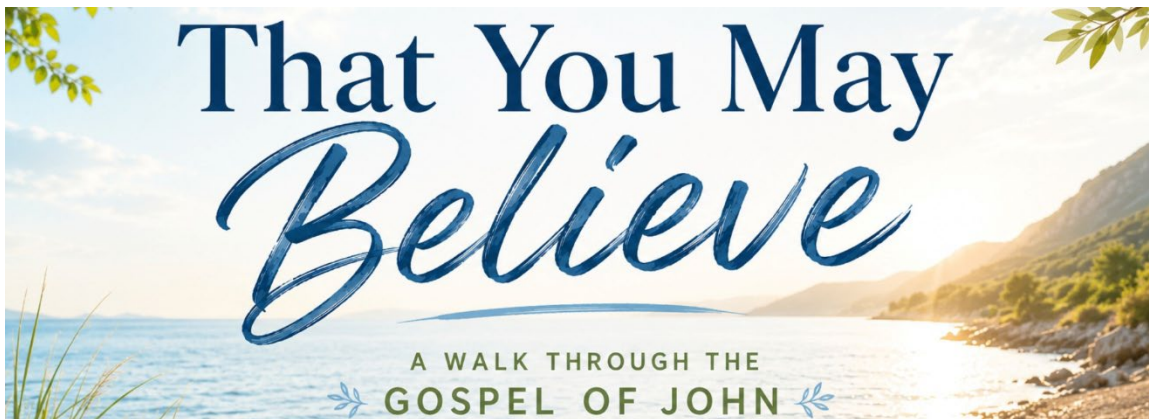




That You May Believe: A Walk Through the Gospel of John - Wk 10

(John 7:1-23)

Sunday, August 2, 2026

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Day 1: All In — Trusting the Whole of Who Jesus Is

Reading: John 7:1-5

Devotional: Jesus' own brothers witnessed his miracles yet refused to believe in who he truly was. They wanted the power without the person. It is easy to welcome the parts of Jesus that comfort and rescue us while quietly stepping back from the parts that challenge and redirect us. But faith is not a buffet. It is a full surrender. Ask yourself honestly today: are there areas of your life where you have said yes to Jesus in word but withheld trust in practice? Finances, relationships, decisions, ambitions — he wants all of it. Partial faith is not yet full faith.

Reflection Question: What area of your life have you been reluctant to fully surrender to Christ?

Practical Application: Identify one specific area you have been holding back from God. Write it down and pray over it today, asking the Holy Spirit to help you release it to him.

Day 2: Waiting Is Not Wasting — Trusting God's Timing

Reading: Psalm 27:13-14

The psalmist expresses confidence that he will see God's goodness in the land of the living, and urges the reader to wait courageously on the Lord.

Devotional: Jesus told his brothers, "Now is not the right time for me to go." He was not afraid. He was not confused. He was aligned with his Father's calendar. Throughout Scripture, those who waited on God — Joseph in prison, David in the wilderness, Abraham in his old age — eventually saw the fullness of

God's plan unfold. Waiting is not a sign that God has forgotten you. It is an invitation to practice faith actively. Patience is not passive. It is the daily discipline of trusting that God sees what you cannot see and knows what you do not yet know.

Reflection Question: Where in your life are you currently waiting on God, and how are you responding to that season of waiting?

Practical Application: Write down one thing you have been anxious about and have been trying to force on your own timeline. Pray a specific prayer releasing that situation to God's timing, and revisit it in thirty days.

Day 3: The Pursuing God — Grace That Runs After You

Reading: Luke 15:11-24

The parable of the prodigal son describes a father who sees his returning child from a great distance and runs to meet him, restoring him fully before the son can finish his rehearsed apology.

Devotional: The sermon reminded us that God keeps pursuing us even when we do not demonstrate that we are looking for him. He is a pursuing God. Like the father in this parable, God does not wait for us to clean ourselves up before running toward us. He meets us in our mess, in our shame, in our wandering. The hymn sung during worship captured it well — chains are gone, mercy rains, grace is unending. You do not have to earn your way back. You only have to turn. The moment you turn, you will find that he has already been running toward you.

Reflection Question: Have you ever felt too far gone for God to pursue? How does this passage challenge that feeling?

Practical Application: Reach out today to someone in your life who may feel distant from God. Offer them an encouraging word or simply let them know they are not forgotten.

Day 4: Truth That Divides — Living Faithfully in an Unpopular World

Reading: Acts 1:8

This verse describes the promise Jesus gave his followers that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and compel them to be his witnesses in every direction, to every kind of person, in every corner of the earth.

Devotional: Jesus stood in the temple and declared truth knowing it would divide the room. Some marveled. Others accused him of being a fraud. He did not adjust his message to manage the crowd. The sermon asked a pointed question: how many times do we find ourselves in a room where we refuse to

identify ourselves as followers of Christ? The Holy Spirit does not fill us so that we can keep that filling to ourselves. When we are truly indwelt by him, living for Jesus is not something we choose to do — it is something we are compelled to do. Your witness is not optional. It is the overflow of a Spirit-filled life.

Reflection Question: When was the last time your faith in Christ was visible to someone who does not share it?

Practical Application: This week, look for one natural opportunity to let your faith be visible — not through argument or pressure, but through genuine, Spirit-led love and honesty.

Day 5: Look Beneath the Surface — Knowing Jesus as He Truly Is

Reading: John 1:1-14

This passage presents Jesus as the eternal Word who became flesh and dwelt among humanity, full of grace and truth, offering to all who receive him the right to become children of God.

Devotional: Jesus told the crowd in John 7 to stop judging by outward appearances and to look beneath the surface. Many in that crowd were seeing Jesus through the lens of politics, tradition, cultural expectation, and personal disappointment. They were missing God standing right in front of them. The same danger exists today. We can allow bad church experiences, cultural noise, or personal assumptions to distort our view of who Jesus actually is. The remedy is not more opinion — it is more Scripture. The more deeply you know his word, the more clearly you see his face. Do not let the world define Jesus for you. Let him define himself.

Reflection Question: Are there any assumptions, past hurts, or cultural pressures that have shaped how you see Jesus in ways that may not be accurate to who he truly is?

Practical Application: Choose one Gospel — Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John — and commit to reading through it over the next month with fresh eyes, asking God to show you Jesus as he truly is rather than as you have assumed him to be.