

# Knowing Jesus

through  
the Gospel of John

## Reflection Guide

Week of January 6, 2020

Context & Chapter 1

This week we begin by reading the entire Gospel to get a sense of the overarching plot of John. With his Gospel, John is trying to do more than just recount the events of Jesus' life. Instead, John seeks to convey the significance of Jesus' life for our lives and the life of the world. At the end of this week, we'll look in-depth at John's unique, grand introduction.

### MONDAY

*Read:* John 1–6

*Reflect:* Read these chapters at the pace you might read a novel. The goal isn't to take in every detail (we'll do that later), but to get the overall lay of the land. If you do get stuck, make a note of your questions, so you can come back to them later. Based on what you know about the other Gospels, how do the first chapters of John compare to the opening chapters of the other Gospels? What significance, if any, do you think these differences might have? What do you think it will be important to pay attention to as the story continues?

*Respond:* In prayer, ask God to meet you as you study John over these next weeks. Tell God what you are hoping to get out of this study.

### TUESDAY

*Read:* John 7–12

*Reflect:* Again, read these chapters as you might read a book. The first 12 chapters of John focus on signs—actions Jesus performs that “reveal his glory” (2:11) and point to his true identity. Which of the signs most clearly reveals Jesus' true character to you? Why? Based on what you have read, how would you describe God's glory? What, if anything, could you do to more clearly reveal the glory of God to the world around you?

*Respond:* Reflect on God's glory as you have come to understand it over these past two days of reading. Spend time in prayer, praising God for the glory revealed in Jesus.

### WEDNESDAY

*Read:* John 13–17

*Reflect:* Read quickly through these chapters, trying to see the big picture of what's happening. How is Jesus choosing to spend his final day with his disciples? What, if anything, does this tell you about who Jesus is? As you read these chapters, what emotions arise in you? Why?

*Respond:* In prayer, thank God for what you find comforting in these chapters and ask God about what challenges you.

### THURSDAY

*Read:* John 18–21

*Reflect:* The final, definitive revelation of God's glory comes in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, by which humanity is released from sin and the world is saved. As a way to capture the drama of these chapters, think about this: If you were a movie director, how would you film these chapters? Thinking back on your reading over this past week, what did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about yourself? What questions do you still have?

*Respond:* In prayer, tell God why you are thankful for the Bible and especially for the Gospels.

### FRIDAY

*Read:* John 1:1–18

*Reflect:* John begins the story of Jesus without mention of mangers or angel choruses, but with the story of God taking on human flesh in the person of Jesus, living among us, and revealing the fullness of God's glory, truth, grace, and love to a world of darkness, falsehood, sin, and fear. When you look at Jesus, what do you see? How does Jesus both confirm and challenge your understanding of what God is like?

*Respond:* In prayer, reflect on the fact that God wants to know you intimately and wants to be known by you. Tell God what you still want to know about God, and rest in that fact that God delights in knowing you.

### SATURDAY

*Read:* John 1:15, 19–34

*Reflect:* John the Baptist recognizes Jesus' true identity, declares that identity to the world around him, and through baptism, prepares the world to see Jesus for who he truly is. How did you come to know about Jesus? Who, if anyone, served as a “John” figure in your life, preparing you to see Jesus' true identity and receive him as savior? How could you be a “John” figure in the life of someone else?

*Respond:* In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see Jesus for who he truly is and to fill you with courage so that you can boldly tell others about Jesus.

### SUNDAY

*Read:* John 1:35–51

*Reflect:* Jesus' invites his disciples to “Come and see,” and the earliest disciples invite others to follow Jesus with a similar invitation: “Come and see for yourself.” Once these followers experience Jesus, they continue to follow him. What initially convinced you to follow Jesus? What, in anything, helps you remain a follower of Jesus? How, if at all, is your life different because you are a follower of Jesus?

*Respond:* As an act of worship, thank God for all the ways you experience Jesus in your daily life and ask God to open your eyes to see God at work in the world around you.

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