

**Adult
Bible Study in
Simplified
English**

Study Guide

Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

WRITER

Christina Hargrove

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Study Guide Writer
Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!
Christina Hargrove, Prestonwood Baptist Church
Plano, Texas

Study Guide Editor
Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!
Janet Roberts, Prestonwood Baptist Church
Plano, Texas

Director
Office of Intercultural Ministries
Baptist General Convention of Texas
Patty Lane



Our cover photo was taken by Hannah Rose McIntire, a senior at John Brown University, of her beloved mother on vacation at Little Florida, Louisiana.

Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

Introduction

Many people do not believe. They do not believe television ads. They do not believe their leaders. They do not believe much at all. They want to see the truth. Is it easy for you to believe what others say? Do you ask them to show you that what they say is true before you will believe them?

John was one of Jesus' twelve special followers. John and his brother James were special to Jesus. He called them the "Sons of Thunder." John says he was "the follower whom Jesus loved." John was very close to Jesus while Jesus was going places and teaching people. He was also very close to Jesus as He died on the cross and after He rose from the dead. Jesus even asked John to take care of his mother, Mary, when He died.

John saw Jesus do many amazing things that were hard to believe. John saw Jesus turn water into wine, make sick people well, make blind people see, and even bring people back to life after they had died! John heard Jesus tell the people that He could do these amazing things because He was the Son of God. John heard Jesus say that He would give life now and forever in Heaven to people who believed. Many people did not believe

that Jesus was the Son of God. Like people today, it was hard for them to believe because they did not see what Jesus did or hear what Jesus said. So John wrote a book about what he saw and heard from Jesus. We call it "The Gospel of John". John says he wrote his book about the amazing things Jesus said and did so that we will know for sure that He is the Son of God who can give us life now and forever in Heaven (John 20:31). He wrote his book so that we would believe in Jesus and live!

As you read The Gospel of John, ask: do I believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Do I have life now and forever in Heaven?

About the Writer

Christina Hargrove graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in 2010. She is an experienced editor and first-time writer of Simplified English Bible Studies. She enjoys reading, writing, singing, and spending time with her husband, Chris, to whom she has been married for three-and-a-half years. They live and work in Dallas, TX.

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live

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The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live

Word List

Lesson 1

introduced: made one person or more known to another person or others

mystery: something that is not known or explained and makes people wonder

witness: a person who saw and tells others what they saw so others believe the truth

Lesson 2

confused: not sure what to think, not understood what is meant, mixed up in the mind, unclear

Pharisee: a Jewish proud religious law-keeper

Messiah: the person that God would send to save the Jewish people

Lesson 3

healthy: being well in the body, free from sickness.

miracle: a great and powerful work that only God can do

offended: to be angry or upset by what another person says or does

satisfy: to give all that is needed, a feeling of having all that you need, not needing more

Lesson 4

choice: the act of picking what is wanted from at least two things, decide on one, choose

enemy: the one who hates, harms and fights against another

freedom: being free or not under the control of another; not a slave or not in prison

slaves: people who are owned by another person or one who have no freedom at all, no choices

Lesson 5

parable: a short, simple story that teaches a special lesson, a picture-story

possessed: got power over; controlled by

survive: to do what is needed to live or not die

Lesson 6

glory: shining-greatness that belongs only to God

public: people as a group, everyone or many

resurrection: the act of coming alive again after being dead

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live

Word List

Lesson 7

commandment: a law or an order to be obeyed

example: a life or action that should be copied, model or pattern

private: of or for one person or a small group, not for everyone, not public

Lesson 8

evidence: something that shows or proves, or that gives a reason to believe, proof

ministry: the act or the time of serving others in their time of need

popular: liked or believed by many people

Lesson 9

community: a group of people who share life and believe in the same things or in the same person.

disciples: special followers of a teacher or leader, here the 12 special followers that followed Jesus

pruning: cutting off or cutting shorter the branches of a plant or tree which makes it healthy

Lesson 10

burial: put a dead body in a grave or tomb

crucifixion: kill a person by nailing or typing them to a cross made of wood in a “t” shape.

goal: an end that one tries to reach for a reason

sacrifice: the act of giving up one thing for someone else to have something, also the thing (person) that is given. Here, one life for another also Jesus who gave up His own life so others could live.

Lesson 11

calm: to help another go from fear, anger, or upset to quiet and full of peace

message: words sent from one person to another either by speaking or writing

recognize: to know again, someone or something heard or seen before

rollercoasters: a ride in a special kind of park that goes up very high and comes fast making the rider feel fun fear

Lesson 12

experienced: something done well because of being taught, doing it again and again, and working at it

humble: not full of pride, knowing how weak and not-perfect one is

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live

Word List

personal: about and for only one person,
not for a group or everyone

prophecy: something told about will
happen before it happens or about the future

purpose: for a reason, what one plans to do
or say

Lesson 13

impossible: something that is not possible,
something only God could do or make
possible

respond: to answer or to act as if in an
answer

virgin: a person who has never had sex

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live

Memory Verses

Lesson 1

“Life began by Him. His Life was the Light for men.” (John 1:4)

Lesson 2

“Jesus said to him, ‘For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the holy nation of God.’” (John 3:3)

Lesson 3

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry. He who puts his trust in Me will never be thirsty.’” (John 6:35)

Lesson 4

“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free for sure.” (John 8:36)

Lesson 5

“The robber comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I came so they might have life, a great full life.” (John 10:10)

Lesson 6

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies.’” (John 11:25)

Lesson 7

“I give you a new Law. You are to love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

Lesson 8

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:6)

Lesson 9

“I am the Vine and you are the branches. Get your life from Me. Then I will live in you and you will give much fruit. You can do nothing without Me.” (John 15:5)

Lesson 10

“Jesus took the sour wine and said, ‘It is finished.’ He put His head down and gave up His spirit and died.” (John 19:30)

Lesson 11

“But these are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. When you put your trust in Him, you will have life that lasts forever through His name.” (John 20:31)

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live *Memory Verses*

Lesson 12

“Jesus said, ‘If I want this one to wait until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.’” (John 21:22)

Lesson 13

“For God can do all things.” (Luke 1:37)

Adult Bible Study

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*The Gospel of John:
Believe in Jesus and Live!*

Lesson 1: In Him Was Life

Bible Text
John 1:1-18

Memory Verse

"Life began by Him. His Life was the Light for men." (John 1:4)

Word List

introduced: made one person or more known to another person or others

mystery: something that is not known or explained and makes people wonder

witness: a person who saw and tells others what they saw so others believe the truth

Think back to when you met someone important to you for the first time. Maybe you asked that person where they were from. Maybe you asked them if they were married or if they had children. Maybe you asked about what they did for their job or what they liked to do for fun. Did you know that this person would be special to you when you were first **introduced**?

John introduces us to Jesus by telling us who He is, who His family is, where He is from, and why He came. John tells us how

important Jesus is to our world and how special He can be as the Light in our lives.

In the Beginning (1:1-5)

John starts to introduce Jesus by telling us who He is. John does this by using other names for Jesus.

First, He calls Jesus "the Word." Just like words let us tell things to one another, Jesus is the Word that tells us about God. He is also the One that says God's words. John says that Jesus was with God when He created the world and that Jesus is God!

It is hard to understand how Jesus could be with God and be God with God at the same time. The Bible says that there is only one God. The Bible also says that God is Jesus' Father and Jesus is God's Son. Some people say that Jesus is not God. But the Bible says that Jesus is a man and is also God. He is not half a man and half God. He is all man and also all God. This is a **mystery**. John says more about this later.

A second meaning for Jesus' name "the Word" is that Jesus made the world. In the book of Genesis, God said words each day that created everything in the world. John tells us that Jesus is the Word! John says nothing was made without Jesus making it. Jesus made everything and everyone!

The next name John gives us for Jesus is "The Light." This name tells us part of why

Jesus came. Light helps us see in the dark. It helps us know where to go. If the light goes out, we don't know where to go. Many people in the world are sad, scared, sick, or lonely. They don't know where to go for help. The things that Jesus did and said in His life was the Light that showed people that they could go to Him for help. And John says that the Light has never been put out! His Light is still shining into the darkness of our world today.

A Witness to Introduce Jesus (1:6-9)

The next verses tell us about another man named John. This John was also called John the Baptist. He is not the same John who wrote the Gospel of John. John the Baptist was a special man who told God's words to people. John the Baptist wanted others to believe in Jesus! Because he wanted people to believe, he told them what God told him about Jesus. He was a **witness** about Jesus.

Many people listened to John the Baptist. He was well known for telling the truth to the people. Some people thought that John the Baptist was the Light. But he was not. John the Baptist only said the words that God gave him about Jesus. Jesus is the true Light. Jesus was the One that brought Light to people's lives.

Believe and You Will Be a Child of God (1:10-13)

John tells us more about Jesus by telling

us about who Jesus' family is.

He tells us that the people in the world that Jesus made didn't know Him. Even God's special people, the Jews, did not know Him. But others believed in Him. Jesus gave the people who believed in Him the right to be children of God. Jesus was able to do this because He is God. Jesus gives this right to people who believe in Him. Jesus will give this right to people who believe in Him.

John says that a person is God's child only if they believe in Jesus. No one is God's child when they are born. No one is God's child because of their family or their church. To be a child of God, you must believe that Jesus died on the cross because of your sins, when you do not obey God. You must believe that He came back from the dead. You must believe that He will give you life forever with God. When you believe these things, you become a child of God! When you are a child of God, you will be able to ask Jesus to help you when you are sad, scared, sick, or lonely. He will be the Light in your life!

Jesus is God In Human Flesh (1:14-18)

John already said that Jesus is God (verse 1). Now he tells us more about the mystery of Jesus being God and a human. He tells us where Jesus came from and why He came.

Christ is another name of Jesus. It is a

name that God's special people used for the ruler that they were waiting for from heaven. John says that Jesus, Who is God, came from heaven and became human. He had a body made of skin and bones. He lived in the world. He was also God. He showed people the shining-greatness that only belonged to God. John said He could only do this because He is God's Son and He is God.

John also says that Jesus was full of both loving-favor and truth at the same time. Before Jesus came, people had to follow many rules to know God. God had told His special people all of these rules through a man named Moses. Someone sins when they break these rules. Jesus never sinned. He was full of truth. He was also full of loving-favor. Loving-favor is when God gives us good things even though we have sinned. Jesus showed the most loving-favor of all when He died on the cross and came back from the dead. Jesus did this so that we would not have to follow special rules to know God. Now we only have to believe in Jesus to know God!

John finishes his introduction of Jesus with words from John the Baptist. John the Baptist said that Jesus came before him. This means that Jesus always existed because John had been born before Jesus. This is another way that we know that Jesus came down from heaven and is God.

But Jesus gave up life in heaven. He chose to live with people. He shared what He knew about God. He showed God's shining-greatness. He gave loving-favor and truth. Then Jesus died, rose again and went back to be with God. John says something amazing. He says no one has seen God's face. But we can know God when we know Jesus!

John will tell us about Jesus' life, what Jesus said and did. This will help us to know God, believe in Jesus, become God's children, and have life!

Things to Think About

1. How do you feel about Jesus being a man and also God?
2. What does a dark life look like?
3. How can you let Jesus be the Light in your life?
4. Tell about a time when you were shown loving-favor.

John 1:1-18

1 The Word (Christ) was in the beginning. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 He made all things. Nothing was made without Him making it.

4 Life began by Him. His Life was the Light for men.

5 The Light shines in the darkness. The darkness has never been able to put out the Light.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

7 He came to tell what he knew about the Light so that all men might believe through him.

8 John was not the Light, but he was sent to tell about the Light.

9 This true Light, coming into the world, gives light to every man.

10 He came into the world. The world was made by Him, but it did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him.

12 He gave the right and the power to become children of God to those who received Him. He gave this to those who put their trust in His name.

13 These children of God were not born of blood and of flesh and of man's desires, but they were born of God.

14 Christ became human flesh and lived among us. We saw His shining-greatness. This greatness is given only to a much-loved Son from His Father. He was full of loving-favor and truth.

15 John told about Christ and said, "I have been telling you about this One. I said, 'He is coming after me. He is more important than I because He lived before me.'"

16 From Him Who has so much we have all received loving-favor, one loving-favor after another.

17 The Law was given through Moses, but loving-favor and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 The much-loved Son is beside the Father. No man has ever seen God. But Christ has made God known to us.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*The Gospel of John:
Believe in Jesus and Live!*

Lesson 2: You Must Be Born Again

Bible Text

John 3:1-21

Memory Verse

"Jesus said to him, 'For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the holy nation of God.'" (John 3:3)

Word List

confused: not sure what to think, not understood what is meant, mixed up in the mind, unclear
Pharisee: a Jewish proud religious law-keeper
Messiah: the person that God would send to save the Jewish people

How can we know what happens after we die? This is an important question. When I was 18 years old, my grandmother died. She was a kind and giving person who believed in Jesus. My family and I were very sad. But we were not sad because we thought that we would never see her again. No, we were sad because we would not see her for a while.

We know that she went to heaven. We know that she is with Jesus! We know that we will see her again someday when we die. How do we know that she went to be with

Jesus? How do we know that when we die we will go to be with Jesus?

John writes about a **Pharisee** named Nicodemus. He went to Jesus at night. He asked Jesus these questions. And Jesus' answers surprised him. The answers may surprise you!

Born Again to My Mother? (3:1-8)

John says that Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He was in charge of making sure the Jewish people followed all of the special rules that God had given them. The Jews believed that God would give them life that lasts forever if they followed these rules.

John says that Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night. We do not know why he went at night. We know that many of the Pharisees did not like what Jesus was saying. We also know that Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus. Maybe Nicodemus did not want others to see him talking to Jesus.

Nicodemus told Jesus that he believed that God sent Him. He said he knew this because Jesus was doing powerful works. Jesus knew that he really wanted to know how to have life that lasts forever. So Jesus told him that a person must be born again to see the holy nation of God. The holy nation of God is another name for heaven and the time in the future when God will make Jesus the King over all the earth.

Nicodemus was **confused**. Like many other Jewish people, he hoped that Jesus was the **Messiah**. He thought that the holy nation of God was like a country for the Jews and Jesus would be their king. Was Jesus saying that Nicodemus had to go back into his mother's body and come out again? No one could do that! How would this help him get into the holy nation of God?

Nicodemus wanted to understand. He asked Jesus how this could happen. Jesus said that a person must first be born "of water." That is the normal way of being born. Next, a person must also be born of the Spirit of God. That would be a second birth or being born again. He said that only a person who is born again could get into the holy nation of God. There was no other way to get into the holy nation of God. Mothers give birth to new human lives. But the Spirit of God gives birth to new lives. Only the Spirit of God could make someone born again.

Jesus told Nicodemus not to be surprised. Jesus often used word pictures to help people understand hard things about God. He gave Nicodemus a word picture using the wind. We can't see it. We can't see where it comes from or where it goes, but we can hear it. We can see what it does when it blows. We also can't see the Spirit of God. But a person who is born again sounds different than before. We can see the Spirit of God in them

by the things that they do. They are like a new person. They have a new life from the Holy Spirit. This is what it means to be born again!

I'm Still Confused (3:9-13)

Nicodemus said he was still confused. He asked Jesus how to be born again. Jesus knew why he was confused. It was because he didn't believe in Jesus. Nicodemus already said he believed that God sent Jesus. But he did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. He did not trust in Jesus. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to believe the things that He said about God and heaven, so He told Nicodemus who He was.

Jesus told Nicodemus that He knew these things for sure. He knew because He saw it for Himself. Then He said that no one has gone into heaven. This meant that no one had seen what was happening in heaven. Then He said that the only One who had gone into heaven was the same One who came from heaven. He said that the One who came from heaven was the Son of Man. This is another name for the Messiah. Since Jesus knew about the Spirit of God by seeing it for Himself, He must have gone into heaven. The only person who had gone into heaven was the Messiah. Jesus was the Messiah!

For God So Loved (3:14-18)

Jesus told Nicodemus He was the Messiah who came from heaven. Then He

told Nicodemus why He came. To help Nicodemus understand why He came, Jesus said He had to be lifted up like the snake that Moses lifted up in the desert.

Nicodemus knew the story of this snake. God had wanted to give His people a special land. They did not believe God. They were being punished. Snakes were biting and killing many people. Moses prayed to God for help. God told Moses to make a snake out of bronze. He told Moses to put it up on a pole and anyone who looked up at the snake would live. Moses did what God said. The people who trusted God looked up and lived! (Numbers 21:4-9) Jesus said He had to be lifted up just like the bronze snake. People who trusted in Him would not only be saved from death, they would have life that lasts forever!

God loves us so much that He sent Jesus who is His only Son. He said that if a person trusts in Jesus, Jesus saves him or her from being punished for sin. People who put

their trust in Jesus are not guilty of their sins. People who don't trust in Jesus are guilty.

The Light of the World (3:19-21)

Jesus gave another word picture. Jesus said that He is the Light. Light shines in darkness. He said that His Light shows if people are guilty of sin or not. Jesus never sinned. We are all sinful. We love darkness because it hides our sin. We hate light because it shows our sin. Jesus wants us to trust in Him. Then we can be born again and have life that lasts forever after we die!

Jesus was lifted up on the cross. He took the punishment of sins for us. Nicodemus helped take Jesus' body down from the cross after He died. He did not wait until night to do it. Many people could see him. This is very different from how he acted before. We can see that someone is born again when they act different than they did before. Maybe this shows us that Nicodemus was born again!

Things to Think About

1. Have you ever wanted to talk to someone without anyone seeing you? What did you do?
2. Tell about a time when you were confused about what someone said.
3. Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son?
4. Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from the punishment of sin?
5. Will you be with Jesus when you die? Ask your teacher if you are not sure.

John 3:1-21

1 There was a man named Nicodemus. He was a proud religious law-keeper and a leader of the Jews.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Teacher, we know You have come from God to teach us. No one can do these powerful works You do unless God is with Him.”

3 Jesus said to him, “For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the holy nation of God.”

4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? How can he get into his mother’s body and be born the second time?”

5 Jesus answered, “For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit of God, he cannot get into the holy nation of God.

6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 “Do not be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows where it wants to and you hear its sound. You do not know where it comes from or where it goes. It is the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit of God.”

9 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can this be?”

10 Jesus said, “Are you a teacher among the Jews and do not know these things?

11 For sure, I tell you, We are talking about things We know. We tell of what We have seen. Yet you do not take Our words to be true.

12 I tell you about things of the earth and you

do not believe them. How will you believe if I tell you things about heaven?

13 “No one has gone up into heaven except the One Who came down from heaven. That One is the Son of Man *Who is in heaven.

14 As Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up.

15 Then whoever puts his trust in Him will have life that lasts forever.

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Whoever puts his trust in God’s Son will not be lost but will have life that lasts forever.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to say it is guilty. He sent His Son so the world might be saved from the punishment of sin by Him.

18 Whoever puts his trust in His Son is not guilty. Whoever does not put his trust in Him is guilty already. It is because he does not put his trust in the name of the only Son of God.

19 “The Light has come into the world. And the Light is the test by which men are guilty or not. People love darkness more than the Light because the things they do are sinful.

20 Everyone who sins hates the Light. He stays away from the Light because his sin would be found out.

21 The man who does what is right comes to the Light. What he does will be seen because he has done what God wanted him to do.”

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

Lesson 3: The Bread of Life

Bible Text

John 6:25-51

Memory Verse

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry. He who puts his trust in Me will never be thirsty.'"

(John 6:35)

Word List

healthy: being well in the body, free from sickness.

miracle: a great and powerful work that only God can do

offended: to be angry or upset by what another person says or does

satisfy: to give all that is needed, a feeling of having all that you need, not needing more

Think of a time when you were very hungry. Maybe you were at your job without time for lunch. Maybe you were trying to be **healthy** by eating less. Maybe you didn't have enough money to buy food. How did you feel about being hungry? Maybe you were sad. Maybe you were angry. Now think about how you felt when you were able to eat. Maybe

you were happy because you were able to feel full. Maybe you were still sad or angry because you did not get to eat much. Maybe you were glad to have any food at all. What happened after that? Later, you were hungry again. No one can ever be so full that they will not feel hungry again. Food gives us energy, but we have to keep eating it to live!

John tells us about a time that Jesus said He could **satisfy** a person so that they would never be hungry again! How is that possible? What did He mean?

Looking for a Sign (6:25-34)

Jesus taught about 5,000 men. There were probably also women and children there. He taught them until late in the day. The people got hungry. They did not have food to eat. There was a boy there with five loaves of bread and two fish. It was not enough for everyone. Then Jesus did a **miracle**. He thanked God for the fives loaves and two fish. Then He fed all the people until they were full! There was a lot of food left over!

The people were very happy. They wanted to make Jesus their king right away. Jesus went up to a mountain. His special followers waited for Him until it was late. He did not come down. So they got into a boat to cross the lake. A storm came. Then Jesus did another miracle. He walked on the water! He walked all the way out to the boat, then got in

it. That's when the storm stopped. Jesus went with his special followers to the other side of the lake.

The people found Jesus there. These were the people He had fed earlier. They asked Him "when did you get here?" They did not see Him get on the boat. They did not understand how He got there. They did not believe that He was the Son of God.

Jesus knew why they were looking for Him. They wanted Him to feed them again. They had eaten all they wanted the day before. Now they were hungry again. Jesus said they should not work so hard just to eat food and feel full. That feeling would not last. Jesus said they should work for food that would last forever. He said that He would give them this kind of food. God showed them by the miracles that Jesus had the power to do this.

The people asked Jesus what kind of work God wanted them to do. They thought that they had to work hard so that God would give them food that lasts forever. Jesus told them that they only had to do trust in Him. The people thought that Jesus might be wrong. They did not trust Him. They thought the food that Jesus was talking about was like the special bread from heaven that God sent to the Jews while they were living in the desert. The people wanted Jesus to do a miracle that would give them bread that they could eat.

But Jesus was not talking about bread

that the people could eat. He reminded them that Moses was not the one that gave them bread to eat. No, it was God. Jesus said the true Bread from heaven was not food at all. It was a person! It was the One who came down from heaven. The true Bread was Jesus!

Now the people understood that Jesus was not talking about real food that would last forever to fill up their stomachs. They knew He was talking about someone that God had sent. They did not know who it could be. They asked Jesus to give them true bread.

I Am What You're Looking For (6:35-40)

Jesus told the people "I am the Bread of Life." Moses had once asked God what he should say to the Jews when asked God's name. God told Moses to say His name was "I AM" (Exodus 3:13-14). When Jesus said, "I am..." He said that He was God. He said that anyone who came to Him would never be hungry or thirsty again. He was not talking about satisfying their hunger for food or their thirst for water. He was talking about satisfying their real needs and giving them life forever in heaven with Him.

Jesus then said that they had seen Him do many miracles. They still did not trust Him. He told them they could trust Him. They could trust Him because He would accept anyone who came to Him. They could trust Him because He was from heaven. They

could trust Him because God was the One that sent Him. They could trust Him because He was only doing what God told Him to do and nothing else. They could trust Him because God wants everyone to believe in Jesus and have life that lasts forever!

Not What We Were Expecting (6:41-51)

Some of the Jewish people were angry because He said, “I am the Bread of Life.” They were **offended** because Jesus was calling Himself God. They did not believe that He was God. They knew his mother Mary. They believed that He was the son of Mary’s husband, Joseph the Carpenter. They thought that He could not have come down from heaven since He had been born as a baby.

Jesus knew that the people were saying bad things about Him. He told them not to. He told them that God sent Him. He said no one would trust Him unless that’s what God wanted that person to do. Jesus said again that He would give life that lasts forever to anyone that trusted Him. He said anyone who learns from God trusts in Him. Jesus also said

He is the only One that has seen God. He is the only One anyone can be trust to truly give life that lasts forever!

Jesus then said why He called Himself the Bread of Life. The Jews who lived in the desert had the special bread that came from heaven. They died. When a person trusts in Jesus to meet his or her real needs, that person will live forever! Jesus is the Living Bread. He said that the Bread is His body. He would give His body for the life of the world. He did this when He was beaten, nailed to and died on the cross for our sins. He did not mean that anyone should really eat His body. He meant that anyone who trusted in Jesus would have life!

People become sad, sick, scared, and lonely. We try to satisfy these needs in many different ways without Jesus. These ways lead to sin and death. Only Jesus can satisfy these needs. When we trust Him to meet our needs, we can have life now and forever!

Things to Think About

1. Why was Jesus able to do miracles?
2. Do you believe that Jesus came from heaven? Why or why not?
3. What do you do when you are sad, sick, scared, or lonely?
4. Are you ready to trust Jesus to satisfy your real needs? If so, tell your teacher!

John 6:25-51

25 The people found Him on the other side of the lake. They said to Him, “Teacher, when did You come here?”

26 Jesus said to them, “For sure, I tell you, you are not looking for Me because of the powerful works. You are looking for Me because you ate bread and were filled.

27 Do not work for food that does not last. Work for food that lasts forever. The Son of Man will give you that kind of food. God the Father has shown He will do this.”

28 Then the people said to Him, “What are the works God wants us to do?”

29 Jesus said to them, “This is the work of God, that you put your trust in the One He has sent.”

30 They said to Him, “Can You show us some powerful work? Then we can see it and believe You. What will You do?”

31 Our early fathers ate bread that came from heaven in the desert. This happened as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32 Then Jesus said to the people, “For sure, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven. My Father gives you the true Bread from heaven.

33 The Bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 They said to Him, “Sir, give us this Bread all the time.”

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry. He who puts his trust in Me will never be thirsty.

36 I said to you that you have seen Me and yet you do not put your trust in Me.

37 All whom My Father has given to Me will come to Me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to Me.

38 I came down from heaven. I did not come to do what I wanted to do. I came to do what My

Father wanted Me to do. He is the One Who sent Me.

39 “The Father sent Me. He did not want Me to lose any of all those He gave Me. He wants Me to raise them to life on the last day.

40 He wants everyone who sees the Son to put his trust in Him and have life that lasts forever. I will raise that one up on the last day.”

41 The Jews talked among themselves against Him. They did not like it because He said, “I am the Bread that came down from heaven.”

42 They asked each other, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know His father and mother. How can He say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

43 Jesus said to them, “Do not talk among yourselves against Me.

44 The Father sent Me. No man can come to Me unless the Father gives him the desire to come to Me. Then I will raise him to life on the last day.

45 The early preachers wrote, ‘They will all be taught of God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Me.

46 No one has seen the Father. I am the only One Who has seen Him.

47 For sure, I tell you, he who puts his trust in Me has life that lasts forever.

48 I am the Bread of Life.

49 Your early fathers ate bread that came from heaven in the desert. They died.

50 But this is the Bread that comes down from heaven. The one who eats it never dies.

51 I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this Bread, he will live forever. The Bread which I will give is My flesh. I will give this for the life of the world.”

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*The Gospel of John:
Believe in Jesus and Live!*

Lesson 4: The Truth Will Set You Free

Bible Text

John 8:31-47

Memory Verse

"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free for sure." (John 8:36)

Word List

choice: the act of picking what is wanted from at least two things, decide on one, choose

enemy: the one who hates, harms and fights against another

freedom: being free or not under the control of another; not a slave or not in prison

slaves: people who are owned by another person or one who have no freedom at all, no choices

Many people today want to have **freedom**. In the United States, we have many freedoms. We have the freedom to say what we want to say. We have the freedom to gather together. We have the freedom to worship God. People come to the United States from all over the world. Many of the people who come here are from countries that don't have as much freedom. Sometimes, people come to the United States looking for freedom.

True freedom can't be given to anyone by a country. John wrote in his book what Jesus said about how to have true freedom.

What Real Freedom Looks Like (8:31-36)

John wrote about a time that Jesus was in Jerusalem. The Jewish people had a special feast called the Feast of Tabernacles. This celebrated the time when the Jews lived in the desert and God took care of them. Every Jewish man was supposed to come to Jerusalem for this feast. This included Jesus. Jesus obeyed God and went to Jerusalem for this feast.

In Jerusalem, He was talking to some of the Jewish people who agreed with what He was teaching. He told them that they should trust in Him by following His words and obeying them. He said that would show that they really believed in Him and were truly His followers. Then He said that His followers would know the truth and the truth would make them free.

The Jewish people told Jesus that all their people came from one man, Abraham, a long time ago. They said that they had not been servants to anyone. They said they had always been free. But this was not true. The Jewish people had been **slaves** in Egypt. Then God sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt. God did many miracles for the Jewish people when He set them free. Now, God had sent

Jesus to give them life. Jesus told them that anyone who sinned was a slave to sin. Sin is like the person in charge of a slave who holds onto them. It is like that person is tied up with a rope or a chain. A person is not able to stop sinning without help.

A slave did not live in the house with the person in charge. Only the family of the person in charge lived with him in the house. Jesus said that a slave to sin could not come into God's house. God's son, Jesus, was already in God's family. He could make a person free from sin. He would do this when they believed and trusted in the truth that He is God. Then that person would not be a slave anymore. That person would also get a great gift. God would let them go into the house. They would be a part of God's family! That is what real freedom looks like!

Following God the Father (8:37-42)

Jesus did not want the Jewish people to be confused about how to be free. Jesus wanted all of the Jewish people to believe in Him so they would be free from sin. They would be a part of God's family. He told the Jewish people that He knew they were born into the family of Abraham on earth. He said they had a different father. They were trying to kill Him because He was saying that He was God. His word made them very angry. It was the truth. Jesus said that trying to kill him showed that they did not believe in His word in their

hearts. He said that He only said the things that He saw and heard from His Father, who is God. That is what a child of a father does. He said that what the Jewish people were doing was what they saw their father do.

The people were confused. They told Jesus again that Abraham was their father. Jesus was very clear with them. A child does what their parents show them how to do. Jesus told the Jewish people that they were showing they were not Abraham's real children because they wanted to kill Him. Jesus had only told them the truth that He heard from God. Abraham had never tried to kill someone who told Him the truth from God. Abraham had faith in God. The Jewish people were not showing the same faith that Abraham had. Jesus said that trying to kill Him was the work of their true father, not God.

Now the Jewish people were angry. They were God's special people. Jesus was saying that they were acting like their real father was not God. He said that they were acting like they were children of parents who were not faithful in marriage. The Jewish people told Jesus that they were God's true children. They said they did not have any Father other than God. Jesus told them again that they were showing that they had a different father. He said that if God were their Father then they would love Jesus, His Son

because He came from God and was only doing what God told Him to do.

Following the Father of Lies (8:43-47)

Jesus still wanted the Jewish people to understand the truth about their sin. They did not believe that they were slaves. They did not believe that they needed Jesus to make them free. Jesus clearly told them what He meant about their real father.

Jesus first asked the people why they did not understand what He was saying. Then He answered His own question. He told them that they didn't understand because they did not want to hear what He was teaching them. They did not want to hear about how to not sin. They did not want to hear about how to have life that lasts forever. He told them that their real father was God's **enemy**, the devil. They wanted to do what the devil told them to do, keep on sinning. They wanted to kill Jesus because the devil had always been a killer. Jesus said that the devil has no truth in Him. He is a liar. He is the father of lies.

Jesus said that the people didn't trust Him because He told them the truth they did not want to hear. Jesus asked if they could say He was guilty of sin. He asked that because anyone who said He had sinned would be lying. This would show that the devil, who is a liar, was their real father. Jesus then asked why they didn't believe the truth that He told them. He said that someone who was born of God would believe God's word. They did not believe because they were not born again.

The Jewish people thought that they were free because of the country that they came from. They thought that they were free because of the people that they were related to. Many people think the same things today. But Jesus tells us the truth. We have a **choice**. We can stay a slave to our sin or we can believe the truth that Jesus is God's Son and do what He said to do. Then Jesus will make us free children of God. What choice will you make?

Things to Think About

1. Did you have freedom in the country that you are from? Why or why not?
2. Tell about a time that you sinned and felt like you were not free.
3. Why does a child do what their parents show them how to do?
4. Will you choose to be free and be a child of God? Ask your teacher how you can make this choice.

John 8:31-47

31 He said to the Jews who believed, “If you keep and obey My Word, then you are My followers for sure.

32 You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”

33 They said to Jesus, “We are children of Abraham. We have never been servants to anyone. What do you mean when You say, ‘You will be free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “For sure, I tell you, everyone who sins is the servant of sin because sin has a hold on him.

35 And the servant does not belong in the house. The son belongs in the house.

36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free for sure.

37 “I know that you are the children of Abraham. But you want to kill Me because My Word is not in your hearts.

38 I speak of what I saw when I was with My Father. You do what you have seen your father do.”

39 They said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said, “If you were children of Abraham, you would do what he did.

40 I am a Man Who has told you the truth as I heard it from God. Now you are trying to kill Me. Abraham never did anything like that.

41 You are doing the works of your father.”

They said to Him, “We were born of parents who were faithful in marriage. We have one Father. He is God.”

42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your father, you would love Me. I came from God. I did not come on My own, but God sent Me.

43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you do not want to hear My teaching.

44 The devil is your father. You are from him. You want to do the sinful things your father, the devil, wants you to do. He has been a killer from the beginning. The devil has nothing to do with the truth. There is no truth in him. It is expected of the devil to lie, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 I tell you the truth and that is why you do not put your trust in Me.

46 Which one of you can say I am guilty of sin? If I tell you the truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 Whoever is born of God listens to God’s Word. You do not hear His Word because you are not born of God.”

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

Lesson 5: A Great Full Life

Bible Text

John 10:1-21

Memory Verse

"The robber comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I came so they might have life, a great full life." (John 10:10)

Word List

parable: a short, simple story that teaches a special lesson, a picture-story

possessed: got power over; controlled by

survive: to do what is needed to live or not die

What is your favorite food? Mine is chocolate. I like to eat, drink, and smell chocolate. Sometimes I think about what my life would be like without chocolate. I would miss it. I would feel sad. I might be unkind to others because I was sad. I think I might feel like my life was not as full.

John writes about how Jesus told two picture stories to help us understand how to have a truly great full life. He teaches us that we can only have a great full life by believing and trusting in Him!

Follow the Shepherd (10:1-6)

Jesus was in Jerusalem. He had healed a man who was born blind. What a miracle! That man was able to see again!

Then He was teaching the Jewish people. Sometimes, Jesus used picture-stories to help people understand hard things about God. A picture-story is also known as a **parable**. He told them this parable to help them understand who He was and how they could trust Him.

The parable was about sheep and shepherds. The shepherd is the person who takes care of the sheep. Sometimes the shepherd is a member of the family that owns the sheep. The shepherd has a very important job. Sheep are not very smart. They do not know how to **survive** on their own. They do not know how to find food, water or shade. They do not know how to keep themselves safe from other animals. The shepherd stays with the sheep all day. He leads them to water, green grass, and shade where they can lie down. He keeps them safe from animals.

The Jewish people knew a lot about sheep. There were many sheep-pens in their country. A sheep-pen was made up of rocks that were built like a wall. There was only one opening in the wall to get into the sheep-pen. This was the door. More than one shepherd would put their sheep in the same pen. Someone would have the job of watching the

sheep in the sheep-pen. This person would know each shepherd who put his sheep inside. In the morning, the shepherd would come and call his sheep. Only that shepherd's sheep would follow him out the door! No one else's sheep would go out! This is because sheep know their shepherd well. They know his voice. They trust him. They will not follow anyone else. They will run away instead.

Jesus said that a person who went into the sheep-pen by climbing over the wall was there only to steal the sheep. This is because the person watching the sheep-pen would not let anyone in but the shepherd. Only the shepherd could call his sheep out. Jesus was saying that He was like the shepherd and His followers were like the sheep. Jesus' followers trusted Him and they followed Him. They would not follow anyone else. They would not do what anyone else said.

Watch Out for Robbers! (10:7-10)

But the Jewish people did not understand Jesus' first parable. So Jesus told another parable about sheep and shepherds to help them understand who He was. Jesus said, "I am the Door of the sheep." When He said, "I am," He was using the Jewish people's special name for God again. This is like when He said, "I am the Bread of Life." They knew that He was saying that He was God.

Jesus said that others who came before Him were like robbers who would try to take the sheep over the wall and out of the sheep-pen. Jesus might have been talking about the Pharisees. Jesus said that the sheep did not do what the robbers said. Jesus may have been saying that the Pharisees wanted people to try to be saved from the punishment of sin without following Him. They wanted people to follow them and their rules. But the people who had faith that God would send the Messiah did not listen to them.

Jesus said that only people who went through Him would be saved from the punishment of sin. Just as there was only one door to a sheep-pen, there was only one way to find life. Jesus came to give people a great, full life! We should not follow anyone else or believe when they tell us that there is a different way to be saved from the punishment of sin.

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep (10:11-18)

Jesus then told another parable about sheep and shepherds to help them understand that they could trust Him. He said, "I am the Good Shepherd", using the words "I am" again. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. An animal, like a wolf, would come to try to kill the sheep. A good shepherd would fight and save the sheep. A paid shepherd, not the owner, would run away

when a wolf came. He would not care about saving the sheep. Jesus knows His sheep and His sheep know Him. He knows His followers and His followers know Him. Jesus knows His Father, God, the same way that God knew Him. Jesus can be trusted because He is the Son of the Owner. He gives His life for the sheep. Jesus did this when He died on the cross! He gave His life so that His followers would be saved from the punishment of sin.

Jesus told the people that He had other sheep from a different sheep-pen. He was talking about people from all over the world who would believe in and follow Him. He said He would bring all the sheep together, making them one flock. He would be their shepherd, which is happening in all the world.

Jesus then told them that God loved Him because He would give His life on His own. No one was going to take it from Him. Then He would take it back again! God had given Him the right and power to take His

life back after giving it. Jesus was telling them that He would rise from the dead after dying on the cross. He would do this to show that He was God's beloved Son. Then people would know that they could trust in Him as God!

Choosing a Great Full Life (10:19-21)

Some of the Jewish people still did not understand. Some of them said that Jesus must have been **possessed** by a demon. They heard what Jesus said and saw the miracles Jesus did. They chose not to believe.

Others made a different choice. They said that someone possessed by a demon would not talk like Jesus. A possessed person would not talk about loving God, loving others, and giving His life for them. A possessed person would not do helpful miracles like healing a blind man. They heard what Jesus said and saw the miracles that Jesus did. They chose to believe. They chose to trust in Jesus. They became one of His sheep. Jesus would give them a great full life!

Things to Think About

1. Do you think you are like a sheep? Why or why not?
2. Who do you think wants to lead people away from Jesus?
3. How do you feel about Jesus giving His life for you?
4. Will you choose to follow Jesus to a great full life?

John 10:1-21

1 “For sure, I tell you, the man who goes into the sheep-pen some other way than through the door is one who steals and robs.

2 The shepherd of the sheep goes in through the door.

3 The one who watches the door opens it for him. The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and he leads them out.

4 When the shepherd walks ahead of them, they follow him because they know his voice.

5 They will not follow someone they do not know because they do not know his voice. They will run away from him.”

6 Jesus told this picture-story to them. Yet they did not understand what He said.

7 Again Jesus said to them, “For sure, I tell you, I am the Door of the sheep.

8 All others who came ahead of Me are men who steal and rob. The sheep did not obey them.

9 I am the Door. Anyone who goes in through Me will be saved from the punishment of sin. He will go in and out and find food.

10 The robber comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I came so they might have life, a great full life.

11 “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

12 One who is hired to watch the sheep is not the shepherd. He does not own the sheep. He

sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep. He runs away while the wolf gets the sheep and makes them run everywhere.

13 The hired man runs away because he is hired. He does not care about the sheep.

14 “I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me.

15 I know My Father as My Father knows Me. I give My life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep which are not from this sheep-pen. I must bring them also. They will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock with one shepherd.

17 “For this reason My Father loves Me. It is because I give My life that I might take it back again.

18 No one takes my life from Me. I give it by Myself. I have the right and the power to take it back again. My Father has given Me this right and power.”

19 Because of what He said, the Jews did not agree in their thinking.

20 Many of them said, “He has a demon and is crazy. Why listen to Him?”

21 Others said, “A man who has a demon does not talk this way. Can a demon open the eyes of a blind man?”

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*The Gospel of John:
Believe in Jesus and Live!*

Lesson 6: The Resurrection and the Life

Bible Text

John 11:17-44

Memory Verse

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies.'"

(John 11:25)

Word List

glory: shining-greatness that belongs only to God

public: people as a group, everyone or many

resurrection: the act of coming alive again after being dead

It is hard to lose someone we love to death. But it happens to everyone. I lost my grandmother and aunt. My husband lost all of his grandparents. Some people have lost good friends. Some people have no family alive. Someday we will lose our parents. Someday we all will die. It is hard to think about not having someone we love in our lives anymore. We cannot talk to them when we want to. We cannot go see them when we want to. Death is an ending. It is an ending to how our life was before that person died. Our lives will never

be quite the same again. This is something everyone who has lost someone knows.

This sad ending is what makes Jesus' last **public** miracle so amazing! John writes about it in his book to show us that Jesus is God and that we can trust in Him. He has power even over death!

When Jesus Comes Too Late (11:17-32)

Jesus went to the city of Bethany where his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus lived, but He stayed just outside of town. Martha met him there. She and her sister Mary had asked Him to come days before. Their brother Lazarus had been very sick. Jesus had not come. Now it was too late. Lazarus had already died! He had already been dead four days when Jesus finally came. This was important to the Jewish people. They believed that a person's soul went away from their body after four days. They believed that Lazarus could not be saved anymore.

Martha was very sad. She may have been angry with Jesus. She did still believe in Him. She told him that she knew He could have saved Lazarus if He had come while he was still sick. She said that she knew God would still do whatever He asked. She was saying that she still trusted Him even though He had not come when she asked. She knew He loved her brother, too.

Jesus wanted to comfort her. He said

her brother would rise again. She told Jesus that she knew her brother would live again someday. Lazarus had trusted in Jesus. She knew he would have life that lasts forever. This was not what Jesus meant. Jesus said, “I am the One who raises the dead and gives them life.” He was telling her that He was God and that He had power over life and death. Then He said that anyone who believed in Him would have life even after dying.

Jesus said anyone who trusted in Him would never die. He said this because God’s plan is for people who trust in Jesus to have a great full life and to have life that lasts forever after death. Jesus asked Martha if she believed this. She said she did. She said she believed He was the Messiah that God sent. She said she believed He was the Son of God. She still trusted in Jesus even though she was sad.

Jesus stayed outside the town. Martha went to get Mary. Mary went running to Jesus. The Jewish people who were comforting her followed her. Mary was very sad. She got down at Jesus’ feet. She said her brother would not have died if Jesus had come to him. This was the same thing her sister had said. Mary also believed in Jesus. She knew He could do miracles. But she was still very sad. Jesus was also sad.

Jesus Cares When We Hurt (11:33-37)

Mary was so sad that she was crying. All of the other Jewish people were crying

too. Everyone was so sad that Lazarus was not alive anymore. John says that Jesus saw Mary and the Jews crying. Jesus cared about Mary and Martha. He cared about the Jews. He was sad because they were sad. His heart hurt for them. Death was not something that God wanted when He made the world. Jesus had made everything. He had given life to everything. Sin brought death to the world. Sin was the cause of death and sadness.

He asked them where they had put Lazarus's body. They told him to come and see. Then Jesus cried! Some of the Jewish people thought that Jesus was crying because He loved Lazarus. He did love Lazarus. But that was not why He cried. He did not cry because Lazarus was dead. He knew that Lazarus believed in Him. He knew that Lazarus had life that lasted forever. Jesus cried because He was sad for Mary, Martha, and all the people who were sad and hurting.

Jesus cares when we hurt. He cares when we feel sad or lonely or scared. He knows how we feel. He has felt everything that we feel.

Some Jewish people had mean things to say about Jesus. They had heard that Jesus had healed a blind person. They thought that He had not really done that. They thought He would have healed Lazarus if He really had the power. They did not believe that He was the Son of God. They did not know that Jesus

was about to do something much more amazing than healing a blind man!

All for the Glory of God (11:38-44)

Jesus went to the grave. It was a hole in the side of a hill. There was a big, round stone blocking the hole. Jesus said to take the stone away. Martha was worried. She told Jesus that Lazarus's body would smell bad after four days in the grave. The stone was the only reason why they couldn't smell the body. Martha did not know what Jesus was going to do. He did not tell her. He asked her to have faith in Him. He reminded her that she would see the **glory** of God if she believed in Him. Martha must have believed because the stone was moved away.

Then Jesus prayed. He talked out loud so everyone could hear. He thanked God for hearing Him. He said He was saying this so that the people would know that God had sent Him. Jesus wanted people to see what He was going to do and believe in Him. Jesus could

have saved Lazarus from dying. He cared that his friends and the people were sad. He wanted to do an even more amazing miracle to show people the glory of God. He knew that it was important to show people that God sent Him so that they would believe. Then they would have life that lasts forever!

He yelled out to Lazarus. He told him to come out of the grave. Lazarus came out! He was wrapped from head to toe in white cloth. This was a kind of cloth that they only put on dead bodies. But now Lazarus was walking out of the grave. Jesus had freed him from death. Jesus told the people to unwrap him and free him from the clothes.

Jesus cares about us. He is sad when we are sad. Sometimes, He does not do what we ask. But He always has the best plan. He has power over life and death. We will see the glory of God, too, if we believe in Him. He will give us life that lasts forever. We will not stay in our graves if we believe! When Jesus comes again in all His glory, we will come out of our graves. When Jesus comes again, everyone will see Him and know He is God.

If we believe in Jesus, we will see others who have believed in Jesus and have died. This makes us less sad when we lose people we love. Jesus gave Mary and Martha their brother back by resurrection. We have the hope of the resurrection when Jesus comes in the last days. Do you have this hope?

Things to Think About

1. Have you had someone you love die? Tell about how that made you feel.
2. Why do you think Jesus did miracles?
3. Who are you most like in this story: Mary, Martha, or the Jewish people?
4. Do you believe in Jesus to give you life that lasts forever? What did Jesus do to give you this life and hope?

John 11:17-44

17 When Jesus got there, He heard that Lazarus had been in the grave four days.

18 Bethany was about one-half hour walk from Jerusalem.

19 Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to give words of comfort about their brother.

20 Martha heard that Jesus was coming and went to meet Him. Mary stayed in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 I know even now God will give You whatever You ask.”

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again when the dead are raised from the grave on the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies.

26 Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 She answered, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God. You are the One Who was to come into the world.”

28 After Martha said this, she went and called her sister Mary. She said without anyone else hearing, “The Teacher is here and has sent for you.”

29 When Mary heard this, she got up and went to Him.

30 Jesus had not yet come into their town. He was still where Martha had met Him.

31 The Jews had been in the house comforting Mary. They saw her get up and hurry out. They followed her and said, “She is going to the grave to cry there.”

32 Mary went to the place where Jesus was.

When she saw Him, she got down at His feet. She said to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

33 Jesus saw her crying. The Jews who came with her were crying also. His heart was very sad and He was troubled.

34 He said, “Where did you lay Lazarus?” They said, “Lord, come and see.”

35 Then Jesus cried.

36 The Jews said, “See how much He loved Lazarus.”

37 Some of them said, “This Man opened the eyes of the blind man. Could He not have kept this man from dying?”

38 Jesus went to the grave with a sad heart. The grave was a hole in the side of a hill. A stone covered the door.

39 Jesus said, “Take the stone away.” The dead man’s sister, Martha, said to Him, “Lord, by now his body has a bad smell. He has been dead four days.”

40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not say that if you would believe, you would see the shining-greatness of God?”

41 They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank You for hearing Me.

42 I know You always hear Me. But I have said this for the people standing here, so they may believe You have sent Me.”

43 When He had said this, He called with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

44 The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were tied in grave clothes. A white cloth was tied around his face. Jesus said to the people, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go!”

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*The Gospel of John:
Believe in Jesus and Live!*

Lesson 7: The Greatness of His Love

Bible Text

John 13:1-17, 31-38

Memory Verse

"I give you a new Law. You are to love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Word List

commandment: a law or an order to be obeyed
example: a life or action that should be copied, model or pattern

private: of or for one person or a small group, not for everyone, not public

The best way for my husband to show me that he loves me is by doing kind things for me. He can take out the trash to show me that he loves me. He can pick up his clothes to show me that he loves me. He can get me something drink to show me that he loves me. This is how I like to show him that I love him too. I can do the laundry or clean the dishes to show him that I love him. I can buy him something to show him that I love him.

John writes about what Jesus taught His twelve special followers before He went

to the cross. This was Jesus' **private** time of teaching. John tells how Jesus did something very kind for his twelve special followers. What He did showed them that He loved them. He told them to love each other this way!

Not my Feet (13:1-11)

John tells about the night before the special celebration to remember when the Jewish people left Egypt. He says that Jesus knew that He was going to go back to be with God. He and His twelve special followers all sat down to eat dinner together. The one named Judas had already decided to turn Jesus over to the leaders who wanted to kill Him. Jesus loved them all.

Jesus knew He had power from God over everything. He was God. He had come from God and was going back to Him. This was God's plan for Him. Jesus wanted to show His twelve special followers that He loved them. He wanted to teach them how to love each other when He was gone. So He did something special as an **example** to them.

Jesus and His twelve special followers were at someone else's home eating dinner. A servant should have been there to wash the feet of the guests. People's feet were very dusty or muddy back then from the dirt roads. Washing people's feet was a very dirty job! John says that Jesus got up from the table and

took off his coat. Jesus took a towel and put it on. He put water in a pan and started washing the feet of His twelve special followers. This was not something a teacher did. They were confused. Why was Jesus acting like a servant? Why was He doing such a dirty job?

One of Jesus' twelve special followers was named Peter. Before He followed Jesus, he caught fish to make money for his family. James and the writer, John, were his cousins. They all caught fish together. Peter often said whatever He wanted to. Often he did not think before speaking. Peter also believed in and loved Jesus. He knew that Jesus was God's Son. He did not want Jesus to wash his dirty feet! He told Jesus not to wash his feet.

Jesus knew that Peter loved and believed in Him. He told Peter that He had to wash his feet so that Peter could be a part of His plan. Since Peter loved and believe in Jesus, He wanted to have a part in Jesus' plan. He told Jesus to wash his head and hands too! Maybe Jesus smiled or even laughed when Peter said this. Jesus said that someone who has already been washed all over just needs to wash their feet. He told Peter that he and all of the other special followers were already clean except for one. He meant that they already believed in Him and just needed to learn more about how to love each other. The only one that was not clean was Judas. Jesus knew that

Judas was going to give Him to the leaders to be killed.

Following Jesus' Example (13:12-17)

Jesus finished washing the feet of His twelve special followers. He even washed Judas' feet. He put his coat back on and sat down again. Jesus told them why He had washed their feet.

Jesus started to teach them by asking if they understood what He had done. He told them that it was true that He was their Teacher and their Lord, but He did the job of a servant by washing their feet. He told them that they must also wash each other's feet. He did not mean that they should get a towel and water to wash each other. He meant that they should not be too proud to do the job of a servant for each other! Jesus told them that they should follow His example

Jesus knew that His twelve special followers had had fights about who was the greatest in their group. They were very proud. Jesus told them that a person isn't greater than the one that sent them. A worker isn't greater than the one who gave them the work. Jesus was the leader of His twelve special followers. He was also the Son of God who made everything. None of His followers were greater than Him. But He was not too proud to wash their feet. They would be happy if they followed His example.

A “New” Commandment (13:31-35)

Judas left their dinner to go to the leaders who wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus knew what Judas was doing. He told them that God had honored him. He had also honored God. Now God was going to honor Himself again through Jesus. This would happen when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world and came back from the dead.

Jesus did not want to leave His special followers. He called them His little children. He said He would only be with them a little while longer. They would soon be looking for Him but not be able to find Him. The people could not follow Him where He was going. His special followers could not follow Him.

Jesus gave them a new **commandment**. They must love each other the way He loved them. Loving each other this way would show that they were His followers. We show that we are Jesus' followers when we do the job of a servant for others who love Him. He

washed the feet of Judas, His enemy. We show that we are Jesus' followers when we do the job of a servant for our enemies too. We must love all.

Cost of Love (13:36-38)

Peter asked Jesus where He was going. Jesus did not tell him. He only told him that that he couldn't follow. He said Peter would follow Him later. Peter did not like this answer. He wanted to follow Jesus no matter what. He said he would even die for Jesus! Peter was willing to give His life to follow Jesus.

Jesus knew that Peter loved Him. He also knew that Peter did not understand that He had to die. He knew that Peter would be scared. He had to tell Peter that he would say he didn't know Jesus three times that night. Peter said he would die for Jesus.

Jesus' love caused Him to pay this price so Peter would live. Then Peter could follow Jesus' example to love others. This would be difficult for Peter. It is difficult for all of us. Jesus said we will be happy when we do it!

Things to Think About

1. What is the best way for someone to show love to you?
2. Why do you think Jesus decided to use feet washing as an example?
3. Is it hard for you to love others by doing the job of a servant for them? Why or why not?
4. Who can you do the job of a servant for this week?
5. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God who loves you?

John 13:1-17, 31-38

1 It was before the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. Jesus knew the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had loved His own who were in the world. He loved them to the end.

2 He and His followers were having supper. Satan had put the thought into the heart of Judas Iscariot of handing Jesus over to the leaders of the country.

3 Jesus knew the Father had put everything into His hands. He knew He had come from God and was going back to God.

4 Jesus got up from the supper and took off His coat. He picked up a cloth and put it around Him.

5 Then He put water into a wash pan and began to wash the feet of His followers. He dried their feet with the cloth He had put around Himself.

6 Jesus came to Simon Peter. Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing but you will later."

8 Peter said to Him, "I will never let You wash my feet." Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you will not be a part of Me."

9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, do not wash only my feet, but wash my hands and my head also."

10 Jesus said to him, "Anyone who has washed his body needs only to wash his feet. Then he is clean all over. You are all clean except one."

11 Jesus knew who was going to hand Him over to the leaders. That is why He said, "You are all clean except one."

12 Jesus washed their feet and put on His coat. Then He sat down again and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord. You are right because that is what I am.

14 I am your Teacher and Lord. I have washed your feet. You should wash each other's feet also.

15 I have done this to show you what should be done. You should do as I have done to you.

16 For sure, I tell you, a workman who is owned by someone is not greater than his owner. One who is sent is not greater than the one who sent him.

17 If you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

... 31 After Judas went out, Jesus said, "The Son of Man is now honored and God has been honored in Him.

32 If God is honored in Him, God will also honor Him in Himself right now.

33 Little children, I will be with you only a little while. You will look for Me. I say to you what I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come!'

34 I give you a new Law. You are to love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.

35 If you love each other, all men will know you are My followers."

36 Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "You cannot follow Me now where I am going. Later you will follow Me."

37 Peter said to Jesus, "Why can I not follow You now? I will die for You."

38 Jesus answered Peter, "Will you die for Me? For sure, I tell you, before a rooster crows, you will have said three times that you do not know Me."

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

Lesson 8: The Way, the Truth, And the Life

Bible Text
John 14:1-14

Memory Verse

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6)

Word List

evidence: something that shows or proves, or that gives a reason to believe, proof

ministry: the act or the time of serving others in their time of need

popular: liked or believed by many people

Ann is a friend of mine. She is very kind to others. She always wants to help. She does not use bad language. She goes to church every Sunday. She knows about Jesus. She believes that she will go to heaven to be with God when she dies. She also believes that people do not have to believe in Jesus to go to heaven. She believes that people go to heaven because of the good things that they do. She believes that she may go to heaven because of the good things that she does.

Many people today think like Ann.

This is a very **popular** idea. John writes about how Jesus told His special followers that believing in Him was the only way to know God and have life that lasts forever. This was good news for his special followers, and it is good news today for people who believe in Him. It was bad news for many other people who did not believe. It is also bad news for people who do not believe today. Every person must make a choice to go Jesus' way or to go their own way. It is the most important choice that a person can make!

Please Don't Go (14:1-3)

Jesus' special followers were sad and confused. Jesus was talking to them after He washed their feet. Jesus had said that He was going to go away and they would not see Him for a while. They could not come with Him. He said that Peter, who believed in and loved Jesus, would say that he didn't even know Him. Peter would say this three times before the night was over. How could this be? Why?

Jesus wanted to comfort them. He wanted them to know that they could trust Him. He did not want them to be troubled, sad or worried. He wanted them to believe in and trust Him just as they believed in and trusted God. Jesus is God! They could trust Him because He had a plan for them. It was true that they could not follow Him where He was going. But He was not going to leave them

forever. He was going to go be with God. He promised He would come back to get them!

Only One Way, One Truth, and One Life (14:4-7)

Jesus then told his special followers that they knew the way to the place where He was going. They were confused. Jesus had said that He was going to be with God, His Father. But where was God?

One of Jesus' special followers, Thomas, liked to ask questions. He asked Jesus how they could know the way when they didn't know where Jesus was going. Jesus' answer is not very popular today. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the way to get to know God, His Father. There is no other way to know God but through Jesus. He is also the truth. This means that anyone else who says they know God without knowing Jesus is lying. He is life. That means that anyone who tries to follow a different way to know God will not find life but will find death. Jesus is the only way to know God. This is the truth and it is the only way to have life that lasts forever.

The Bible says that Jesus' way to knowing God starts with knowing that you have sinned (Romans 3:23—see page 41). You are not able to stop sinning on your own (Romans 7:21). The punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus is God. He never sinned. But Jesus took the punishment for

your sin when He died on the cross. (Romans 5:8). Then He came back from the dead to show that God had forgiven your sins. You must trust in Jesus and what He did for you. Then you will be saved from the punishment of your sin and you can have life that lasts forever (Romans 10:9-10)!

Jesus said that if we really knew Him, then we would know His Father who is God. He told His followers that they already knew God and had seen God because they had seen Jesus and believed in Him. We can know and see God in Jesus when we go His way. Then more people will see Jesus in us and believe in Him. Living for Jesus is the truest life!

One More Question (14:8-11)

Another one of Jesus' special followers, Phillip, asked Jesus to show them His Father, God. Maybe Phillip was hoping that he and the other special followers would see where God was. Then they would know where Jesus was going.

Jesus had been with his special followers for three years. He had said many times that He was God. But Phillip still did not understand. Jesus loved Phillip. So Jesus gave Phillip an answer. Jesus asked Phillip if he believed that anyone who had seen Him had seen God. Jesus spoke the things that God told Him to say. He did the things that God told Him to do. Jesus told Phillip to believe.

He should look at the works Jesus did to know for sure. He was talking about the miracles He had done. The miracles were **evidence** that Jesus was God. He wanted Phillip and all of them to know this.

Sometimes we may have questions about God and Jesus. Jesus wants to answer our questions. He loves us. He wants us to have faith in Him.

Ask In My Name (14:12-14)

Jesus told Phillip that His miracles were evidence that He was God. Then Jesus made an amazing promise. He said that anyone who believed in Him would do even greater works than His. How could someone who is not God do greater works than Jesus who was God? Jesus would tell them very soon about the Holy Spirit Who would give them the power. His followers would do a greater number of works than He had done. The reason they would do greater works was that He was going away. They would truly do

many more works than He had been able to do in His three years of **ministry**.

Jesus' special followers must have been amazed. They had seen Jesus do many miracles. Jesus promised that if they asked in His name, He would do it. Then people who saw it would praise God as they had done when He did the miracles Himself.

It is important to understand what Jesus meant about asking for anything in His name. He was not saying that He would give them anything they wanted. He would do whatever they asked that would bring praise to God and help others believe in Jesus. Jesus would soon tell them that it was their job to help others believe in Him. He wanted them to know that they could ask Him for His help to do this! We can also ask for Jesus' help to tell His story to others. Remember, Jesus is the only way to have life with God that lasts forever!

Things to Think About

1. Tell about a time when you got lost going somewhere.
2. Who are you most like in this story: Peter, Thomas, or Phillip?
3. What would you ask Jesus to help you do to bring praise to God?
4. Do you believe that you have sinned and that Jesus took the punishment of your sin for you by dying on the cross and then coming back from the dead? If so, tell your teacher!

John 14:1-14

1 “Do not let your heart be troubled. You have put your trust in God, put your trust in Me also.

2 There are many rooms in My Father’s house. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going away to make a place for you.

3 After I go and make a place for you, I will come back and take you with Me. Then you may be where I am.

4 You know where I am going and you know how to get there.”

5 Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way to get there?”

6 Jesus said, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one can go to the Father except by Me.

7 If you had known Me, you would know My Father also. From now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

8 Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father. That is all we ask.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time and you do not know Me yet?

Whoever has seen Me, has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in Me? What I say to you, I do not say by My own power. The Father Who lives in Me does His work through Me.

11 “Believe Me that I am in the Father and that the Father is in Me. Or else believe Me because of the things I do.

12 For sure, I tell you, whoever puts his trust in Me can do the things I am doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father.

13 Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so the shining-greatness of the Father may be seen in the Son.

14 Yes, if you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Romans (page 39)

3:23 For all men have sinned and have missed the shining-greatness of God.

7:21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

6:23 You get what is coming to you when you sin. It is death! But God’s free gift is life that lasts forever. It is given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:8 But God showed His love to us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

10:9 If you say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved from the punishment of sin.

10 When we believe in our hearts, we are made right with God. We tell with our mouth how we were saved from the punishment of sin.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

Lesson 9: Without Me You Can Do Nothing

Bible Text

John 15:1-17

Memory Verse

"I am the Vine and you are the branches. Get your life from Me. Then I will live in you and you will give much fruit. You can do nothing without Me." (John 15:5)

Word List

community: a group of people who share life and believe in the same things or in the same person.

disciples: special followers of a teacher or leader, here the 12 special followers that followed Jesus

pruning: cutting off or cutting shorter the branches of a plant or tree which makes it healthy

I am not good at growing plants. Taking care of plants is hard work. They must be watered every day, but not too much. They must be given some sunlight and some shade. Plants that I try to grow are ugly. They do not grow flowers. They dry up and die. Someone who is good at taking care of plants will not have this problem. Their plants will grow large and have flowers. This will show how good they are at taking care of plants!

John writes about Jesus giving His **disciples** a word picture about vines and fruit. Jesus used this word picture to teach them how to bring glory to God!

The True Vine (15:1)

Jesus said, "I am the true Vine..."

John wrote about how Jesus said, "I am," (the special name of God) seven times in His ministry. This was the last time He used it.

The kind of vine Jesus was talking about in this word picture was the kind that grows grapes. Others in Jewish history had said that the Jewish people were like a vine. The Jewish people were supposed to show the world how to know and praise God. But they did not do this. The men who spoke for God said that the Jewish people were like a vine that did not give fruit. They were not the true Vine that God wanted them to be. Jesus was the perfect and sinless Son of God. He showed the world who God was because He was God. He helped the world praise God.

Jesus said that God, His Father, was the One Who cares for the Vine. This was the person that did all the hard work to help the vine grow and give fruit. God did the hard work of making sure that Jesus had everything He needed. He does the same thing for all of His children who love Jesus.

Empty Branches (15:2-6)

Jesus kept going with His word picture. He said that God takes care of the Vine by taking away branches that don't give fruit. This was right to do so that more water and sunlight would go to the good branches that did give fruit. God cuts back branches that do give fruit so that they can grow more fruit. This is called **pruning**. Jesus said that His disciples were already pruned by what He was telling and teaching them. He was getting them ready to make more fruit for Him!

The disciples would also need life from Him to make fruit. Any part of a vine that makes fruit can only do it when it is connected with the vine. It goes into the ground where it gets water from the dirt. The vine is what takes the food made by the sunlight on the leaves and gives it to all the branches. The disciples were branches. Branches have to get what they need to live from the vine. Jesus' life as the true Vine would make His disciples grow fruit. When they got their life from Him, He promised, they would grow a lot of fruit!

The disciples had to make sure to get their life from Him! They could do nothing without Him. A branch can only get life from the vine. The branch's only **purpose** is to give fruit. If it is separated from the vine, then it cannot do anything at all! The disciples were the same. They could do nothing to give glory to God without getting their life from Jesus.

Jesus knew that His followers were not always like vine branches. They could decide to go away from the vine to get life. They might try to get life from friends, family or their jobs. They might even try to get life from their sins. A follower who did that would be like a branch that was not able to give fruit. It would die. Then it would have to be cut off and burned. Many people believe that Jesus was saying that His followers could lose the gift of being saved from the punishment of their sin. But this is not what Jesus was saying at all! A follower who tries to get their life from something else is not useful to grow fruit. They will always have life that lasts forever, but they will not be able to give glory to God while they are alive.

Staying and Living (15:7-11)

Jesus' followers can get life from Jesus. He said they would get life by doing what He said to do. Jesus said that His followers would get anything they asked for when they lived like that. He did not mean that His followers could ask for anything they wanted. He meant that they would ask for the things that God wanted to give them when they were getting life from Him. God wants to give all of Jesus' followers the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives. These are things like love, peace, and joy (Galatians 5:22-23—see page 45). They are not things like cars, houses, and money.

Jesus' followers are able to give this fruit only when they get their life from Jesus. Jesus said that giving a lot of this fruit brings glory to God! Jesus said that giving that fruit shows that we are Jesus' followers. Orange trees grow oranges. Pear trees grow pears. Jesus' followers grow and give the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Jesus said that He loved His followers like God loved Him. This is a very special love! Jesus was the Son of God, His Father. Jesus was also God. God and Jesus had been together before God made the world. They had been together when He made the world. How amazing that Jesus loved His followers as much as God loved Him!

Jesus' followers could live in this love by obeying His teaching. Does this mean if they did not obey, God would stop loving them? No, Jesus was using another word picture. Jesus said to "stay" in His love. We say we are going to "stay at home instead of going somewhere." Jesus wanted His followers to live in His love the same way

that they lived in their houses. Their houses would be there even if they were not living in them. Jesus would always love His followers, even if they were not obeying. He wanted them to have joy because He loved them so much. He wanted them to have all the joy they could get from living in His love! This is wonderful.

Community in Christ (15:12-17)

Jesus' followers would live in His love by to obeying His teaching. Jesus reminded them that they should love each other. He was reminding them that this was part of His teaching that they should obey.

Jesus told His followers that the greatest love a person can have is to give their life for their friends. His followers were no longer His servants but His friends. Jesus said that He was telling them what He was going to do because they were His friends and not His servants. He was telling them that He would give His life for them! He chose them. They would get their life from Him and stay in His love when they did what He said. And He told them to love each other! What a joy to obey!

Things to Think About

1. Do you like to take care of plants? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Jesus said "I am" seven times in His ministry?
3. What should you do to live in Jesus' love?
4. Are you a follower and a friend of Jesus? If you're not sure, ask your teacher how you can be sure.

John 15:1-17

1 “I am the true Vine. My Father is the One Who cares for the Vine.

2 He takes away any branch in Me that does not give fruit. Any branch that gives fruit, He cuts it back so it will give more fruit.

3 You are made clean by the words I have spoken to you.

4 Get your life from Me and I will live in you. No branch can give fruit by itself. It has to get life from the vine. You are able to give fruit only when you have life from Me.

5 I am the Vine and you are the branches. Get your life from Me. Then I will live in you and you will give much fruit. You can do nothing without Me.

6 “If anyone does not get his life from Me, he is cut off like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire and they are burned.

7 If you get your life from Me and My Words live in you, ask whatever you want. It will be done for you.

8 “When you give much fruit, My Father is honored. This shows you are My followers.

9 I have loved you just as My Father has loved Me. Stay in My love.

10 If you obey My teaching, you will live in My love. In this way, I have obeyed My Father’s teaching and live in His love.

11 I have told you these things so My joy may be in you and your joy may be full.

12 “This is what I tell you to do: Love each other just as I have loved you.

13 No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends.

14 You are My friends if you do what I tell you.

15 I do not call you servants that I own anymore. A servant does not know what his owner is doing. I call you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from My Father.

16 You have not chosen Me, I have chosen you. I have set you apart for the work of bringing in fruit. Your fruit should last. And whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you.

17 “This is what I tell you to do: Love each other.

Galatians (from page 43)

22 But the fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives is: love, joy, peace, not giving up, being kind, being good, having faith,

23 being gentle, and being the boss over our own desires. The Law is not against these things.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

Lesson 10: It is Finished

Bible Text

John 19:28-42

Memory Verse

"Jesus took the sour wine and said, 'It is finished.' He put His head down and gave up His spirit and died." (John 19:30)

Word List

burial: put a dead body in a grave or tomb
crucifixion: kill a person by nailing or typing them to a cross made of wood in a "t" shape.
goal: an end that one tries to reach for a reason
sacrifice: the act of giving up one thing for someone else to have something, also the thing (person) that is given. Here, one life for another also Jesus who gave up His own life so others could live.

A **goal** is an important thing to have. Everyone needs a goal. To reach a goal, one must make a plan. Each step in the plan brings one closer to the goal. Sometimes, we have to give up things to get closer to our goal. This can be hard to do. It can make us want to stop going toward the goal. I am the

kind of person who likes to reach my goals. I know that each step is important. But it is hard for me to give up things. That is why my favorite part of a plan to reach a goal is when it is finished.

John writes about Jesus reaching His goal to save people from the punishment of their sin. God had a plan for Him to do this. Jesus followed each step of the plan. He made it to His goal. But it was not easy. It was very painful. And He did it all for you and me!

The Death of Jesus (19:28-36)

Judas had told the Pharisees and the powerful Jewish people where to find Jesus. They took Jesus away to court. People told lies about Him. Peter said He didn't know Jesus. Soldiers beat Jesus. Then He was taken to the Roman leader, Pilate. The Pharisees and powerful Jewish people told Pilate more lies about Jesus. They said Jesus wanted to become the leader of the Jewish people instead of the Romans. Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong. He had Jesus beaten again. The soldiers made fun of Him. But the Pharisees and the powerful Jewish people wanted Jesus to die. Pilate was afraid of the Jewish people. He decided to let Jesus be killed. The Romans had a very painful way of killing people who broke the law. This was called **crucifixion**. The Romans made Jesus

carry a large piece of wood all the way up a hill. Then they nailed Jesus' hands to that piece of wood. Jesus' feet were nailed to a wooden pole. The pole and the other piece of wood made a cross shape. Jesus was lifted up very high so that many people could see Him. There were two criminals hanging on crosses on either side of Jesus.

John writes about what Jesus said just before He died. He had known that the Pharisees and powerful Jewish people would take him away. He had known that He would have to die even though He didn't do anything wrong. This was God's plan to save people from the punishment of sin. God had said so in the Holy Writings long ago. Jesus had to **sacrifice** His life since the punishment of sin is death. Now Jesus was about to die. He had almost reached His goal!

Jesus was in a lot of pain. It was hard for people on crosses to breathe. Jesus told the soldiers He was thirsty. The soldier lifted up a sponge with some wine on it for Jesus to drink. Maybe He needed a drink to talk loud enough for everyone to hear. He said "It is finished." Then He died.

It is important to know that Jesus gave up His spirit when He died. Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was God. He never sinned. He was the only one who could die as the punishment for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus wanted to give up His life as a sacrifice to save us from the punishment for our sins. No one took his life from Him. He had a lot of pain before He died and as He was dying. He gave up His life on His own. What amazing love Jesus had for us!

Jesus died on a Friday. The Jewish people had their Day of Rest on Saturday. The Pharisees and the powerful Jewish people did not want to have anyone hanging on a cross on the Day of Rest. They asked the Roman soldiers to break the legs of the people on the crosses. This would make it so that the people on the crosses could not breathe. Then they would die. The soldiers broke the legs of the other two people. But Jesus was already dead. They wanted to make sure He was dead so they cut Him in the side with a spear. Blood and water came out of His body.

John writes that He was there when this happened and saw it with His own eyes. He wants us to know that Jesus really did die. He wants us to know that we can believe the things that he wrote in his book. He also wanted us to know that the Holy Writings spoke of what the Messiah would do. He wanted us to trust that Jesus was the Promised One and that we can trust in Him!

The Burial of Jesus (19:37-42)

John writes about Joseph of Arimathea. He was one of the Pharisees and one of the powerful Jewish leaders. He was also a follower of Jesus. He had not followed Jesus in public because he had been afraid of what the Jewish people would say or do to him. But after Jesus died, he did not hide anymore. He asked Pilate to give him Jesus' body, and Pilate did.

Nicodemus helped Joseph take Jesus' body down from the cross. Remember, Nicodemus was the one who had come to Jesus at night. Jesus had told him that he had to be born again. Nicodemus was now helping to bury Jesus' body. He had brought a large box of spices to help with the **burial**. Jewish people put these spices on a body before they wrapped it in cloth and put it in the grave. These spices cost a lot of money.

Things to Think About

1. What are some of your goals?
2. Who are you most like: the Pharisees, Pilate, or Joseph and Nicodemus?
3. Do you believe that Jesus sacrificed His life to save you from the punishment of sins? If you're not sure, ask your teacher.
4. Why should you believe, trust, and obey Jesus?
5. What have you sacrificed to follow Jesus?

So did the new grave where they put Jesus' body. John writes that this grave had never been used before by anyone. Joseph and Nicodemus would have had to do all of this work before sunset since that is when the Day of Rest started. They could not have hidden what they were doing from anyone. They took a lot of time. They spent a lot of money. They let others see what they were doing. This put them and their families in danger. They sacrificed many things to give glory to Jesus even after He died. This was a way for them to show much they loved Him. Jesus had changed their lives. As they trusted Him, they lost their fear of what others were thinking.

Jesus gave up His place in heaven with God to come down to earth. He gave up His life as the punishment for our sins. He was a sacrifice for us. Jesus' earthly life was finished but eternal life was now possible for us. We can thank Him. We can do this by believing in Him, trusting in Him, and obeying Him! Believe in Jesus and live!

John 19:28-42

28 Jesus knew that everything was now finished. Everything happened as the Holy Writings said it would happen. He said, “I am thirsty.”

29 There was a jar full of sour wine near. They filled a sponge and put it on a stick and put it to His mouth.

30 Jesus took the sour wine and said, “It is finished.” He put His head down and gave up His spirit and died.

31 This was the day before the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. The next day was the Day of Rest and the great day of the religious gathering. The Jews went to Pilate and asked to have the legs of the men broken. They wanted their bodies taken away so they would not be hanging on the crosses on the Day of Rest.

32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been nailed to crosses beside Jesus.

33 They came to Jesus. They saw He was already dead so they did not break His legs.

34 But one of the soldiers pushed a spear into His side. Blood and water ran out.

35 The one who saw it is writing this and what he says is true. He knows he is telling the truth so you may believe.

36 These things happened as the Holy Writings said they would happen, “Not one of His bones will be broken.”

37 And in another place the Holy Writings say, “They will look at Him Whose side they cut.”

38 Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a follower of Jesus but was afraid of the Jews. So he worshiped without anyone knowing it. He asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Pilate said he could. Then Joseph came and took it away.

39 Nicodemus came also. The first time he had come to Jesus had been at night. He brought with him a large box of spices.

40 Then they took the body of Jesus with the spices and put it in linen cloths. This was the way the Jews made a body ready for the grave.

41 There was a garden near the place where He had been nailed to the cross. In the garden there was a new grave in the side of the hill. No one had ever been laid there.

42 This place was near by. Because it was the day the Jews got ready for the special religious gathering, they laid Jesus in it.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

The Gospel of John: Believe in Jesus and Live!

Lesson 11: Stop Doubting and Believe

Bible Text

John 20:10-31

Memory Verse

"But these are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. When you put your trust in Him, you will have life that lasts forever through His name." (John 20:31)

Word List

calm: to help another go from fear, anger, or upset to quiet and full of peace

message: words sent from one person to another either by speaking or writing

recognize: to know again, someone or something heard or seen before

rollercoasters: a ride in a special kind of park that goes up very high and comes fast making the rider feel fun fear

When I was young, I was afraid to ride **rollercoasters**. They were very tall and went very fast. I feared that I would fall out of the cart. Many people I knew liked rollercoasters. They told me that I would be safe. I did not believe them. I still did not want to ride. I finally rode a rollercoaster for the first time when I was 14 years old. My

mom's friend said she would take me to one that wasn't so tall. She rode it with me to show me that it was safe. She was able to **calm** my fears.

John writes about how Jesus came back from the dead! Jesus calmed His disciples' fears about what had happened to Him. He did this by coming backing from the dead and appearing to them. He showed them that He was God and that He had power even over death. He was getting them ready to do a big job: telling the Good News about Jesus to the rest of the world!

Jesus Calms Mary Magdalene (20:10-18)

It was the third day after Jesus died. It was also Sunday, the first day of the week. Three women who were followers of Jesus went to Jesus' grave that morning. They were going to put spices on his body. When they got there, Jesus was not there! They ran and told His disciples. His disciples ran to the grave. They saw that Jesus was not there. They did not know what had happened. They went back to their homes.

Mary Magdalene stayed at the grave. She was very sad. She was crying. She looked into the grave again. She saw two angels who asked her why she was crying. She told them that someone had taken Jesus' body away and she didn't know where to find Him. It was very important to the Jewish people that

someone be buried right way. Maybe she was afraid that Jesus would not be buried the right way. Mary turned around after talking to the angels. Maybe she was going to go home too. But she saw a man who asked her why she was crying. He also asked her who she was looking for. She thought he was the person in charge of the garden. She did not know that this man was Jesus! She asked Him if He had taken Jesus' body away. She wanted to take His body away to bury it the right way. She did not understand that Jesus was alive and did not need to be buried.

Jesus calmed Mary's fear. He said her name. Then Mary knew who He was. We do not know why she did not **recognize** Him before. Maybe she could not see His face before that. Or maybe He did not look the same to her. Maybe He had been hiding His face. She did not know it was Jesus until He said her name. Then she was happy and excited. She called Him "Teacher!" She tried to hug Him. But Jesus said not to do that. Maybe He was in a hurry to send her to His disciples. Maybe He did not want her to get used to hugging Him. He told her that He would be going back to God. He told her to tell His disciples what He said. She went back to the disciples and told them everything. Her fears were calmed. Jesus' body had not been taken. Jesus was alive!

Jesus Calms the Disciples (20:19-22)

Ten of Jesus' disciples were together in a locked room on that same day. They had locked the doors because they were afraid. They thought that the Pharisees and powerful Jewish people might kill them too! Jesus came to them even though the doors were locked. His body was different than ours after His **resurrection**. He did not even have to use the doors! He told the disciples to have peace. He wanted to calm their fears.

Jesus showed them the holes in His hands and in His side. This proved that He was the same Jesus who had been crucified and buried. Now He was alive! His disciples were so happy to see Him. He had said that He would come back from the dead. This was something that only God could do. He kept His promise. This showed that He was/is God. His disciples now knew for sure that they could trust the things He'd told them.

Jesus calmed their fears again by telling them to have peace. Then He gave them a big job to do. He reminded them that God had sent Him into the world. He told them that He was going to send them into the world the same way. He gave them the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also God. This was the same power that Jesus had to do miracles. Jesus told them to tell people about God forgiving sins because Jesus had take the punishment for sins. He said that they would

help people know for sure if they had been forgiven or not. A person can be sure that their sins are forgiven if they believe and trust in Jesus. They can know for sure that they are not forgiven if they do not believe or trust in only Jesus. This is the **message** that Jesus gave his disciples the power to tell.

Jesus Calms Thomas (20:24-31)

Only ten of Jesus' disciples had seen Him on Sunday. Thomas was not with them that day. The other disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus. They were very excited. But Thomas did not believe them. He said that He would not believe until He saw and touched Jesus Himself. He was afraid that the story of Jesus' resurrection might not be true.

Jesus came to see the disciples again one week and one day later. Thomas was there this time. Jesus again told the disciples to have peace. Then He told Thomas to come, see, and touch Him. He wanted to calm Thomas' fear. He wanted Thomas to believe in Him. He didn't want Thomas to have any

more doubts. He wanted Thomas to tell others that He was alive. We do not know if Thomas touched Jesus or not. We do know that Thomas saw and knew that it was Jesus. We also know that He called Jesus "God"! Thomas believed in Jesus! Thomas believed in Him because He had seen Him. Jesus said that those who had not seen Him but still believed in Him would be even happier than Thomas.

John writes that Jesus did so many miracles that He could not write them all down. He says that he wrote what he could in his book to show that Jesus was God. He wanted us to know that we can believe and trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus' death as the punishment for our sins and believe that He rose from the dead, we will have life that lasts forever! John was one of the disciples that Jesus sent to tell His message. You can know for sure that your sins are forgiven if you believe and trust in Jesus today!

Things to Think About

1. What were some of your fears as a child?
2. Why were the disciples hiding?
3. Who are you most like in this lesson: Mary, the disciples, or Thomas?
4. Do you know for sure that your sins are forgiven? If not, ask your teacher.
5. Are you afraid to spread the message of Jesus? Why or why not?

John 20:10-31

10 Then the followers went back again to their homes.

11 Mary stood outside the grave crying. As she cried, she got down and looked inside the grave.

12 She saw two angels dressed in white clothes. They were sitting where the body of Jesus had lain. One angel was where His head had lain and one angel was where His feet had lain.

13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord. I do not know where they have put Him.”

14 After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 He said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” She thought He was the man who cared for the garden. She said to Him, “Sir, if you have taken Jesus from here, tell me where you have put Him. I will take Him away.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned around and said to Him, “Teacher!”

17 Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to Me. I have not yet gone up to My Father. But go to My brothers. Tell them that I will go up to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God!”

18 Mary Magdalene went and told the followers that she had seen the Lord. She told them the things He had said to her.

19 It was evening of the first day of the week. The followers had gathered together with the doors locked because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “May you have peace.”

20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. When the followers saw the Lord, they were filled with joy.

21 Then Jesus said to them again, “May you have peace. As the Father has sent Me, I also am sending you.”

22 When Jesus had said this, He breathed on them. He said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you say that people are free of sins, they are free of them. If you say that people are not free of sins, they still have them.”

24 Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. He was one of the twelve followers and was called the Twin.

25 The other followers told him, “We have seen the Lord!” He said to them, “I will not believe until I see the marks made by the nails in His hands. I will not believe until I put my finger into the marks of the nails. I will not believe until I put my hand into His side.”

26 Eight days later the followers were again inside a house. Thomas was with them. The doors were locked. Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “May you have peace!”

27 He said to Thomas, “Put your finger into My hands. Put your hand into My side. Do not doubt, believe!”

28 Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you believe. Those are happy who have never seen Me and yet believe!”

30 Jesus did many other powerful works in front of His followers. They are not written in this book.

31 But these are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. When you put your trust in Him, you will have life that lasts forever through His name.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*The Gospel of John:
Believe in Jesus and Live!*

Lesson 12: Follow Me!

Bible Text

John 21:1-25

Memory Verse

"Jesus said, 'If I want this one to wait until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.'" (John 21:22)

Word List

experienced: something done well because of being taught, doing it again and again, and working at it

humble: not full of pride, knowing how weak and not perfect one is

personal: about and for only one person, not for a group or everyone

prophecy: something told about will happen before it happens or about the future

purpose: for a reason, what one plans to do or say

Have you ever had to ask someone for forgiveness? It can be a hard thing to do. You must admit that you did something wrong. You might feel like the person you've hurt won't trust you anymore. You might feel like you can't trust yourself anymore. I have felt this before. I have had to ask my husband, my friends, my family, and God for forgiveness. Sometimes it is difficult to accept

forgiveness. It is sometimes harder to forgive myself than it is for me to ask for forgiveness!

John writes about forgiveness at the end of his book. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment of our sins. Our sins are forgiven when we believe in Jesus. But what happens when we sin after we believe? John shows that Jesus always forgives. And His plans for us do not change. He wants us to follow Him!

A Miracle of Fish (21:1-14)

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection had happened just like He said they would. His disciple, Peter, had said three times that He didn't know Jesus, as Jesus had said. Now Jesus was going back to heaven. He was leaving His disciples to tell His message. Peter was their leader.

John writes that Jesus showed himself to seven of His disciples when they were on a fishing trip. Peter had been a fisherman before He followed Jesus. John, His brother James, and some other disciples had also been fishermen. Peter, who was also called Simon Peter, had decided to go fishing. Six of the other disciples said they would go with him, including John and his brother James. These men fished all night but caught nothing. This was very unusual since many of them were **experienced** fishermen.

Someone was standing on the lakeshore

the next morning. They did not know who he was. But he called them his “children.” It was the same word that a leader would use for his followers. He told them to put the net down on the right side of the boat to catch some fish. They did as He said and they caught more fish than they could pull into the boat!

Jesus had done a miracle like this before for Peter, James, and John. He had asked them to follow Him after that miracle. Now John knew that the person on the shore was Jesus. He was excited! He called out what he knew.

Peter was excited too. He quickly put on his coat because he was not coming back to the boat. He jumped into the water and swam back to shore. He did not want to wait to get there by boat. He wanted to see Jesus right away.

The other disciples went to shore on the boat. They saw bread and a fire. Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught. Peter got the net. Then Jesus cooked them breakfast and said “come and eat!” He had served them all food before. They all knew it was Jesus. He had come to them for a third time!

Personal and Purposeful Forgiveness (21:15-19)

Jesus asked Peter some questions while they were eating. He asked these questions while the other six disciples were listening. He

wanted to forgive Peter for saying he didn’t know Him. He wanted Peter to forgive himself. He wanted His disciples to know that Peter would still be their leader.

Jesus’ questions to Peter were **personal**. Jesus knew that Peter had said he didn’t know Him three times. So Jesus asked his questions three times. These questions were about if Peter loved Him more than the other disciples did. Peter had said before that he would follow Jesus even if no one else did. Now he told Jesus that he loved Him. But He did not say he loved Him more than the other disciples did. This showed that Peter had learned to be **humble**.

Jesus’ questions also had a purpose. Jesus still wanted Peter to be the leader of His disciples. He knew that people would look at Peter as an example of how to be a follower of Jesus. He wanted Peter to be sure about being the leader. He wanted the other disciples to be sure too. Each time Peter answered that he loved Jesus, Jesus told him to feed and take care of His sheep. Peter knew Jesus’ teaching about being the Good Shepherd. Jesus had laid down His life for His followers. Now Peter was going to be a shepherd to Jesus’ followers. He would have to be ready to give his life for the sheep too. Jesus told Peter that he would be taken away to where He did not want to go. This was a **prophecy** of how Peter would die, like a good shepherd for the sheep.

Jesus told Peter to follow Him even though it would lead to his death. And Peter did!

What about John? (21:20-25)

Peter and John, the writer of this book, were very close. They were fishing together when Jesus asked them to follow Him the first time. Maybe they were related to each other somehow. John had called himself “the follower whom Jesus loved.” John had been sitting very close to Jesus at their last meal together. Peter was the leader, but John was also very special to Jesus. Peter wanted to know what would happen to John. Would John also die for Jesus? Jesus asked Peter why it was important to him if John did or didn’t die for Jesus. The answer to that question was that it should not be important. He said that Peter should only follow Him. John writes that the disciples started saying that he wouldn’t die before Jesus came back. John wanted us to know that Jesus did not say that. He only meant that Peter should not wonder about John.

John writes that he is that same disciple

and that he wrote this book. He says that the followers know that he is telling the truth. John wanted people to know that Jesus did many other things as well. John uses a word picture to say that there would a very large number of books if everything Jesus did were written down!

This is the end of John’s book. He wrote about Jesus’ teaching and miracles. He wrote about Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. He saw all these things. They showed that Jesus was the Son of God. He wanted each person who read His book to follow Jesus and have life that lasts forever! He wanted each person who read the Gospel of John to believe in Jesus and live!

Things to Think About

1. Why do you think Peter wanted to go fishing?
2. What do you think helped John see it was Jesus?
3. Tell about a time when you had to ask for forgiveness. How did you feel?
4. Who are Jesus’ lambs and sheep?
5. Are you a follower of Jesus? If not, ask your teacher how to be a follower.

John 21:1-25

1 After this, Jesus again showed Himself to His followers at the lake of Tiberias. It happened like this:

2 Simon Peter and Thomas who was called the Twin and Nathanael from the town of Cana in the country of Galilee and the sons of Zebedee and two other followers were all together.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." The others said, "We will go with you." They went out and got into a boat. That night they caught no fish.

4 Early in the morning Jesus stood on the shore of the lake. The followers did not know it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They said, "No."

6 He said to them, "Put your net over the right side of the boat. Then you will catch some fish." They put out the net. They were not able to pull it in because it was so full of fish.

7 Then the follower whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard it was the Lord, he put on his fisherman's coat. (He had taken it off.) Then he jumped into the water.

8 The other followers came in the boat. They were pulling the net with the fish. They were not far from land, only a little way out.

9 When they came to land they saw fish and bread on a fire.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

11 Simon Peter went out and pulled the net to land. There were 153 big fish. The net was not broken even with so many.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." Not one of the followers would ask, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord.

13 Jesus came and took bread and fish and gave it to them.

14 This was the third time Jesus had shown Himself to His followers after He had risen from the dead.

15 When they were finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" Peter answered Jesus, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My lambs."

16 Jesus said to Peter the second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He answered Jesus, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Take care of My sheep."

17 Jesus said to Peter the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love Me?" He answered Jesus, "Lord, You know everything. You know I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

18 For sure, I tell you, when you were young, you put on your belt and went wherever you wanted to go. When you get old, you will put out your hands and someone else will put on your belt and take you away where you do not want to go."

19 He said this to tell Peter what kind of death he would die to honor God. After Jesus said this, He said to Peter, "Follow Me."

20 Peter turned around. He saw the follower whom Jesus loved, following. This one had been beside Jesus at the supper. This is the one who had asked Jesus, "Lord, who will hand You over?"

21 Peter saw him and said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this one?"

22 Jesus said, "If I want this one to wait until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

23 So the news spread among the followers that this follower would not die. But Jesus did not say to him that he would not die. He said, "If I want him to wait until I come, what is that to you?"

24 This is the follower who is telling of these things and who has written them. We know that his word is true.

25 There are many other things which Jesus did also. If they were all written down, I do not think the world itself could hold the books that would be written.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*The Gospel of John:
Believe in Jesus and Live!*

**Christmas Lesson:
Nothing is Impossible
with God**

Bible Text
Luke 1:26-45

Memory Verse
"For God can do all things." (Luke 1:37)

Word List
impossible: something that is not possible, something only God could do or make possible
respond: to answer or to act as if in an answer
virgin: a person who has never had sex

Everyone likes to get good news. Everyone likes to hear that they are getting a better paying job. Everyone likes to hear about people getting married. Everyone likes to hear that a baby is coming. Sometimes good news is hard to believe. It is hard to believe that someone won a lot of money. It is hard to believe that someone has gotten better after a long sickness. It is hard to believe that someone who was hurt in a bad car crash did not die.

Luke was a doctor who talked to many people who knew Jesus. He wrote a book called the Gospel of Luke that is the book in the Bible just before the Gospel of John. Luke starts his book by telling about how Jesus was born. Luke writes about Jesus' mother, Mary, getting some good news. This good news was hard to believe. She thought it was **impossible**. She learned to have faith because nothing is impossible with God!

The Impossible News (1:26-33)

God sent an angel named Gabrielle to a small town of the Jewish people. This town was called Nazareth. Sometimes people say that angels are supposed to protect and watch over us. But that is not all of what the Bible says about angels. The word "angel" means "a person who brings a message" in the Greek language. God sent angels to give messages to people.

God sent Gabrielle to a girl named Mary. Mary was probably only fourteen or fifteen years old. She was going to be married to a man named Joseph. The angel told her that she was very honored and favored by God. But Mary was scared. She did not know what kind of message He was bringing to her. Gabrielle told her not to be afraid. He had good news for her. She was going to be a mother! She was going to have a son. She was to name Him Jesus. He would be called the

Son of God. He would also be the King of the Jewish people forever. He was also going to be the King over a nation that would never end. What a great gift!

Nothing is Impossible with God (1:34-37)

Mary was confused. She was a **virgin**. She had promised to marry Joseph. She was not supposed to be with him until they were married. She could not be with any other man because that would break her promise. How could she have a baby? She thought this was impossible.

Gabrielle said that the Holy Spirit would do a miracle so that she would have a baby without being with a man. That is why He would be called the Son of God. Gabrielle told her that her cousin Elizabeth was having a baby. Mary would have known that her cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias had not been able to have children. They were also quite old. The angel told Mary that Elizabeth was in her sixth month. She was going to have a baby in three months! Gabrielle himself had told Zacharias that he and his wife would have a baby. This baby would be named John. He would become John the Baptist. He would tell God's words to the people. He would tell people that Jesus was coming to save them from the punishment of their sins.

Gabrielle told Mary that God could do all things. He could give a baby to an elderly

woman. He could also give a baby to a virgin. Nothing was impossible with God!

Responding in Faith (1:38-45)

Mary must have been scared. She had promised to be married to Joseph. A promise to marry someone was very important to the Jewish people. It was almost like being married already. Joseph might say he would not marry her if he thought she had been with another man. This would be very sad for her family. Her neighbors might say bad things about her. She could try to explain the angel's message to her family, friends, and neighbors, but they may not believe her. She might not be able to be married to anyone after this. She might have had a hard life having a baby without a husband.

But Mary had faith in God. She knew His plans for her were good. She believed what the angel told her about this baby being the Son of God and the King of the Jewish people. She was willing to be a part of God's plan. She told Gabrielle that. Then he went away.

Mary decided to go to Elizabeth's house. Maybe she wanted to tell Elizabeth what the angel had said. Maybe she wanted to see that what the angel said was true about Elizabeth having a baby. We know that Elizabeth was happy to see her. Elizabeth would understand about her miracle baby.

Mary spoke to Elizabeth. Baby John inside Elizabeth moved. She could feel it. She felt her baby was moving because of Mary's baby. Baby John started telling about the coming of Jesus even before he was born!

Elizabeth was also filled with the Holy Spirit. She called Mary honored among women. She said her Child was also honored. Elizabeth told Mary that the baby had moved inside of her when she heard Mary's voice because he had joy. She called Mary the mother of her Lord. She said that Mary would be happy because she believed what the angel told her. Then she gave a prophecy. She told Mary that everything would happen just like the angel told her.

We can be like Mary. We can **respond** to God with faith. God has a plan to save us

from the punishment of sin. The punishment for sins is death. He sent His Son, Jesus, who was also God, into our world. He became all human by being born of Mary. He was also all God. He was a miracle baby in many ways. God became man. He never did any sins. He died on the cross to take the punishment for sin. Then he came back from the dead. We will have life that lasts forever when we believe in Jesus and trust in Him to forgive our sins. Nothing is impossible with God. This is the best news of all!

Things to Think About

1. How would you feel if you saw an angel?
2. Tell about a time that you were given good news that seemed impossible.
3. Why do you think Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth?
4. Have you responded in faith to God by believing and trusting in Jesus? If so, tell your teacher!

Luke 1:26-45

26 Six months after Elizabeth knew she was to become a mother, Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth. Nazareth was a town in the country of Galilee.

27 He went to a woman who had never had a man. Her name was Mary. She was promised in marriage to a man named Joseph. Joseph was of the family of David.

28 The angel came to her and said, “You are honored very much. You are a favored woman. The Lord is with you. *You are chosen from among many women.”

29 When she saw the angel, she was troubled at his words. She thought about what had been said.

30 The angel said to her, “Mary, do not be afraid. You have found favor with God.

31 See! You are to become a mother and have a Son. You are to give Him the name Jesus.

32 He will be great. He will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the place where His early father David sat.

33 He will be King over the family of Jacob forever and His nation will have no end.”

34 Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen? I have never had a man.”

35 The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come on you. The power of the Most High will cover you. The holy Child you give

birth to will be called the Son of God.

36 “See, your cousin Elizabeth, as old as she is, is going to give birth to a child. She was not able to have children before, but now she is in her sixth month.

37 For God can do all things.”

38 Then Mary said, “I am willing to be used of the Lord. Let it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel went away from her.

39 At once Mary went from there to a town in the hill country of Judea.

40 She went to the house of Zacharias to see Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary speak, the baby moved in her body. At the same time Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 Elizabeth spoke in a loud voice, “You are honored among women! Your Child is honored!

43 Why has this happened to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me?

44 As soon as I heard your voice, the baby in my body moved for joy.

45 You are happy because you believed.

Everything will happen as the Lord told you it would happen.”