

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL · PRINT EDITION

Introduction to John

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 00 · September 6, 2026

John 20:31 (ESV)

“But 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.”

HOW THIS WORKS

- Five days, Monday through Friday – about ten minutes each. Every day has a prayer to open, a short reading, something to think about, one action step, and a prayer to close.
- Keep a pen with it. The lines are part of the devotional – what you write on Monday, you will come back to on Friday, and again on August 29, 2027.
- Prefer your phone? The same devotional is online each week at thesummit.life → The Gospel of John → Reading Plan.

THIS WEEK

Sunday introduced the man behind this Gospel: John, the last living eyewitness, writing fifty years later for people carrying questions they’d never said out loud. This week you’ll name your question, look through his eyes, into his mind, and into his heart – and get ready to open the book itself on Sunday.

DAY 1 · MONDAY

Why John Wrote

JOHN 20:30–31

Opening prayer

Lord, I'm starting a year in this book, and I don't want to start it from a distance. Before I read a single verse, I want to be honest with You about the questions I'm carrying. You already know them. Help me say them. Amen.

Sunday you heard three questions. Maybe one of them was yours. Does my life matter? Is there anything worth believing in? Is Jesus really who everyone says He is?

John wrote his Gospel for people asking exactly those questions. He was an old man when he wrote it – the last of the twelve still alive, fifty years after the events. He had no one left who could say “I was there” with him. So he wrote it down, and he told us why.

Read John 20:30–31 slowly, twice. Notice the two things John says he is proving: who Jesus is, and what happens to the person who believes. And notice verse 30 – there was far more he could have written. John chose. Every story you'll read this year is here on purpose.

Reflect

Which of the three questions is actually yours right now? And honestly – what are you hoping to get out of a year in this book?

Today's action step

Write your question – the one that's actually yours – on the lines above and on the first page of whatever you'll use for notes this year. Date it. On August 29, 2027, you're going to read it again.

Closing prayer

Father, thank You that John didn't keep it to himself. Here is my question. I'm not going to pretend I don't have it. Answer it this year, in Your way and Your time. Amen.

DAY 2 · TUESDAY

Through His Eyes

JOHN 1:14 · 1 JOHN 1:1–3

Opening prayer

Lord, I have a lot of ideas about what You're like. Some of them came from You. Some of them came from other places. Today I want to look at Jesus and let Him correct me. Amen.

Read John 1:14 and 1 John 1:1–3.

John was not a scholar writing from a library. He was a fisherman who was there – at the table, at the cross, at the empty tomb, on the shore. When he says “we have seen his glory,” he isn’t being poetic. He’s giving testimony.

And “his glory” means this: when John watched Jesus – touching lepers, weeping at a tomb, forgiving the men driving the nails – he was watching God Himself. Not a hint of God. Not a messenger from God. God, living in front of him. So you never have to guess what God is like. Look at Jesus. However He treated people is how God feels about you – gracious enough to love you as you are, truthful enough not to leave you that way.

Reflect

When you picture God, what do you see – distant, disappointed, busy, kind, close? Where did that picture come from? What might change if the picture were simply Jesus?

Today's action step

Read one of the seven signs today – try John 11:1–44. Don’t study it. Just watch Jesus. Write down one thing about how He treats people that you didn’t expect.

Closing prayer

Jesus, You are what God looks like. I've had other pictures in my head, and some of them have kept me from You. Replace them. This year, let me see You clearly enough that I stop guessing. Amen.

DAY 3 · WEDNESDAY

Into His Mind

EXODUS 3:13–14 · JOHN 8:56–59

Opening prayer

Lord, You are not a small God. Today I want to feel the weight of what Jesus claimed about Himself – and let it be as big as it actually is. Amen.

Read Exodus 3:13–14, then John 8:56–59.

Fifty years of reflection led John to one conclusion, and he puts it in his first sentence: Jesus is God. Then he shows you how Jesus said it Himself – seven times, with two words no Jewish listener could miss. I AM. The name from the burning bush. The crowd understood Him perfectly – when He said “before Abraham was, I am,” they picked up stones. Jesus was not misunderstood. He was heard exactly right.

And here is what He did with that name – He attached it to your need. When nothing satisfies: I AM the Bread of Life. When you can’t see the way: I AM the Light. When you’ve been shut out: I AM the Door. When you’re lost: I AM the Good Shepherd. When death comes: I AM the Resurrection. When you can’t get to God: I AM the Way. When you’re running dry: I AM the Vine.

Reflect

Which of the seven “I AM” statements names the need you actually have right now – not the one you think you should have? Write it below, then say it to Him: “I need You to be that for me.”

Today's action step

Copy your “I AM” statement onto a card or your phone lock screen. Carry it the rest of the week. When the need shows up, read it.

Closing prayer

Jesus, You are the I AM. You said You are the answer to the exact thing I’m missing. I’m taking You at Your word. Be that for me. Amen.

DAY 4 · THURSDAY

Into His Heart

JOHN 3:16–17 · JOHN 10:10

Opening prayer

Father, I've spent a lot of my life asking You to fix things. Today I want to hear what You actually came to do. Amen.

Read John 3:16–17 and John 10:10.

John never uses his own name in his Gospel. Five times he calls himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” After fifty years, that was the only thing about himself he thought was worth writing down. His motive was God’s motive: a love that gives. Not a love that waits until you clean up. God loved a world that was rejecting Him, and He gave His Son to it – not to condemn it, but to save it.

Jesus didn’t come to fix your life. He came to give you His. And His life never ends. It never fails. It starts the moment you believe. So this isn’t about a better life. It’s about His life. And it isn’t for later. It’s for now.

Reflect

When you pray, are you mostly asking Jesus to fix your life, or to give you His? Name one area below where you’ve been asking for a repair when He is offering a replacement.

Today’s action step

Tell one person – a spouse, a friend, someone in your group – “I’ve been asking God to fix this. I’m going to start asking Him for His life in it instead.” Saying it out loud makes it real.

Closing prayer

Jesus, I don’t want a better version of my life. I want Yours – the life that doesn’t run out, doesn’t depend on things going right, and can’t be lost by failing. Give it to me – not someday, today. Amen.

DAY 5 · FRIDAY

Prepare for Sunday

JOHN 1:1–5 · NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE

Opening prayer

Lord, on Sunday we open the book. I don't want to walk in cold. I want to walk in already listening. Speak to me today through five verses, so that on Sunday I'm not starting – I'm continuing. Amen.

Read John 1:1–5 – three times, slowly.

This is where John begins. Not with a birth, not with a baptism – with eternity. Before anything else existed, the Word was. And the Word was God. And in Him was life, and the life was the light of men. Verse five is the one to hold onto: the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Whatever darkness you wrote down on Monday – the question, the doubt, the thing you're carrying alone – it has not overcome the light. It can't.

Reflect

Go back to what you wrote on Monday. Read John 1:1–5 with that question in front of you. Then ask God one thing, and sit quietly for a minute: “Who do You say You are?” What came to mind?

Carry into Sunday

Bring your Monday question with you. Sit closer than usual. Come to hear John 1:1–5 preached as someone who has already lived in it – not to begin, but to go deeper.

Closing prayer

Father, I asked You who You say You are. I'm going to keep asking for a year. Thank You that You wrote the answer down. I'm in the room. I'm not watching from a distance. Amen.

COMING SUNDAY

Week 1 · In The Beginning was Jesus · John 1:1–5 · September 13, 2026