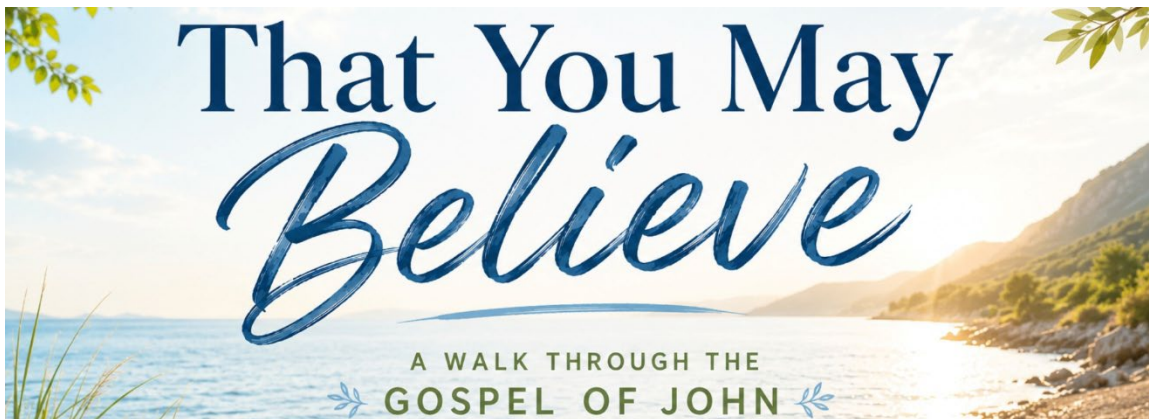




That You May Believe: A Walk Through the Gospel of John - Wk 13

(John 8:12-30)

Sunday, August 23, 2026

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Day 1: The Light Has Come

Reading: John 8:12; John 1:1-5

Devotional: Jesus declared himself to be the light of the world — not a light, but the light. There is no other source. Before his arrival, humanity wandered in spiritual darkness, stumbling over sin, unable to find its way home. John 1 reminds us that in Jesus was life, and that life became light for every person. Darkness, no matter how deep or how long it has lasted, cannot extinguish what God has lit. Today, consider where darkness has crept into your own life. Jesus is not distant from that darkness. He is standing right at the edge of it, offering you light. Step toward him.

Reflection Question: In what area of your life have you been walking in darkness rather than turning toward the light Jesus offers?

Practical Application: Identify one habit, thought pattern, or relationship that pulls you away from the light of Christ. Bring it before God in prayer today and ask him to illuminate what needs to change.

Day 2: I Am — The Eternal Claim

Reading: Exodus 3:13-14; John 8:24-28; Philippians 2:9-11

Devotional: When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, he identified himself simply as I Am — the eternal, self-existing One with no beginning and no end. Every time Jesus made an I Am statement in the Gospel of John, he was not being poetic. He was making a direct and deliberate claim to be one with the God of the burning bush. He told the Pharisees that when they lifted him up on the cross, they would understand that he is exactly who he claimed to be. Philippians affirms that a day is coming when every

knee will bow and every tongue will confess his lordship. The question is not whether that day will come. The question is whether you have already surrendered to him.

Reflection Question: Have you fully surrendered to the lordship of Jesus, or are there areas of your life where you are still resisting his authority?

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where you have not fully surrendered to Christ. Pray over it specifically today, releasing it into his hands and asking him to reign there.

Day 3: Bold Claims Require Bold Faith

Reading: John 8:13-19; Acts 4:13; Romans 1:16

Devotional: When Jesus made bold declarations about who he was, he was immediately met with sharp criticism and public challenge. The Pharisees told him his testimony was invalid. Jesus did not retreat. He did not soften his words or qualify his claims to make them more palatable. He answered with confidence, rooted not in arrogance but in the absolute certainty of who he was and where he came from. As followers of Christ, we carry that same name into a world that will often push back against it. The sermon reminds us that bold proclamation will bring bold criticism. But we are not called to be chameleon Christians who blend into the surroundings. We are called to stand.

Reflection Question: When was the last time you spoke the name of Jesus boldly to someone in your personal world, and how did you handle the response?

Practical Application: This week, look for one intentional opportunity to speak about what Jesus has done in your life. Do not wait for the perfect moment. Simply speak truthfully and let your actions support your words.

Day 4: Do Not Lose Your Curiosity

Reading: Jeremiah 29:13; Psalm 42:1-2; John 5:39-40

Devotional: The Pharisees knew the Scriptures better than almost anyone around them. They had studied, memorized, and enforced the law for years. And yet Jesus looked at them and said plainly that they did not know the Father. Their religious system had replaced their personal pursuit of God. They enforced God rather than sought him. This is a sobering warning for anyone who has been in church for a long time. It is possible to attend every service, lead every study, and serve on every team while slowly losing the personal curiosity that once drove you to seek Jesus for yourself. Religion can quietly substitute for relationship if we are not watchful. Keep seeking him personally.

Reflection Question: Is your spiritual life characterized by genuine pursuit of Jesus, or have religious routines begun to replace personal relationship with him?

Practical Application: Set aside time this week that is not sermon preparation, not Bible study leadership, and not ministry planning — simply time to sit with Jesus and seek him for yourself, with no agenda other than knowing him better.

Day 5: Carrying the Light Forward

Reading: Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Isaiah 43:1

Devotional: Jesus is the light of the world, but he also told his followers that they are the light of the world. These two truths are not in conflict. Because Christ lives in us, his light shines through us into the darkened spaces of our personal worlds — our workplaces, our families, our neighborhoods, and our friendships. The sermon makes clear that living the light and speaking the light must go together. People need to see Christ in our actions, but they also need to hear his name from our lips so they know the source of what they are witnessing. Isaiah 43:1 reminds us that God has called each of us by name. We are his. And because we are his, we carry something the world desperately needs.

Reflection Question: Who in your life is still walking in darkness, and what is one step you can take this week to carry the light of Christ into their world?

Practical Application: Choose one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week. Ask God to open a door for you to share with them both the life you live and the name behind it.