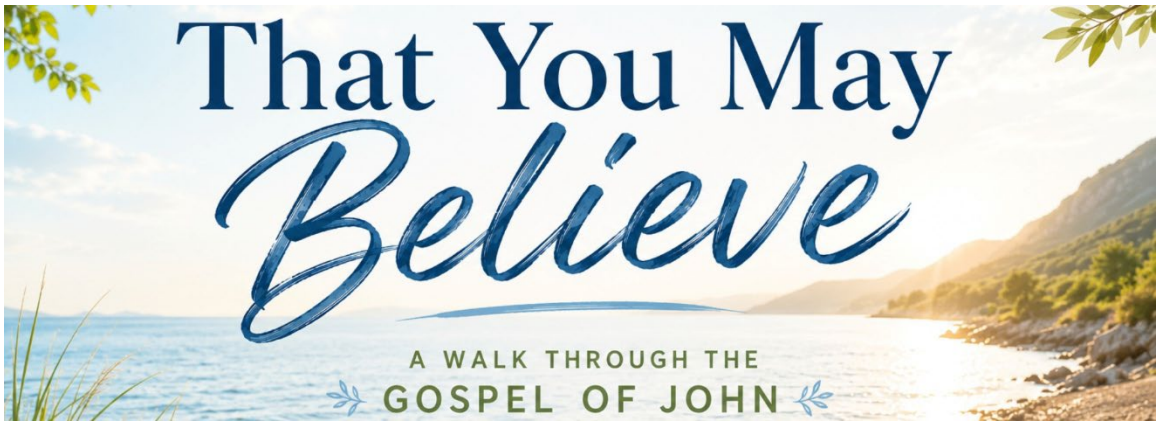


That You May Believe: A Walk Through the Gospel of John - Wk 19

(John 12:12-19)

Sunday, October 4, 2026

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Themes of the Triumphal Entry, the Lord's Supper, and the Kingship of Christ

Day 1: The King Who Enters Humbly

Reading: John 12:12-16

Devotional: The crowds expected a conqueror on a warhorse. What they received was a king on a donkey. Jesus entered Jerusalem not with the trappings of political power but with the quiet authority of one who had nothing to prove. His humility was not weakness. It was a deliberate declaration of what kind of king he came to be. He did not come to rule a nation. He came to rule a heart. Consider today where you have misunderstood what Jesus wants from you. Have you invited him to manage your circumstances while keeping him at a distance from your character? He wants all of you, not just the difficult parts.

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life are you asking Jesus to be king of your problems rather than king of your person?

Practical Application: Identify one area you have withheld from Christ's lordship. Surrender it to him in prayer today, specifically and by name.

Day 2: The Blood That Passes Over

Reading: Exodus 12:21-27 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Devotional: The Passover was never merely a historical commemoration. It was a living declaration that God rescues his people through the blood of a lamb. When Jesus gathered his disciples for that final

Passover meal, he reframed everything. The lamb on the table pointed to the Lamb at the table. Every element of that ancient meal found its fullest meaning in him. The blood applied to a doorpost in Egypt whispered the same truth that the cross would one day shout: death passes over those covered by the blood. You are not saved by your effort or your understanding. You are saved because the blood has been applied.

Reflection Question: How often do you pause to genuinely consider what the sacrifice of Christ cost him personally?

Practical Application: The next time you participate in communion, slow down. Hold the elements for a moment before partaking and allow the weight of what they represent to settle in your heart before you move on.

Day 3: Peace That the World Cannot Give

Reading: John 14:25-27 and Philippians 4:6-7

Devotional: The world offers peace as a destination, something to be reached once circumstances align favorably. Jesus offers peace as a person, himself. When he told his disciples he was leaving them with peace, he was not describing a feeling contingent on favorable outcomes. He was describing a settled condition of the heart that remains intact regardless of what surrounds it. Romans 5:1 reminds us that because of what Christ has done, we have peace with God. That is the foundation. Everything else flows from that. When the diagnosis comes, when the relationship fractures, when the loss arrives, the peace of Christ is not absent. It is present, holding.

Reflection Question: Are you currently seeking peace from your circumstances, or are you resting in the peace that Christ himself provides?

Practical Application: Write down one source of anxiety you are carrying today. Beside it, write the words "peace with God." Pray over that anxiety and release it, trusting that the one who conquered death is not overwhelmed by your situation.

Day 4: Hosanna to Crucify Him -- The Danger of a Shallow Faith

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 27:20-23

Devotional: The same mouths that shouted praise on Sunday screamed for crucifixion by Friday. This is not simply a historical tragedy. It is a mirror. Shallow faith, faith built on spectacle and personal expectation, collapses under pressure. The crowd followed Jesus because of Lazarus. They were drawn to the miracle, not the Messiah. When Jesus did not become what they wanted, their devotion evaporated. Genuine faith is not produced by what Jesus does for us. It is rooted in who Jesus is. When the miracles are not visible, when the answers are slow, when the path is confusing, what remains of your faith reveals its true foundation.

Reflection Question: Is your faith rooted in the person of Christ, or is it dependent on his performance in your life meeting your expectations?

Practical Application: Recall a season when God did not respond the way you hoped. Reflect on whether your faith grew deeper or grew distant during that time, and bring that honestly before God in prayer today.

Day 5: Friend of God, Enemy of the World

Reading: James 4:4, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, and John 15:18-19

Devotional: Jesus did not come to make peace with the world system. He came to rescue people from it. The Pharisees, who should have recognized their Messiah, instead conspired against him because his kingdom threatened their kingdom. The world has not changed. It still resists the authority of Christ because his lordship demands surrender of things the world prizes. But here is the great exchange: you give up friendship with a world that is passing away, and you receive friendship with the God who is eternal. You are no longer defined by what this world says about you. You are defined by what the blood of Christ has declared over you: redeemed, adopted, and beloved.

Reflection Question: Where has the pressure to remain comfortable with the world caused you to soften your commitment to Christ?

Practical Application: Identify one conviction or value rooted in your faith that you have been reluctant to live out openly. Take one small, concrete step today toward living that conviction without apology, trusting that the King who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey is not embarrassed by you.