



# GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

A Guide To Discovering Who Jesus Is

# How To Use This Guide

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## PURPOSE

In his book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert Coleman writes, "Jesus' method of evangelism was personal and relational. He called people to follow Him, and as they did, He taught them by living with them, sharing life with them, and revealing the Scriptures to them in a way they could understand and apply." It's personal and relational approach that we want to replicate in our *Getting to Know Jesus Bible Study*. We aim to resource you, as a believer, with tools as you invite people to experience extreme hospitality, read Scripture, and savor Jesus from the Bible itself.

## OUR PLAN

Our plan is simple: as you have **Good. God. Gospel.** conversations with your neighbors, we want to give you a study guide to use for evangelism. The first step is to show extreme hospitality (grabbing a coffee or sharing a meal) with the goal of wading through people's questions about Jesus. The goal is to have a deep gospel conversation using John's Gospel as a guide. The study lasts for eight weeks, but you should, in no way, feel tied to the timeline. We'd encourage you to keep things as organic and non-formal as possible. If this study leads to a longer relationship and deeper conversations, great! We recommend using the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), which is a bit more readable for those unfamiliar with the Bible's language.

As for flow, here's our suggestion:

**Catch up.** Seek to build an organic friendship. To do this, you have to show sincere interest in a person's life. Be curious about their life, ask good questions, and listen carefully as they share. Remember, your neighbor is a person, not a project.

**Pray.** Offer to pray for your friend. Ask what they'd like you to pray for. Also, pray for God to help them understand what they're about to read.

*Note: Tear this page out before giving this book away.*

**Read the Scripture together.** Take turns reading the passage together.

**Use the guide and work through the questions.** Don't try to make it through all the questions. Let your friend ask questions. Answer what you can, and if there's a question you're not sure how to answer, tell them you'll do your best to find out before the next meeting.

**Think about implications and next steps together.** John's Gospel is more than just a story. It's a true story. Be sure to ask the "now what?" question with the person you're studying with.

## PROPOSED OUTLINE

This one-to-one Bible reading plan will take you through the book of John as we ask and answer eight key questions about Jesus.

- Who is Jesus? | John 1:1-14; 29-34
- Why do I need to trust Jesus? | John 3:13-21
- How does Jesus treat sinners? | John 4:1-43
- Why is it hard to follow Jesus? | John 6:22-66
- What does Jesus do for His people? | John 10:7-18
- What hope does Jesus give in the face of death? | John 11:1-44
- Why aren't there other ways to get to God? | John 14:1-11; 15:1-10
- How did Jesus die and is Jesus still dead? | John 19-20

## THE CHALLENGE: 8 DISCUSSIONS TO EXPLORE JESUS

*Getting to Know Jesus* offers a simple yet profound challenge: have eight conversations centered on eight direct questions designed to explore who Jesus is. Through one-to-one Bible reading, participants are invited to engage directly with Jesus's own words. Instead of relying on secondhand opinions or assumptions, this approach encourages people to read His teaching for themselves, ask honest questions, and wrestle with His claims. The aim is not just to learn about Jesus, but to encounter Him personally through His words and respond to what He says.

**Note:** *Tear this page out before giving this book away.*

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# YOU'RE INVITED!

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## EIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET TO KNOW JESUS

Dear friend,

The booklet you're holding is proof that someone cares about you, a lot. They want you to know about Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the Savior of the world. That's an extraordinary claim—one that deserves to be taken seriously and supported with evidence. If Jesus truly is the Savior of the world, then He isn't just another religious figure. He is the most important person you could ever come to know.

So, who is this Jesus? Why is He so significant for our lives? Why is it so important to know Him and to trust Him above all else? Why do so many people walk away from Jesus? These are some of the big questions we hope to explore with you in this study.

In *Getting to Know Jesus*, we'll look at eight key questions that reveal who He is, what He has done, and why you can trust Him with your life. Each answer comes straight from Jesus's own words and actions in the Gospel of John. People have a lot of opinions about Jesus, but we want you to see Him for yourself.

As you read, don't be afraid to jot down notes, highlight what stands out, or write down your own questions. Every section is designed to help you dig deeper—read, reflect, explore, and respond—before closing with a summary from John's Gospel. And remember: there are no "bad" or "dumb" questions here. If you have doubts, hesitations, or struggles, you're not alone. We've all been there.

And please know that we're praying for you as you begin this journey. Our hope is simple: that you would come to know Jesus personally as your Savior and King.

praying for you,

**Stonegate Church**

## DISCUSSION 1

# WHO IS JESUS?

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### **JOHN 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of men. **5** That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. **9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was created through him. Yet, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to his own. His own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, **13** who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. **14** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### **JOHN 1:29-34**

**29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**30** This is the one I told you about: ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.’ **31** I

didn’t know him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.” **32** And John testified, “I saw the

Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him. **33** I didn’t know him, but he who sent me to baptize with

water told me, ‘The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

**34** I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

### **OBSERVATIONS:**





## RESPOND | NOW WHAT?

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- Did this reading challenge the way you think about Jesus? If so, how?
- What thoughts or reactions do you have to the idea that God would become human in order to deal with human guilt and brokenness?
- If you were to believe everything this section of the Bible says about Jesus, how might your life (or your view of life) be different?

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## SUMMARY | SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

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John’s Gospel introduces Jesus, the “Word,” who is fully God and became fully human. He is who Christians call “the God-Man.” But just as amazing as the fact that God became a human to live with humans is why He became a human. As John the Baptist points out, Jesus is the “lamb of God,” who has come to take away the sins of the world. In other words, Jesus has come to be a sacrifice for sins. So, putting it all together, **Jesus is fully God who became fully human to die like a lamb so that the punishment of our sins could be fully taken away.**

## DISCUSSION 2

**WHY DO I NEED  
TO TRUST JESUS?**

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### JOHN 3:1-21

**1** Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11** Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

### **OBSERVATIONS:**





## RESPOND | NOW WHAT?

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- If Jesus was telling the truth, then why should you trust in Him?
- Is there anything keeping you from trusting in Jesus? If so, what is it?

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## SUMMARY | SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

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Jesus offers people an entirely new life, which is what He means by being “born again”—something that only God’s Spirit can bring about. According to Jesus, it is only by believing (trusting) in Him that people can receive eternal life. Sin (our rejection and the brokenness it causes) deserves God’s condemnation, but through Jesus, we can escape God’s just condemnation. This is what John the Baptist was referring to when he called Jesus, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” **Through Jesus, we can escape God’s judgment (God’s just response to evil and wrongdoing).**

## DISCUSSION 3

# HOW DOES JESUS TREAT SINNERS?

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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\*As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### JOHN 4:1-43

**1** When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John **2** (though Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), **3** he left Judea and went again to Galilee. **4** He had to travel through Samaria; **5** so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon. **7** A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, **8** because his disciples had gone into town to buy food. **9** "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. **10** Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water." **11** "Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'?" **12** You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock." **13** Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. **14** But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life." **15** "Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water." **16** "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here." **17** "I don't have a husband," she answered. "You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said.

**18** “For you’ve had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” **19** “Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” **21** Jesus told her, “Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22** You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. **23** But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.” **25** The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” **26** Jesus told her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.” **27** Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” **28** Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, **29** “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” **30** They left the town and made their way to him. **31** In the meantime the disciples kept urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” **32** But he said, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.” **33** The disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?” **34** “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work,” Jesus told them. **35** “Don’t you say, ‘There are still four more months, and then comes the harvest’? Listen to what I’m telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest.

**36** The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. **37** For in this case the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ **38** I sent you to reap what you didn’t labor for; others have labored, and you have benefited from their labor.” **39** Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, “He told me everything I ever did.” **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. **41** Many more believed because of what he said. **42** And they told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

## **OBSERVATIONS:**







## DISCUSSION 4

# WHY IS IT HARD TO FOLLOW JESUS?

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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\*As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### JOHN 6:22-66

**22** On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. **23** Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. **24** So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. **25** When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” **26** Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27** Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” **28** Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” **29** Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” **30** So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” **32** Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For 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 always.” **35** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

**36** But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. **40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” **41** So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” **42** They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” **43** Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. **44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. **45** It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— **46** not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. **47** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. **48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **50** This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” **52** The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” **53** So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **54** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

**55** For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **56** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. **57** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. **58** This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” **59** Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. **60** When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” **61** But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? **62** Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? **63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **64** But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) **65** And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” **66** After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

## **OBSERVATIONS:**





## RESPOND | NOW WHAT?

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- Is there anything about Jesus (who He claimed to be or maybe something He taught) that you find hard to accept? Why do you think people find Jesus offensive today?
- If Jesus really is “the Bread of Life,” what does that mean for you and your relationship with Him? Are you looking to other things to give you life? What “bread” are you eating?

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## SUMMARY | SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

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People were offended by Jesus in John 6 for the same reason many are offended today: His claims were too exclusive. **Jesus declared that only those who believe in Him can have true life, which means every person depends on Him for life.** He called Himself “the Bread of Life”, showing that we must rely on Him just as we rely on food. Just as no one can survive without eating, no one can have life apart from Jesus. For many, that message was too hard to accept—and it still is. Yet the Bible does not soften this claim: eternal life is found in Jesus alone.

## DISCUSSION 5

**WHAT DOES  
JESUS DO FOR  
HIS PEOPLE?**

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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\*As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### JOHN 10:7-18

Jesus said again, “Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. **9** I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance. **11** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. **13** This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn’t care about the sheep. **14** “I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. **17** This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

### OBSERVATIONS:





## RESPOND | NOW WHAT?

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- Jesus says, “*I know my own, and my own know me*” (10:14). What does this tell you about the kind of relationship Jesus offers to those who believe in Him?
- How does thinking about Jesus as a “Good Shepherd” change the way you see Jesus?

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## SUMMARY | SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

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**Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and He proves it by laying down His life for the sheep.** Unlike other leaders or gods who demand from their people, Jesus is the Shepherd who gives rather than takes. He willingly sacrifices Himself for His people because He loves them and knows them by name. This is the greatest display of His love: we live because He chose to die. And even more, as the Good Shepherd, He doesn’t just die for the sheep—He also protects, guides, and provides for them day by day. His care is not distant or cold, but personal and constant.

## DISCUSSION 6

**WHAT HOPE DOES  
JESUS GIVE IN THE  
FACE OF DEATH?**

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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\*As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### JOHN 11:1-44

Now a man was sick—Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. **3** So the sisters sent a message to him: “Lord, the one you love is sick.” **4** When Jesus heard it, he said, “This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” **5** Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. **6** So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. **7** Then after that, he said to the disciples, “Let’s go to Judea again.” **8** “Rabbi,” the disciples told him, “just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you’re going there again?” **9** “Aren’t there twelve hours in a day?” Jesus answered. “If anyone walks during the day, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees the light of this world. **10** But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him.” **11** He said this, and then he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I’m on my way to wake him up.” **12** Then the disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well.” **13** Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. **14** So Jesus then told them plainly, “Lazarus has died. **15** I’m glad for you that I wasn’t there so that you may believe. But let’s go to him.” **16** Then Thomas (called “Twin”) said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go too so that we may die with him.” **17** When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

**18** Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away). **19** Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. **20** As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. **21** Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. **22** Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” **23** “Your brother will rise again,” Jesus told her. **24** Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” **25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. **26** Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” **27** “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.” **28** Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” **29** As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. **31** The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there. **32** As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died!” **33** When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. **34** “Where have you put him?” he asked. “Lord,” they told him, “come and see.” **35** Jesus wept. **36** So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” **37** But some of them said, “Couldn’t he who opened the blind man’s eyes also have kept this man from dying?”

**38** Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39** “Remove the stone,” Jesus said. Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days.” **40** Jesus said to her, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” **41** So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. **42** I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me.” **43** After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44** The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him go.”

## **OBSERVATIONS:**





## RESPOND | NOW WHAT?

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- If it's true that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life and that whoever believes in Him has eternal life”, what does that mean for your life? Do you believe that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life”? Why or why not?
- If Jesus is telling the truth and death isn't the end, what changes about the way you face grief, fear, or the future? How might the truth that Jesus has power over death give you hope despite death?

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## SUMMARY | SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

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Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been claiming that He alone can give life. In John 11, He proves it by raising Lazarus from the dead. **Jesus calls Himself “the resurrection and the life,” and promises resurrection for everyone who believes in Him.** Ultimately, this means that death will not have the final word for His people. Death has no power over those who believe in Jesus.

## DISCUSSION 7

**WHY AREN'T THERE  
OTHER WAYS TO  
GET TO GOD?**

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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\*As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### **JOHN 14:1-11**

**1** “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? **3** If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. **4** You know the way to where I am going.” **5** “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?” **6** Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” **8** “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

## **JOHN 15:1-10**

**1** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. **6** If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples. **9** “As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

## **OBSERVATIONS:**





## RESPOND | NOW WHAT?

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- In these verses, Jesus leaves us no other options to get to heaven or to God. How does that exclusivity contrast with today’s popular belief that ‘all paths lead to God or eternal life’?
- What options does Jesus leave us with about who He is? Right now, where do you feel drawn: to trust Him, resist Him, or stay unsure? Why?

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## SUMMARY | SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

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**Jesus’ claims are exclusive: He is the way, the truth, and the life.** That means He is the only way to the Father, the ultimate standard of truth, and the sole source of real life. By saying this, Jesus rules out every other path to God or to eternal life with Him. Whoever wants a relationship with God must come through Jesus—there is no other way. He also calls Himself the Vine, the source of life for the branches. Just as branches wither when cut off from the vine, so we cannot live apart from Him. Everything depends on Jesus and without Him, we have nothing.

## DISCUSSION 8

**HOW DID JESUS  
DIE AND IS HE  
STILL DEAD?**

## READ | WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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\*As you read, underline any words or phrases that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

### JOHN 19:1-42

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. **2** The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and clothed him in a purple robe. **3** And they kept coming up to him and saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” and were slapping his face. **4** Pilate went outside again and said to them, “Look, I’m bringing him out to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging him.” **5** Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” **6** When the chief priests and the temple servants saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” Pilate responded, “Take him and crucify him yourselves, since I find no grounds for charging him.” **7** “We have a law,” the Jews replied to him, “and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.” **8** When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever. **9** He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus did not give him an answer. **10** So Pilate said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Don’t you know that I have the authority to release you and the authority to crucify you?” **11** “You would have no authority over me at all,” Jesus answered him, “if it hadn’t been given you from above. This is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.” **12** From that moment Pilate kept trying to release him. But the Jews shouted, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!” **13** When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge’s seat in a place called the Stone Pavement (but in Aramaic, Gabbatha).

**14** It was the preparation day for the Passover, and it was about noon. Then he told the Jews, “Here is your king!” **15** They shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Should I crucify your king?” “We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered. **16** Then he handed him over to be crucified. Then they took Jesus away. **17** Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. **18** There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. **19** Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. **20** Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. **21** So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Don’t write, ‘The king of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the king of the Jews.’ ” **22** Pilate replied, “What I have written, I have written.” **23** When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. **24** So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it.” This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing., This is what the soldiers did. **25** Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” **27** Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. **28** After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, “I’m thirsty.”

**29** A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit. **31** Since it was the preparation day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men’s legs broken and that their bodies be taken away. **32** So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with him. **33** When they came to Jesus, they did not break his legs since they saw that he was already dead. **34** But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. **35** He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth. **36** For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of his bones will be broken. **37** Also, another Scripture says: They will look at the one they pierced. **38** After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus’s body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away. **39** Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. **40** They took Jesus’s body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews. **41** There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it. **42** They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby. Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you’ve carried him away, tell me where you’ve put him, and I will take him away.”

## JOHN 20:1-31

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. **2** So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, “They’ve taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him!” **3** At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. **5** Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then, following him, Simon Peter also came. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. **7** The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. **8** The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then also went in, saw, and believed. **9** For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying. **11** But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. **12** She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus’s body had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. **13** They said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “Because they’ve taken away my Lord,” she told them, “and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” **14** Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. **15** “Woman,” Jesus said to her, “why are you crying? Who is it that you’re seeking?” **16** Jesus said to her, “Mary.” Turning around, she said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!”—which means “Teacher.” **17** “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus told her, “since I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

**18** Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them what he had said to her. **19** When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” **20** Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” **22** After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” **24** But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.” **26** A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.” **28** Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” **30** Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.





## RESPOND | NOW WHAT?

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- If someone were to ask you, “Why did Jesus die?” How would you answer? Remember in John 1:29 that John the Baptist said Jesus is the ‘Lamb of God who takes away sin.’ How does that connect to the cross?
- To Christians, Jesus’s resurrection is the most important truth. Take out the resurrection, and everything we believe about Jesus falls apart. What do you believe about the resurrection?
- If Jesus’s death and resurrection are true, then why would that be good news for you?

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## SUMMARY | SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

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Jesus was betrayed, falsely accused by the religious leaders, and handed over to be crucified under the charge of blasphemy (the serious crime of falsely claiming to be God). Though innocent, He was condemned and put to death on a Roman cross for the sins of the world. On the third day, He rose from the dead and appeared to His followers, including Thomas, who initially doubted but then confessed Him as “Lord and God.” **The resurrection stands as the decisive proof that Jesus is the Messiah—the true King and the Son of God—who gives eternal life.**

# WHAT NEXT?

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## AN INVITATION TO A WHOLE NEW LIFE

You've just spent time exploring eight of the most important questions anyone can ask about Jesus. Now the question comes to you: **Who do you say Jesus is?**

Jesus described Himself as the source and giver of life. He promised that whoever trusts in Him will have eternal life and that death will have no hold on them. He claimed to be the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep, the only way to truly know God, and the Vine who gives life to every branch connected to Him. The question is simple but unavoidable: **Do you believe Him?**

There really isn't a neutral answer. If Jesus was right, then the most important response would be to center your entire life around Him. If He was wrong, then He should be dismissed completely. Theologian and Oxford professor C.S. Lewis put this tension into sharp focus:

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”*

And so, the question comes back with full force: **Who do you say Jesus is?** Savior, or liar? Lord, or lunatic? There is no middle ground.

If you believe He is who He says He is, then the next step is clear: live as though your life depends on Him—because it does. To call Jesus your Savior and King means surrendering every part of your life to Him, learning to trust Him more deeply, and walking with Him day by day. Faith in Jesus is not a one-time decision but a lifelong journey of growing closer to Him and letting Him shape who you are.

Your answer to this question will shape everything about your life—now and forever.

**What is your next step in going deeper with Jesus?**



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