour of the World**

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be **the Messiah?**” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.

They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is **the Savior of the world.**”

A Saviour saves or rescues. “The Saviour of the world” implies that the world needs rescuing – not just a few evil people, but every single human. Jesus not only saves us from our sins (Matthew 1:21) and rescues us from the dominion of darkness (Colossians 1:13), but He also promises to be the Saviour who daily bears our burdens (Psalm 68:19).

What must we acknowledge before we can believe that Jesus is our Saviour?

What does Jesus say His food is? (4:34)

Why did the people believe in Jesus?  
(4:39)

(4:41-42)

John 5:16-30 (NIV)      **Life**

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, **the Son** can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does **the Son** also does. For the Father loves **the Son** and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so **the Son** gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to **the Son**, that all may honor **the Son** just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor **the Son** does not honor the Father, who sent him.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of **the Son of God** and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted **the Son** also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is **the Son of Man**.

“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Only God has the power to give life. Death can't thwart Him because He raises the dead. On the other hand, we don't have life in ourselves. John tells us Jesus had life (1:4) within Himself. Just as God is completely self-sufficient and self-sustaining, so also is Jesus.

Circle the words “life” and “live” wherever you find them in this passage.

What does this passage say about who Jesus is?

How should this information impact your relationship with Jesus?

Is there something you need to do? If so, what?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

**John 6:25-40 (NIV) I am the Bread of Life**

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which **the Son of Man** will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus declared, “**I am the bread of life**. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

In chapter 6:1-15, John tells the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand with five loaves and two fish. Even though so many ate and were satisfied, they got hungry again.

Here, Jesus compares Himself to the manna given to the Israelites while they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. They had to collect manna every day. Since they couldn’t store it up, they had to trust that God would provide manna each day. In the same way, we must look to Jesus to sustain us each day and trust that He will provide all we need.

What is the work of God? (6:29)

Whose will did Jesus do? (6:38)

How should this information impact your relationship with Jesus?

Is there something you need to do? If so, what?

John 6:35-59 (NIV) **Living Bread**

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

“Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Although our practice of communion models what Jesus is talking about here, His meaning goes much deeper. Knowing about Jesus does not sustain us or give us eternal life. We must know Jesus Himself. He feeds our soul. Imagine a long loaf of French bread, which you break it in half to eat. So, Jesus’ body would be broken on the cross, allowing us to receive life from Him.

Who has eternal life?

(6:47)

(6:54)

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 6:60-71 (NIV)      **Holy One of God**

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see **the Son of Man** ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are **the Holy One of God.**”

Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

Jesus foretells that He – the Son of Man – will ascend into heaven. The disciples witnessed this event (Luke 24:51). He also makes it clear that before He walked on earth as a man, He was with God the Father in heaven. When Peter calls Jesus “the Holy One of God”, he acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah God had promised to send.

What are full of the Spirit and life? (6:63)

How should that knowledge impact you?

Is there something in your life that needs to change? If so, what?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 8:12-30 (NIV) **I am the Light of the World**

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that **I am he**, you will indeed die in your sins.”

“Who are you?” they asked.

“Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up **the Son of Man**, then you will know that **I am he** and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

Jesus calls Himself light. Not just a light, but the light of the world, the true light (1:9).

Jot down the characteristics of light, life, and goodness:

Now think about the qualities of darkness and evil.

How does knowing that Jesus is the light of the world and that whoever follows Him will never walk in darkness, impact your life?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:



John 8:31-41, 48-59 (NIV) **I AM**

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if **the Son** sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father."

"Abraham is our father," they answered.

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did. As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the works of your own father."

"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

"I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."

At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

"You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

The Jews wanted to stone Jesus because He claimed the name "I AM" for Himself, the name God revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14:

God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I am** has sent me to you.'"

This title declares God as self-existent. He has always existed by His own power. Jesus is the One "**who is and who was and who is to come**" (Revelation 1:8).

Who will never taste death? (8:51)

**John 9:1-7, 35-38 (NIV) Worship**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, **I am the light of the world.**”

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him [the previously blind man] out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in **the Son of Man?**”

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

Our natural inclinations urge us to worship beauty, ability, or power, but God alone deserves our worship. Although humans often accept and feed on worship from one another, Jesus said we must worship only God (Matthew 4:10). So, when Jesus accepts worship from people, He declares that He is God, the One worthy of worship.

What does this passage say about who Jesus is?

How should this information impact your relationship with Jesus?

Is there something you need to do? If so, what?

What prompted this man to worship Jesus?

Write your own prayer of worship to Jesus:

**John 10:1-10 (NIV)      The Gate**

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, **I am the gate** for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. **I am the gate**; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Jesus describes His followers as sheep. The sheep listen for His voice, recognize His voice, and go where He leads them. Thieves and robbers want sheep for themselves. True followers of Jesus refuse to listen to other voices, because only Jesus can lead them to God.

Who are the thieves and robbers?

Who will be saved? (10:9)

What will those who enter through Jesus find? (10:9)

What does that mean?

Why did Jesus come? (10:10)

**John 10:11-21 (NIV)    The Good Shepherd**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

The Jews who heard these words were again divided. Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Not only is Jesus the gate, through which people come to God, but He also describes Himself as the good shepherd.

What are the characteristics of the good shepherd?

What are hired hands like? (10:12-13)

Who takes Jesus' life from Him? (10:18)

What does Jesus have authority to do? (10:18)

**John 10:22-42 (NIV) I and the Father Are One**

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are **the Messiah**, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

"We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods"'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true." And in that place many believed in Jesus.

Jesus makes a connection between what He does and who He is. His actions (10:25; 10:37) testify that He and God, the Father, are One. Though hard – maybe impossible – to comprehend, Jesus asks us to believe, based on His actions, that the Father is in Him and He is in the Father (10:38).

What do your actions testify?

Write a prayer to Jesus confessing your questions and asking Him to reveal Himself and truth to you.

**John 11:1-27 (NIV)      The Resurrection and the Life**

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that **God's Son** may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are **the Messiah, the Son of God**, who is to come into the world."

By raising Lazarus from the dead (11:43-44), Jesus demonstrated the reality behind His words "I am the resurrection and the life." Not only would Jesus later rise from the dead by His own power, but this name assures us that He will also raise us from the dead when He returns to earth.

How does this name of Jesus destroy our fear of death?

John 11:45-57 (NIV) **Better One Man Die**

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the festival at all?” But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.

Even though Caiaphas refused to acknowledge Jesus as Messiah, God used him to proclaim truth (11:51). Caiaphas thought that if Jesus died their nation would be saved – not be destroyed by the Romans. The Romans would indeed one day overrun Jerusalem and destroy the temple. Yet, Caiaphas’ words were truer than he realized. The physical death of Jesus (one man) meant eternal salvation for the Jewish nation and all who turn to Him.

Have you experienced a time when God used people who opposed Him to accomplish His purpose?

How should this information impact your relationship with Jesus?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

**John 12:12-16 (NIV) Your King**

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is **the king of Israel!**”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, **your king** is coming,

seated on a donkey’s colt.”

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Old Testament prophets like Zechariah, spoke of the day when God would send His Messiah, the eternal king (Zechariah 9:9). When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the disciples didn’t realize that His actions and the people’s words fulfilled words spoken hundreds of years earlier. This is one of many times John records that later – after Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended into heaven – the disciples understand.

Read Zechariah 9:9 and compare it to what you read here.

What does it mean when you call someone your king?

How should a person respond to his/her king?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus, your King:



John 12:20-36 (NIV) **Glorify**

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for **the Son of Man** to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, 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. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

"Now my soul 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. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that **the Messiah** will remain forever, so how can you say, '**The Son of Man** must be lifted up'? Who is this '**Son of Man**'?"

Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

Jesus says that His death will glorify Himself (the Son of Man). Then He gives us some difficult teaching about dying and loving our lives. Look up John 12:24-26 in your Bible and carefully reread it a few times. Ponder what Jesus is saying and record how it impacts you.

Instead of asking God to save Him from this hour, what does Jesus ask? (12:27-28)

What does glorify mean?

How can we glorify God?

As followers of Jesus, what are we called to do? (12:26)

(12:35)

(12:36)

**John 12:37-50 (NIV) Respond**

Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

“He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their hearts,  
so they can neither see with their eyes,  
nor understand with their hearts,  
nor turn—and I would heal them.”

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

“If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

Some people believed Jesus and put their faith in Him. Others did not. Even His miracles didn’t convince them. The same is true today. Each person is called to respond to Jesus. You cannot rely on your mother, father, sister, brother, husband, wife, or child. How will you respond to His call – that He is God, the One who came to save you?

Why did some who believed in Jesus not openly acknowledge Him? (12:42)

What does this passage say about who Jesus is?

How should this information impact your relationship with Jesus?

Is there something you need to do? If so, what?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 13:1-17 (NIV) **Teacher and Lord**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

As Teacher, Jesus explained many things about God to His followers. They submitted to Him and followed His leading because they acknowledged Him as Lord. By calling Him Lord, they were saying He had authority over them, and they pledged to listen to Him and obey.

What did Jesus know? (13:1)

(13:3)

What did Jesus model for His disciples? (13:14-15)

Do you call Jesus Lord?

How can you follow Jesus' example today?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 13:18-30 (NIV) **Betrayal**

“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’

“I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that **I am who I am**. Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Jesus quotes Psalm 41:9 and says the words David wrote refer to Him. Someone who shared bread with Jesus, not just that night, but many times, would betray Him. In other words, a friend. This troubled Jesus (13:21), but His disciples didn't really understand what was happening (13:28).

Who accepts Jesus? (13:20)

Who accepts the One who sent Jesus? (13:20)

Why is this true?

How should this impact how you live?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 14:1-14 (NIV)      **The Way**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus declares that He is the only way to God. Both the titles, “the way” and “the truth” are exclusive. We cannot find our own way to God. Nor can we create or discover our own truth. Instead, we can only find God through Jesus. Fortunately, Jesus invites everyone to come to Him (Romans 10:13), so this exclusive truth includes anyone who will believe.

With whose authority does Jesus speak? (14:10)

What does Jesus ask them to believe? (14:11)

How should these truths impact your life?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 14:15-31 (NIV) **I Will Come Back**

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

In both 14:3 and 14:28, Jesus tells the disciples He will leave, and He will come back. We live in the in-between time – the time between His leaving and His return. As we eagerly await His return, we are not alone. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of everything Jesus said.

How can we know that we will live? (14:19)

Who is the one who loves Jesus?

(14:21)

(14:23)

Whose words does Jesus speak? (14:24)

How should knowing Jesus will return impact your life?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 15:1-17 (NIV)      **I am the True Vine**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

When Jesus describes Himself as the true vine, He says that He is the source of life. Anyone disconnected from Jesus is dead; anyone who remains connected to Jesus is alive. True life flows from Jesus into us producing fruit of joy and love.

What is the key word (most often repeated) in this passage?

How do we remain in Jesus?

What is Jesus’ command? (15:12)

How do we fulfil that command?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 15:18-16:4 (NIV) **Hated**

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them.

The exclusivity of truth means people will either love it or hate it. No middle ground exists. The world hated Jesus because He exposed their sin and their need for a saviour. Jesus says that world will hate his followers too.

Why does the world hate followers of Jesus? (15:19)

Who will testify about Jesus? (15:26)

(15:27)

Why did Jesus tell his disciples this ahead of time? (16:4)

How does knowing that Jesus says the world will hate His followers affect you?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:



John 16:12-33 (NIV) **Grief turned to Joy**

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Jesus promises His followers both peace and trouble. He assures them that their grief will turn to joy.

Why will the disciples’ grief turn to joy? (16:22)

How does the hope of Jesus overcome our grief?

Why can we have peace during trouble? (16:33)

**John 17:1-5 (NIV)      Eternal Life**

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Jesus tells us in His prayer that eternal life is not a thing to possess but a relationship. Knowing God – the only true God – and His Son Jesus Christ, is eternal life. This life-giving relationship sustains us, nourishes us, and revives us.

Jesus grants us life, full and free. He gives life to our physical bodies, our spirits, our minds, our emotions, and our imaginations. Without Him we are dead.

What does Jesus pray for? (17:1)

(17:5)

Who gave Jesus the authority to give eternal life? (17:2)

Circle “glorify” and “glory” wherever you find them in this passage.

If eternal life is a relationship, when does it begin?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 17:6-19 (NIV)      **Sanctify**

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

To sanctify means to set apart or make holy. In 17:17, Jesus prays that God would make His disciples holy by the truth. Then he clarifies that God’s Word is truth. What God spoke through the prophets, through Jesus His Son, and through the apostles who wrote the New Testament, is the truth Jesus refers to.

Who does Jesus pray for? (17:6-9)

What does Jesus pray for?

(17:11)

(17:15)

(17:17)

How does God’s Word make us holy?

Why did Jesus sanctify Himself? (17:19)

How should knowing this impact your relationship with Jesus?

Is there something you need to do? If so, what?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

**John 17:20-26 (NIV) Complete Unity**

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

If you believe in Jesus, you are included in this prayer. He looks ahead through all the ages and prays for all who will believe in Him through the message preached by the apostles. Jesus wants all believers to share what He Himself has with God the Father.

What does Jesus pray for? (17:21)

(17:24)

What will complete unity show the world? (17:23)

How does this information impact your life?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 18:1-14 (NIV) **I Am He**

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Again (like in 8:58), Jesus calls Himself by the name God revealed to Moses: I AM. Simply speaking the name caused those who came to arrest Him to fall to the ground. Clearly, Jesus had power to resist the arrest, but He didn't.

What does knowing that Jesus could have resisted the arrest but didn't, tell you about Jesus?

How does understanding this impact your life?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

**John 18:28-40 (NIV) Truth**

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

"If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

Pilate's retort, "What is truth?" (18:38) makes him seem right in line with 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking. Jesus, however, states truth as the reason He was born and came into the world. Jesus testifies to the truth (18:37) and He is the truth (14:6).

Think back over your readings in John so far. List some of the truths Jesus revealed about God, Himself, and the world:

How do you need to respond to these truths?

**John 19:1-16 (NIV)      No Power**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Jesus tells Pilate that any power he had was given to him. God, and therefore Jesus, held all the power, even though the events that happened (his arrest and crucifixion) might suggest otherwise. Jesus told his followers that He had the authority to lay down His life and to take it up again (10:18). Later, Peter says Jesus was "handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23).

How does knowing that Jesus willingly laid down His life impact you?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 19:16-27 (NIV) **Jesus of Nazareth**

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: **Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.** Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment.”

So this is what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The title, Jesus of Nazareth, speaks of His humanity and place in history. An actual person, Jesus hailed from the town of Nazareth. He lived during the time of Herod (Luke 23:7) and Pilate. People knew His mother and brothers (Luke 8:19/Acts 1:14). Jesus was not a symbol or a metaphor. He was a real man who died a real death and then miraculously and physically rose from the dead.

What are some other things mentioned in the Gospel of John about Jesus’ place in history?

How does knowing that Jesus’ life and death are authentic historical events impact you?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:



**John 19:28-42 (NIV) Fulfilled**

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Old Testament prophets foretold many events and circumstances around the birth, life, and death of the coming Messiah. When these things happened, they confirmed that Jesus truly was the One God had promised to send.

Look up at least one of these fulfilled Scriptures in the Old Testament:

(19:24) – Psalm 22:18

(19:28) – Psalm 69:21

(19:36) – Exodus 12:46/Psalm 34:20

How does knowing that hundreds (sometimes thousands) of years prior to Jesus prophets stated exactly what would happen, impact you?

Write a prayer of response to Jesus:

John 20:1-18 (NIV)      **Resurrection**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

When Mary Magdalene found the tomb empty, her first thought was not that Jesus was alive. None of the disciples understood yet that Scripture said Jesus would rise from the dead (20:9).

What did John (the other disciple) believe? (20:8)

When did John believe Jesus was alive? (20:8)

When did Mary Magdalene believe Jesus was alive? (20:16-18)

**John 20:19-31 (NIV)     So That You May Believe**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other 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 Messiah, the Son of God**, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John tells us why he wrote a book about the life and miracles of Jesus: so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah (20:31). Believing that Jesus is the Son of God, the One God sent to save His people is the way to have life, now and eternally.

Highlight the word "believe" in today's reading. Over the next week or so, go back through this booklet and highlight "believe" wherever you find it.

Think about when John (20:8), Mary (20:18) and Thomas (20:28) believed. How does knowing their stories impact your belief that Jesus is alive?

Has John's purpose for writing – so that you may believe – been fulfilled in your life?

If so, tell someone today about the life you have discovered in Jesus.

Luke 24:45-53 (NIV)     **Ascension and Promise to Return**

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: **The Messiah** will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Acts 1:4-11 (NIV)

On one occasion, while [Jesus] was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Revelation 1:7 (NIV)

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”  
 and “every eye will see him,  
 even those who pierced him”;  
 and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”  
 So shall it be! Amen.

The story of Jesus does not end at His resurrection. After Jesus appeared to the disciples on numerous occasions and to 500 followers at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6), He ascended into heaven. When the disciples saw Jesus physically ascend into heaven, angels promised that He would return in the same way. In the book of Revelation, John writes of Jesus’ physical return to earth “with the clouds.”

This is the hope of believers. One day Jesus will return to bring salvation to all who believe in Him; judge the world; and set up His kingdom.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20).