

KING of Lamb  
ISRAEL of God.  
the RESSURECTION  
& THE life.

the the gate &  
Messiah THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
THE Son of  
TRUE Vine Man

I AM.

## Discovering Jesus in the Gospel of John

There is no one else in all eternity capable of describing themselves as Jesus does — He is forever, simply and profoundly, I am. Over the next year, allowing for small breaks, we're going to journey as a church through the Gospel of John. In his gospel, John helps us understand who Jesus is as opposed to the other gospels that focus more on describing what he is. They are biographical, telling what Jesus did and the impact he made on the world. John goes theological, he explores who Jesus is with stunning metaphors that demand worship and surrender.

## Background

One of the 12 disciples alongside his brother James, John contributed more to the books of the New Testament than any of the other disciples (one gospel, three epistles and Revelation). He was the longest surviving apostle, writing Revelation from exile on the island of Patmos.

John's transformation is remarkable. From 'sons of thunder' with his brother James (probably because of a temper) to Jesus' inner circle of three and known as the disciple whom Jesus loved; John's gospel even records his own personal moment when he writes that having seen the empty tomb, he believed.

His express purpose in writing the gospel was so that people might believe that Jesus is the Messiah and that by believing they may have life in his name (20:31). It's like having received such great love and having been so changed, John is compelled to let every other person know about Jesus.

His account does not, therefore, major on the events of Jesus' ministry so much as interpreting their significance. It's like Matthew, Mark and Luke tell the news and John does the editorial, letting us in on its importance. His doesn't start at the manger or with ancestry but with Jesus as the eternal God. He doesn't choose all events but those that illustrate something of Jesus he has discovered. He doesn't just write to Jews about their Messiah - he writes to all people about the Saviour of the World.

## Purpose in teaching John

John's express purpose in writing was that people — all people — might believe and have life in Jesus' name. As a church intent on reaching our region, we share that purpose.

However, we don't expect to reach a region without playing our part. John's understanding of, and love for, Jesus compels him to help others find Jesus. We pray that as this book reveals the identity and significance and wonder of Jesus, we too may be so compelled.

And yet, John's gospel is a book of depth. It reveals a depth of insight and of revelation that gives us the opportunity not just to begin in relationship with Jesus but to grow deep in our knowledge of him and love for him.

Finally, this book is a 'Come As You Are' book. John has major Jewish themes such as Son of God and Messiah and yet it is clear that he makes his account accessible to non-Jews, to people of the whole world. As we go on this journey together, may we learn what it takes to be people who help those in our world to discover Jesus for themselves.

## Broad Outline

### 1. The Titles of Jesus

- 3 weeks - John 1
- Seven titles that John uses to describe Jesus.

### 2. The Breadth of Jesus

- 7 weeks - John 2-5
- Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and beyond.

### 3. The Essence of Jesus

- 19 weeks - John 6-16
- Jesus revealed through 6 statements of 'I am.'

### 4. The Prayer of Jesus

- 3 weeks - John 17
- Jesus prays for himself, his disciples and the world.

### 5. The Passion of Jesus

- 4 weeks - John 18-21
- The death and resurrection of the King.

Light of the  
the World of LIFE  
Saviour of the World.  
the WAY  
the TRUTH  
& THE LIFE

# I AM.

WEEK 1 • 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 • JOHN 1:1-13

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1. What new insight about Jesus did you gain out of Sunday's message? What are you most looking forward to in this new series?
2. How does the start of John's gospel differ from the other three (Matthew, Mark and Luke)? What does this suggest about John's perspective and purpose in writing?
3. Verses 1-4 are rich in theology and key to our understanding of Jesus.
  - What do they tell us about Jesus?
  - How might a greater understanding of Jesus affect the way you live today?

4. In verses 6-8, John writes about a different John (John The Baptist) and describes him as a witness - a word that can mean testifying in court.
  - What are some of the key witnesses about God? (Luke 24:27, Acts 10:37-43, Romans 1:20, Hebrews 1:1)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Why is it important that we are witnesses today? How can you step this up?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. John describes Jesus as 'the true light.' Light here means both the source of light and the light itself. How are both appropriate descriptions for Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. John says that the light (Jesus) shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it - a statement ultimately expressed when Jesus rose again.
  - With that in mind, what are the areas of darkness in life or in the world where it seems like the light is being overcome?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How does this week's passage encourage you in this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Spend some time praying for those things and each other.



- Jesus himself described John as 'great' (Luke 7:28) - On the basis of the verses above, what do you think made him so great?
  - What similarities can you see between the role of us as the church and that of John The Baptist?
4. Jesus is proclaimed as the Lamb of God.
- How does this imagery compare with what we've seen of Jesus in John 1 so far?
  - What are some other ways that people try and get rid of sin or a sense of guilt? How is belief in Jesus so distinct?
  - Look at Isaiah 43:25. What stands out for you right now in this? Why not pray and thank God together for the Lamb.
5. John The Baptist realises Jesus is the 'anointed one' because he sees the Spirit descend on him. If the Spirit that empowered Jesus on earth is the same as the one that empowers us (Acts 2:33), how does this raise your expectation of what God can do through you? Talk about some practical ways you can see or imagine.

# I AM.

WEEK 3 • 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017 • JOHN 1:35-51

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1. What new insight about Jesus did you gain out of Sunday's message? What change might this insight have in everyday life?
2. How many names, titles or descriptions of Jesus can you find in the passage?
  - Are there any that are new for you or any that you don't understand. Talk about them together.
  - What might John's purpose be in including so many?
3. Both Simon and Nathanael heard about Jesus through a relative or person they knew.
  - What are the different ways in which people discover Jesus?
  - What are the strengths of a word of mouth/relational approach - i.e. invited by someone you know?



# I AM.

WEEK 4 • 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2017 • JOHN 2:1-12

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1. Jesus carries out this miracle in Cana in Galilee.
  - What is surprising about Jesus ministering in this place based on Isaiah 9:1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Why is this significant? (See John 4:42)
  
2. John records the miracle as a sign - an indicator of who Jesus is. What do these verses show the signs pointed to for the people who saw them? (John 2:18, 3:2, 7:31)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. John 2:6-7 is not a recipe for wine and didn't make sense to the servants yet the miracle occurred because they did what Jesus told them to do. (John 2:5)
  - Has God ever 'nudged' you to do something which didn't make sense at the time? What happened?











4. Jesus came not to condemn (because the world is already condemned) but to save (v17). Condemnation has to do with judgement – a guilty verdict.
- A believer in Jesus is not condemned (v18). Why is the case?
  
  - There will be people you know (friends, family, those in your community etc...) that right now stand condemned because they don't believe Jesus was judged with a guilty verdict on their behalf. How does this make you feel?
  
  - What are some intentional steps you could take this coming week to reach out to those in this position?
5. As you read John 3:19-20, are there areas of your life that you'd rather keep in the darkness? Why do you think we sometimes feel shame about bringing things into the open? What would encourage you to do so?

# I AM.

WEEK 7 • 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 • JOHN 3:22-36

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1. Verse 26 describes the potential that John's disciples saw Jesus as a rival ministry.
  - What did John The Baptist think about that?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How does Mark 1:1-8 also show how John The Baptist's role compared to that of Jesus?
  
2. John goes to great lengths to show that Jesus is greater than John The Baptist and anyone else.
  - How does he do that in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How does the writer of Hebrews describe it in Hebrews 1:1-4?
  
3. Think about the attitudes, opinions and beliefs of those in your world. What do they believe about Jesus? Are there any common questions or thoughts people are asking you about this? How does what we're discovering in John compare to these questions and thoughts?



# I AM.

WEEK 8 • 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 • JOHN 4:1-42

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1. How does this week's passage add to John's theme of Jesus 'Saviour of the World?'
2. Jesus offered to give the woman 'living water.' What do we understand about this from the following verses? (John 4:13-14, John 7:37-39 & Revelation 22:17)
3. Jesus' teaching to both the woman (v16-18) and his disciples (v31) suggests that we can pursue things that don't truly satisfy?
  - Where had the woman been looking for satisfaction?
  - What are some common things that people pursue outside of God?
  - What do we learn from Jesus about what truly satisfies? (John 4:13 & 34)





# I AM.

WEEK 9 • 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2017 • JOHN 4:43 - 5:15

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1. Verse 45 records Jesus' welcome in Galilee because of what they'd already seen of him. Have a look at John 2:1-12 (Miracle in Galilee) and John 2:13-24 (Passover exploits in Jerusalem). Why do you think they welcomed him? How was he different to expectation and/or experience?
2. The miracle with the official's son is again noted by John as a sign (see also 2:11).
  - Although no single Old Testament passage confirms it, what were people expecting to see from the Messiah? (Matthew 11:2-6)
  - What was the impact of this here? (John 4:53)
  - What are signs linked to in the early church? (Acts 8:6, 14:3 and Romans 15:18-19)
3. What role might prayer for people outside of the church have in our Uncontainable vision? What opportunities can you see to naturally bring prayer into relationships with people in your world?

4. Jesus stirred up trouble for the way he behaved on the Sabbath.
  - What was the Sabbath about? (Exodus 18:8-11 & 31:18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - In light of this, what do you think Jesus means in Mark 2:28?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Jesus wasn't necessarily breaking God's law but human traditions - rules that were getting in the way of God blessing people. Are there any traditions you can think of that might hinder the work God is wanting to do? What can we do to change this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. This week's passage shows two awe-inspiring miracles and yet Jesus says that people should take him at his word even if immediate evidence is not seen. What do you think it takes to be a community that supports one another to hold onto faith even when we don't see the things we desperately want to see.



4. A big theme of John's Gospel is testimony about Jesus. What do these verses say about the things that testify about Jesus?
- John 1:29-34
  
  - Matthew 3:17 & 17:5
  
  - John 5:36, 39 & 46
5. How does the number and variety of testimonies about Jesus add to the authenticity of him?
- Why was this important to Jewish readers? (Deuteronomy 19:15)
  
  - Why might this be important in today's world?
  
  - In what ways can your life add to the testimony about Jesus today?

# I AM.

WEEK 11 • 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017 • JOHN 6:1-24

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1. As John begins an introduction into showing Jesus as the bread of life, he mentions Passover almost as a side note. How do the following verses demonstrate that it may be a more significant comment? (Exodus 12:8 & Mark 14:12 & 22)
2. The result of the miracle is that they want to make him king by force (v15). What does Jesus' reaction tell us about his agenda/mission?
3. A major theme of this passage is the idea of contentment; that Jesus' miraculous provision was enough. Take a look at Hebrews 13:5. What does it teach about being content? What are the signs that reveal a lack of contentment in us?



# I AM.

WEEK 12 • 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2017 • JOHN 6:25-59

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1. When were you the most hungry in your life? Share the story.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. This week's passage comes the day after the feeding of the 5,000. What importance do you think this has?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Have a look at John 6:30-33 which references the Israelites in the desert. What similarities and differences do you see with Exodus 16:13-18?





# I AM.

WEEK 13 • 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017 • JOHN 6:60 - 7:52

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Today's passage continues the theme of bread of life and finding true satisfaction in Jesus.

1. What happens when you're hungry? What do you struggle doing? How does this help us understand what it looks like to be malnourished in a spiritual sense?
2. In this week's passage, many people actually stop following Jesus because of what he was teaching. Why did some stay? (John 6:68, 7:15 & 46)
3. Have a look at Deuteronomy 8:3 (which Jesus quotes in Matthew 4:4) and Psalm 1:1.
  - What does this tell us about spiritual nourishment and in what ways are you making sure you are being spiritually nourished?
4. Jesus is again called to defend his teaching.
  - How can we prove that his word is true according to 7:17?

- How does Jesus link this to spiritual nourishment? (John 4:34)
- Think about this quote from GK Chesterton's book - What's wrong with the world: - "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."
- To what extent can you see this in your own life and how might you respond?

5. Jesus then turns his attention beyond hunger to thirst.

- Why is Jesus' statement in v37 unexpected on that occasion?

- What was Jesus referring to? (John 4:13 & 7:38-39)

- In reflection on Sunday's message, what would the practical implications be of someone who demonstrates an overflow of life?

# I AM.

WEEK 14 • 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017 • JOHN 8:1-21

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1. What is the most difficult or dangerous thing to do in the dark? What difference does it make to do this in the light? How does this help us to understand the difference following Jesus makes?
  
2. An aspect of following Jesus is found in Psalm 119:105. What does this look like practically for you?
  
3. The account of the woman caught in adultery is an account of something hidden in darkness that is brought into the light.
  - What do you notice about Jesus' response here with the woman?
  
  - How might this differ from the way some Christians have responded in the past?
  
  - Are there any lessons we can learn here that help us in relationships with people far from God?
  
4. As we think about being a church community that is more present in our culture, is there anything that makes you nervous? Talk and pray about this together. How can we support one another in this?

# I AM.

WEEK 15 • 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017 • JOHN 8:21-59

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1. This week's passage continues a discussion that began with Jesus claiming to be the light and moves into truth and freedom. How can you see these three things fitting together?
  
2. The most important first step according to Jesus is the believe in him.
  - What does v24 say about the importance of believing?
  
  - Often this truth can slip down in the list of things we prioritise or hope for in the people around us. How can we encourage each other to keep this as a high priority?
  
3. In verses 31-47, Jesus reveals some of the differences between those who truly follow him and those who don't.
  - What differences do you notice?

- What does it teach us about what it means to truly follow Jesus?

4. Notice that Jesus' attitude is not - 'obey the rules or there's a consequence.' Rather to follow Jesus is an invitation to experience true life and freedom - to walk in light.
  - Reflect on Proverbs 4:20-22 together (especially the paraphrase in The Message). How does it add to what we're learning in John?

- What would your life look like if you experienced the freedom Jesus is talking about? What would be the biggest change? Why not share these things together and pray for one another.

# I AM.

WEEK 16 • 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017 • JOHN 9:1-41

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1. What has been an eye-opener in this “Light of the World” mini-series?
2. Have a look at verse 22 - Notice that the man’s parents didn’t say what they really thought because of fear.
  - What are some situations in your life where you can shrink back from sharing the truth you believe about God because of fear?
  - Why not pray for each other around this (you could look at Acts 4:29-31 & 2 Timothy 1:7 to help you pray).
3. Verse 24-34 show that the religious leaders were looking for any excuse not to believe the simple truth.
  - In what areas have you seen this in people’s challenges to the Christian faith?
  - What have you learned about approaching these conversations with grace and truth?

4. The man born blind has a simple testimony, he doesn't have all the answers, he just shares what Jesus has done in his life.
  - How does this affect you view of outreach?
  
- What is the simplest way that you can share some of your story? Have a go and share together.
  
5. Notice the man is healed and believes and his response is to worship Jesus (v35-38). What does a response of worship look like in your life?



# I AM.

WEEK 17 • 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017 • JOHN 10:1-21

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1. Over these two weeks we'll be looking at "I am the Gate and the Shepherd." After Sunday's message, what do you understand about how these metaphors fit together?

2. What are the characteristics of the good shepherd on the basis of John 10:1-21?

- How does this compare to Israel's experience of its leaders? (Ezekial 34:1-6)

- What impact would it have if countries, churches, homes, workplaces and classrooms were led according to these principles? What would it look like?

- In what areas of your life could you adopt some of these good shepherd principles?

3. One of the best known descriptions of God as our shepherd is in Psalm 23.
  - What is the experience of the sheep under the care of Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How does this shape your understanding of following Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. The good shepherd creates an environment where sheep thrive - an environment distinct from the world (v10). What does this tell us about the potential for a church community to be attractive to people who aren't yet Jesus' sheep?

# I AM.

WEEK 18 • 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 • JOHN 10:22-42

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1. The Festival of Dedication was not commanded by God in the Old Testament. It began in the 2nd century BC and commemorated the re-dedication of the temple after the Jews had returned from exile. In this festival, the Jews looked forward to the 'Messiah' who they hoped would lead an independent Israel.
  - How does the Messiah (check out Nick's 7 May message for more on the Messiah) presented in Jesus compare to the Messiah the Jews hoped for? How does the passage show they felt about this?
  
2. Have there been times where your expectation of God has differed from your experience of God?
  - What did you learn or are you learning about this?
  
  - What do we know in the Bible that can help us understand what is true in these situations?
  
  - You may want to share together and pray for one another around this.

3. The result of the difference in expectation meant some Jews did not believe.
- What stories have you heard from people who don't believe because of an experience with God or church?
  
  - What are some good ways to respond to or ask questions about these challenges?
  
  - Consider praying, either specifically or generally, for these people.

# I AM.

WEEK 19 • 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 • JOHN 11:1-44

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1. Sunday's message looked at the perspectives of people around Jesus (Thomas, Mary, Martha, the Jews).
  - Which person do you most identify with in this passage? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How did Jesus prove himself greater than their experiences and expectations?
  
2. Jesus explains that the purpose of this whole episode is so that God is glorified (11:4) - a word that is also translated as praise.
  - What does Luke tell us about the effect of praise? (Luke 7:16-17 & 18:43)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How would your life group change if you agreed together to set an atmosphere of praise. Where we're always looking to share stories and reasons for praise?

3. In v25-26, Jesus stretches the use of language and our perspective on death.
  - Have a look at John 5:24 & 11:13 - How is death spoken of differently here?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How does it shed light on what Jesus is talking about in 11:25-26.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Verses 25-26 are core to the gospel message. With what you now understand, how might you explain them in everyday words so that someone with little or no knowledge of the Bible could understand?

# I AM.

WEEK 20 • 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 • JOHN 11:45 - 12:11

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1. Read Caiaphas' prophecy in v51-53. What do you think he meant by this? What significance can we see in hindsight? (See also Ephesians 2:14-16)
2. This shows that God was accomplishing something great even when it didn't look like it. Are there times when you have discovered this in your own life?
3. The passage highlights the Jewish leaders and Judas.
  - What does it show about what they valued or wanted to hold on to?
  - How does this contrast with Mary's response to Jesus?





# I AM.

WEEK 21 • 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2017 • JOHN 12:12-50

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1. Glory is a theme in this passage and is a word that's often associated with heroes. What's the most heroic thing you've ever seen?
2. John quotes Isaiah and says Isaiah said this because he saw the glory of Jesus (v41). What words would you use to describe the scene that Isaiah saw? (Isaiah 6:1-5)
3. How does that contrast with the description of Jesus and his mission in John 12 (see also Isaiah 53:1-3)?





# I AM.

WEEK 22 • 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017 • JOHN 13:1-17

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1. What is the most outrageous way that someone has served you? How did it feel? Does it help to understand what Jesus was teaching here?
2. Verse 4 is linked to verse 3 through the word 'so' - it shows us that Jesus' ability to serve without fear of shame came from an appreciation of who he was. What does Philippians 2:5-11 teach us about this?
3. As you think of ways to serve others, where do you notice yourself holding back? What causes this?



**THE STREET**  
• CHURCH •

\* All verse references are to NIV11 unless otherwise noted. Try to use scripture as much as possible to back up responses.

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4. Ephesians 1 shows us what incredible security we have because of our belief in Jesus. How might a greater appreciation of who we are help us to serve others more sacrificially?
5. Jesus sets an example that he expects his followers to follow.
- What do you notice about the way Jesus serves here that could act as principles to guide how we serve? (i.e. v1, 11, 13-14)
  - What do you think would begin to happen or what do you think it would look like if we were a church that served one another like this?





3. This command to love one another is not an abstract moral principle but is defined by the life of Jesus — ‘as I have loved you...’
  - How might this view of love differ from what other religions or worldviews say love is?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - How could you share with someone what this God’s love looks like?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. We see Jesus washing his disciples feet knowing one would betray him and one would deny him — it shows that Jesus’ love endured these things.
  - What are the situations in which you have found it most difficult to continue to love someone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - If the ultimate expression of love is at the cross, how can a greater appreciation of God’s love help us to love even in these circumstances?







# I AM.

WEEK 25 • 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 • JOHN 14:15-31

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1. It's so important to know that a core part of Jesus' preparation of his disciples for life beyond his life was to teach them about the Holy Spirit. How does this affect your desire to study this passage?
2. Read through the passage together and note down all of the things that Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit.
  - Was anything new for you in there or anything you didn't expect?
  - Is there anything that makes you nervous about the Holy Spirit?
  - What security can you see in verse 26?
3. Obedience is another key theme in this passage.
  - What is the difference between obedience to attain relationship and obedience within relationship?
  - What is the role of the Holy Spirit in leading us towards obedience? (John 14:26 & Romans 8:1-9)
4. Have a look at 1 John 2:3-6. What do you find most challenging about this? You could talk together on specific areas or pray that the Holy Spirit would lead you to live more as Jesus did.



# I AM.

WEEK 26 • 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 • JOHN 15:1-17

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1. The Bible Knowledge Commentary defines fruit as, "The result of the Son's life being re-produced in the disciple."
  - What do you think about this definition? Does it fit the metaphor?
  
  - Can you think of some examples of what this fruit could be practically?
  
2. Psalm 1 and Psalm 84:4-7 have different pictures but have similar messages.
  - What do we learn about relationship with God from these verses?
  
  - What could be some practical implications in your life?
  
3. Jesus speaks of answered prayer coming out of relationship. How would a deeper relationship with Jesus adjust the focus of your prayer? Are there things you think you'd pray for more or less?
  
4. Jesus describes the goal as producing fruit that will last (v16). Of the things that you want to achieve in life, what are the things that will have an eternal impact? Is there anything you want to see change here as a result?



# I AM.

WEEK 27 • 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 • JOHN 15:18-25

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A key part of Jesus' preparation of his disciples for the future was teaching on persecution!

1. Have you ever experienced mistreatment or persecution because of your belief in Jesus? What happened? What did you learn?
  
2. On the basis of this week's passage, what reasons does Jesus give for persecution?
  - What about John 3:19-21. How does this help us understand it?
  
3. Have a look at the following excerpts from Paul's letters to the early church. What reasons are given for having hope and for pressing on in the midst of trouble?
  - Philippians 3:7-10
  
  - 2 Corinthians 4:13-18
  
4. Read 2 Corinthians 2:15-16.
  - What picture does it portray of people's responses to the message of Jesus Christ?
  
  - What does it look like to be a Life Group that prays and supports people in that environment?



# I AM.

WEEK 28 • 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 • JOHN 15:26 - 16:15

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1. This passage centres around Jesus' promise of an Advocate – the Holy Spirit.
  - What do we learn about the work of the Holy Spirit from the passage itself?
  
  - How do Romans 8:14-16 and 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 add to this?
  
  - If someone asked you about who the Holy Spirit is and what he does, how could you do that in everyday language?
  
2. We could think about how awesome it would be to still have Jesus physically present but he tells the disciples that it is for their good that he goes away (16:7)
  - What reasons can you find in the passage for why Jesus considered it a good thing?
  
  - How does this encourage you?
  
3. The Father gives us everything he has - first his Son, then his Spirit. What does this show about who God is?
  
4. Jesus says the Holy Spirit will testify about him and that we must testify too.
  - How have you seen the testimony of the Holy Spirit in your own life?
  
  - What might sharing that testimony with others look like in both word and deed?



# I AM.

WEEK 29 • 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2017 • JOHN 16:16-33

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1. Jesus shows the disciples that one event would cause rejoicing for the world and grief for them (v20). What are some examples where you see a similar distinction occurring today?
2. Jesus doesn't promise a pain-free life but instead promises that pain will be forgotten in light of what follows (v21-22). What was the immediate implication of these verses for the disciples?
3. What future promise is found in Revelation 21:4? How does hope make a difference in your everyday life? How does this compare to the people you know who don't believe in Jesus?
4. Jesus tells his disciples that they will experience trouble (v33). In the Old Testament, Job saw significant trouble but learnt significant lessons along the way.
  - What do we learn about how Job responded to trouble and what he learned through the journey? See Job 1:20-21 and 42:1-6
  - What might be an implication of this for you?
5. Jesus reveals a profound new way of approaching God through Jesus (v25-27).
  - What do we learn about this from Ephesians 3:12 and Hebrews 4:16?
  - To what extent do you appreciate this great privilege and take full advantage of it?



# I AM.

WEEK 30 • 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 • JOHN 17:1-4

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1. What's the greatest answer to prayer you've seen?
2. As Jesus' 'hour' arrives - when he'll go to the cross - we find him praying.
  - What does this teach us about the importance of prayer?
  
  - What are the most important things that we should be praying about?
3. Jesus prays to his Father, something that he also taught his disciples to do. (Matthew 6:9) How does this make you think differently about prayer?
4. Jesus' prayer is not so much for himself as the completion of his mission.
  - How would God be glorified (i.e. be praised as a result)? (v4)
  
  - How would that come about? (Philippians 2:8-9)
  
  - In what ways do you think we bring God glory by our obedience?



5. The purpose of Jesus' mission is to give eternal life.
- How is this defined and is it different to what you'd expect? (John 17:3)
  
  - 'To know' is used in the context of physical intimacy in marriage (Genesis 4:1). How does this definition affect your perception of what it means to know God?
6. This Sunday marks the 28 day countdown towards beginning to launch new locations and as such our desire is to cover all of this in prayer.
- How can you as a life group encourage one another in prayer over this time?
  
  - Are there ways in which you can gather to pray together over these 4 weeks?



# I AM.

WEEK 31 • 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 • JOHN 17:5-19

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1. It's interesting that Jesus specifies that he's not praying for the world but for his disciples (v9). What does this tell us about the importance of the church to God's mission?
2. Have a look at these New Testament prayers (Matthew 9:36-38, Acts 4:29-31, Ephesians 6:18-20)
  - What do they focus on?
  - How does this compare to the things we often pray for?
3. Jesus prays not that the disciples are taken out of the world but that they are protected in the world (v11-12 & 15).
  - How are they to be protected? (John 17:11 & Proverbs 18:10)
  - The name of God is synonymous with who God is. What attributes do you know about God (e.g. love) that demonstrate his willingness & ability to protect.







# I AM.

WEEK 32 • 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 • JOHN 17:20-26

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1. How have you been going with the 28 Days of Prayer? Has God shown you something when praying that you could share with the group?
2. Jesus prays for everyone who would believe in the apostles' message about Jesus Christ - generation after generation. Who shared the message of Jesus with you? Do you know who shared it with them?
3. A major theme of this passage is Jesus praying that the church would be one. Read Psalm 133 together.
  - What is the effect of unity according to this Psalm?
  - How does this tie into the effect of the church being one (John 17:20-23).
4. The early church saw the blessing of growth as shown in Acts.
  - Have a look at Acts 2:42-47 & 4:32-37. What did unity look like practically for them?
  - What things would show you that we are growing in unity as a church community?



5. Jesus prays that he would continually make God known to us and the result wouldn't be more knowledge but more love. Paul describes the practical implications of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. What is most challenging for you here?
6. Spend some time praying for our church community and the wider Wellington churches. Pray for the unity and love and growth that Jesus describes in his prayer.



# I AM.

WEEK 33 • 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 • JOHN 18:1-27

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1. It is common to think about the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus fulfilled - what's interesting is that he also fulfilled New Testament ones as well. How did Jesus fulfil the following? (John 6:39, 11:49-53 & 12:32)
  
2. Whatever Caiaphas thought about his prophecy, one man dying for the people has rich theological significance. Have a look at Romans 5:12-21. What are some things we receive because of the death of this one man?
  
3. This passage also shows the three times that Peter denied knowing Jesus.
  - Have you ever felt like you've let God down? How did it feel?
  
  - How do Romans 5:8 and 8:1 encourage you?
  
  - How do you reflect on the fact that God loves you despite knowing everything you have ever done and will ever do?
  
4. When do you find it most difficult to admit that you believe in Jesus? Maybe it's a place, a relationship or even a particular topic of conversation.
  - How does Acts 4:29-31 show that this is not a new thing?
  
  - What might help you to have more courage in these situations?
  
  - Pray for each other that we would have courage to make our faith known.



# I AM.

WEEK 34 • 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 • JOHN 18:28 - 19:16

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1. Barabbas, whose name means son of the father goes free despite his guilt. It points to our own journey where if we believe in Jesus, we are forgiven and part of God's family. Have a look at these verses: John 1:12-13, 8:35 & Galatians 3:26-28
  - What do they tell us about being a child of God?
  - How should this affect our relationships in the church?
  - What might someone's life look like if they lived in the fullness of being a child of God?
2. John shows that a theme of his gospel - the nature of truth - also came up in Jesus' trial before Pilate. (John 18:37-38)
  - What does Jesus say about truth?
  - Have a look at John 8:32. Why is it important that truth goes beyond something we just know about?
3. Pilate gets caught between what he wants to do and what others want him to do.
  - What were the conflicting pressures on him? (John 19:12)
  - What are some times when you feel like this?
  - What have we seen in questions 1 and 2 that might help us to deal with these moments?
4. Every worldview must deal with Pilate's question - what is truth. Even if people think nothing is truth, that's still an answer. Why not pray for the people in your world who are trying to answer this question but have not yet found Jesus. Pray that they'd know the truth and that the truth would set them free. Ask God if there is anything he wants you to do or say to help them.



# I AM.

WEEK 35 • 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 • JOHN 19:17-42

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1. Although the crucifixion narrative is familiar to many people in churches, there's always something new to discover. What was one thing that was new for you out of Sunday's sermon?
2. John shows us that verses 22-24 fulfilled something written about 1,000 years earlier, in Psalm 22! Let's have a look at that Psalm which is Messianic - meaning it points to Jesus.
  - What does Psalm 22 show about how Jesus suffered with the same things that we do? (Psalm 22:1-2, 7-8 & 11)
  - Rather than dwell there, David describes what people's experience would be because of Jesus (for example, verses 3-5 and 24). What encourages you most right now and why?
3. The key statement in this passage is the triumphant - "It is finished!" (John 19:30)
  - What was finished? (Hebrews 10:11-14 & Romans 8:1-2)
  - Are there things we sometimes do to try to add to Jesus' finished work? What are they?
4. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. How does it describe a life lived in light of the finished work of Jesus? Why not spend some time thanking God for this opportunity or asking God to lead you into such a life.



# I AM.

WEEK 36 • 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2018 • JOHN 20:1-31

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1. What do you notice about the different ways in which the people in this passage believed in Jesus? How do they compare with your own journey to belief?
2. Jesus tells Mary that God is his Father and her Father (v17). We realise therefore that in prayer we come before God as our heavenly Father (Matthew 6:9). How might a greater understanding of this affect how you pray?
3. Three times Jesus says, "peace be with you." Peace (Shalom) is a significant biblical theme that encompasses prosperity, well-being and safety.
4. Read Ezekial 34:23-25. Who is Ezekial talking about and what does it show about the way peace will ultimately come?
  - In Luke 19:42, Jesus looked at Jerusalem and said - "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace..."
  - What are some of the places that people look for peace?
5. Read Romans 15:13 & Isaiah 26:3. What do you think it takes to experience peace on an ongoing basis?
6. Have a look at Psalm 122:6-8. Why not use it to help you as a group pray for the city of Wellington.



# I AM.

WEEK 37 • 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 • JOHN 2:1-25

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This passage focuses on Jesus' restoration of Peter after his denial.

1. Compare John 21:4-7 and Luke 5:1-11
  - What was the purpose of the first miracle?
  - What is different about the second miraculous catch?
  - What does this scene tell us about the relationship between failure and following Jesus?
2. Jesus calls Peter to feed his sheep which was a call to shepherd Jesus followers (The word 'pastor' comes from the Latin word for 'shepherd')
  - What do we learn about what it means to be a shepherd of God's people from Psalm 23:1-6 and Ezekial 34:4-6?
  - How does this help us understand how to care for one another?
3. Jesus called Peter to follow him and yet Peter could have let past failures, going back to old ways (v3) or comparing himself with others (v20-22) to get in the way of that. To what extent do you see any of these factors getting in the way of following Jesus for yourself? Why? Why not encourage and pray for one another.
4. What do the final verses of John (v24-25) tell us about what it must have been like to watch Jesus at work among people? The same Jesus is at work today - how does this encourage you to follow him?

