

Read the Gospel of John in 21 Days: Printable Reading Plan

Welcome. This gentle plan invites you to read one chapter of John each day. There is no need to rush. Read at your own pace, notice what stands out, and bring your questions with you.

The Gospel is traditionally associated with John, one of Jesus' disciples, though its authorship is discussed. It offers an approachable, vivid account of Jesus through his encounters, teaching, signs and resurrection. It is a meaningful place to begin exploring who Jesus is and what faith in him can mean.

A note on the Scripture: the verse summaries in this guide are plain-English paraphrases, not quotations from a particular Bible translation. Read each passage in your preferred Bible for its full wording and context.

Days 1–5

Day 1 | John 1

Theme: The Word becomes flesh and calls the first disciples.

Look for: Notice the images of light, life and witness, and how people respond when they meet Jesus.

Reflect: What would you like to discover about Jesus?

Day 2 | John 2

Theme: Jesus turns water into wine and speaks about the temple.

Look for: See how Jesus responds to a need at a wedding and what his temple action reveals.

Reflect: Where might you welcome Jesus into an everyday situation?

Day 3 | John 3

Theme: Jesus speaks with Nicodemus about new life and God's love.

Look for: Notice the invitation to trust and the image of the wind as Jesus explains new birth.

Reflect: What does receiving new life mean to you?

Day 4 | John 4

Theme: Jesus offers living water and welcomes a Samaritan woman into conversation.

Look for: Watch how the conversation moves from water to worship, truth and hope.

Reflect: What part of this encounter encourages you to be honest with Jesus?

Day 5 | John 5

Theme: Jesus heals a man at Bethesda and speaks about his work and authority.

Look for: Notice the man's long wait and the questions Jesus' healing raises among the leaders.

Reflect: What might it mean to respond to Jesus' invitation to rise and walk?

Days 6–11

Continue with one chapter each day. Read slowly, and use the question to make space for your own response.

Day 6 | John 6

Theme: Jesus feeds a crowd, walks on the sea and speaks of the bread of life.

Look for: Follow how the crowd's need for food leads into Jesus' teaching about life and belief.

Reflect: What do you find challenging or reassuring in Jesus' words?

Day 7 | John 7

Theme: Jesus teaches during the festival and invites the thirsty to come to him.

Look for: Notice the varied responses to Jesus and the promise pictured as living water.

Reflect: Where are you longing for refreshment or clarity?

Day 8 | John 8

Theme: Jesus speaks of light, truth and freedom, and faces growing opposition.

Look for: Trace the difference between hearing Jesus' words and understanding who he is.

Reflect: What kind of freedom do you hope to find in truth?

Day 9 | John 9

Theme: Jesus heals a man born blind and challenges assumptions about sight.

Look for: Watch how the healed man's understanding grows as others question what happened.

Reflect: Has a new perspective ever changed what you thought you knew?

Day 10 | John 10

Theme: Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who knows and cares for his sheep.

Look for: Notice the contrast between the shepherd's care and the actions of those who abandon the flock.

Reflect: What helps you feel known and cared for?

Day 11 | John 11

Theme: Jesus meets grief at Bethany and calls Lazarus from the tomb.

Look for: Hold together Jesus' compassion, Martha's confession and the sign of life.

Reflect: What might it mean to trust Jesus in the midst of sorrow?

Days 12–17

In these chapters, the story moves towards Jesus' final meal with his disciples and the teaching he shares with them.

Day 12 | John 12

Theme: Mary anoints Jesus, he enters Jerusalem, and he speaks of a seed that must die to bear fruit.

Look for: Notice the different responses to Jesus as the time of his death draws near.

Reflect: What does generous devotion look like in your life?

Day 13 | John 13

Theme: Jesus washes his disciples' feet and gives them a new command to love one another.

Look for: Pay attention to the contrast between humble service, betrayal and the call to love.

Reflect: How could you show practical love to someone today?

Day 14 | John 14

Theme: Jesus comforts his friends and promises the Spirit's presence.

Look for: Listen for Jesus' words about the way, truth and life, and his promise not to leave his disciples alone.

Reflect: Which promise in this chapter would you like to carry with you?

Day 15 | John 15

Theme: Jesus is the vine, and he calls his friends to remain in his love and bear fruit.

Look for: Notice the repeated invitation to remain connected to Jesus and to love one another.

Reflect: What helps you stay connected to what gives you life?

Day 16 | John 16

Theme: Jesus prepares his disciples for grief, the Spirit's help and a joy that follows sorrow.

Look for: Follow how Jesus names the disciples' sorrow while pointing them towards hope and help.

Reflect: What could it look like to seek hope while facing difficulty?

Day 17 | John 17

Theme: Jesus prays for himself, his disciples and those who will believe through their message.

Look for: Notice the prayer's themes of love, truth, protection and unity.

Reflect: What does Jesus' prayer help you understand about belonging to God?

Days 18–21

The final days follow Jesus through the cross and resurrection, then return to the disciples beside the sea.

Day 18 | John 18

Theme: Jesus is arrested and questioned, while Peter denies knowing him.

Look for: Compare Jesus' calm responses with the fear and questions surrounding him.

Reflect: What does this chapter show you about courage and human weakness?

Day 19 | John 19

Theme: Jesus is crucified, dies and is laid in a tomb.

Look for: Notice the care shown at the cross and the details of Jesus' burial.

Reflect: What feelings or questions arise as you read this account?

Day 20 | John 20

Theme: Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus, and Thomas comes to believe.

Look for: Follow the different ways the disciples encounter the news and presence of the risen Jesus.

Reflect: What does Thomas' response make you wonder about faith and doubt?

Day 21 | John 21

Theme: Jesus meets his disciples by the sea, restores Peter and calls him to follow.

Look for: Notice the shared meal, Peter's three responses and Jesus' final invitation.

Reflect: What might following Jesus look like for you after these 21 days?