



the
gospel
of

JOHN

part two: *can He be trusted?*

PART 2: WEEK 5 READING PLAN

HYDRATION CHECK

WEEK OF MONDAY MAY 25TH, 2026
THROUGH SUNDAY MAY 31ST, 2026

JOHN 7:37-38

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON AND MEMORIZE THIS WEEK

*'Let anyone who is thirsty
come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me,
as Scripture has said,
rivers of living water will
flow from within them.'*

JOHN 7:37-38

Spend a few minutes each day reading this verse slowly. Let the words move from information to formation. Ask the Lord to reveal where you have been feeding your soul with temporary bread, and invite Him to satisfy the hunger only He can meet.

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEK OF MONDAY MAY 25TH 2026 THROUGH SUNDAY MAY 31ST 2026

HYDRATION CHECK

John 7 brings us into one of the most powerful and layered moments in John's Gospel. Jesus sends his disciples into Jerusalem ahead of him for one of Israel's most sacred religious holidays. The crowds are swelling, and the tension is rising. Jesus' words and actions have created a strong public reaction. His brothers do not believe in Him. Some of the religious leaders are looking for a way to kill Him. The crowds are divided over Him. Some think He is a good man because He healed them and gave them bread. Others think He is deceiving people. Some are impressed by His teaching. Others are suspicious of His authority. Everyone is talking about Jesus, but not everyone believes in Jesus.

That is one of the great ironies of John 7. People are surrounded by sacred things, yet many remain spiritually dehydrated. They are at the Feast of Tabernacles, remembering how God sustained Israel in the wilderness. They are near the temple, the place associated with God's presence. They are rehearsing the story of water from the rock and longing for the day when living water would flow from Jerusalem, and the Lord would reign as King over all the earth. Yet the Source of living water is standing among them, and many cannot see Him.

Jesus' invitation in John 7:37-38 is not merely encouragement for an oppressed people. It is a public, prophetic, kingdom announcement. On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus cries out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink." He is claiming to be the fulfillment of Israel's wilderness memory, temple hope, and prophetic longing. The life God promised is found in Him. And John tells us plainly that the living water Jesus promises is the Holy Spirit, given to those who believe after Jesus is glorified.

This week, we will reflect on thirst, false sources, the nearness of Christ, and the Spirit's work in making believers living temples of God's presence. We will ask where we are drawing from empty wells, what we are depending on that was never meant to sustain us, and who in our lives needs the living water that Jesus gives.

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

Thirst Tells the Truth

READ

John 7:1-18; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1; Acts 17:24-28

REFLECT

Thirst is one of the most honest visceral sensations in the human body. Thirst is the body's way of telling us something essential is missing. No matter how strong, disciplined, educated, successful, or spiritual we may appear, our bodies still need water from outside themselves to survive. We cannot think our way into hydration. We cannot achieve our way into hydration. We cannot will our bodies to live without receiving what life requires.

That physical truth points to a deeper spiritual reality. Life is dependent on a source outside itself. The soul was never designed to sustain itself. We were created to receive life from God. In John 7, Jesus says His teaching is not His own but comes from the One who sent Him. Even Jesus, in His earthly ministry, models perfect dependence on the Father. He does not live from self-promotion, self-glory, or self-direction. He acknowledges his very life comes from the Father.

Our culture often tells us to look within, trust ourselves, follow our hearts, and become our own source. But Scripture tells a different story. We are not self-sustaining creatures. In God, "we live and move and have our being." The problem is not that we thirst. The problem is that we often draw from wells that do not satisfy us and cannot sustain us. Approval, achievement, control, comfort, pleasure, money, success, and even religious activity can become empty wells when we ask them to give us what only God can provide.

QUESTIONS

- What are you depending on that was never meant to sustain you?
- How can you practice greater dependence on Jesus daily?

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

Empty Wells and Broken Cisterns

READ

John 7:14–24; Jeremiah 2:11–13; Isaiah 55:1–3; Matthew 11:28–30

REFLECT

Jeremiah gives us one of the most powerful images of the human condition. God says His people have committed two sins: they have forsaken Him, the spring of living water, and they have dug broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Their problem was not merely that they were thirsty. Their problem was that they abandoned the true source and created a poor substitute.

That image helps us better understand John 7. The people are near the temple. They are at the feast. They are surrounded by religious activity, shared memory, and sacred tradition. Yet many of them are still unable to recognize Jesus for who He is. They are judging by appearances. They are evaluating Him according to surface-level categories. They are talking about Him, debating Him, questioning Him, and resisting Him, but they are not receiving Him.

This can happen to us, too. We can participate in religious activities and still draw from empty wells. We can know Christian language and still be unsundered to Jesus. We can attend church and still keep Jesus at arm's length. We can serve in ministry and still depend on human approval. We can sing songs of worship and still never drink from the well that never runs dry. Jesus does not invite us to manage our image or dress up our empty wells. He invites us to come to Him and drink.

QUESTIONS

- What empty well are you most tempted to return to when your soul feels dry?
- Has your spiritual life (church attendance, serving, giving, Bible-reading, prayer, etc.) become more duty than delight?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

The Source Is Closer Than We Think

READ

John 7:25–29; John 1:10–14; Isaiah 12:1–6; Colossians 1:15–20

REFLECT

In John 7, the crowd thinks they know enough about Jesus to dismiss Him outright. They say, “We know where this man is from.” In other words, He seems too familiar, too ordinary, too explainable, too local, too common to be the One they are waiting for. They think their assumptions give them clarity, but their assumptions actually become a barrier.

Jesus responds by revealing that they do not understand His true origin. They know surface facts, but they do not know the Father who sent Him. They know His geography, but they miss His glory. They know where He has lived, but they do not recognize where He has come from. The Source they need is closer than they think, but they cannot see Him because He does not fit their expectations.

This is a searching word for us. Sometimes we miss Jesus not because He is absent, but because He is present in a way we did not expect. We want Him to come with immediate answers, dramatic signs, obvious timing, or circumstances that make sense to us. But John tells us that the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. God came near in Jesus. The question is whether we will recognize Him, receive Him, and come to Him for the life He freely offers.

QUESTIONS

- Are you still searching for what Jesus is freely offering?
- Where might you be missing Jesus because He is not showing up the way you expected?

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

Thirsty at the Feast

READ

John 7:30–39; Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 78:15–16; Isaiah 55:1

REFLECT

The setting of John 7 matters deeply. Jesus is speaking at the Feast of Tabernacles, a feast filled with memory and hope. Israel remembered the wilderness years, when God's people lived in temporary shelters and depended on Him for daily provision. They remembered manna from heaven and water from the rock. They remembered that freedom from Egypt did not mean independence from God. They were delivered, but they were still dependent.

The feast also looked forward. It carried longing for rain, harvest, renewal, restoration, and the day when God would fully dwell with His people. So when Jesus stands on the last and greatest day of the feast and cries out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink," He is not offering a random metaphor. He is standing at the center of Israel's story, saying that the life they remembered and the future they longed for are found in Him.

That makes the irony of the passage even stronger. They are at the feast, but many are still thirsty. They are remembering water from the past and longing for water in the future, yet the Source stands before them. This is the mercy of Jesus. He does not wait for thirsty people to fully understand before He invites them. He stands in the middle of our confusion, division, and resistance, and He cries out, "Come to me and drink."

QUESTIONS

- Are you near the things of God but not actually drinking deeply?
- What would it look like today to come to Jesus honestly with your thirst?

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

The River God Promised

READ

John 7:37-39; Zechariah 14:8-9; Zechariah 14:16-17; Ezekiel 47:1-12

REFLECT

The language of "living water" in John 7 is rooted in the prophetic hope of the Old Testament. Zechariah saw a day when living water would flow out from Jerusalem, and the Lord would be King over the whole earth. Ezekiel saw water flowing from the temple, beginning as a trickle and becoming a river no one could cross. Everywhere that river went, it brought life. Dead waters became fresh. Trees grew on both banks. Fruit came every month. Leaves brought healing.

These are not small images. They are pictures of new creation, kingdom restoration, and the life-giving presence of God. The prophets were looking ahead to the day when God would renew what was dead, heal what was broken, and reign fully over His creation. So when Jesus stands in Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles and speaks of living water, He stands within that prophetic hope.

Jesus is not merely offering water to thirsty people. He is revealing that the river God promised begins in Him. The life of the coming kingdom has entered the present through Jesus. The Source is closer than the crowd realizes because God has come near in Christ. This is why Christian hope is not wishful thinking. What God will one day do everywhere, He has already begun in Jesus.

QUESTIONS

- How does the promise of God's coming restoration give you hope during hard times?
- Where do you need to remember that what Jesus has started, He will finish?

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2026

Living Temples

READ

John 7:39; John 1:14-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:19-22

REFLECT

John does not leave the meaning of living water vague. He tells us plainly: "By this he meant the Spirit." The living water Jesus promises is the Holy Spirit, given to those who believe after Jesus is glorified. This means the river does not flow because humanity becomes more spiritual or earnest. The river flows because Jesus dies, rises, is exalted, and gives the Spirit to His people.

This is where the temple theme expands. In the Old Testament, God's presence dwelt in the tabernacle and temple. John begins his Gospel account by saying, in Jesus, the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. Jesus is the true Temple, the place where God's presence dwells bodily. But after Jesus is glorified, the Spirit comes to dwell in believers. The people of God become the temple of God's presence.

That is an astonishing calling. We are not the source. Jesus is the Source. The Spirit is the living water. But believers become the dwelling place through whom the life of Jesus is made visible in the world. This is not about becoming impressive. It is about becoming inhabited. The Spirit turns thirsty people into living temples, people through whom the presence, love, holiness, witness, mercy, and life of Jesus can flow into dry places.

QUESTIONS

- Who in your life needs the living water that Jesus gives?
- How can you be more open to the Spirit's invitation to make Jesus visible to others this week?

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

The River Will Renew All Things

READ

John 7:37-39; Revelation 21:1-7; Revelation 21:22-27; Revelation 22:1-5

REFLECT

In John 7, Jesus announces that the river has begun to flow. The book of Revelation, also written by John, gives us the final picture of where this river is going. John sees the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven, and he says there is no temple in the city because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. God dwells fully with His people. Then John sees the river of water flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Everywhere the river goes, it brings life. The tree of life stands on both sides of the river, and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. This is the fulfillment of Ezekiel's vision, Zechariah's promise, and Jesus' invitation. The river that begins in Jesus will one day renew all things.

Until that day, we still live in a thirsty world. But we do not live without hope. The kingdom has been inaugurated in Jesus, the Spirit has been given to God's people, and one day the river will fill the new creation with life. So we come to Jesus and drink. We receive the Spirit. And we carry the life of Christ into the world as a sign of what God will one day do everywhere.

QUESTIONS

- Do you believe that Jesus will one day bring healing to everything that's broken?
- How can that reality give you the hope you need today?