



Series Overview and Guides

2025 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 4

MAY - JULY

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We live in continuous encounter with Jesus – hearing His word and trusting Him.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

“Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life”

—John 5:24

“Θέλω (thelo) is used often in John (over 20 times). It means *to be resolved or determined to engage*. In Homer, who also uses the term often, thelo always signifies adventure in the offing.”

— M. Wayne Braudrick

Premise

why we are studying this

We face problems and needs, both manifest and unseen. We have deep questions based on what we see every day around us and drawn from our own souls. Having introduced Jesus in the opening chapters of his gospel, John now walks us through a collection of the Lord’s messages, activities, and questions both posed and answered.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

“Jesus spoke to them again: ‘I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.’”

— John 8:12

“Jesus’ act was remarkable. He stood up and cried out (*krazein*) in solemn announcement (7:37; cf. 7:28), ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me.’ The impact of that announcement must have been stunning. It was a magnificent model of contextual preaching and teaching.”

— Gerald Borchert
John 1-11

Theme

what the study is about

Both the maturing believer and the committed unbeliever must wrestle with Jesus, who claims to be light, life, and love incarnate in God the Son. All the questions that give body to this textual section center on the most important inquiry for every human heart – who is Jesus?

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

“On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.’ He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

— John 7:37-39

TIE TO THE ANNUAL VISION

Continually encountering Jesus and His words allows us to be still and know that YHWH is God.



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this study guide is based on the sermon and personal study notes of

Dr. M. Wayne Braudrick
Lead Pastor, Frisco Bible Church

and is developed by the Frisco Bible Curriculum Team:

Contributors:
AJ Rinaldi, Steve Wilson, Tom Cutrell,
Lauren Noske, Jeanie Brooks

General Editor:
AJ Rinaldi

Layout and Design:
Steve Wilson

SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

SERMON ACCESS ONLINE

You can watch the related sermons at <https://friscobible.com/sermons>



or by scanning the QR code.

Then select **Series** and search for **Asking for a Friend**.

PERMISSION

You are welcome to copy and distribute this study guide for your personal or group study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Frisco Bible Church
8000 Sanctuary Drive
Frisco, TX 75033
972.335.8150
contactus@friscobible.com
www.friscobible.com

SERIES 4 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 5:1-18

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus is the very fulfillment of everything the location in John 5 brings to mind – Messiah, miraculous deliverer, and destroyer of crony idolatry.

OBJECTIVE

We find fulfillment in Jesus.

GREATER THINGS

"An alarming number of politicians and commentators prefer to nurse petty resentments that they elevate to a moral denunciation...These high priests of resentment are offering one useful lesson. They are reminding their fellow citizens what an impoverished secular religion they offer. The rest of us can ask instead whether we really want to live in the bitter world of envy politics, or whether we prefer to lift our eyes, our economic aspirations and our spirits to greater things."

—Editorial Board, *Wall Street Journal*
The Church of Resentment

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we find joy in following Jesus.

Session 1: Who is This Man?

1. In John 1:14-18, how does John describe Jesus?

2. Read the following passages and complete the statements:
 - John 1:14
Fact: Jesus is the _____ of God.

 - John 3:15-16
Fact: Jesus is the _____ of life.

 - John 1:6-9; 3:19-21
Fact: Jesus is the _____.

 - John 1:1-2
Fact: Jesus is the _____.

 - What applications can you draw from these facts?

3. Read Isaiah 7:10-14. Isaiah told Ahaz to "ask for a sign from the Lord your God."
 - How did Ahaz respond?

 - What sign did God give him anyway?

4. Read 2 Kings 16:7-8.
 - Why did Ahaz turn to the king of Assyria instead of listening to Isaiah's prophecy and trusting in Yahweh to deliver him?

5. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, God commands us to "pray without ceasing."
 - What are the primary reasons that we don't fulfill that command?

 - How can worldly success diminish our reliance on the Lord?



SERIES 4 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 5:19-47

KEY IDEAS

THEME

In response to grumbling about His claims to deity, Jesus shares an extended discourse (or several discourses distilled by John). The big ideas are:

1. that the Father and Son are inseparably in unity yet exercise different action roles
2. Jesus' deity is proven in His prophetic titles
3. all true testimony points to salvation by faith alone in Jesus alone, and
4. all true glory comes from God.

OBJECTIVE

We listen to Jesus.

ONE WITH THE FATHER

"Jesus claimed to be one with His Father in His works. If healing a man on the Sabbath was a sin, then the Father was to blame! Jesus did nothing 'of himself' but only that which the Father was doing. The Father and the Son worked together, doing the same deeds in the same way. 'I and my Father are one.'"

— Warren W. Wiersbe
Be Alive

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we embrace the deity of Jesus.

Session 2: How Can You Believe?

1. Read John 5:19-23. The relationship of the Father and the Son is a beautiful display of headship and unity.
 - Compare the Father's work with the Son's exalting role and relate how each One is glorified in His position.

2. Read Isaiah 4:2, 7:14, 9:6, 11:10, and 49:6-7.
 - Which prophetic titles could Jesus have used to quiet the Pharisees' grumbings over His claim to deity?

3. Read John 5:30-40.
 - What are some examples of the "true testimony" that point to Jesus, and what do they reveal about salvation?

4. Read John 5:41-47.
 - What does it mean to give glory to men other than Jesus?

 - Discuss what Jesus meant when He said that Moses was the one accusing them for their unbelief.



SERIES 4 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:1-21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus sets up a test for the disciples, offering both His twelve and the crowds the opportunity to trust Him as the fulfilment of Passover. Each fails, though Andrew may get partial credit for remembering Elisha. After Jesus literally walks through the test information again (this time on water), the twelve engage with Him adventurously.

OBJECTIVE

We engage with Jesus.

RADICALLY PURSUE HIM

“Luke shares a story of two people who want to meet with Jesus. One is Simon the Pharisee, who is spiritually interested and wants to learn more about Jesus. The other is a woman who weeps at Jesus’ feet, wipes his feet with her hair, kisses them and pours perfume on them. Simon approaches Jesus in an intellectual way over a meal; the woman expresses the deepest cry of her heart as she seeks freedom from her sin. ...We find that Jesus honors the woman. She receives forgiveness of sins, but we hear of no change in the spiritual condition of Simon. Do we seek Jesus to affirm our own thinking and gain personal peace, or do we radically pursue him, asking for forgiveness and offering our best efforts in service to him?”

—John Kuperus
todaydevotional.com

Session 3: Where Will We Buy Bread?

1. Read John 6:2.
 - Why was the huge crowd following Jesus?
 - Name some signs we have read about in John’s Gospel account.
2. Read Exodus 12:1-13, John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7, and Revelation 5:12.
 - How did Jesus fulfill the Passover?
 - What implication does this have for believers who receive His work on their behalf?
3. Read 2 Kings 4:42-44 and John 6:9.
 - What did Jesus’ miracle signify?
4. Read John 6:13-15 and 1 Timothy 6:15-16.
 - What makes Jesus more than a mere prophet?
 - Why did He subvert the Jews’ attempt to make Him King?
5. Read John 6:16-21.
 - Why were the disciples afraid?
 - Compare their willingness to receive Jesus with examples of your own steps of faith.

PRAYER: Pray for each other this week, that we would pursue Jesus with our whole heart.



SERIES 4 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:22-71

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The persistent crowd, motivated by the twin impulses of material gain (expressed in abundant food) and desire for control (housed in works-based salvation), pursue Jesus. The Lord Jesus instructs the crowd to trust Him, as He is the bread of life – the true provision for eternal life. In response, the crowd grumbles about Jesus’ humanity and selectively listens according to their materialist worldview. The passage starkly contrasts life and death. Materialism, unbelief, and betrayal are part of the hellish curse of death while hearing Jesus, receiving Him, and believing in Him are part of heaven’s gift of eternal life.

OBJECTIVE

We do the works of God.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

“Just as good food and drink sustain physical life, so Jesus, the real (reliable) spiritual food and drink, sustains His followers spiritually. His flesh and blood give eternal life to those who receive Him.”

—Edwin A. Blum

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust Jesus for real sustenance.

Session 4: What Can We Do?

1. Read John 6:22-29.
 - The crowd came by boat to find Jesus in Capernaum. Why were they looking for Him, according to verse 26?

2. Jesus knew the motives of those to whom he ministered, and He knows the motives of our hearts today.
 - What does it mean to “work” for food that endures for eternal life?

3. Read John 6:30-35.
 - Contrast the miraculous Manna in the wilderness with the true Bread of Life from Heaven.
 - Discuss the significance of Jesus’ words in this passage.

4. Read John 6:36-47. This passage is one in which we can clearly see the doctrine of “election”-that God chose who would follow Jesus.
 - Why do some Christians struggle with this message?
 - Discuss how we, as humans, often question God’s ways. Use other examples from Christian doctrine that are difficult.

5. Read John 6:48-71.
 - What about the words of Jesus in this passage would some of the disciples find disturbing?
 - How is this foreshadowing His words at the last supper?
 - Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation.



SERIES 4 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 7:1-36

KEY IDEAS

THEME

John highlights the timing aspects of Jesus' foray from Galilee to Jerusalem, noting the Lord's use of "hour" language and the image of the Feast of Tabernacles. Even though the people are clueless and petty, Jesus tabernacles among them. The few who believe in Him are the only ones who apprehend Him. While at the festival, Jesus speaks in contrasts in order to expose the divide between belief and unbelief; the glory of God and worldly power; righteousness and unrighteousness; and heaven and this world.

OBJECTIVE

We apprehend Jesus.

SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

"Spiritual understanding is not produced solely by learning facts or procedures, but rather it depends on obedience to known truth. Obedience to God's known will develops discernment between falsehood and truth."

—Merrill C. Tenney

'John' in Expositors Bible Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we understand who Jesus is.

Session 5: Where Does He Intend to Go?

1. Read John 7:1. Jesus spent six months teaching his disciples in Galilee, from about the time of Passover (April) until the Festival of Booths (October).
 - What were some of the "hard" things that Jesus taught them (see also John 6:26-33, 41-44, 51-52, and 56)?

2. Read Leviticus 23:42-43 and John 7:1-5. God instructed Israel to celebrate the Festival of Booths (shelters) for seven days to remind them of His faithfulness during their time in the wilderness.
 - Why do you think Jesus' non-believing brothers urged Him to go to this festival?

3. Read John 2:4, 7:6-13, 12:23 and Galatians 4:4-5. God's plan for Jesus to be rejected by Israel and to die for the sins of the whole world included a specific timetable.
 - What is significant about the timing?
 - Did God blind Israel at that time to Who Jesus truly was?
 - What else might have led the hearts of the Israelites away from the Lord?

4. Read John 7:14-24.
 - How did the Jews respond to Jesus' teaching? What can you discern about their motives?
 - How did Jesus respond to them?
 - How can we as believers discern whether our motives are righteous?

5. Read Genesis 12:2-3 and 15:4-6, Micah 5:2 and 4:1-3, and John 7:25-36.
 - In what way did the Jews misunderstand the Abrahamic Covenant?
 - Do you think they understood their need to trust God to be truly righteous?



SERIES 4 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 7:37-8:11

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus exposes the need of every person for the salvation He brings, an eternal, living, spiritual, internal life of reliance upon God.

OBJECTIVE

We admit our need for Jesus.

ROOM FOR FAITH

"The realization that knowledge itself begets as many questions as answers continues to leave just enough room for faith, as scientific 'truths' themselves fall victim to new realities and the rediscovery of the inexplicable.

Sometimes scientific progress enabled rather than eroded religious faith: Observation of the intricacy of cell division or the first view of earth from the moon evinced a new awe at the genius of creation and, for some, a heightened sense of the divine. Now—in more prosaic ways—there are signs that our latest technological innovations are generating new thinking in surprising places about man, faith and God."

—Gerard Baker

'Faith, Freedom and the Long Thread of Technology' in The Wall Street Journal

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we recognize our need for salvation.

Session 6: Does Messiah Come from Galilee?

1. Read John 7:37-39.
 - What do streams of living water imply about the Source Who dwells in followers of Christ?

2. Read the following passages: Exodus 17:1-7, Isaiah 12:2-4, Ezekiel 47:1-12, Zechariah 14:8-9, and John 7:38.
 - Compare the water that God provided in the desert with the living water of salvation and the abundant fresh water that will flow eastward and westward from Jerusalem in the Messiah's Kingdom.

3. Read Deuteronomy 18:18-19 and John 7:40-52.
 - What did some in the crowd claim about Jesus' identity?
 - What is different about Nicodemus and the way he questioned Jesus (see John 3:1-14)?
 - How might the crowds' questions have reflected the posture of their hearts?

4. Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and Matthew 3:1-3.
 - Who did John the Baptist say that Jesus was?

5. Read John 7:53-8:11. The Scribes and Pharisees try to pressure Jesus into breaking the law of Moses.
 - How does Jesus convict them instead?
 - What universal truth was on display in this woman's shame?
 - Why didn't Jesus condemn her?



SERIES 4 | SESSION 7

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:12-59

KEY IDEAS

THEME

John once again turns to his favorite tool – contrasts – and records some of Jesus’ most intricate and clever wordplays. The two discourse sections here continue to flesh out the deity of Christ and deal with important theological topics. Jesus espouses these big ideas:

- Follow Jesus and walk in new [or the essential] life.
- Refuse to believe Jesus, God the Son, and die in eternal darkness.
- Following Jesus leads to truth knowledge and freedom.

OBJECTIVE

We follow Jesus.

FOLLOW JESUS

“To ‘follow’ the Lord Jesus means to believe in Him, to trust Him, and the results are life and light for the believer. The unsaved are walking in darkness because they love darkness. One of the major messages in this gospel is that the spiritual light is now shining, but people cannot comprehend it—and they try to put it out.”

— Warren W. Wiersbe
Be Alive (John 1-12)

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we faithfully follow Jesus.

Session 7: Who Are You?

1. Read John 8:12-30 and John 1:4-9.
 - Discuss the contrast between light and darkness (8:12).
 - What other contrasts do you see in these passages?
2. Read John 1:14 and 18; John 14:7 and 9. What are four ways Jesus is the Revelation of the Father?
3. Read the following verses and passages: John 8:12, Numbers 9:15-23, Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 9:2; 42:6; Matthew 4:16 and 5:14.
 - How did Jesus describe himself (one of His “I am” statements) in John 8:12.
 - What is significant about this claim?
4. Read John 8:12 and 24, Matthew 10:38, Luke 9:23 and Genesis 15:6.
 - How should we follow Jesus?
 - What are the consequences of refusing to follow Him?
5. Read John 8:31-59. Identify and discuss the contrasts in this passage.
 - Verse 49 (*for example*): _____ honor vs dishonor
 - Verses 32, 44-46, 55: _____ vs _____
 - Verses 41-44, 48-49, 52-58: _____ vs _____
 - Verses 33, 37-40, 52-53, 56-58: _____ vs _____



SERIES 4 | SESSION 8

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus' emotions seem rather strong in the passage – running from disgust to compassion to humor. The central figure is the man born blind, who may be the most under-appreciated person of all time. No one rejoices over his healing, and the poor guy becomes a pawn in the Pharisees narrative-setting game. Nonetheless, he is the victor in the tale. He gets to know and worship Jesus.

OBJECTIVE

We believe and worship Jesus.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

"Beyond the compassion and power of Jesus which enabled this man to see physically, is the wonderful truth that Jesus is also the One who enables us to see spiritually. This blind man, engulfed in a world of darkness was enabled to see the light. In the same way, lost sinners without Christ are living in a world of spiritual darkness. They too must have their spiritual eyes opened. Is it any wonder that Jesus boldly referred to Himself in the previous chapter as the 'Light of the World' (Jn. 8:12)? Chapter 9 basically illustrates that claim."

—Randy Smith
The Blind Man Who Saw

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we walk in the light and worship Jesus.

Session 8: Do You Believe in the Son of Man?

1. Read John 8:12 and 9:1-5.
 - What did God intend to do through this man who was born blind?

2. Read John 9:5, and then John 6:35, 8:12, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6, and Revelation 1:8.
 - In John 9:5, what does the "I am" statement reveal about Jesus?

 - Why do you think Jesus used metaphors to reveal Himself?

3. Read John 9:6-12; Jesus often healed the blind and called Himself "the Light of the world" (see also John 8:12, Matthew 9:27-31, and Matthew 12:22-23).
 - Why does Jesus refer to Himself as the "Light of the World"?

 - Discuss the physical and spiritual blindness of Jesus' day.

4. Read John 9:13-34, Mark 3:2-4, and Mark 2:27-28. The Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking the law concerning work on the Sabbath.
 - What did Jesus say about the Sabbath?

 - What did the man who was healed in John 9 say about Jesus' miracle on the Sabbath?

5. Read John 9:35-41.
 - What was the posture of the blind man's heart after he was healed?

 - Discuss the meaning of Jesus' statement in verse 41 as it relates to the Pharisee's comment in verse 40.

