

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE — WEEK 2

The Gospel of John

Jesus Makes the Father Known

John 3:1–4:54

3:1–15 - Jesus is encountered.

You must be born again

3:16–21 - Jesus reveals the love of God.

For God so loved the world

3:22–36 - Jesus is exalted.

He must increase

4:1–26 - Jesus is revealed as The Messiah.

Living Water

4:27–42 - Jesus is proclaimed.

The Savior of the world

4:43–54 - Jesus is trusted.

Believe His Word

As we continue our journey through **The Gospel of John**, take time with the **Scriptures**, think through the **questions**, process **UP** (our worship) → **IN** (our community) → **OUT** (our neighbors) →, and ask where God may be giving you an **Invitation** (Repent/turn to Him) and a **Challenge** (Believe/live for Him).

*“...these are written so **that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” -John 20:31 (ESV)*

SUNDAY — John 3:1–15

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Big Idea:

Jesus tells Nicodemus that religious knowledge and outward morality are not enough—we must be born again by the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God.

DISCUSS

1. Nicodemus was religious, knowledgeable, and respected, yet Jesus tells him, “You must be born again” (3:1–7). What does this reveal about what we actually need from Jesus?

2. Jesus connects being born again with the work of the Spirit (3:5–8). Why is spiritual transformation something God must do in us rather than something we can accomplish ourselves?

3. Jesus uses the story of the bronze serpent (3:14–15; Num. 21:4–9) to explain what He is going to do. What connection does Jesus make between looking to Him and receiving life? Do you believe He’s foreshadowing something?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does this passage reveal about who Jesus is and what only He can do for us?

IN: How can Christian community help us move beyond religious appearance toward genuine transformation? What can only God do and what can we do in response?

OUT: Who in your life may need to hear that Jesus offers new life—not simply a better version of their old life?

INVITATION

Where is Jesus inviting you to stop relying on yourself and receive the new life He offers?

CHALLENGE

What would it look like today to **believe** in Jesus rather than simply believe things about Him?

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MONDAY — John 3:16–21

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Big Idea:

God's love is demonstrated in giving His Son, and Jesus calls us to respond by believing in Him to receive eternal life.

DISCUSS

1. John 3:16 says God loved the world by giving His only Son. What does this teach us about the character of God and the cost of His love?

2. Jesus says that whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already (3:18). Why does the Gospel require a dedicated response rather than simply admiration for Jesus?

3. Jesus describes people who come to the Light and those who prefer darkness (3:19–21). What do our choices reveal about what we truly love?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: How should God's love, demonstrated through Jesus, shape the way you worship and trust Him?

IN: How can Christian community be a place where people experience both the *grace* of God's love and the *truth* (John 1:14) that calls us out of darkness (John 1:4, 5, & 9)?

OUT: Who around you needs to experience the love of God through the way you speak, serve, forgive, or show up?

INVITATION

How might God be inviting you to approach Him closer right now?

CHALLENGE

Take one area you've been keeping in the dark and honestly bring it before God today.

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TUESDAY — John 3:22–36

HE MUST INCREASE

Big Idea:

John the Baptist understands that his purpose is not to build his own platform but to point people toward Jesus: “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

DISCUSS

1. John the Baptist’s disciples are concerned that people are going to Jesus instead of John (3:25–26). Why can comparison and recognition become a temptation, even when we are doing something good?

2. John humbly explains, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (3:27-30). What does that actually look like in everyday life? Does God have complete access to your life?

3. John says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life” (3:36). How does keeping Jesus at the center protect us from making ourselves, our reputation, our sin, or our accomplishments the center?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does John the Baptist’s response teach us about the greatness and authority of Jesus?

IN: Where can comparison, competition, or the desire for recognition affect the way we relate to other believers?

OUT: How could decreasing our need to be noticed create more opportunities for people to notice Jesus?

INVITATION

Where is God inviting you to surrender your need for recognition, control, or comparison?

CHALLENGE

Identify one area today where you can intentionally make **Jesus bigger and yourself smaller**.

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WEDNESDAY — John 4:1–26

LIVING WATER

Big Idea:

Jesus crosses cultural, social, and religious barriers to offer a Samaritan woman something deeper than physical water—the living water that leads to eternal life.

DISCUSS

- 1. Jesus intentionally speaks with a Samaritan woman despite the cultural and social barriers between them (4:7–9).** What does this reveal about how Jesus desires to approach all people?
- 2. Jesus says, “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again” (4:13–14).** What does He mean, and what are we tempted to use to satisfy the thirst only God can satisfy?
- 3. Jesus knows the woman’s story and still engages her with both *truth* and *grace* (4:16–18, 25–26).** What does this teach us about the way Jesus confronts sin without abandoning people?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus’ offer of living water reveal about who He is and what He alone can provide?

IN: How should Jesus’ willingness to cross barriers shape the way we welcome people into Christian community?

OUT: Who is outside your normal circle that Jesus may be inviting you to move toward?

INVITATION

What are you currently looking to for satisfaction that only Jesus can ultimately provide?

CHALLENGE

Move toward someone you would normally avoid, overlook, or assume is different from you—and treat them with the dignity Jesus gives them.

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THURSDAY — John 4:27–42

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Big Idea:

The Samaritan woman encounters Jesus, tells others about Him, and her testimony leads an entire community to know Him for themselves.

DISCUSS

1. The woman leaves her water jar and goes back to tell her city about Jesus (4:28–29).

What does her response reveal about what happens when we genuinely encounter Christ?

2. The Samaritans first believe because of the woman's testimony, but then encounter Jesus for themselves (4:39–42). What is the relationship between our testimony and someone else's personal faith? Is there a shared personal and communal responsibility in our faith?

3. Jesus tells His disciples, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest" (4:35-38). What might we miss when we become so focused on our own lives that we fail to see the spiritual opportunities around us?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does the Samaritans' declaration that Jesus is "the Savior of the world" (4:42) teach us about His identity and mission?

IN: How can Christian community help people move from hearing about Jesus to actually encountering and following Him?

OUT: Who is one person you could simply invite to "come and see" Jesus for themselves?

INVITATION

What is God inviting you to share about what Jesus has done in your life?

CHALLENGE

Tell someone today why Jesus matters to you—or invite them to read John with you, come to church, or explore faith alongside you.

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FRIDAY — John 4:43–54

BELIEVE HIS WORD

Big Idea:

Jesus challenges us to trust His Word before we see the outcome, just as the royal official believes Jesus and acts on His promise.

DISCUSS

- 1. The official asks Jesus to come heal his son, but Jesus responds by challenging the people's dependence on signs (4:46–48).** Why can we be tempted to believe only after God gives us the evidence we want? What can we do to grow our trust of Christ in this area?
- 2. Jesus tells the official, “Go; your son will live,” and the man believes Jesus’ word and goes (4:50).** What is significant about believing before seeing?
- 3. The official discovers that his son was healed at the exact time Jesus spoke (4:51–53).** How does this story challenge the way we understand faith and trust?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does this miracle reveal about Jesus’ authority and the power of His Word?

IN: How can we help one another trust God when we don't yet see the outcome we are praying for?

OUT: How might your trust in Jesus become a testimony to someone watching your life?

INVITATION

Where is Jesus inviting you to trust His Word even though you cannot yet see the outcome?

CHALLENGE

Identify one truth or promise from Scripture you know you need to believe—and take one step of obedience to believe it today.

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