



Part 1

The Signs of Jesus in the Gospel of John

Study Guide



How to Use this Study

STORYBREAKER

Where your old story ends and God's story begins

How to Use This Study

The Gospel of John doesn't present miracles to impress us. It presents signs to expose the stories we're living.

Each week, we'll:

- Name the false story
- Listen for the redemptive story
- Reflect honestly
- Practice something simple

This isn't about becoming more religious.

It's about stepping into the truer story Jesus is already telling.

Come curious.

Come honest.

Come as you are.

Every session includes:

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

- False vs. Redemptive Story are the story scripts we have in our lives. They inform our identity and make decisions for us. Often, we carry false ones. Jesus wants to give us a true story of who we are.

Scripture Readings

- Carefully chosen passages that ground each week's theme in the story of God's grace.

Guided Questions

- Questions that help you explore what the Scripture is saying and what it means for your daily life—without requiring all the answers.

Group Discussion (“Take It Further”)

- Space to reflect honestly, listen to others, and discover how faith is formed in community.

Why This Matters

- A short reflection that connects theology to the realities of everyday life—stress, decisions, relationships, and purpose.

A Practical Takeaway

- One simple, doable practice each week to help you live out your faith between gatherings.
- (No overwhelm. No perfection required.)

A Closing Prayer

- A prayer to center your heart, invite God's grace, and send you back into the week with intention.

How to Use This Guide

- Come as you are—questions, doubts, and all.
- Read the Scriptures slowly and honestly.
- Answer what you can. Sit with what you can't.
- Try the weekly takeaway, not as a test, but as an invitation.

The Signs in the Gospel of John (Storybreaker Series Overview)

1. Sign – Water to Wine - John 2:1–11
2. Sign – Healing the Official's Son - John 4:46–54
3. Sign – Healing at the Pool of Bethesda - John 5:1–15
4. Sign – Feeding the Five Thousand - John 6:1–15
5. Sign – Walking on the Water - John 6:16–21
6. Sign – Healing the Man Born Blind - John 9:1–12
7. Sign – Raising Lazarus - John 11:1–44

Week 1: Come and See

Main Idea

When your story runs thin, Jesus invites you into something deeper.

Icebreaker

When was the last time you ran out of something important at the worst possible moment (coffee, gas, patience...)? What happened?

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

Existential Problem:

I don't know what story I'm living—and I'm running out.

False Story:

"I have to hold my life together and make it meaningful on my own."

Busyness becomes identity.

Control becomes safety.

Scarcity becomes the lens through which we see ourselves and God.

Redemptive Story:

You are not the author—you are invited into a story of abundance.

God does not shame our emptiness; God fills it.

Reflection Question

Do you relate to the false story? Why or why not?

Week 1: Come and See

Scripture Readings + Questions

John 1:1–5; 1:35–39; 2:1–11

What question does Jesus ask before performing any sign?

Psalms 90:12

How does remembering our limits bring wisdom?

Lamentations 3:22–23

What does daily mercy reveal about God?

Take It Further – Discussion

Where does “running out” show up in your life right now?

What does it reveal about the story you’ve been living?

Why This Matters

Ash Wednesday names the truth: we are dust.

The first sign names a deeper truth: we are deeply loved.

Why This Matters Question

What would change if you stopped trying to author your life alone?

Practical Takeaway

Story Inventory + Gratitude Audit

Title your current chapter.

Name three ways God has quietly provided.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, when my story runs thin, meet me.

Teach me to receive instead of strive.

Amen.

Week 2: When What You Love Is Out Of Reach

Main Idea

Faith begins when we trust before we see.

Icebreaker

Are you more of a “check the weather radar 12 times” person or a “we’ll see what happens” person?

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

Existential Problem

I can’t control what matters most.

False Story

“If I can’t control it, I can’t trust God with it.”

Anxiety disguises itself as responsibility.

Redemptive Story:

God is already at work beyond what I can see.

Reflection Question

Do you relate to the false story? Why or why not?

Week 2: When What You Love Is Out Of Reach

Scripture Readings + Questions

John 4:46–54

What does the official risk in trusting Jesus?

Proverbs 3:5–6

What does trust look like practically?

Hebrews 11:1

How does this redefine faith?

Take It Further

Where does anxiety try to take control?

What would release look like?

Why This Matters

Most stress comes from trying to control what only God can carry.

Why This Matters Question

Where do you need to trust before you see?

Practical Takeaway

Pray daily:

“Jesus, speak where I cannot go.”

Closing Prayer

God beyond my reach, teach me to trust. Amen.

Week 3: Same Old Patterns

Main Idea

You are not your wounds—you are God's beloved.

Icebreaker

What's one habit you've tried to change more than once?

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

Existential Problem:

I'm stuck—but this is just how life is.

False Story:

"This is just how I am."

Redemptive Story

I am not my wounds; I am God's beloved.

Reflection Question

Do you relate to the false story? Why or why not?

Week 3: Same Old Patterns

Scripture Readings + Questions

John 5:1–15

Why does Jesus ask, “Do you want to be made well?”

Isaiah 43:18–19

What new thing might God be doing?

Romans 8:11

How is resurrection power already present?

Take It Further

Why can stuckness feel safer than change?

What would “getting up” look like?

Why This Matters

Stuck stories feel permanent. Jesus says they are not.

Why This Matters Question:

Where have you quietly accepted a story God may want to rewrite?

Practical Takeaway

One Small Yes – Take one step aligned with healing.

Closing Prayer

Healing Christ, call me forward. Amen.

Week 4: When What You Have Isn't Enough

Main Idea

In Jesus' hands, small offerings become abundance.

Icebreaker

Have you ever brought something small to a potluck and realized everyone else brought a full entrée?

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

Existential Problem

What I have isn't enough.

False Story

"There isn't enough—and I must protect what's mine."

Redemptive Story

God multiplies what is offered in trust.

Reflection Question

Do you relate to the false story? Why or why not?

Week 4: When What You Have Isn't Enough

Scripture Readings + Questions

John 6:1–15

Why does Jesus start with what's already there?

2 Corinthians 9:8

What does sufficiency look like?

Psalms 23:1

How does trust challenge scarcity?

Take It Further

Where does scarcity shape your decisions?

Why This Matters

Scarcity shrinks life. Trust expands it.

Why This Matters Question

What are you holding tightly that could be offered?

Practical Takeaway

Offer something small this week.

Closing Prayer

God of abundance, multiply what I offer. Amen.

Week 5: When the Storm Becomes Your Story

Main Idea

Jesus meets us in the storm.

Icebreaker

Are you someone who loves a dramatic thunderstorm—or someone who immediately checks for hail damage?

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

Existential Problem

The chaos defines me.

False Story:

“The storm means God has abandoned me.”

Redemptive Story

God meets me in the storm—not just after it.

Reflection Question

Do you relate to the false story? Why or why not?

Week 5: When the Storm Becomes Your Story

Scripture Readings + Questions

John 6:16–21

Why do the disciples struggle to recognize Jesus?

Psalms 46:1–3

How does presence reshape chaos?

Isaiah 43:2

What promise is given?

Take It Further

What storm is shaping your narrative?

Why This Matters

Fear is loud. Presence is stronger.

Why This Matters Question

How would believing Jesus is near change your anxiety?

Practical Takeaway

Breath Prayer –

Inhale: “Jesus.”

Exhale: “Be near.”

Closing Prayer

Lord of the waves, anchor me in Your presence. Amen.

Week 6: When You Can't See What God is Doing

Main Idea

Light often disrupts before it comforts.

Icebreaker

Have you ever been completely wrong about something... and only realized it later?

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

Existential Problem

I only see through the lens I've always had.

False Story

"Suffering must mean someone failed."

Redemptive Story

God's light can be revealed even when answers are incomplete.

Reflection Question

Do you relate to the false story? Why or why not?

Week 6: When You Can't See What God is Doing

Scripture Readings + Questions

John 9

What changes when sight is restored?

Psalms 119:18

What does it mean to ask for opened eyes?

2 Corinthians 4:6

Where is light shining now?

Take It Further

Where might your interpretation be incomplete?

Why This Matters

Old lenses distort vision.

Why This Matters Question

Where is God inviting you to see differently?

Practical Takeaway

Ask daily: "What if my interpretation isn't the whole story?"

Closing Prayer

Light of the World, open my eyes. Amen.

Week 7: When Hope Feels Buried

Main Idea

Resurrection is possible—even now.

Icebreaker

What's something you thought was completely over—but later surprised you?

False Story vs. Redemptive Story

Existential Problem

It's too late.

False Story

“The story is over.”

Redemptive Story

Resurrection is possible—even now.

Reflection Question

Do you relate to the false story? Why or why not?

Week 7: When Hope Feels Buried

Scripture Readings + Questions

John 11; 12:12–19

Why does Jesus weep before raising Lazarus?

Ezekiel 37:12–14

What promise is given?

Romans 8:10–11

How is resurrection already beginning?

Take It Further

Where have you buried hope?

Why This Matters

We often declare the story finished before God does.

Why This Matters Question

What would trusting resurrection change this week?

Practical Takeaway

Grave clothes Naming – What might be holding you down?

What is Jesus calling you to leave behind?

Closing Prayer

Resurrecting God, call me into life. Amen.

**To be continued in
Part II of
StoryBreaker**

Study Guide