THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE — WEEK 12

The Gospel of John

IT IS FINISHED

John 19:1–20:23

19:1–16 — Behold the Man. *Jesus is delivered to be crucified.*

19:17–27 — The King on the Cross. *Jesus is crucified.*

19:28–30 — It Is Finished. *Jesus pays for our sins in death.*

19:31–42 — They will look on Him. *Jesus fulfills more prophecy.*

20:1–10 — The Tomb Is Empty. *Jesus is alive.*

20:11–23 — I Have Seen the Lord. *Jesus appears to His disciples.*

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).

SUNDAY — John 19:1–16

JESUS IS DELIVERED TO BE CRUCIFIED

Jesus is beaten, mocked, and presented to the crowd by Pilate. Though Pilate finds no guilt in Him, the religious leaders demand His crucifixion. The scene reveals the injustice Jesus endures and challenges us to consider Who Jesus truly is: the King standing before a world that rejects Him.

DISCUSS

1. Pilate presents Jesus to the crowd, saying, "Behold the man!" (19:5). What does this moment reveal about Jesus' humanity and the suffering He willingly endured?

2. The religious leaders reject Jesus and demand His crucifixion (19:6–15). What can lead people to reject Jesus even when confronted with the truth about Him?

3. Pilate struggles with his authority and fear of the crowd (19:8–16). Where might the desire to please people or protect our position keep us from doing what is right?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus' willingness to endure suffering reveal about His identity and His love for us?

IN: How can Christian community help us remain faithful to Jesus when following Him is unpopular or costly?

OUT: Who around you needs to see who Jesus really is, beyond the assumptions or misunderstandings they may have about Him?

INVITATION

What is God revealing to you about Jesus through His suffering, and what is He inviting you to surrender or believe?

CHALLENGE

Identify one place where fear of people or a desire for approval is influencing your decisions, and choose to honor Jesus there today.

MONDAY — John 19:17–27

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Jesus carries His cross to Golgotha and is crucified between two others. Even as He suffers, He cares for His mother and entrusts her to the disciple He loves. The cross reveals both the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the personal love He continues to show in the midst of suffering.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus is crucified under the title "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (19:19). What does this title reveal about the kind of King Jesus is, even as He hangs on a cross?

2. The soldiers divide Jesus' garments and cast lots for His clothing (19:23–24). What does the fulfillment of Scripture in this moment teach us about God's purposes, even in the darkest circumstances?

3. Jesus makes provision for His mother while He is on the cross (19:25–27). What does this moment reveal about Jesus' love and His concern for people even while He is suffering?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does the cross reveal about Jesus' kingship, sacrifice, and love?

IN: How can we care for one another in practical ways, especially when someone is experiencing suffering or loss?

OUT: How can the sacrificial love of Jesus shape the way we serve people who may never be able to repay us?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you through the sacrifice of Jesus, and what is He inviting you to trust Him with?

CHALLENGE

Take one practical step today to care for someone else, even if it requires sacrifice or inconvenience on your part.

TUESDAY — John 19:28–30

JESUS PAYS FOR OUR SINS IN DEATH

As Jesus approaches death, He fulfills Scripture and declares, “It is finished.” His final words are not a statement of defeat but a declaration that His work has been accomplished. Through His death, Jesus completes the mission the Father gave Him and makes the way for our salvation.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus says, “I thirst,” fulfilling what Scripture had spoken (19:28–29, *also see Psalm 69:21*). What does this detail reveal about Jesus’ willingness to fully enter into human suffering?

2. Jesus declares, “It is finished,” before bowing His head and giving up His spirit (19:30). What does it mean that Jesus’ work of salvation is complete rather than something we must earn?

3. Jesus willingly gives His life after completing the work the Father gave Him (19:30). How should the finished work of Jesus shape the way we approach God, our failures, and our efforts to prove ourselves?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus’ declaration, “It is finished,” reveal about the completeness and sufficiency of His sacrifice?

IN: How can we help one another rest in what Jesus has accomplished instead of living as though we must earn God’s acceptance?

OUT: Who in your life needs to hear that salvation is found in Jesus’ finished work, not in trying to earn God’s love?

INVITATION

What are you still trying to earn, prove, or carry that Jesus invites you to surrender in light of His finished work?

CHALLENGE

When you feel the urge to prove your worth today, pause and remind yourself that Jesus has accomplished what you could never accomplish for yourself.

WEDNESDAY — John 19:31–42

JESUS FULFILLS MORE PROPHECY

After Jesus dies, the soldiers confirm His death, and His side is pierced, fulfilling Scripture. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus then take His body and lay it in a tomb. Even in the apparent finality of death, God's Word is being fulfilled, and the people who once kept their allegiance to Jesus hidden begin to act openly.

DISCUSS

1. The soldiers confirm Jesus' death, and Scripture is fulfilled in the details surrounding His body (19:31–37, *also see 19:36 with Psalm 34:20 and Exodus 12:46, as well as 19:37 with Zechariah 12:10 and Revelation 1:7*). What do these details teach us about the reliability of God's Word and the certainty of Jesus' death?

2. John emphasizes that the one who saw these things has testified so that others may believe (19:35). Why is eyewitness testimony important to the Gospel's claim about Jesus?

3. Joseph and Nicodemus come forward to care for Jesus' body (19:38–42). What might their actions reveal about the way a person's relationship with Jesus can become more visible over time?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: How does the fulfillment of Scripture in Jesus' death strengthen your confidence in Who He is?

IN: How can Christian community encourage people to move from hidden or hesitant faith toward faithful obedience?

OUT: How can you share the truth about Jesus' death in a way that helps someone understand why it matters?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you about believing His Word and openly identifying with Jesus, and what is He inviting you to do?

CHALLENGE

Take one intentional step today to make your faith in Jesus visible through your words, choices, or actions.

*"...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)*

THURSDAY — John 20:1–10

JESUS IS ALIVE

Mary Magdalene discovers that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb and runs to tell Peter and the beloved disciple. They race to the tomb and find the linen cloths lying there, but Jesus' body is gone. The empty tomb marks a turning point: death has not had the final word, and the disciples begin to encounter the reality of Jesus' resurrection.

DISCUSS

1. Mary sees that the stone has been removed and immediately tells the disciples (20:1–2). What does her response reveal about how we react within our Christian community when God's work leaves us surprised, encouraged, doubtful, or with questions?

2. Peter and the beloved disciple enter the tomb and see the linen cloths lying there (20:3–8). What do the details of the empty tomb contribute to our understanding of the Resurrection?

3. The beloved disciple sees and believes, even though the disciples do not yet fully understand the Scripture about Jesus' resurrection (20:8–9). What can this teach us about believing before we understand everything?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does the empty tomb reveal about Jesus' power over sin and death?

IN: How can we help one another hold onto the hope of the Resurrection when life feels confusing or uncertain?

OUT: Who around you needs to hear that because Jesus is alive, death and despair do not have the final word?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you about the hope of the Resurrection, and where is He inviting you to believe Him even when you do not have all the answers?

CHALLENGE

Identify one area where you have been living without hope, and intentionally bring it before Jesus in light of the Resurrection.

FRIDAY — John 20:11–23

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Jesus and becomes the first to announce, “I have seen the Lord.” Later, Jesus appears to His disciples, speaks peace over them, shows them His wounds, and sends them just as the Father sent Him. The risen Jesus meets His followers in their grief and fear, gives them peace, and commissions them to carry His message into the world.

DISCUSS

1. Mary recognizes Jesus when He calls her by name (20:14–16). What does this encounter reveal about the personal relationship Jesus has with His followers?

2. Jesus comes to the disciples while they are behind locked doors and says, “Peace be with you” (20:19–20). How does the presence of the risen Jesus speak to fear, uncertainty, and the wounds we carry?

3. Jesus tells His disciples, “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (20:21). What does it mean for us to be sent by Jesus, and how should His mission shape our daily lives?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does the risen Jesus reveal about His power, His presence, and the peace He offers?

IN: How can we help one another experience the peace of Jesus when fear or uncertainty feels overwhelming?

OUT: Who needs to hear your testimony about Jesus, and what is one way you can carry His message to them?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you through the risen Jesus, and what fear, grief, or uncertainty is He inviting you to bring to Him?

CHALLENGE

Share one specific way Jesus has brought hope or peace into your life with someone who needs to hear the good news.