THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE — WEEK 13

The Gospel of John

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

John 20:24-31–21:25

20:24-31 — My Lord and My God! *That you may believe.*

21:1-4 — Back to Fishing. *Jesus reveals Himself again.*

21:5-8 — It is The Lord! *Jesus is recognized.*

21:9-14 — Come and Have Breakfast. *The third time Jesus is revealed.*

21:15-19 — Do You Love Me? *Jesus restores Peter.*

21:20-25 — What About Him? *Follow Jesus for yourself in community.*

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 20:24–31

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

Thomas struggles to believe that Jesus has risen from the dead until he can see and touch Jesus for himself. When Jesus appears, Thomas responds with one of the clearest confessions of faith in the Gospel: “My Lord and my God!” John explains that these things were written so that we may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name.

DISCUSS

1. Thomas says he will not believe unless he sees the wounds of Jesus for himself (20:24–25). What does Thomas’s response teach us about doubt and how we can bring our questions honestly before Jesus?

2. Jesus meets Thomas in his doubt and invites him to believe (20:26–29). What does Jesus’ response reveal about His patience with us, and what does it mean to believe even when we cannot see?

3. John explains that his Gospel was written so that we may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name (20:30–31). How does this purpose shape the way we read Scripture and respond to Jesus?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Thomas’s confession, “My Lord and my God,” reveal about who Jesus is?

IN: How can Christian community make room for honest questions while helping one another grow in faith?

OUT: Who in your life needs an opportunity to encounter the truth about Jesus and discover the life He offers?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you about your doubts or your faith in Jesus, and what is He inviting you to believe about Him?

CHALLENGE

Make your response to Jesus intentional today: tell Him in prayer what it means for you to call Him “My Lord and my God.”

MONDAY — John 21:1–4

JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF AGAIN

After the resurrection, Peter and several other disciples go fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. They fish throughout the night but catch nothing. As morning comes, Jesus stands on the shore, yet the disciples do not recognize Him. The scene begins with familiar routines, disappointing results, and Jesus' quiet presence before the disciples realize Who is near them.

DISCUSS

1. Peter tells the other disciples, "I am going fishing," and they join him (21:1–3). Why might we return to familiar routines when we are uncertain about what comes next? *Also, Luke 5 (Matt. 4 and Mark 1) record Jesus calling Peter and his first disciples out of the fishing boats to teach them to "fish for people." Why does that matter again here, at the end of John?*

2. The disciples fish throughout the night but catch nothing (21:3). What might their empty nets teach us about the limits of our own effort? *Luke 5:1-11 explains this is similar to how the journey began, showing that Jesus' work can only be accomplished with Jesus' help.*

3. Jesus stands on the shore, but the disciples do not recognize Him (21:4). What might cause us to overlook Jesus' presence in ordinary moments or disappointing seasons of life?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus' presence on the shore remind us about His faithfulness, even when we do not recognize Him?

IN: How can we help one another remain attentive to Jesus during seasons of uncertainty or disappointment?

OUT: Who around you may be discouraged or struggling to see hope, and how can you reflect the presence of Jesus to them?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you through the disciples' empty nets and Jesus' presence on the shore, and what is He inviting you to trust Him with?

CHALLENGE

Pay attention to one ordinary or disappointing moment today and intentionally ask how you might recognize Jesus' presence in it.

TUESDAY — John 21:5–8

JESUS IS RECOGNIZED

Jesus calls out to the disciples and asks whether they have caught anything. When they answer no, He tells them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. They obey and catch so many fish that they struggle to haul the net in. The beloved disciple recognizes Jesus, declaring, “It is the Lord!” Peter immediately moves toward Him.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus asks the disciples whether they have any fish, and they answer honestly that they have none (21:5). Why is it important to be honest with Jesus about our needs, failures, and limitations?

2. The disciples follow Jesus’ instruction and catch an abundance of fish (21:6). What does this moment teach us about trusting Jesus’ direction, even when we do not fully understand it? What does it teach us about Jesus’ call to us to “catch people” (Luke 5:10)?

3. The beloved disciple recognizes Jesus, and Peter immediately moves toward Him (21:7–8). What do their different responses reveal about recognizing Jesus and responding to Him?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does the miraculous catch reveal about Jesus’ authority, ability to provide, and, more important, His mission for all who call on His Name?

IN: How can we help one another listen to Jesus and respond faithfully to His direction?

OUT: Who might need to hear how recognizing Jesus has changed the way you respond to life’s challenges?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you about trusting His direction, and what is He inviting you to obey even when you cannot see the outcome?

CHALLENGE

Identify one area where you need to trust Jesus’ direction more than your own instincts, and take one practical step of obedience today.

WEDNESDAY — John 21:9–14

THE THIRD TIME JESUS IS REVEALED

When the disciples reach shore, they find Jesus beside a charcoal fire with fish and bread prepared. Jesus invites them to bring some of their catch and then calls them to come and eat. Although He has risen from the dead, Jesus meets His disciples in a simple, personal moment of fellowship. John notes that this is the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after being raised from the dead.

DISCUSS

1. The disciples arrive and find that Jesus has already prepared a fire, fish, and bread (21:9). What does this scene reveal about Jesus' care for His followers?

2. Jesus invites the disciples to bring some of the fish they have caught (21:10–11). What might this invitation teach us about the way Jesus involves His followers in His work?

3. Jesus says, "Come and have breakfast," and the disciples gather to eat with Him (21:12–14). What does this moment teach us about fellowship with Jesus and the importance of being with Him, not simply working for Him?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus' invitation to eat with Him reveal about His character and His desire to be with His people?

IN: How can shared meals and ordinary moments of fellowship strengthen our relationships with one another and with Jesus?

OUT: Who could you invite into a meal or a simple moment of connection as a way of showing them the welcome of Jesus?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you about being with Jesus rather than simply doing things for Him, and what is He inviting you to receive from Him?

CHALLENGE

Make intentional space to be with Jesus today, and invite someone else into a meaningful moment of fellowship.

THURSDAY — John 21:15–19

JESUS RESTORES PETER

After breakfast, Jesus asks Peter three times whether he loves Him. Each time Peter answers, Jesus calls him to care for His people: feed His lambs and tend His sheep. Jesus restores Peter after his three denials and entrusts him with responsibility. He then tells Peter that following Him will involve sacrifice and ends with a clear command: “Follow me.”

DISCUSS

1. Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love me?” and calls him to care for His sheep (21:15–17). What does this exchange teach us about the connection between loving Jesus and caring for the people He loves? Why does Jesus do this three times?

2. Jesus restores Peter after his denials and gives him responsibility to shepherd His people (21:15–17). What does Peter’s restoration teach us about grace, repentance, and being used by God after failure?

3. Jesus tells Peter that his future will involve suffering and then commands him, “Follow me” (21:18–19). What does it mean to follow Jesus faithfully when obedience comes at a cost?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Jesus’ restoration of Peter reveal about His grace, love, and faithfulness?

IN: How can we create a community where people can acknowledge failure, experience grace, and grow into faithful service?

OUT: Who might need to hear that failure does not have to define their future with Jesus?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you about your love for Jesus, your past failures, or the way you care for His people, and what is He inviting you to do?

CHALLENGE

Show your love for Jesus through one concrete act of care for another person today, even if it requires sacrifice.

FRIDAY — John 21:20–25

FOLLOW JESUS FOR YOURSELF IN COMMUNITY

As Peter follows Jesus, he turns his attention to the beloved disciple and asks what will happen to him. Jesus redirects Peter away from comparison and back to his own calling: “You follow me.” John concludes by affirming the testimony of the disciple who witnessed these events and emphasizing that Jesus did far more than could be recorded. The Gospel ends by calling us to believe in Jesus and faithfully follow Him with our entire lives.

DISCUSS

1. Peter asks Jesus about the future of the beloved disciple (21:20–21). Why are we often tempted to compare our lives, callings, or outcomes with those of other people?

2. Jesus responds, “What is that to you? You follow me!” (21:22). What does Jesus’ answer teach us about staying focused on our own calling within our community?

3. John concludes by affirming his testimony about Jesus and acknowledging that Jesus did many more things than could be written down (21:24–25). How does this ending reinforce the incredibly large purpose of the Gospel and call us to respond to Jesus in faith for more than we can even imagine?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does the conclusion of John’s Gospel remind us about the greatness of Jesus that’s beyond our imagination, and the importance of believing in Him completely with our entire lives?

IN: How can we encourage one another to follow Jesus faithfully without comparing our gifts, callings, or journeys?

OUT: How can your faithful, everyday obedience to Jesus become a testimony that points others toward Him?

INVITATION

What is God saying to you about comparison, distraction, or your personal calling, and what is He inviting you to release so you can follow Jesus more faithfully?

CHALLENGE

Identify one way comparison has distracted you from following Jesus, and take one intentional step this week to focus on the calling He has given you.