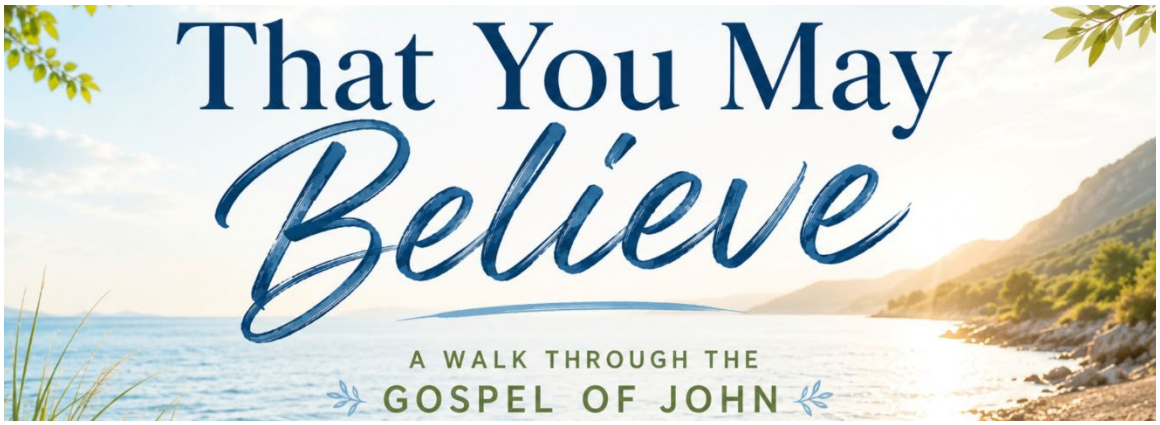


That You May Believe: A Walk Through the Gospel of John - Wk 22

(John 13:18-38)

Sunday, October 25, 2026

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on John 13 and the Themes of Relationship, Love, Faithfulness, and Surrender

Day 1: Proximity Is Not the Same as Relationship

Reading: Matthew 7:21-23 — Jesus warns that not everyone who calls on his name truly knows him; genuine relationship, not outward religious activity, is what matters to God.

Devotional: It is possible to be near the things of God without ever truly drawing near to God himself. Judas walked with Jesus, ate with Jesus, and served alongside Jesus for three years — and still chose his own desires over surrender to Christ. This is a sobering warning for every believer. Attendance, Christian music, Bible verses on the wall, and church involvement are not substitutes for a living, breathing relationship with Jesus. Ask yourself honestly today: am I pursuing proximity, or am I pursuing him? The goal is not to be near spiritual things. The goal is to know the one who is holy.

Reflection Question: What habits in your life create the appearance of closeness to God without requiring genuine surrender to him?

Practical Application: Spend ten minutes today in unstructured, conversational prayer — no agenda, no list. Simply talk to God as you would a trusted friend, and then be still enough to listen.

Day 2: God Is Faithful Even When We Are Not

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:11-13 — Paul reminds believers that even when human faithfulness fails, God remains faithful because it is his nature to do so.

Devotional: Peter declared boldly that he would die for Jesus. Hours later, he denied knowing him three times. And yet the story of Peter does not end in that courtyard beside a fire. It ends at another fire, on a

beach, where Jesus restores him with grace and purpose. God's faithfulness is not contingent on our performance. It is rooted in who he is. The sermon reminded us that God never broke his promise, never lost his power, and never changed his mercy. When you have failed — and you will fail — the invitation is not to run from Jesus. It is to run toward him.

Reflection Question: Where in your life have you allowed shame over past failure to keep you at a distance from God rather than drawing you back to him?

Practical Application: Write down one moment where God remained faithful to you even when you were unfaithful to him. Keep it somewhere visible this week as a reminder of his unchanging character.

Day 3: Love as a Witness to the World

Reading: 1 John 4:7-12 — The apostle John teaches that genuine love originates in God, and that loving one another is the visible evidence of God living within us.

Devotional: Jesus did not say the world would recognize his disciples by their church attendance, their theological knowledge, or their religious vocabulary. He said the defining mark of a genuine follower is love — love modeled after the way Jesus himself loved. That love is sacrificial, serving, and attentive to the real needs of real people. The sermon pointed out that Jesus gave his followers a reference point: not love as the world defines it, but love as Jesus demonstrated it. That kind of love exhausts itself for others. It sees people the way Jesus saw them — as worth every ounce of effort.

Reflection Question: If the people in your daily life were asked to describe you, would love be one of the first words they used? Why or why not?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who is hurting or overlooked. Reach out to them today in a tangible, practical way — not with words alone, but with action that costs you something.

Day 4: The Danger of Self-Reliance in the Life of Faith

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6 — The writer of Proverbs calls believers to trust fully in God rather than leaning on their own understanding, promising that God will direct the path of those who acknowledge him.

Devotional: Peter's failure was not a failure of affection. His love for Jesus was genuine. His failure was a failure of self-reliance. He was convinced that his own willpower, his own loyalty, and his own strength were sufficient to carry him through the most difficult moment of his life. They were not. The same trap catches believers today. We say the right things in safe places, surrounded by people who affirm us, and we genuinely believe we are capable of following through. But faith was never designed to run on human strength. It was designed to run on surrender. The branch does not produce fruit by straining. It produces fruit by staying connected to the vine.

Reflection Question: In what area of your spiritual life are you relying most heavily on your own effort rather than on your dependence on God?

Practical Application: Identify one area where you have been striving in your own strength. Pray specifically over that area today, releasing it to God and asking him to work through you rather than alongside you.

Day 5: Responding to the God Who Is Still the Same

Reading: Lamentations 3:22-23 — The prophet Jeremiah, writing in the midst of deep suffering and national devastation, declares that God's mercies are new every morning and that his faithfulness is great.

Devotional: The sermon opened with a declaration: God never broke his promise, never lost his power, and never changed his mercy. That truth does not belong only in a song on a Sunday morning. It belongs in the hardest moments of your week, in the quiet places where fear and doubt press in. The same God who parted waters, raised the dead, and conquered the grave is the God who meets you in your ordinary, broken, daily life. He has not moved. He has not grown tired of you. His mercies are not running low. Every morning you wake up is another morning where his faithfulness is waiting for you before you even open your eyes.

Reflection Question: What would change about the way you approach tomorrow morning if you genuinely believed that God's mercies were made new specifically for you before the day even began?

Practical Application: Begin tomorrow morning — before checking your phone, before the noise of the day begins — with a single, quiet moment of acknowledgment. Tell God you are aware that he is faithful, that you are grateful, and that you are choosing to depend on him for what the day holds.