

4. You could examine this further by reading 'Who Moved the Stone?' by Frank Morison (STL) or 'The Easter Enigma' by John Wenham (Paternoster).

**Memory verse: 'Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent' (John 17:3, NIV).**

Look at your diary for this week. Do you only go to Christian events? In 17:15-16, Jesus prays we'll be protected in the world, not separated from it. Pray this for yourself and your Christian friends. If necessary, pray that you'll develop wider interests and avoid a holy huddle mentality. (Hang-gliding is taking off!)

### Weekend

1. Jesus promises his disciples they will not be left alone. The Holy Spirit will be sent to continue teaching them. What further work will the Spirit do? (John 14:15-31, 16:5-16). In order to answer this question fully read part 5 in either 'In Understanding be Men' by T. C. Hammond (IVP) or 'Know the Truth' by Bruce Milne (IVP).
2. We're often apologetic about our belief in the power of the Bible, but why defend a lion! Let it speak for itself. List the key passages and verses you would need to explain the gospel. What are the main points you need to make?

Review your memory verses, adding your own to the list. How about buying a friend an attractive presentation of John's Gospel - and discussing Jesus' claim with him or her?

(See <http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/niv-gospel-of-john-pb-3978800.html>)

### Notes



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### Meeting With God Bible Reading Notes

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### Week 19: John's good news (A bird's-eye view)

How would you have reacted if you had been a member of that proud and long-suffering Jewish race when Jesus came?

For years you've attended temple sacrifices and read the Torah waiting for the Messiah. Then this astonishing man Jesus appears, yet he doesn't quite fit the image. What's more, the educated religious authorities tell you he's a fake and the Romans execute him. Just how can a plain man know the facts?

John, the disciple, wrote down what he saw. Everything in his Gospel is designed to bring the inquiring reader, from all periods of history, to faith. It mainly comprises what Jesus said about himself and includes seven selected 'signs' to back up these claims. These are the facts and every person must come to terms with them. The aim in this week's study is to gain a view of the broad sweep of the Gospel, which requires more Bible reading than usual.

### Learning verses

Each of your studies this week contains a memory verse. This is because God commends memorizing and meditation (Joshua 1:8). Learning verses will help you to be accurate when you speak about Christ. In times of difficulty you will have God's Word in your mind to fight temptation or discouragement. Look at the context of the verse.

Then break the verse into phrases and learn the first one. When you're sure you know it, add the second and so on. From time to time revise them so they stay fresh in your memory. Perhaps you could enlist a friend's help and learn verses together.

When you have learnt the verse, meditate, so that the truth of Scripture will mould and shape your thinking. Otherwise, it can become a mechanical exercise. Consider the verse from every angle and restate it in your own words. Ask yourself questions about the verse and how it applies to you.

### Day 1. Could this be the Christ? – Samaritan claim

#### **John 1 - 4**

The Gospel begins with some stupendous statements about who Jesus is and his recognition by John the Baptist. He gathers his first followers and then begins his public ministry in the temple at Jerusalem.

1. List the different signs and testimonies that Jesus is the Son of God.

**Note:** 1:48 It was customary to read the Scriptures under a fig tree. 1:51 suggests that he was reading Genesis 28:12.

2. Write out in six or seven lines the message that Jesus brought. What is its significance for a world of suffering and sin?

**Memory verse:**

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16, NIV).***

**Pray** for those of your friends and family who have not yet understood who Jesus is and the great gift of salvation he offers.

### **Day 2. Testimony not valid – Pharisee challenge**

#### **John 5 - 8**

Jesus demands a reaction. He is not a person you can be indifferent towards because of the incredible deeds and even more amazing claims he makes. Jesus now returns to Jerusalem and to a people who almost immediately reject him.

1. Note down the things Jesus says about himself. On what authority does he make these claims?

**Note:** 7:2 'Tabernacles'. An eight-day harvest festival commemorating the exile.

2. Pick out the reasons why some people refuse to believe Jesus is God, (a) from what Jesus says, (b) from their own words. Is it possible to study Scripture and still fail to see the truth? (5:39-40).

**Memory verse: *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' (John 8:12, NIV).***

There will be people who make their decision about Jesus according to what you do and say. Pray that your deeds always live up to your words, and that your words are accurate and true to the gospel records.

'Out of the Saltshaker' by Rebecca Manley-Pippert (IVP) will give you helpful advice in this area.

### **Day 3. Lord, I believe – a blind man sees**

#### **John 9 - 12**

Meeting Jesus means you must make a choice. Yesterday, we saw that some people prefer to stay in darkness. Today, we meet others who gradually realize the implications of accepting him.

**Consider** questions 1, 2 or 3.

1. Chapters 9 and 11. What effect does meeting Jesus have on the blind man,

Mary, Martha and Lazarus? How are their lives changed?

2. Chapter 10. What makes a good shepherd? List the things Jesus will do for those who follow him.
3. Chapter 12. God wants all men to be saved. But what are the consequences of rejecting Jesus?

**Note:** 9:6 Jesus follows a medical custom to help onlookers understand.

**Memory verse: *'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die' (John 11:25-26, NIV).***

Has your life changed? Pray through Psalm 139:23-24, asking God to show you which parts of your life aren't under his Lordship.

### **Day 4. How can we know the way? – disciples query**

#### **John 13 - 16**

The days of public teaching are over. Jesus is with his disciples and must now prepare himself and them for the dramatic and shattering events that follow.

1. What does Jesus say about his own future?
2. Note down the examples, promises and commands he leaves his followers to act upon. How much do you put into practice?

**Note:** 13:1 'Passover' See Exodus 12:1-14. Now the 'Lamb of God' offers himself as the sacrifice. 13:23 refers to the author himself.

**Memory verse: *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you' (John 14:1-2, NIV).***

### **Day 5. What is truth? – Pilate confounded**

#### **John 17 - 21**

Jesus has accomplished everything he set out to do. God has spoken to man, through the Son. Before him now lies betrayal, a fixed trial and a cruel death. He leaves behind him a band of followers in a world which will be as hostile to them as it was to him.

1. Chapter 17. How does Jesus glorify God?
2. Why does Jesus have to die (a) according to his own view, (b) according to his enemies?
3. What evidence is there to prove to a sceptic that Jesus rose again?

**Note:** 17:12 refers to Judas. 20:6b-7 Jesus' body passed through the clothes without disturbing them. John realizes this.