

Just
GIVE
ME
JESUS

ANNE
GRAHAM
LOTZ

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

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A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE FOR

Just
GIVE
ME JESUS

DAILY STUDIES FOR
PERSONAL OR GROUP USE

A PERSONAL WORD FROM ANNE

My beloved friend, Jill Briscoe, once visited what had been an extremely poverty-stricken country in Africa. As she flew in, she looked down on miles and miles of African veldt that had previously been covered by a lush grasslike crop, but was now an unbroken, brown, dusty plain stretching all the way to the horizon. As Jill traveled to the mission station where she would be staying, mile after mile of barren, dry, poverty-stricken land passed by her window. Little dust devils danced in the hot afternoon sun, while shimmering heat waves made the emaciated, dust-covered people walking listlessly beside the road look more like ghostly apparitions than humans.

The relief workers told her the sad story: The veldt had once been a beautifully green, rolling expanse covered by a newly discovered crop that adapted easily to the climate and soil of the area. Within a few short years, this crop had promised to make the people in the area totally self-sufficient as it became the main, and plentiful, staple of their diet.

Sadly, the relief workers shook their heads as they explained what had happened: The crop had, indeed, become the main staple in the diet of the local people, but too late it had been found to have no nutritional value at all. The tragedy was that hundreds of people had starved to death—with their stomachs full!

Those pitiful African people seem to symbolize many church members in America today who are spiritually starving to death with their stomachs full! We have made the main staples of our “diet” those things that have no real nutritional value—political agendas, social issues, human rights, books about God’s Word, musical videos, theological formulas for reaching the postmodern man,

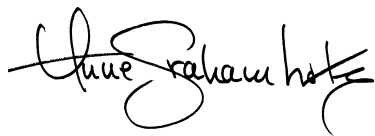
and marketing strategies for the local church, along with a myriad of conferences, seminars, retreats, dramas, and “special events.” None of these things is harmful in itself, but when substituted for the nutrition of daily Bible reading and prayer, the result is increasing spiritual starvation.

For the past twenty years as I have crisscrossed America speaking in arenas, to conventions and churches, I have become convinced of one thing: the average church member is desperately hungry for God’s Word. While we read books about it and hear sermons on it and live by principles from it, we are sadly devoid of it on a daily basis. When our lives begin to unravel due to pressure, problems, or pain, we don’t seem to know how to access its power and truth in a personal, relevant way that makes a difference. As a result, thousands have spirits that are shriveling even while they are sobbing, “Please, just give me Jesus!”

What does your spiritual diet consist of? Although you may be an active church member and a committed Christian, could it be that you are actually starving for the Bread of Life? Are you starving for the Bread, which is Jesus Himself, offered to you and me through God’s Word?

If so, then this workbook is for you! It has been designed to take you directly into God’s Word. There is no middleman. There are no blanks to fill in. There is not even any cross-referencing required. The simple format for meditation has been developed from my own daily personal time in God’s Word as a means of reading a passage in order to hear Him speaking to me personally through it. Day after day, as I use this method in my Bible reading, God has fed me and filled me to overflowing!

As you begin this Bible study, pray this simple prayer: “Dear God, *please, just give me Jesus!*” Then open your Bible and enjoy the Food!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chae Zahau hote". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

GETTING STARTED

These worksheets are designed to be used as a companion to *Just Give Me Jesus*. Used together, they will provide a format for Bible study that is effective for group discussion (Sunday school classes, women's or men's church groups, home or neighborhood Bible classes, one-on-one discipleship) as well as for your private devotions. Believing that God speaks to us through His Word, we have designed these worksheets to lead you through a series of questions concerning the designated Scripture passage. The exercises enable you to not only discover for yourself the eternal truths revealed by God in the Bible, but also to hear God speaking personally to you through His Word and thus have a fresh encounter with Him.

Getting Started on Your Own

It is suggested that *Getting Started*, *Tips for Success*, *Take One Step at a Time*, and the Sample Chapter be used as an initial lesson, in order to familiarize yourself with the format to be used. The worksheets are subsequently divided to correspond with the chapters of the book. If you make your way through this study using one set of worksheets each day, you will complete a chapter a week. The Scripture passage for each worksheet corresponds with the Scripture passage in the divisions of the book chapters. Each set of worksheets will provide a very rich, meaningful pathway for your daily walk with Jesus.

Getting Started in a Group

If you embark on this study through John's gospel in a group, you may want to meet once a week to share the insights you've gained. It is suggested that *Getting*

Started, Tips for Success, Take One Step at a Time, and the Sample Chapter be used as an initial lesson, in order to familiarize yourself with the format to be used. The worksheets are subsequently divided to correspond with the chapters of the book. If you make your way through this study using one set of worksheets each day, you will complete a chapter a week. Ideally, your group will gather each week under the leadership of a facilitator who will lead you through a meaningful discussion of what you've individually discovered. If the group is large (twelve or more), you may need to divide into smaller groups for discussion time, with moderators being chosen to lead each one.

The facilitator may offer a summation at the end of the group study, emphasizing specific applications from the gospel of John to meet the needs and characteristics of your particular group, depending on age, sex, and interests of the members.

Whether you choose to get started on your own or in a group, I pray that your time spent exploring John's gospel will result in your own fresh encounter with Jesus!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I have taken countless trips in my lifetime—some long, some short, some far, some near. But every single trip involves a certain amount of preparation in order to be successful. And the preparation itself requires a measure of discipline. This Bible study is no exception.

Spiritual discipline is an essential part of an individual's ability to grow in his or her personal relationship with God through knowledge and understanding of His Word. It is my sincere prayer that whether you use these worksheets as a private daily devotion or in a weekly group Bible study, it will provide you with an easy, meaningful format for this growth to occur.

To stay on track and make this study most effective and meaningful to your life, I offer these specific suggestions:

- Set aside a regular *place* for your daily Bible study.
- Set aside a regular *time* for your daily Bible study.
- Pray before beginning each day's study, asking God to speak to you through His Word.
- Write out your answers for each step of the worksheets in sequence. Do not skip a step.
- Make the time to be still and listen, reflecting thoughtfully on your responses, especially in Step 5.

TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME

Step 1. LOOK IN GOD'S WORD: Begin by reading the designated passage of Scripture. This is printed for you on each day's devotional section. When you have finished reading the passage, move to Step 2.

Step 2. LIST THE FACTS: Make a verse-by-verse list of the outstanding facts. Don't get caught up in the details; just pinpoint the most obvious facts. As you make your list, do not paraphrase but use actual words from the passage itself. Take a moment to read the completed example of a worksheet on the following pages. When you have read the passage in Step 1, look over the facts listed in Step 2 so that you understand these instructions more clearly.

Step 3. LEARN THE LESSONS: After looking at the passage and listing the facts, you are ready for Step 3. Go back to the list of facts in Step 2 and look for a lesson to learn from each fact. Ask yourself who is speaking, what the subject is, where the action is taking place, when it happened, and so on. Ask, *What are the people in this passage doing that I should be doing? Is there a command I should obey? A promise I should claim? A warning I should heed? An example I should follow?* Look again at the completed example on the following pages. Note that you may have more than one lesson for each verse.

Step 4. LISTEN TO HIS VOICE: The fourth step is the most meaningful, but you cannot do it until Steps 1, 2, and 3 have been completed. In order to complete Step 4, rephrase the lessons you found in Step 3 and put them in the form of ques-

tions you could ask yourself, your spouse, your child, your friend, your neighbor, or your coworker. As you write out the questions, listen for God to communicate to you personally through His Word.

There are some challenging passages in the gospel of John. Don't get hung up on what you don't understand. Look for the general principles and lessons that can be learned. Remember, don't rush. It may take you several moments of prayerful meditation to discover meaningful lessons and hear God speak to you. The object of these devotional studies is not to get through the study, but to develop your personal relationship with God in order to satisfy your spiritual hunger and increase your spiritual health.

Step 5. LIVE IT OUT: Read the assigned Scripture passage prayerfully, objectively, thoughtfully, and attentively as you listen for God to speak. He may not speak to you through every verse, but He *will* speak. When He does, record in Step 5 the verse number, what it is He seems to be saying to you, and your response to Him. You might like to date it as a means not only of keeping a spiritual journal but also of holding yourself accountable to following through in obedience.

God bless you as you seek to learn this simple yet effective method of reading His Word, that you might hear His voice speaking to you personally through it. My prayer is that as you walk daily in this study through the gospel of John you will learn to love the Bread of Life.

SAMPLE CHAPTER

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:
Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

Isaiah 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David."

2 LIST THE FACTS:
Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

55:1 You who are thirsty, who have no money, come, buy milk without cost.

55:2 Why spend money or labor on what is not bread? Listen, eat what is good.

55:3 Hear me, that your soul may live, I will make a covenant with you.

3 LEARN THE LESSONS:
What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

55:1 God freely invites us to come to Him through His Word in order to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst, cost-free.

55:2 Listening to God's voice speak to us personally as we read His Word is worth the time, money, and effort.

55:3 Our spiritual health depends upon our Bible reading.

4 LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:
What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

55:1 How thirsty am I spiritually?
Am I thirsty enough to accept God's invitation to drink the milk of His Word through my active, daily use of this study?

55:2 What time and effort am I willing to put into this study?
Will I use this study as the "utensil" that makes it possible for me to "eat right"?

55:3 Am I physically alive but spiritually starving because I have neglected my Bible reading?

5 LIVE IT OUT:
Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

I commit to completing this study as a means of satisfying my hunger as I listen for God to speak to me personally through His Word.

CHAPTER 1

Jesus Makes God Visible . . . to Me

Who is Jesus? How can we know who He really is? We know by studying the truth. One of the few legitimate sources of historical information on His life is found in the four New Testament Gospels, including John's gospel, which we are studying.

So who is Jesus? Decide the answer for yourself as you read the apostle John's clear, confident, certain, and compelling biography. His stirring account begins by leaving no doubt that Jesus makes God visible to all, because Jesus is God as Man . . .

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:2-3

2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that
has been made.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:4-5

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

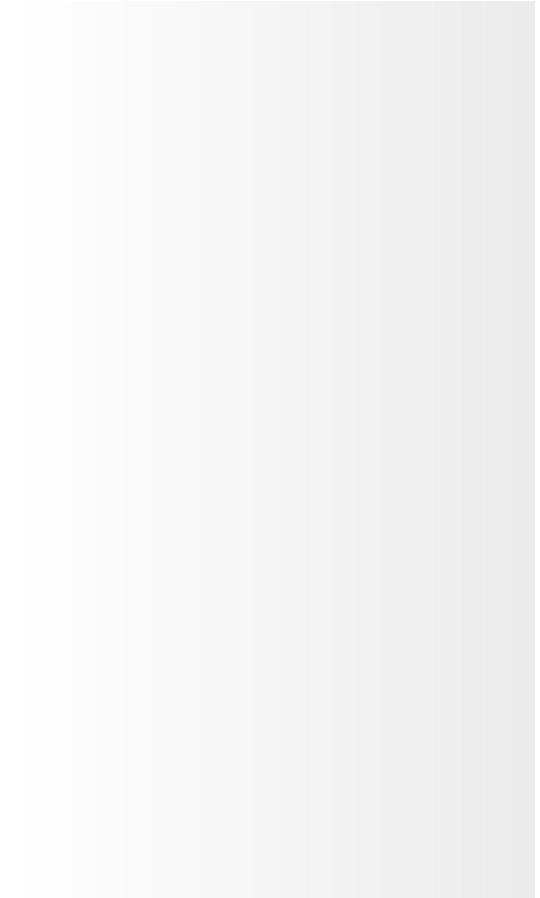
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



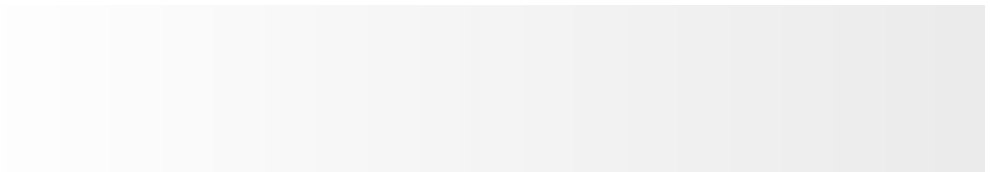
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:6–8

6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



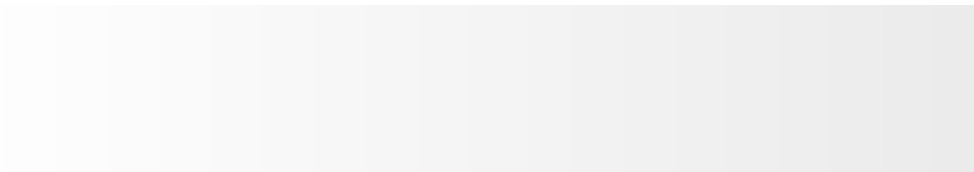
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:9

9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

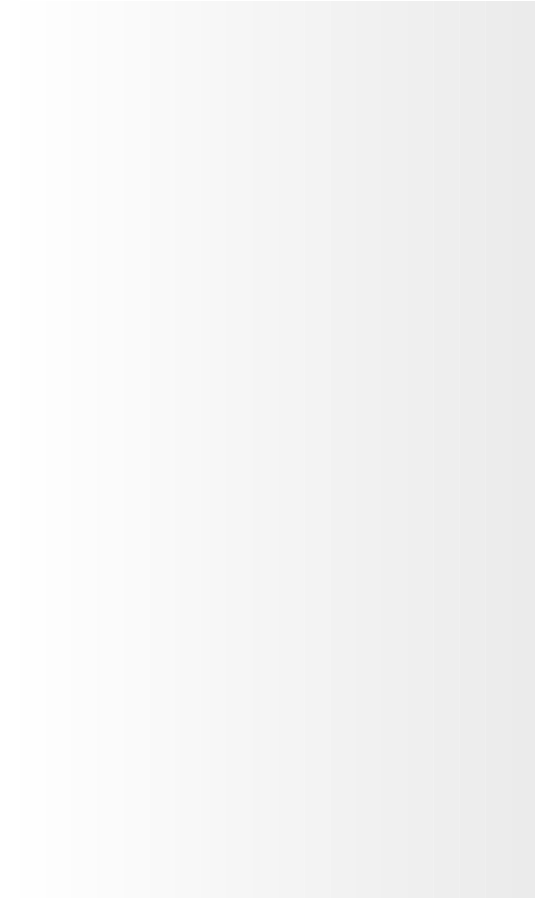
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



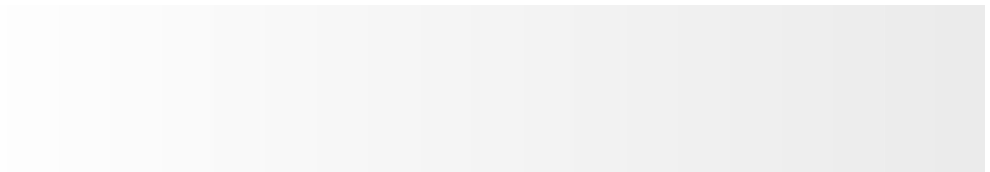
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 1:1–9? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 2

Jesus Makes God Visible . . . as Man

Before Jesus came, God looked down from heaven as man scurried around in panic, unable to cope with the confusion and conflict of life—especially when man’s whole world seemed to collapse and life dealt unexpected blows. All man’s answers to the problems of pain and evil and death were insufficient. Life just didn’t make sense. There seemed to be no order or long-term purpose to it all. And so God became a Man, not just to sort out the confusion and rebuild the collapsed world, but also to offer a new life altogether. Jesus came to make God visible as Man. And that visibility is irresistibly compelling . . .

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 1:10–11

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:12–13

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

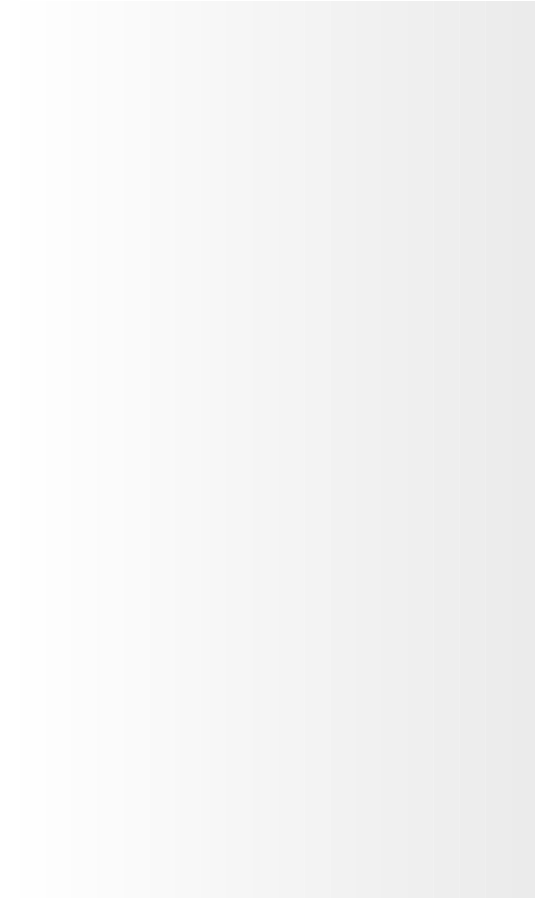
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



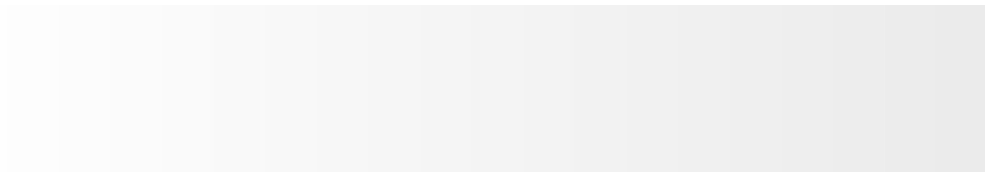
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:15

15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

2

LIST THE FACTS:

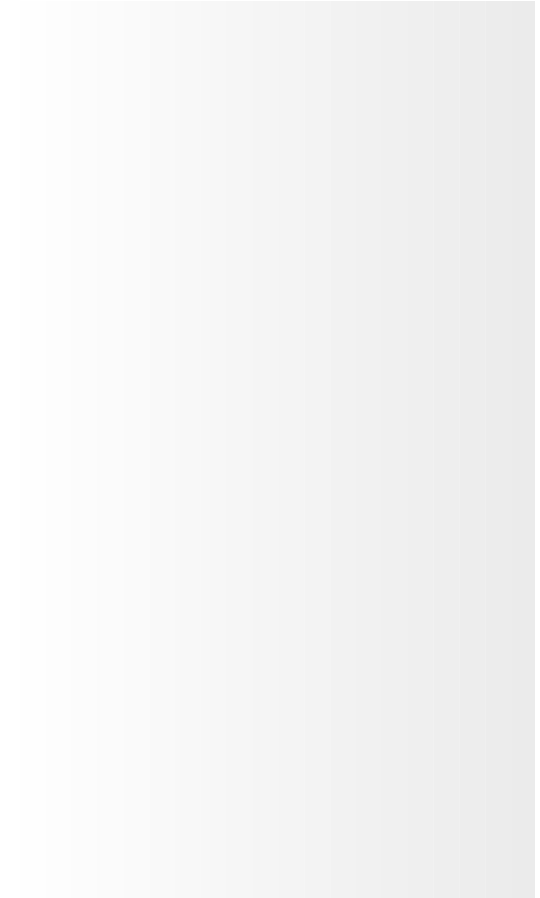
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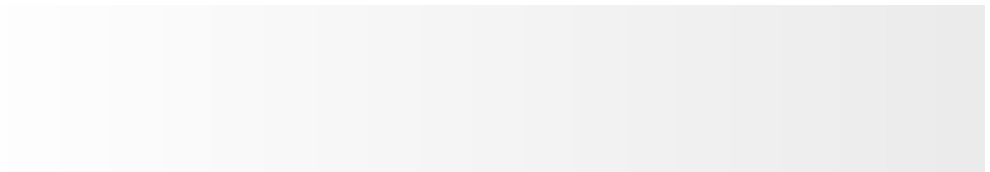
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 1:16–18

16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

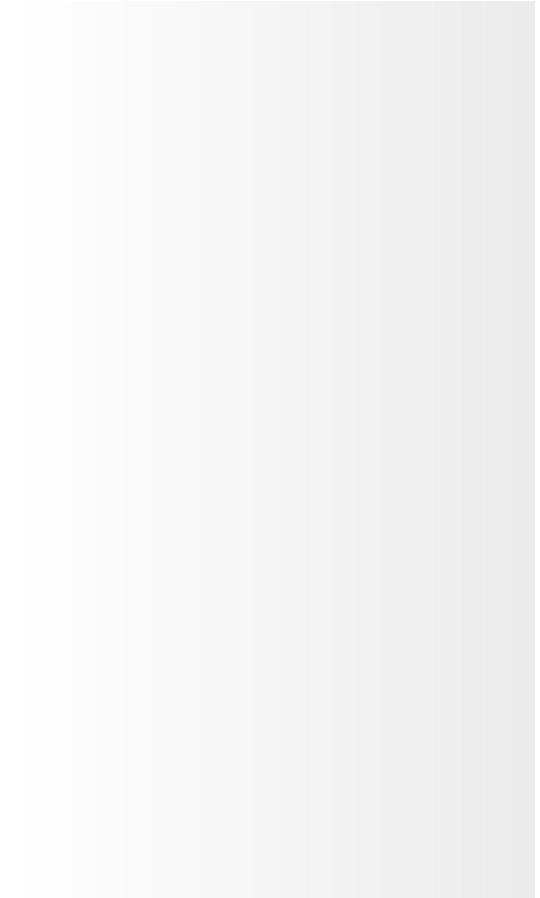
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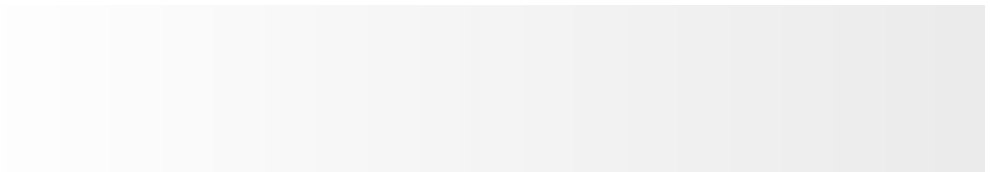
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 1:10–18? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 3

Jesus Makes Change Possible . . . When Love Runs Out

Do you feel trapped in a marriage where the love has run out? Have you panicked, looking for escape in an illicit relationship, afternoon fantasies, romance novels, alcohol, or divorce? Or have you resigned yourself to your fate, plunging into a demanding career, the lives of your children, church activities, or community volunteerism in a desperate effort to manage the pain?

Praise God! There is hope. Jesus makes change possible, even when the love runs out.

Marriage is God's idea. If your marriage is broken, take it to Him. The Creator who made it in the first place can make it work again, which is one reason why God has given you Jesus . . .

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 2:1-2

1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 2:3-4

3 When the wine was gone,
Jesus' mother said to him, "They have
no more wine." 4 "Dear woman, why
do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My
time has not yet come."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 2:5

5 His mother said to the servants,
"Do whatever he tells you."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 2:6-8

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

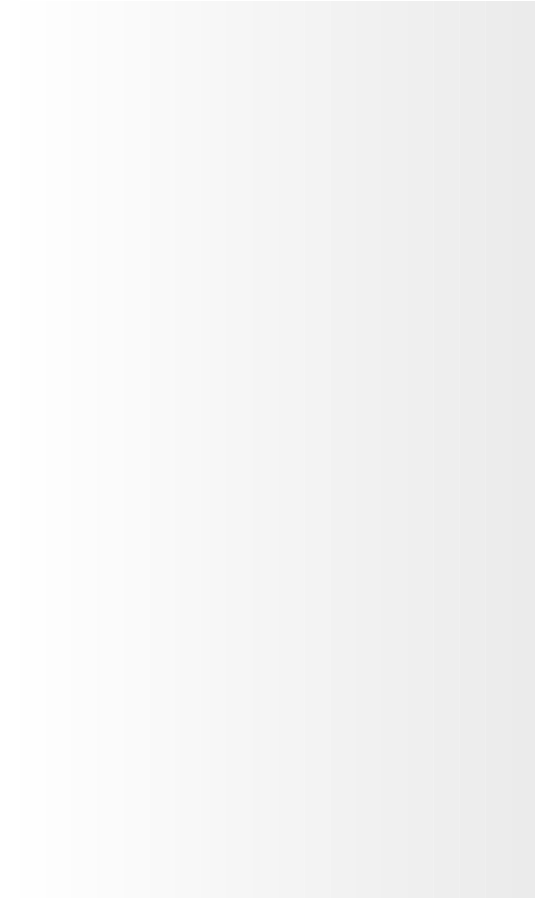
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



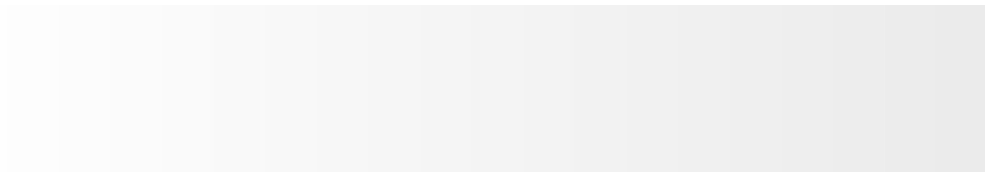
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 2:9-11

9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." 11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



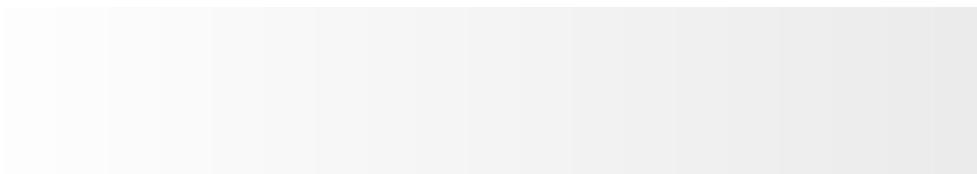
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 2:1–11? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 4

Jesus Makes Change Possible . . . When Life Isn't Enough

Is something missing in your life, something you can't define? Perhaps all you know is that life doesn't seem to be enough for you.

Has your search for joy, happiness, and meaning caused you to climb upward in your career, seek a higher position, devote yourself to greater success in your business? When that didn't work, did you decide you needed a way of drawing attention to yourself by increasing your public reputation, visibility, or fame? Did you become more frustrated when that turned out to be another dead end? Perhaps then you rushed to find a way of remaking your image through cosmetic surgery, dieting, weightlifting, jogging, an exercise video, or a membership at the spa where you sculpted your body? As a last act of desperation, did you throw yourself into pleasurable pursuits, entertainment, fun? As a result, do you find that at this moment you are beyond frustration and totally exhausted in soul and spirit? You've just died on the inside. Hasn't anyone told you? You need the basic Necessity for real life. You need Jesus. He makes change possible when life isn't enough . . .

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:
Feel free to underline, circle,
or otherwise mark text if it
will aid your study.

2 LIST THE FACTS:
Make a verse-by-verse list of
the most obvious facts. What
does the passage say? Do not
paraphrase.

JOHN 3:1-4

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 3:5-9

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." 9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

2

LIST THE FACTS:

JOHN 3:10–15

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? **11** I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 3:16–18

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

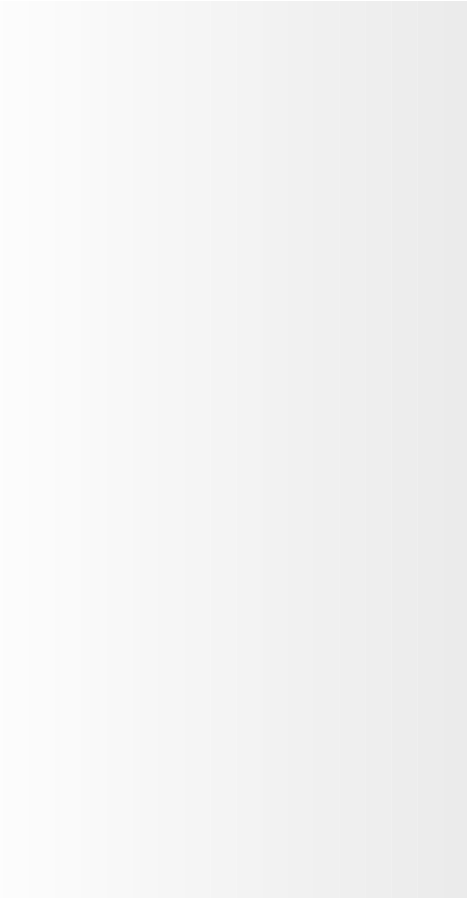
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



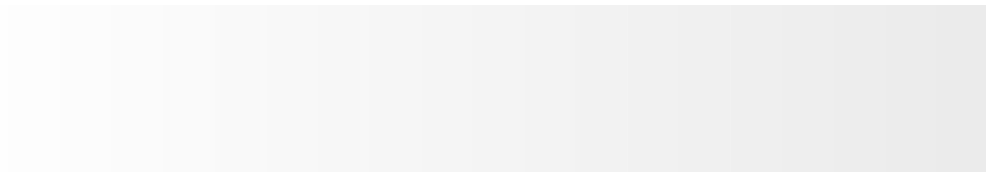
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 3:19–21

19 “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 3:1–21? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 5

Jesus Makes Happiness Attainable . . . For the Outcast

After visiting with Nicodemus, Jesus headed into the Judean countryside with His small band of disciples. As people began flocking to Him, rumors about His popularity and ministry began to develop into a controversy that threatened to divide His followers from those of His cousin and forerunner, John the Baptist. Rather than lend fuel to the fires of gossip and jealousy, Jesus quietly withdrew, returning to Galilee. On His journey through Samaria, He had a divine appointment with one woman—an outcast from society—who was running on empty.

I find myself from time to time running on empty.

In the busyness of ministry,
the pressures of responsibility,
the demands of family,
the weariness of activity,
the excitement of opportunity,

I sometimes wake up and realize, I am so dry and thirsty. Invariably, when I examine myself, the reason for the dryness of spirit can be traced to one thing: I'm not drinking freely of the Water of Life. I'm neglecting my Bible study. I'm rushing through my prayer time. I'm not listening to the voice of the Lord because I'm just too busy to be still. At those times I carve out quiet interludes to confess my sins and read and meditate and pray and listen and just drink Him in.

Thank You, dear God, for still giving Living Water from the Well that never goes dry . . .

Note: Some Scripture verses were omitted on the worksheets for this chapter due to space restraints. But you are encouraged to go back and study the entire passage for the fullest blessing.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 4:1-6

1 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 4:7-11; 13-14

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

2 LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 4:16–21; 24–26

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” **17** “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. **18** The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” **19** “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. **20** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” **21** Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” **26** Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”

2 LIST THE FACTS:

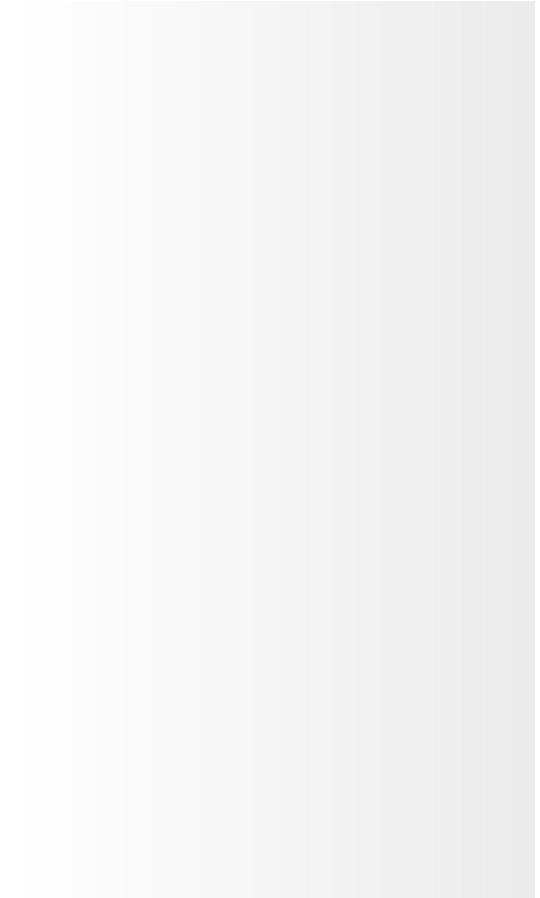
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



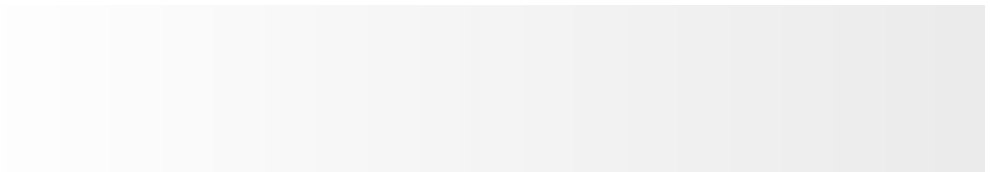
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 4:27-34

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" 28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him. 31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." 33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" 34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 4:35–42

35 “Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” 39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers. 42 They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

2 LIST THE FACTS:

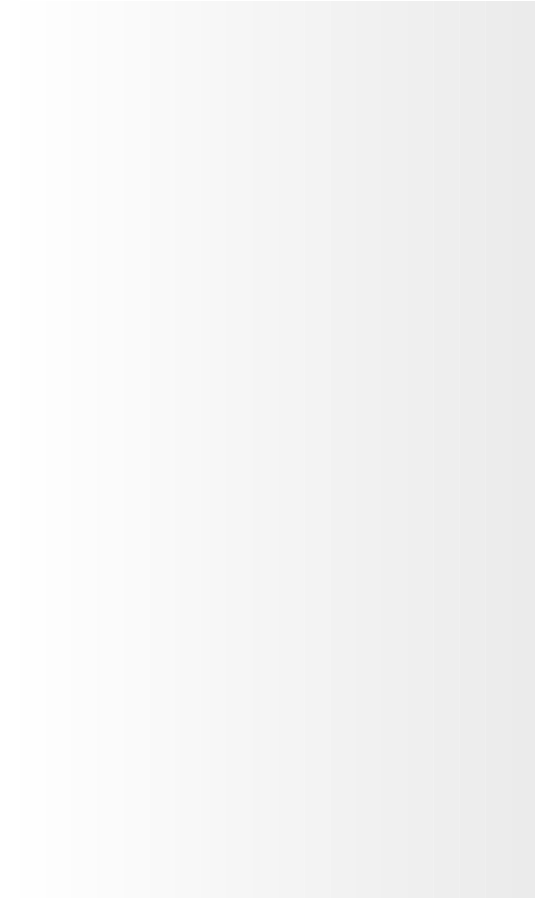
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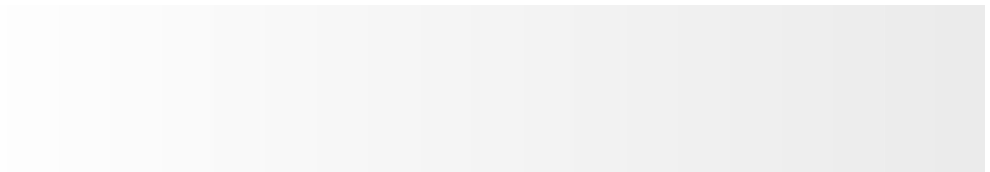
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 4:1–42? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 6

Jesus Makes Happiness Attainable . . . for the Bypassed

The pool by the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem was very probably circular but enclosed by five breezeways that formed a pentagon, with each of its five sides made up of a porch covered by an arch. Possibly it was a mineral or sulfur spring that bubbled out of the ground, drawing the attention of the desperately hopeless who believed it to possess healing, curative powers. It was around this pool, under the covered arches, that those who were bypassed by the rest of society gathered, focusing on the legend that said when an angel caused the water to bubble up, the first person into it would be healed . . .

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 5:1

1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 5:2-3

2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



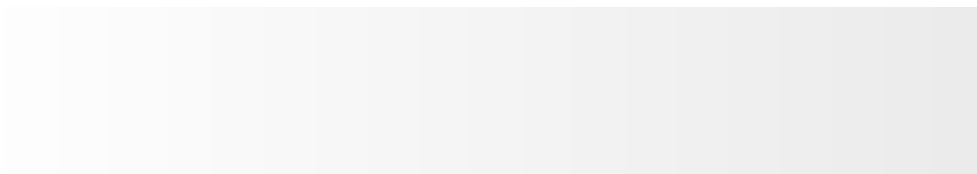
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 5:5-6

5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



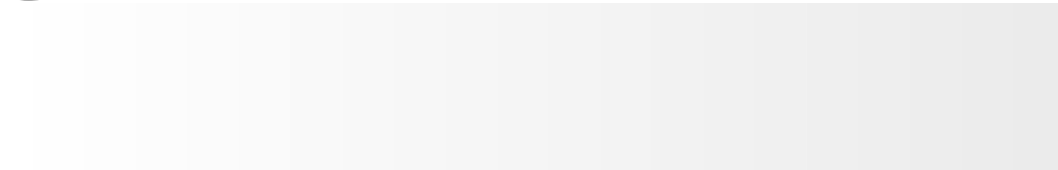
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 5:7

7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

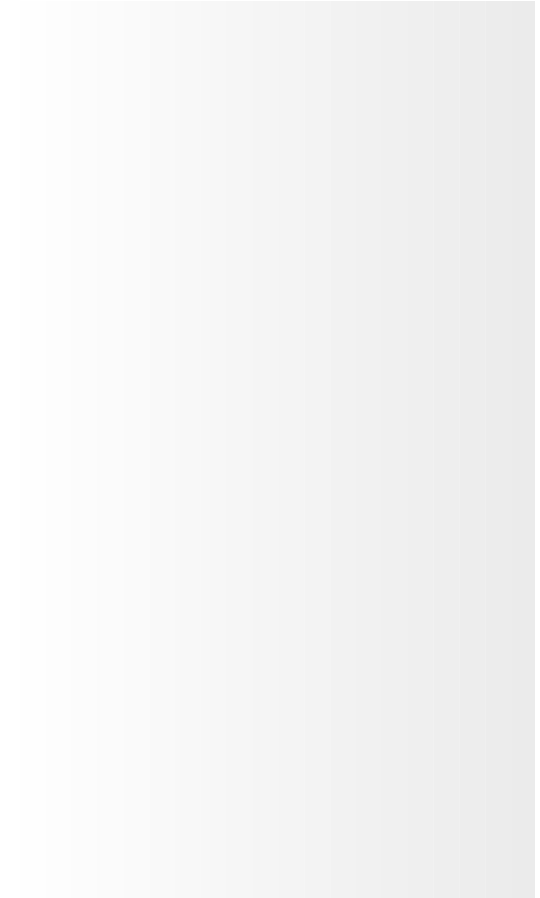
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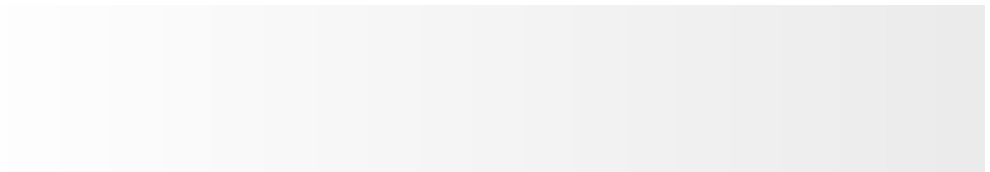
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 5:8–9

8 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” **9** At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

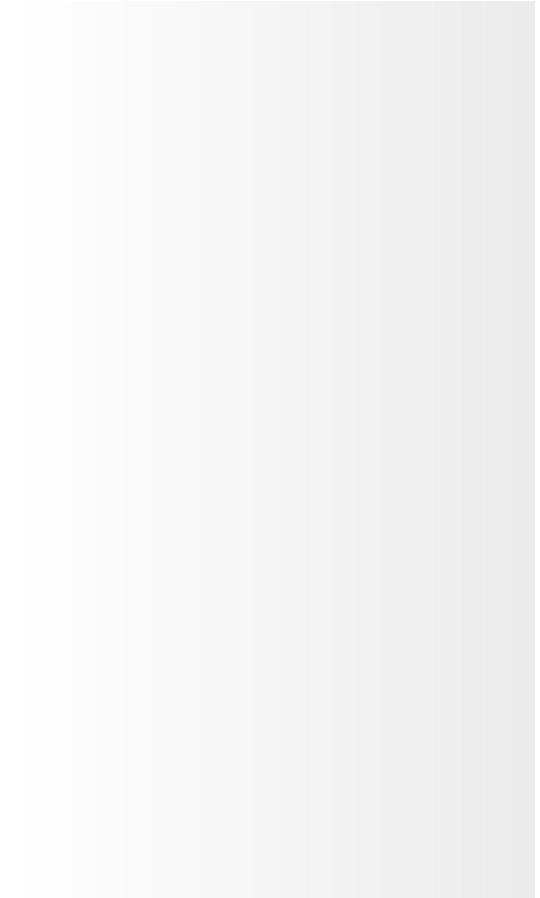
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



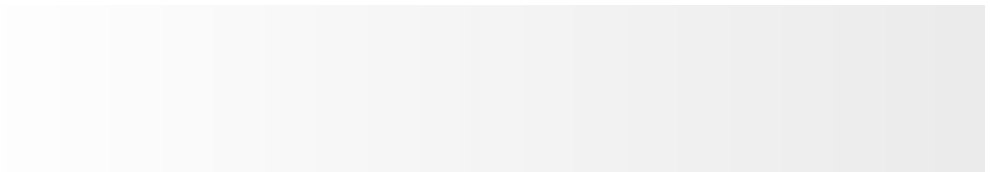
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 5:1–9? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 7

Jesus Makes Resources Ample . . . to Me

Jesus saw the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of His friends and knew the solution was a time of quiet rest and reflection. And He knows the solution is the same for you and me today. So He invites us, as He did His disciples, “Come with Me by yourself to a quiet place and get some rest.”

It was Passover time, it was a national holiday, it was springtime, and it must have seemed the perfect day to join Jesus for a picnic in the hills.

I wonder how the disciples felt as they looked up and saw the trickle of people coming around the end of the lake. I wonder how they felt when they saw the trickle grow into a river that grew into a flood of five thousand men, not counting women and children. Jesus gave up His time to Himself. He gave up His “holiday.” He gave up His “family” time in order to meet the needs of the crowd. He knew that meeting the needs of others invariably requires some personal sacrifice.

1 **LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:**
Feel free to underline, circle,
or otherwise mark text if it
will aid your study.

2 **LIST THE FACTS:**
Make a verse-by-verse list of
the most obvious facts. What
does the passage say? Do not
paraphrase.

JOHN 6:1-4

1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 6:5-6

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



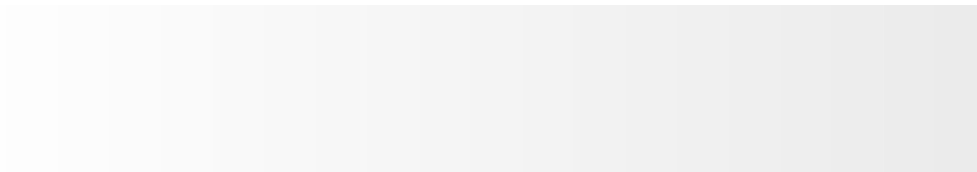
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 6:7-9

7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



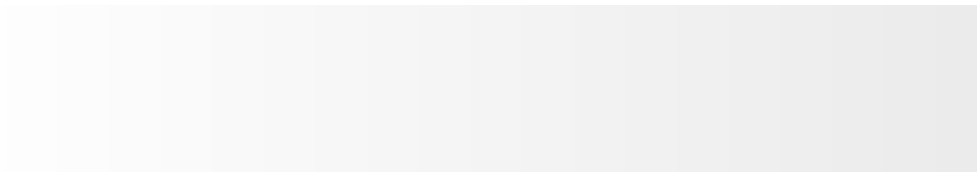
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 6:10–11

10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. **11** Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 6:12-14

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. 14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 6:1–14? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 8

Jesus Makes Resources Ample . . . in Me

A lot of Christians I know are trying to live the Christian life without ever activating the power. It may be possible to get some things done without power, but the effort and the struggle will make most want to quit. And the power is not so much a “what” as a “who.” The power is the person of the Holy Spirit.

There are times when I have gotten the distinct impression from some Christians that the Holy Spirit is an optional extra, reserved primarily for benedictions, baptisms, and those we label “charismatics.” Others give the impression that He is more like a heavenly genie in a bottle, Who, if you rub Him with the right mixture of prayer and faith, will perform miracles for you. But the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra! He is not to be reserved only for special occasions or exclusive groups, nor is He a trick-performing genie. He is a divine necessity who is imparted to each and every believer at the moment of conversion. He is Jesus in me . . .

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 7:37–39

37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

2

LIST THE FACTS:

JOHN 14:15–18

15 “If you love me, you will obey what I command.**16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—**17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



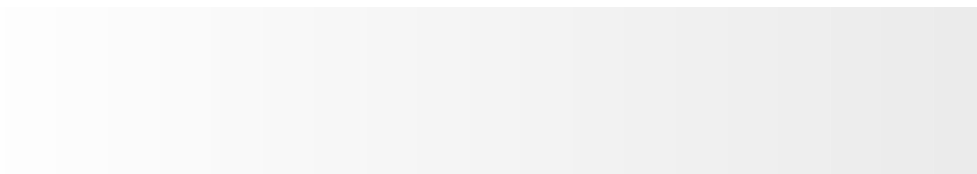
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 14:19-21

19 “Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me.

Because I live, you also will live. **20**

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. **21** Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



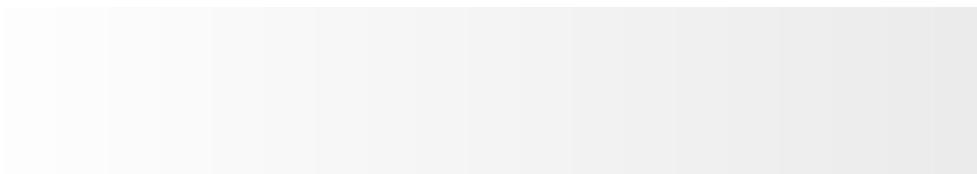
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 14:22-24

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 14:25–26

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 7:37–39; 14:15–26? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 9

Jesus Makes Suffering Understandable . . . to the Observer

The problem of pain and questions about suffering are as old as the human race. But they remain the clinical subject of philosophical theories and intellectual sparring and theological debate until they become personal, until it's *our* homes or *our* children or *our* loved ones who are hurting. Then we simply have desperate questions that need direct answers.

The disciples had been so sure that suffering was a punishment for someone's fault that it was a totally new thought to consider suffering as a powerful and personal opportunity to glorify God . . .

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:
Feel free to underline, circle,
or otherwise mark text if it
will aid your study.

2 LIST THE FACTS:
Make a verse-by-verse list of
the most obvious facts. What
does the passage say? Do not
paraphrase.

JOHN 9:1-7

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 9:8–16

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” 10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded. 11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” 12 “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

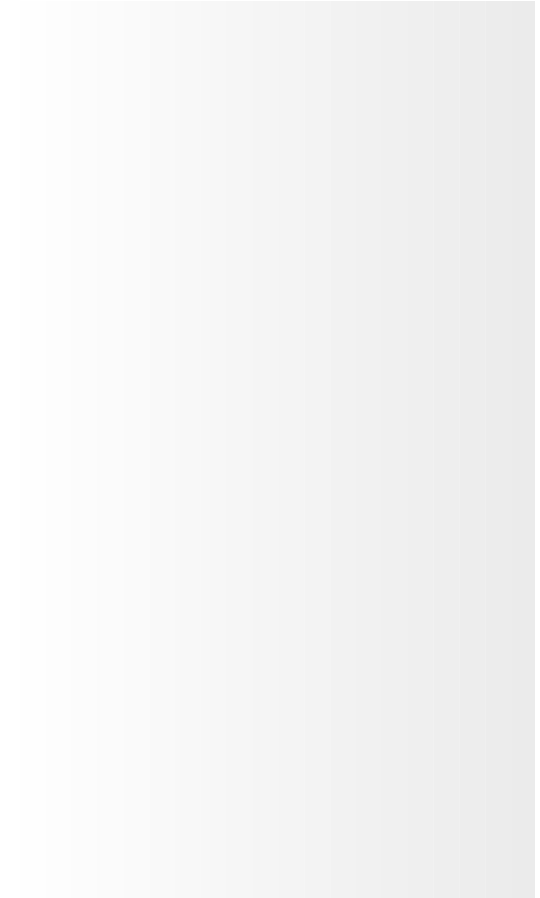
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



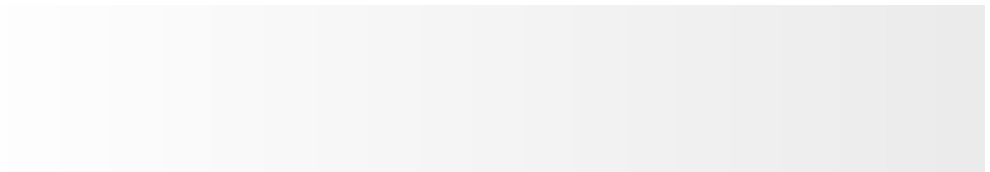
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 9:17-25

17 Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." 18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" 20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." 25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

2 LIST THE FACTS:

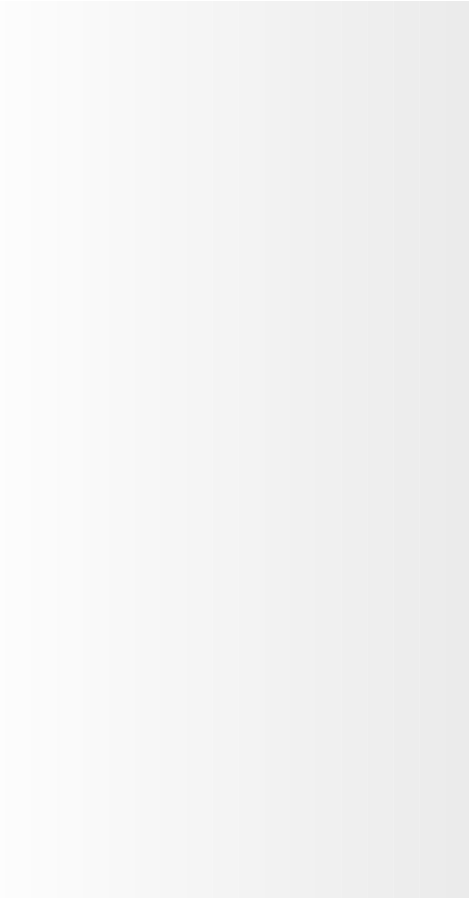
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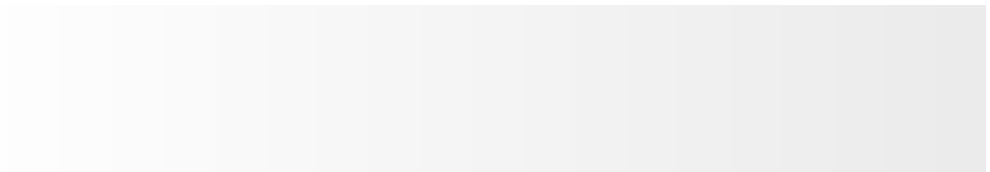
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 9:26–34

26 Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?” 28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” 30 The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

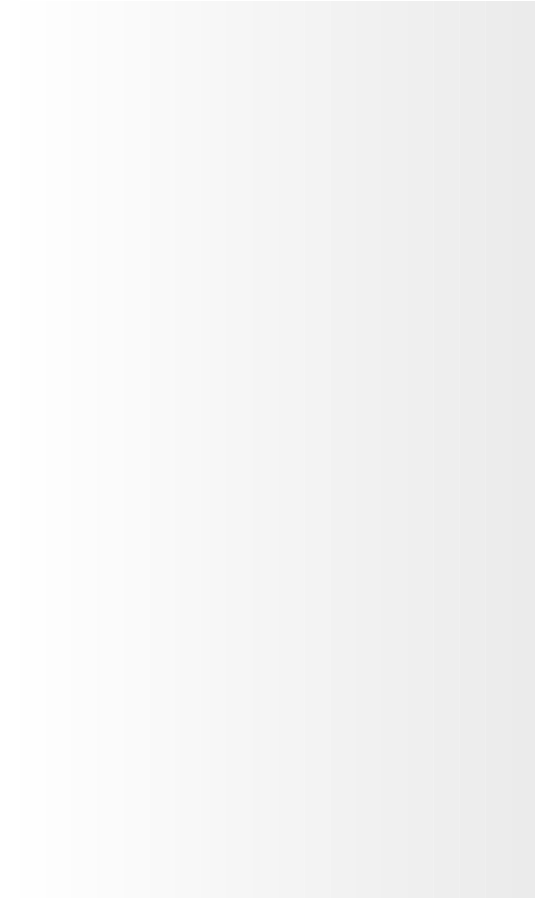
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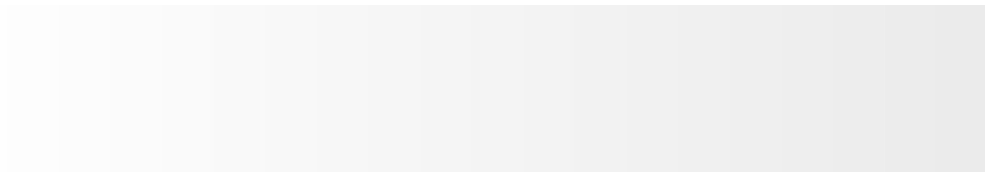
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 9:35–41

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” 37 Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” 38 Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” 40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” 41 Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

2 LIST THE FACTS:

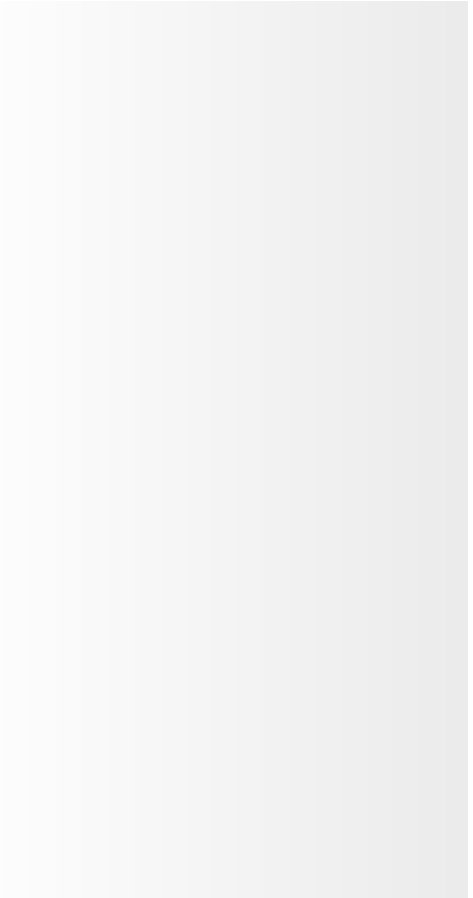
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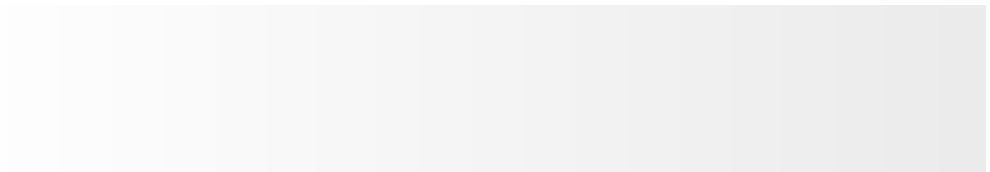
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 9:1–41? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 10

Jesus Makes Suffering Understandable . . . to the Sufferer

Do you have a prayer that has remained unanswered? Does God seem to be hiding Himself from you? *Why does He delay?* Why does He allow you and your loved ones to suffer so? One reason for His delay seems to be to allow us time to exhaust every other avenue of help until we come to the conclusion, without any doubt, that we are totally helpless without Him, and we rest our faith in Him and Him alone.

Jesus' delay in answering our prayers is never due to preoccupation or indifference with other things or an inability to act. His delay has a purpose.

Jesus patiently persisted in developing Martha's faith until it was focused on Him, and Him alone. With eyes that must have seemed to penetrate past her doubting mind and into her bleeding heart to the very depths of her being, He replied with words that have resonated through the centuries, giving hope at the gravesides of thousands of believers of every generation, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25–26) *Do you believe this . . . ?*

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 11:1-6

1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 11:7–16

7 Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." 8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. 10 It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." 12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 11:17-27

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 11:28-37

28 And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. 32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

2 LIST THE FACTS:

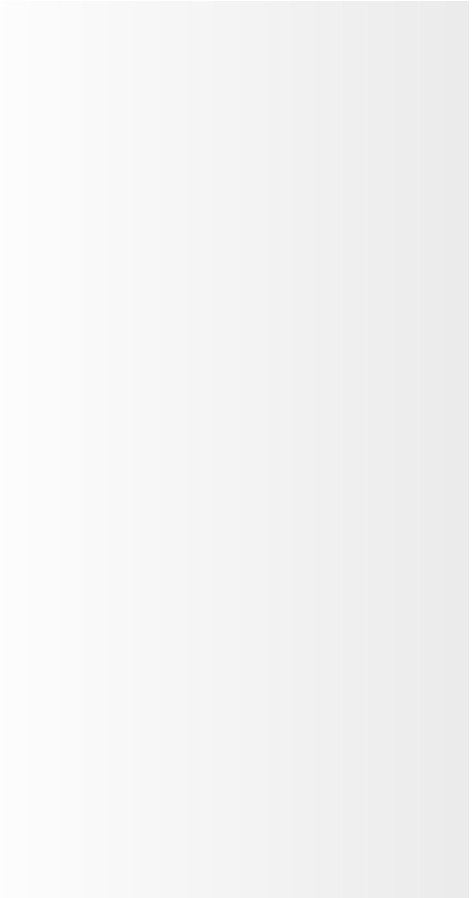
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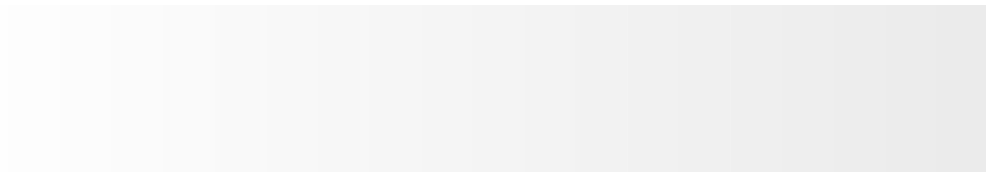
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 11:38–44

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39

“Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and

said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, Jesus

called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



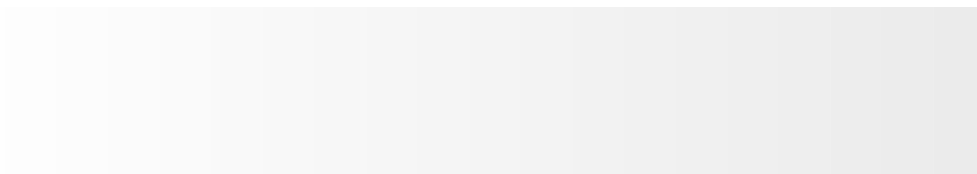
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 11:1–44? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 11

Jesus Makes Sin Forgivable . . . for Anyone

Not only are we hopelessly doomed in our sin and guilt, not only did God the Father send His only Son to save us, not only did the Son give His life to do so, but we also shrugged off His sacrifice and said it wasn't necessary, boasting, "I can save myself by my own activity, or morality, or religiosity, or sincerity. I don't need a Savior."

We are oblivious to what God's Son did for us. We don't realize we need a Savior, much less have any gratitude for our salvation. But God demonstrated His love for us before we were even born by sending His Son to be our Savior. His Son is Jesus, Who makes sin forgivable for anyone. Even you. Even me. Even Judas . . .

Pilate missed the opportunity of a lifetime—to ask the Truth to explain Himself. Pilate had found the source of all Truth, the summation of all truth, the supremacy of all truth, yet he had casually dismissed Him as irrelevant! The Truth was staring him in the face, but Pilate wasn't interested. Pilate has many ideological children today who spend their lives and a lot of money searching for the truth while dismissing the gospel as irrelevant. The climate today, even within the church, can be so pragmatic, so political, so psychological, so philosophical, that we casually dismiss the Truth as an unnecessary complication to our plans and programs . . .

Note: Some Scripture verses were omitted on the worksheets for this chapter due to space restraints. But you are encouraged to go back and study the entire passage for the fullest blessing.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 18:1-8

1 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. 4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" 5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 "I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 18:12–14; 19–24

12 Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him **13** and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. **14** Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. **20** “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. **21** Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” **22** When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. **23** “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” **24** Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 18:25–32

25 As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, “You are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.” **26** One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the olive grove?” **27** Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow. **28** Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. **29** So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” **30** “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” **31** Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” the Jews objected. **32** This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 18:33–40

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

34 “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” 36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” 37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” 38 “What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. 39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews?’” 40 They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

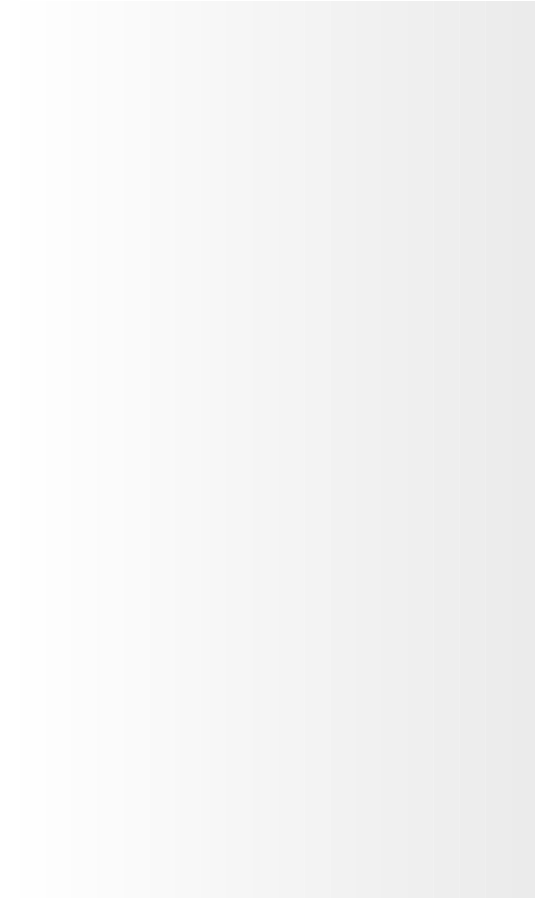
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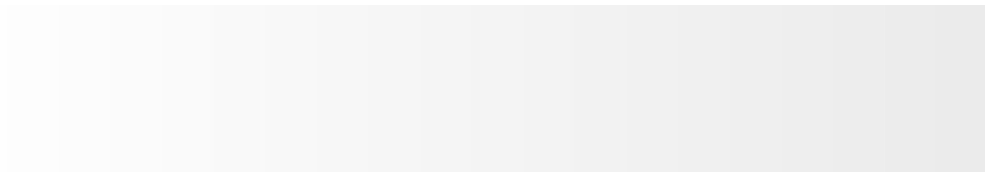
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 19:6-12

6 As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." 7 The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." 8 When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, 9 and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" 11 Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." 12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

2 LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



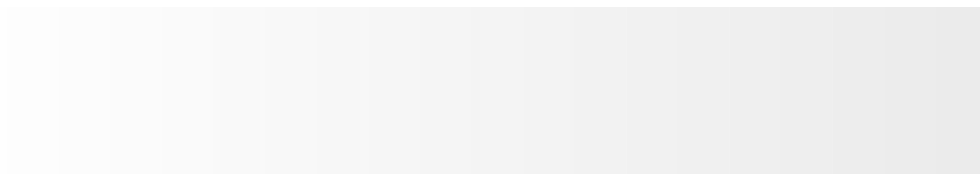
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 18:1–19:16? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 12

Jesus Makes Sin Forgivable . . . for Everyone

The pervasive misconception today is that since Jesus died as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, then we are all automatically forgiven. But we overlook the vital truth that we must grasp the Lamb with our hands of faith and confess our sins. We then must acknowledge that He was slain for our sins as surely as if we had plunged the knife into His heart. At that moment, the Lamb becomes our High Priest and offers His own blood on the altar of the cross on our behalf. And, wonder of wonders! God accepts the sacrifice, and we are forgiven! Our guilt is atoned for! We are made right in God's sight! Jesus, the Lamb of God, makes sin forgivable for everyone!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 19:17–18

17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). **18** Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 19:19–22

19 Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. **20** Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. **21** The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” **22** Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

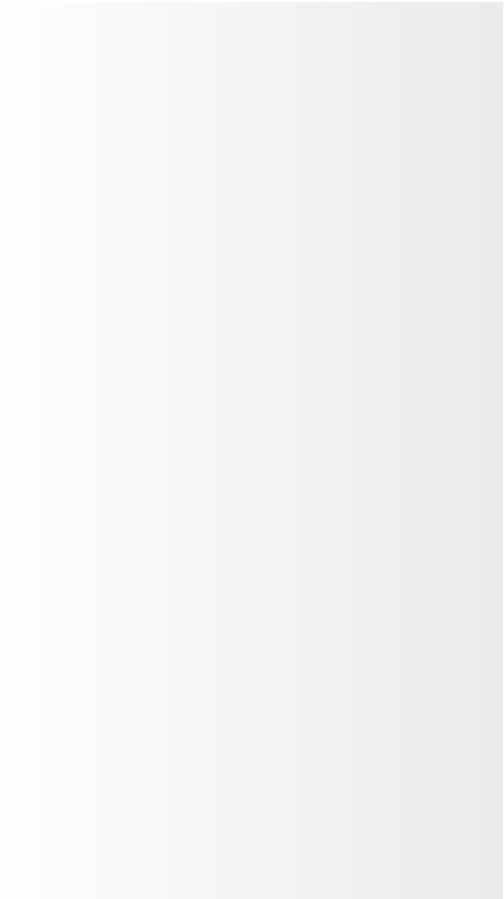
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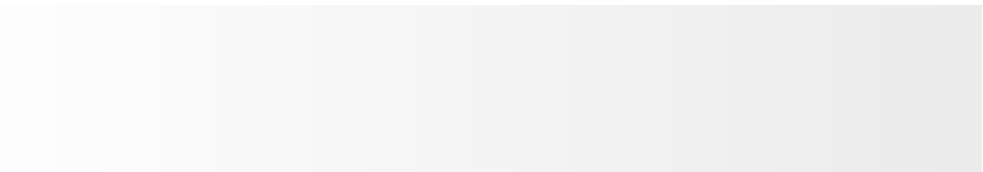
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 19:23–24

23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 24 “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, “They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.” So this is what the soldiers did.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 19:25-27

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," **27** and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 19:28-30

28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hys-sop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

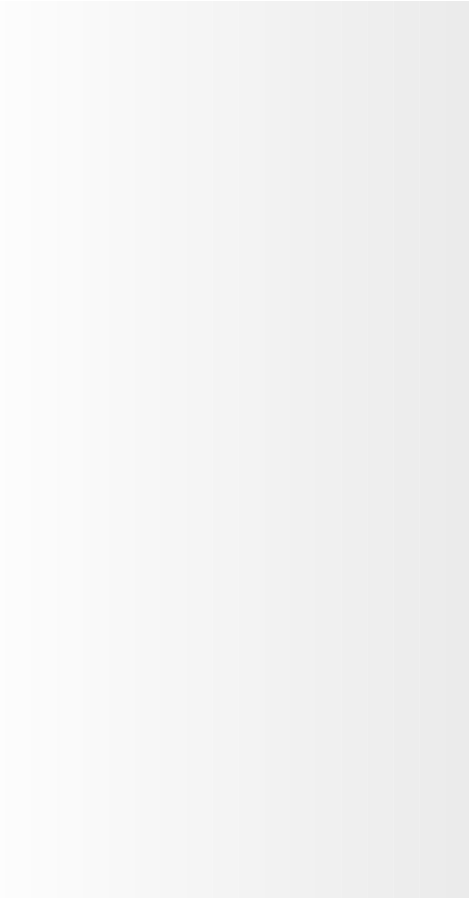
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



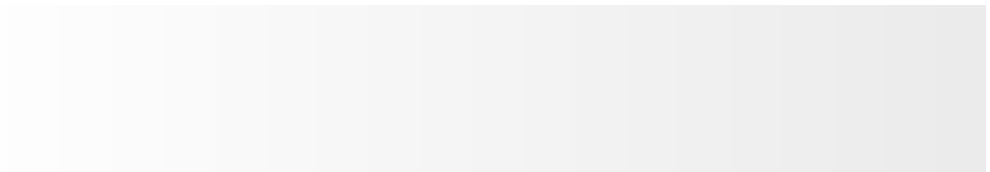
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 19:17–30? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 13

Jesus Makes Heaven Available . . . to the Sinner

After the long journey of life, we are going to look up and see heaven. We're going to hear voices lifted in songs of praise. We're going to see the glory of God radiating from within, and we're going to long for home. But we will be forbidden to enter. Heaven is closed to us because we are too dirty in our sin to enter it.

However, because Jesus found us in our hopeless, helpless state and offered us His hand at the cross, we can be welcomed into heaven. If we accept His offer and put our hand of faith in His, He will walk with us hand in hand, not only through the remainder of our journey, but through the gates of heaven that will be opened wide for us. We will be as welcomed and accepted in heaven as He is, solely because of our relationship and identification with Him. Praise God! Jesus is the One, and the only One, who opens heaven to the sinner, not only through the cross, but also through His resurrection. Come and see the facts . . .

1 LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:
Feel free to underline, circle,
or otherwise mark text if it
will aid your study.

2 LIST THE FACTS:
Make a verse-by-verse list of
the most obvious facts. What
does the passage say? Do not
paraphrase.

JOHN 19:38–42

38 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. 39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 20:1-2

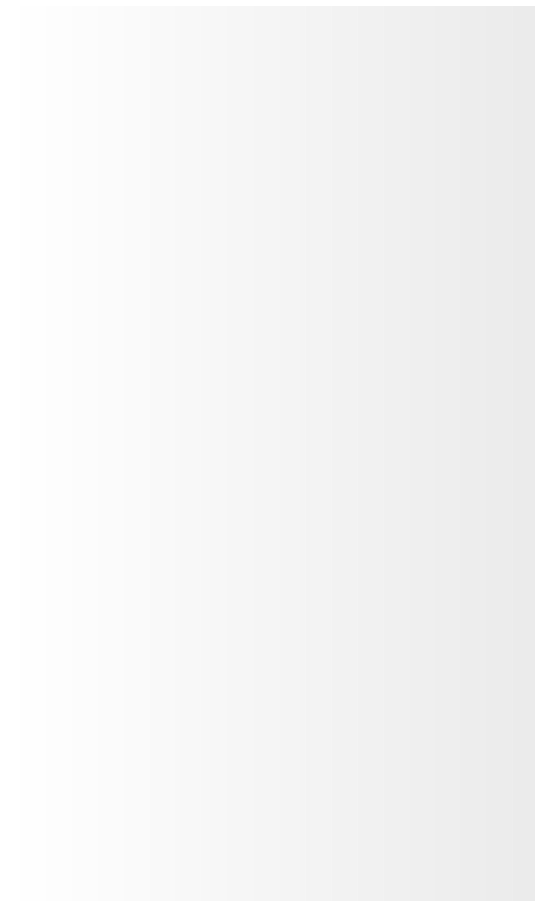
1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



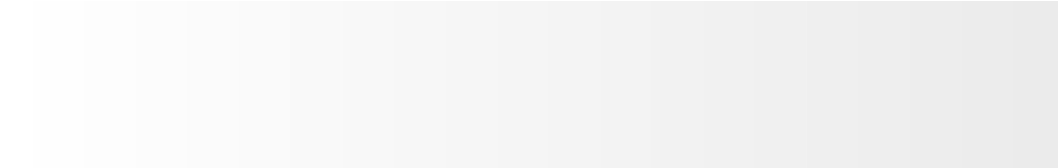
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 20:3–9

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 20:10–14

10 Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11 but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

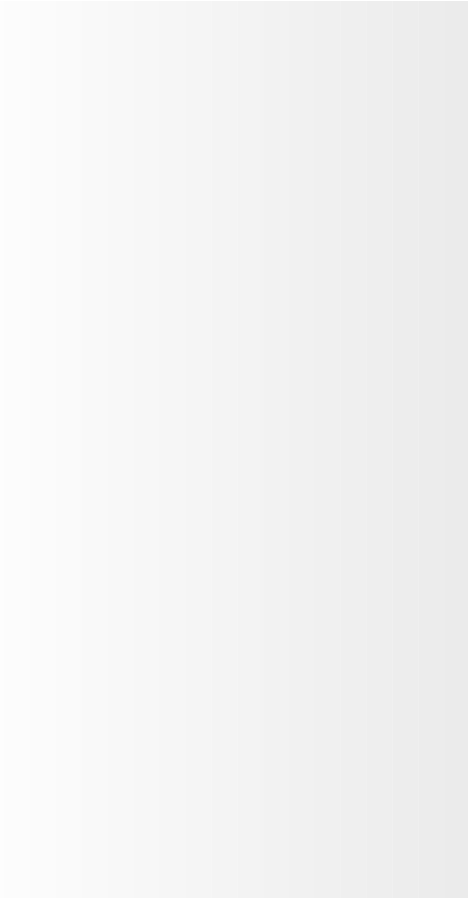
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



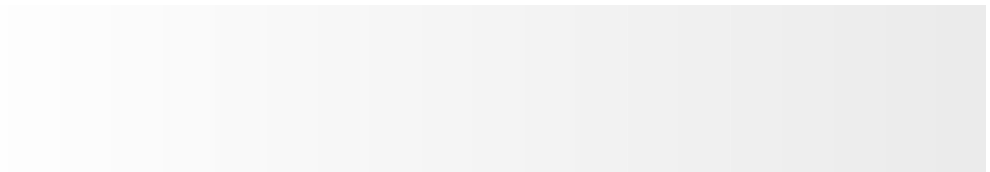
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 20:15–18

15 “Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

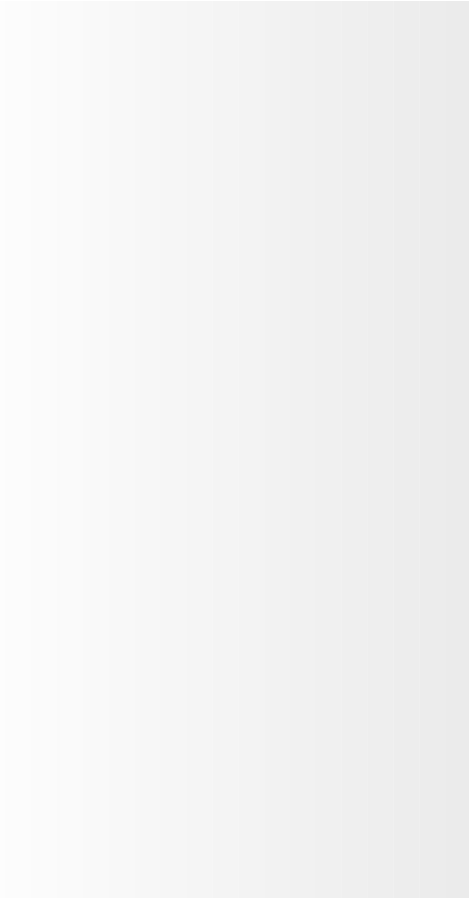
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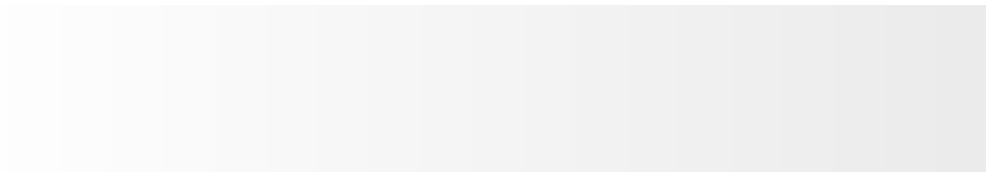
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 19:38–20:18? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 14

Jesus Makes Heaven Available . . . to the Failure

Peter was a failure. He had failed miserably to grasp the will of God when it was revealed to him, and he had brashly told Jesus He wasn't going to the cross. He had slept when he should have prayed, and he had almost provoked a massacre in the garden when he single-handedly tried to take on the Roman army and sliced off Malchus's ear. He had repeatedly sworn that even if all the other disciples forsook Jesus, he would die for Him—then he denied three times that very day that he even knew Him. There was no doubt in his mind or anyone else's that he was a miserable, habitual failure.

Do you feel like a failure? Have you been discouraged in your Christian life or your Christian leadership to the point of quitting? Do you feel you're just not cut out for this sort of thing? Then praise God! Failure is not final! He has a place for you in His kingdom because Jesus makes heaven available to the failure . . .

Note: Some Scripture verses were omitted on the worksheets for this chapter due to space restraints. But you are encouraged to go back and study the entire passage for the fullest blessing.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

JOHN 21:1–3

1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 21:4-9

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 21:10–14

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” **11**

Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. **12** Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.”

None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. **13** Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. **14** This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 21:15–17

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” **16** Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” **17** The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



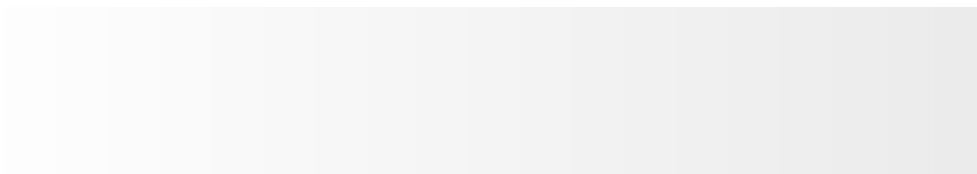
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

JOHN 21:18–25a

18 “I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

22 Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” 23

Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?” 24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. 25a Jesus did many other things as well.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

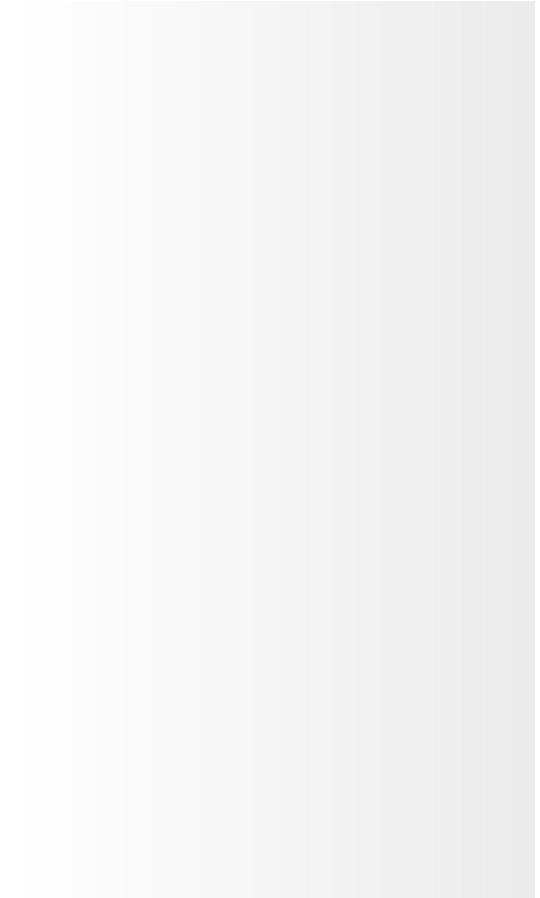
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LEARN THE LESSONS:



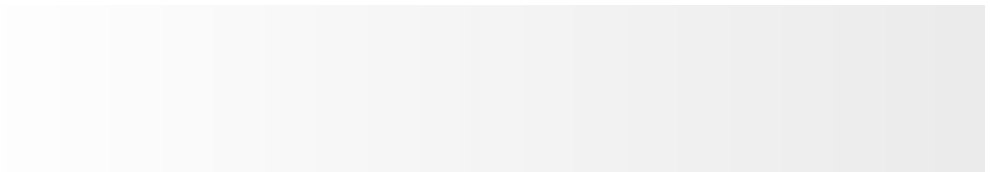
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from John 21:1–25a? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!