

# Knowing Jesus

through  
the Gospel of John

## Reflection Guide

Week of January 27, 2020

Chapters 7–9

God's presence in the world made manifest in Jesus demands a response. Those who should be able to recognize who Jesus fail to do so, but others can see Jesus for who he truly is.

### MONDAY

*Read:* John 7:1–36

*Reflect:* Jesus' ministry is attracting attention and it demands a response. Some believe that God sent Jesus into the world. Others think Jesus is possessed by a demon. Still others reject Jesus and begin a plot to kill him. With whom in this story do you most closely identify? Why? Do you find it easy or difficult to trust in Jesus? Why? What could you do to trust in Jesus more deeply?

*Respond:* Consider what the world learns about Jesus from the way you act and speak. Ask God for the courage to speak favorably about Jesus in public.

### TUESDAY

*Read:* John 7:37–53

*Reflect:* Jesus offers Living Water to anyone who thirsts, and yet some people still reject Jesus. Even though the crowds are thirsting for God to act, many refuse to accept the fresh taste of God's grace on offer in Jesus. For what does your heart thirst most deeply? How, if at all, is that thirst quenched in Jesus? What, if anything, stands in the way of your receiving the Living Water Jesus promises? Concretely, what would it look like for your life to be flooded with living water?

*Respond:* In prayer, simply enter Christ's presence and drink deeply of his grace and mercy. As you do so, pay attention to the emotions that arise in you.

### WEDNESDAY

*Imaginative Reading:* John 8:1–11

*Reflect:* Read this story slowly, allowing all the details to register. Now, place yourself inside the story. Imagine you are one of the characters in the story. Become part of the story, interacting with the other characters. What is happening around you? What do you hear? What do you see? What do you feel? Get a sense of who the other people in the story are and why they are here. What are people saying to you and what do you want to say to them? What do you hear Jesus saying and how is he saying it? What is Jesus doing? After your exploration, ask yourself how you felt as you interacted with the story in this way. Finally, as a concluding prayer, have a conversation with Jesus as though he were right there next to you. Tell Jesus what you learned about him and about yourself?

### THURSDAY

*Read:* John 8:12–30; Exodus 3:1–15

*Reflect:* Throughout John, Jesus uses the phrase "I Am"—the personal name for God revealed at the Burning Bush—to tell people who he is. Jesus also tells the crowd that his true identity will only be fully revealed once he is nailed to the cross. What is significant about Jesus referring to himself as "I am"? Does Jesus' calling himself God in this way surprise you? Why or why not? Does the connection Jesus makes with the God revealed in the story of Moses and the burning bush make Jesus identity clearer or more confusing? Why?

*Respond:* In prayer, reflect on what you know about God because of who Jesus is. Tell God why you are thankful that God is who you know God to be.

### FRIDAY

*Read:* John 8:31–59

*Reflect:* Jesus contrasts true and false belief. False belief insists that our status before God is secured by family history or inheritance. Instead, Jesus says that his true followers are those who listen to his words and obey his teaching. What do you think Jesus means when he says everyone who sins is a slave of sin (8:34)? How, if at all, do you make room in your heart for Jesus' message (8:37)? What difference, if any, does Jesus' message make in your everyday life? How would your life be different if you increasingly obeyed the teaching of Jesus?

*Respond:* In prayer, tell God how you have missed the mark of living as Jesus' follower. Ask for God's forgiveness and for God's grace to liberate you from slavery to sin.

### SATURDAY

*Read:* John 9:1–34

*Reflect:* Jesus' restoration of sight to a man born blind causes an uproar among the religious authorities. When pressed to explain how he was healed or became a follower of Jesus, the man says, "I was blind, and now I can see" (9:25). Reflect on your own spiritual journey. When did you become able to see Jesus' true identity? How, if at all, have you experienced the power of God in your own life?

*Respond:* In prayer, ask Jesus to fill you with his life.

### SUNDAY

*Read:* John 9:35–41

*Reflect:* Sight, much like hunger did earlier, operates at two levels. Not only is the man's physical sight restored, but he is able to see the reality of who Jesus is. His newfound sight leads him to believe the truth about Jesus and to worship him. What do you do with the knowledge you have about Jesus? How does what you know about Jesus lead you to worship him?

*Respond:* As an act of worship, tell Jesus the things about him you are thankful for.

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