

THE GREAT

I AM

JOHN 5-11

ev/church

JOHN 5-11: THE GREAT I AM

TERM 1 PASSAGE

Week 1	John 5:16-24	The Son of God
Week 2	John 5:1-15	Jesus the Merciful
Week 3	John 5:16-47	...the Son gives life
Week 4	John 6:1-24	It is I; don't be afraid
Week 5	John 6:25-71	I am the Bread of Life
Week 6	John 7:1-52	I am not here on my own authority
Week 7	John 8:12-30	I am from above
Week 8	John 8:31-59	Before Abraham was born, I am!
Week 9	John 9:1-41	I am the Light of the World
Week 10	John 10:1-42	I and the Father are One

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 1 – 2022

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.



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GIVING AT EV CHURCH

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READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 5 Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11
- Week 6 Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13
- Week 7 Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15
- Week 8 Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17
- Week 9 Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19
- Week 10 Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

YEAR 1: TERM 2

- Week 1 Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24
- Week 2 Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26
- Week 3 Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28
- Week 4 Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2
- Week 5 Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4
- Week 6 Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6
- Week 7 Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8
- Week 8 Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10
- Week 9 Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12
- Week 10 Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

YEAR 1: TERM 3

- Week 1 Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16
- Week 2 Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18
- Week 3 Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20
- Week 4 Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22
- Week 5 Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24
- Week 6 1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26
- Week 7 1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28
- Week 8 1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2
- Week 9 2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4
- Week 10 2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 1

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 2

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 5 Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8
- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

YEAR 2: TERM 3

- Week 1 Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- Week 2 Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40
- Week 3 Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50
- Week 4 Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6
- Week 5 Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10
- Week 6 Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20
- Week 7 Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30
- Week 8 Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Week 9 Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
- Week 10 Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

INTRODUCTION: JOHN 5-11

Two thousand years ago, a Jewish man made the most extraordinary and controversial claim anyone could make. Jesus, a thirty-year-old carpenter from Nazareth, claimed that he shared an identity with the Creator God of the Universe: “The Father and I are one.” “I am from above.” “Before Abraham was, I am!”

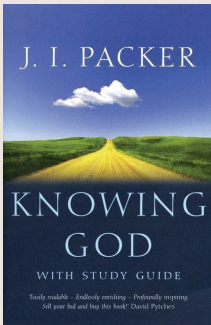
Was Jesus just a crazy man? Far from it. He backed up these extraordinary claims with miraculous signs: healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, even raising a dead man back to life. These signs pointed to Jesus’ Spirit-enabled power, his authority, and his compassion. Yet the main thing these ‘signposts’ pointed to was Jesus’ identity as the Son of God, who was sent by the Father to give the gift of eternal life to a world in darkness. In fact, throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus continually performs these signs, and afterward makes ‘I am’ statements (i.e., statements about his identity). It was Jesus’ intention that people would not just be ‘wowed’ by him, but that they would see and believe in who he is.

But many did not believe in him. Throughout John 5-11, hostility toward Jesus rises. The Jewish leaders did not believe Jesus’ claims about himself, but rather took offense. Again and again Jesus defended his ministry, insisting that he is indeed the Son of God, who came down from heaven to do his Father’s will. Ultimately, it will be these claims that would lead to his death. And yet...even in his betrayal and execution, the Son of God was in control: “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep...No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord” (John 10:11, 18).

This term, as we read about Jesus’ signs and claims, how will you respond to him? Jesus’ ‘beloved disciple’, John wrote this book, recording his signs so that “you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). This is the promise of God to us through the Gospel of John. Pray that this term God would strengthen our trust in him who can give us eternal life.

There is another unique blessing to be gained this term in John’s Gospel: insight into the Three-in-One (or ‘triune’) nature of God! Throughout church

history, John has been the book in the Bible most frequently turned to for understanding the Trinity. We will spend our first week of the term thinking about what it means for Jesus to be both human and divine; the 'Son of God' and 'God the Son'; the Word made flesh and the Great "I Am"! We will be helped by some of the ancient Creeds, composed by faithful Christians in the past to help God's people learn who their God is. May this be a term where we are struck by awe and wonder at our Triune God, who has revealed Himself to us through this wonderful book.



Book recommendation:
***Knowing God* by J.I. Packer**

For half a century, J. I. Packer's classic has helped Christians around the world discover the wonder, the glory, and the joy of knowing God. Stemming from Packer's profound theological knowledge, *Knowing God* brings together two key facets of the Christian faith—knowing about God and knowing God through a close relationship with Jesus Christ. Written in an engaging and practical tone, this thought-provoking work seeks to renew and enrich our understanding of God.

WEEK 1: JOHN 5:16-24

DAY 1: THE SON'S DIVINITY

As we kick off our time in John's Gospel, we begin with a week thinking about who Jesus is as the Son of God. Is he God? Man? Or both? How can God have a Son? These are some of the things we will consider this week. Today, we will see the astounding truth that Jesus of Nazareth shared an identity with God Himself.

Read John 1:1-3

1. What can we learn about the relationship between the 'Word' and 'God'? (Are they the same? Are they different?)
2. Look again at verse 3. The very first verse of the Bible, Genesis 1:1, says "In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth." What new understanding does John 1:3 bring to us about the creation of the heavens and the earth?

THE SON OF GOD

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28;

2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12

Read John 8:58-59

3. In Exodus 3:14, God introduced himself to Moses as "I am". This was God's name. It may sound like a strange name to us, but it describes God as the One who is – He lives, is life itself, and from him comes all life. God is free and independent of all created things, existing eternally of himself. With this in mind, what is Jesus claiming in John 8:58 by saying, "Before Abraham was, I am!"?

This is the amazing truth which Jesus revealed to the world: that although there is only one God (Deut. 6:4), this God had distinctions within Himself. There is 'God', but there is also 'the Word'. The Word is God and is with God (John 1:1). The technical word for this is 'Person': God is one being, but three persons – Father, Son and Spirit.

4. How does this understanding of Jesus shape your worship of him?

(continued on page 12)

WEEK 1: JOHN 5:16-24

To Dig Deeper

This week we are going to look at the great Nicene Creed, written in 325AD, and finalised in 381AD. The Creed was confirmed at the Council of Nicea, after some bad teaching about who Jesus was had crept into many churches. The creed states that Jesus is 'one in Being with the Father'. In other words, whatever God is, Jesus is that too; they shared one 'nature' or 'essence' or 'being'. Have a read of the creed below, and see how they have tried to express what we've learnt from John's Gospel today.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic (universal) and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer: Praise God for the glory of who he is! Ask him to help you grow in your awe, wonder, worship and understanding of who his Son Jesus is, especially this week.

THE SON OF GOD

DAY 2: THE SON OF THE FATHER

Yesterday, we saw that Jesus is 'one in Being with the Father.' There is one divine Being, but this One God has distinctions within Himself; there are actually different 'persons' in God. Today, we think more about what it means for Jesus to be the Son of the Father.

Read John 1:18 and 3:18

1. What do these verses teach us about God, the Son, and their relationship?

Older Bible translations spoke here of Jesus as the 'only begotten' Son of the Father. To 'beget' means to 'bring to be'. Like a human son is begotten by a father, the divine Son is 'brought to be' by the divine Father.

2. Read John 5:26. What does this verse teach us about the Father and the Son?

(continued on page 14)

WEEK 1: JOHN 5:16-24

John's Gospel has given us some very big ideas to hold together! On the one hand, the Son is God himself – 'one in Being with the Father' (1:1). This means that all that the Father is, so also is the Son. The Son is not a creature, but has existed eternally as God. But, on the other hand, the Son was 'brought to be' by the Father. How can we hold these things in tension? Here is how God is both 'one' and 'three': He is 'one' in his being, but the one being is shared by three 'persons'. Read these words from the Nicene Creed again to see how Christians before us expressed these very big ideas: "We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father."

3. In John 5:26, the Son is able to give us eternal life because he himself lives eternally from his Father. How can you live today remembering that Jesus is the one who gives you life?

Prayer: "Almighty God and Heavenly Father, I am amazed at who you are: You have an eternal Son, who shares in your divine Being and who shares in your glory. Thank you for showing me this in your Word. Help me to always be in awe of you, and to depend on your Son for life, as you have eternally granted him 'to have life in himself'. Amen."

THE SON OF GOD

DAY 3: THE SON'S HUMANITY

So far we have seen some very big things about who Jesus is. He is 'one in Being with the Father', yet he exists eternally as a Son, a second 'person' of God. Today we consider the 'miracle of miracles', how God the Son became human!

Read John 1:14, 1:18

1. What do these verses teach us about the eternal Son of God?

Another important creed in Christian history is from the Council of Chalcedon in 451AD, which stated this about Jesus: "our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man." By taking on human flesh, God the Son took on a second 'nature'. The Son now has a divine nature, his 'Godness', and a human nature – a human body and soul.

2. John 1:18 makes the point that God is invisible. How is Jesus uniquely qualified to make the invisible God known? (Hint: 1:14)

(continued on page 14)

WEEK 1: JOHN 5:16-24

3. Read John 1:49. What do you notice about what Nathaniel calls Jesus?

Nathaniel here calls Jesus the 'Son of God'. Given John 1:14 and 18, we might think he is talking about Jesus as the divine Son of the Father. But 'Son of God' is also a human title for Israel's Messiah, the 'King of Israel'. This means that Jesus is the Son of God in two senses: He is 'God the Son', and he is the King. As we read through John, it is helpful to keep this in mind.

4. What does the incarnation (the Son taking on human flesh) teach us about the character and heart of God?

"For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures." The Nicene Creed.

Prayer: Praise and give thanks to God the Son for his willingness to take on flesh "for us and for our salvation."

THE SON OF GOD

DAY 4: THE SON'S WORK

We are about to read an interaction between Jesus and the Jewish leaders, which happens straight after Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. As you read, take note of how Jesus defends his ministry.

Read John 5:16-23

1. Have another look at verse 19. This verse underlines for us again how God is one (in his 'Being' or 'nature') and yet how there are still distinctions within God (the different 'persons').
 - a. What does Jesus say here about the Son's dependence on the Father?
 - b. 'Whatever the Father does the Son also does'. What might this tell us about who Jesus is?

This is an amazing statement about Jesus! If Jesus does what the Father does, this means he shares the same power as the Father; which, once again, means he is 'one in Being with the Father.' Hear how the Westminster Shorter Catechism explains how the three persons of God share in one power: 'There are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.'

2. From verses 20-23, what other 'work' has the Father given the Son to do? What does this mean for your life?

Prayer: Praise God that His Son has the divine power and authority to give life to humanity, and to judge humanity with justice and righteousness. Pray that you might look to and depend on Jesus all your days for life, breath and everything else!

WEEK 1: JOHN 5:16-24

DAY 5: THE TWO NATURES OF CHRIST

Today we will try to pull it all together. A first reading of the following passages might leave us with the impression that Jesus is less than truly God. To understand them rightly we will need to hold together everything we've learnt about Jesus this week.

Read John 5:30-32, 6:38, 7:16, 14:28.

1. From these verses, list the things that seem rather 'un-God-like' about Jesus.

2. If we didn't already know that Jesus was "one in Being with the Father" (1:1), what conclusion might we draw about Jesus from these verses?*

Read John 1:14

3. How does John 1:14 help us make sense of those tricky passages above? Which of Jesus' two natures are particularly on view in those passages?

4. Write down the things God has taught you this week about Jesus.

Prayer: Thank God for what he has taught you about Jesus. Praise the Father for his Son's willingness to forever add a human nature to himself. Ask God to help you live in awe and wonder at the glory of Jesus all your days.

* This is a great reminder of how important it is to read the Bible in context. Reading John 14:28 without John 1:1 in mind could lead us to make some wrong conclusions about Jesus!

THE SON OF GOD

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: JOHN 5:1-15

Today we get back to reading through John's Gospel. In chapter 5, Jesus performs a sign, demonstrating his wonderful mercy to helpless sinners.

DAY 1

Read John 5:1-15

1. In verse 7, the disabled man attributed his ongoing condition to the fact that no one helped him into the pool. How does Jesus meet his need, but in an unexpected way? (See verse 8).
2. What does the way Jesus healed the man reveal about Jesus? (verse 8)
3. What did the man do in order to get healed by Jesus?
4. This healing takes place in Bethesda, which means 'mercy'. How is this incident a picture of how we are saved by Jesus?

Prayer: Titus 3:5 says, "he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Praise God for his love and mercy toward us, sinners who are unable to save ourselves.

JESUS THE MERCIFUL

DAY 2

As we read the passage today, try to notice anything strange that happens.

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4;
Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14

Read John 5:1-9

1. Given the length of this man's condition (verse 5), what is strange about Jesus' question to him (verse 6)?
2. What does the man's response to Jesus reveal about his spiritual beliefs?
3. You may have noticed that there is no verse 4 in our Bibles. You may have a footnote showing what it says: a later copyist added a sentence there to explain why this man was relying on getting into the pool – but it was not there originally, so our Bibles have left it out. Regardless, the man's response in verse 7 shows his superstition. What did this man need to know about Jesus in order to refocus him away from his superstitious beliefs?
4. Reflect on whether there might be things that you are superstitious about. What do you need to remember about God in order to relieve you of those fears and beliefs?

Prayer: Ask God to help you remember the loving mercy of our Father, who is kind to his children regardless of what we have done or failed to do.

WEEK 2: JOHN 5:1-15

DAY 3

Read John 5:8-16

1. In verse 6, Jesus asked the man whether he wanted to get well. How does this come full circle by the end of this episode? (See verse 14)
2. Consider Jesus' final warning to the man (verse 14). Jesus considers there to be something far worse than being unable to walk for 38 years (see verse 28-29). What makes it hard for us today to believe that there could be something worse than suffering for 38 years?
3. Given Jesus' words, what is strange about the man's response (verse 15). Why might it be the case that the healed man failed to see his miraculous healing as a sign pointing him to trust in Jesus?
4. One application of this story is to beware of putting our hope in miracles: even when this man is healed, it seems as though he didn't put his trust in Jesus. How might the example of this man – and the words of Jesus in verse 14 – be a warning or encouragement to you today?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that Jesus has the power to heal and give life – not only life now but eternal life. Repent of any sins you need to repent of. Pray that God's grace to you would keep leading you to repentance and faith.

JESUS THE MERCIFUL

DAY 4

Read John 5:8-18

1. Given the radical healing that has just gone on for this man, what is surprising about the Jewish leader's response to him? (See verse 10 and onwards)
2. How do the Jewish leaders respond to Jesus, and what does it tell us about them? (See verse 16-18)
3. What is Jesus' response to them, and what does it teach us about Jesus? (See verse 17-18)
4. Judgmentalism is a terrible attitude which Christians of all people should beware of. Do you need to repent of being judgemental toward someone?

Prayer: Pray, saying sorry for times you are judgemental of others, and asking God to help you remember the great mercy you have been given through Jesus. Ask God to make you more and more compassionate like Jesus, who worked for the good of others.

WEEK 2: JOHN 5:1-15

DAY 5

Read John 20:30-31 and John 21:24-25

1. In the final verse of his book, John says Jesus did many other signs that he didn't have room to write about. Why do you think John calls Jesus' miracles "signs"? What is the purpose of a sign?
2. In John 20:30-31, John tells us that he has a clear purpose for writing this book (also called a 'gospel') and recording the signs he did. Why does John say he's written his book?
3. Consider John 5:1-15 again – Jesus' healing of the man at Bethesda. How does this reveal the glory of Jesus to us, and how does it show us that Jesus is the one who can give eternal life?

Prayer: Thank God that he sent Jesus to give life to all who believe in his Name. Thank him also for this eyewitness account – the Gospel of John – which holds out to us the promise of eternal life.

JESUS THE MERCIFUL

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 3: JOHN 5:16-47

DAY 1

In today's reading is a significant event in the ministry of Jesus: the moment the Jews start to persecute him, which will ultimately lead to his crucifixion.

Read John 5:16-18

1. It's good to remember the context when reading the Bible. From verse 16, what are "these things" which Jesus was doing?
2. The Jewish leaders started persecuting Jesus because he was performing his signs on the Sabbath. What is the other reason given in here for why they began to persecute him?
3. Throughout the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), there are many reasons given for Jesus' supposed disregard for the Sabbath laws: Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath so it no longer applies; he is Lord of the Sabbath, so he can do as he pleases; compassion means that it is better to heal people than to apply the Sabbath laws in such a strict and legalistic manner... What specific reason does Jesus give for "breaking" the Sabbath here? (See verse 17)
4. Notice the leaders' reaction to Jesus (verse 18). What might be the right response to Jesus' words here? What response do you notice in yourself?

Prayer: The Son has the right to do miracles on the Sabbath because of his relationship to the Father. Give thanks for the way God's Word here reveals to us clearly who Jesus is, and pray your heart will be captured by the glory of Jesus this week.

...THE SON GIVES LIFE

DAY 2

As you read the passage, notice how Jesus defends himself against the charge of blasphemy.

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4;
Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16

Read John 5:19-23

1. Jesus lived at a time when sons learnt the trade of their fathers; fathers taught their sons how to do their work. With this as background, how is it similar with the divine Son and His Father? (See verses 19-20)
2. What works will Jesus do which the Father has shown him and given him to do? (See verses 21-22)
3. The Father loves the Son (verse 20). From verse 23, how is the Father's love for the Son a motivation for Jesus being entrusted with the work of judgement?
4. This is a very deep passage! What has stood out to you about the relationship between the Son and the Father and their works? What questions do you still have from the passage? Why not write them down and bring them up in your Growth Group, to a friend, or to a Pastor at church.

Prayer: Praise the Father for His love of the Son, and for honouring the Son by entrusting judgement to him. Pray that Jesus would be honoured by you as you bow the knee to him today and on judgement day. Have joyful confidence that God will answer this prayer for all those who have bowed the knee to His Son.

WEEK 3: JOHN 5:16-47

DAY 3

Read John 5:24-27

1. Jesus makes a huge promise in verse 24. What does he teach us about the way to have eternal life?
2. Looking closely at verses 24 and 25, when do the following things occur?
 - a. Having eternal life
 - b. Judgment
 - c. Crossing over from death to life
 - d. The dead hearing the voice of the Son of God
3. "Now, but not yet." How does this phrase capture some of what you noticed above?
4. To dig deeper: For more on 5:26, revisit your notes on Week 1, Day 2. For more on 'the Son of Man' (5:27), read Daniel 7:9-14.

Prayer: Praise God that by hearing and believing Jesus' words, you will have eternal life now and in the age to come.

...THE SON GIVES LIFE

DAY 4

Read 5:28-30

1. In verse 28, Jesus describes what will happen in the future. How does the healing of the man at the pool (verse 8-9) illustrate what will happen in the future for all humanity?
2. Is verse 29 teaching that we are saved by our good works? (See 3:19-21 and 6:29-29 to see how it is not!)
3. Are you confident that you will receive eternal life from the Son on the day of judgement?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the coming future, where Jesus will raise the dead, and those who have trusted in Him will enjoy eternal life. Ask God to give you the assurance of eternal life that trusting in Jesus brings. Pray also for those you know who don't yet trust in Jesus.

WEEK 3: JOHN 5:16-47

DAY 5

Read John 5:31-47

1. Jesus has made some extraordinary claims about himself throughout chapter 5. It begs the question: by what authority can Jesus make such incredible claims?! What three testimonies does Jesus point to here to demonstrate the truth of his words? (See verses 31-40)
2. Look again at verses 39-40 and 46-47. What does Jesus teach us here about the Scriptures?
3. Re-read verses 41-44. Are you seeking glory and honour from God, or from humans?

Prayer: God has given us so many reasons to be confident that Jesus is the Judge and Saviour. Pray that you will trust God in his Word and live by faith in his Words. Pray also that God's testimony about Jesus will be heard by many more, as the Gospel continues to go out throughout Australia. Pray you would desire pleasing God rather than people.

...THE SON GIVES LIFE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4: JOHN 6:1-24

DAY 1

Read John 6:1-14

1. From verse 2, why were great crowds following Jesus?
2. In light of this, read verses 5-9 again. What is strange about the disciples' response to Jesus' question? What might a more appropriate response have been?
3. In John's account of this sign, he includes many allusions to significant Old Testament events and passages. He seems to have Israel's exodus from Egypt in mind: Jesus provides miraculous bread (John 6:11), just as God provided the manna to Israel (Exodus 16); Jesus goes up on a mountainside (John 6:3), just as Moses goes up Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:3); Jesus' sign occurs near the Passover (John 6:4), just as Passover was instituted during Israel's escape from Egypt (Exodus 12).
 - a. What point is being made by these comparisons?
 - b. With these comparisons to God's saving of Israel in mind, why might it be significant that there are twelve baskets of bread left over for the twelve disciples? (verse 13)

Prayer: Give glory to God by praising him for Jesus, the all-sufficient Messiah and Saviour of Israel and all who trust in him! Ask that he would open the eyes of more people to see his Son as the Saviour of the world.

IT IS I; DON'T BE AFRAID

DAY 2

Read Exodus 16:1-11
and 2 Kings 4:42-44

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113;
1 Corinthians 1-2

1. How are these miracles similar and different to Jesus' feeding of the 5,000?
2. The Jewish people had been expecting another prophet like Moses or Elisha to come (Deuteronomy 18:14-22 gave them this expectation). In what way is Jesus like Moses and Elisha?
3. After Jesus fed the 5,000 men, they said, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world" (John 6:14). Given what we know of Jesus from the rest of John's Gospel, how is Jesus a greater prophet than Moses and Elisha? (Hint: John 1:1)

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus, the Word and Son of God himself, who reveals God perfectly to us. Thank God for these signs Jesus performed that reveal his glory to us. Ask God to help you trust Jesus in all you do today.

WEEK 4: JOHN 6:1-24

DAY 3

Read John 6:15-24

1. In John's gospel, light and darkness (as well as day and night) are important themes (e.g. 1:4-5, 3:2). Verse 16 points out that the disciples were now alone, without Jesus, and it was dark. What might this be suggesting about the disciples?
2. Imagine you were one of the disciples. What resonates with you about the way they respond to Jesus walking on the water? (See verses 19-21)
3. Job 9:8 says, "He [God] alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea." With this in mind, what might John 6 be teaching us about Jesus as we see him treading on the waves of the sea?
4. What does this passage suggest is the appropriate way to respond to Jesus?

Prayer: Ask God to keep expanding and clarifying your view of Jesus, who is both truly God (God the Son!) and truly man.

IT IS I; DON'T BE AFRAID

DAY 4

So far in John 6, we have seen many allusions drawn between Jesus' signs and God's rescue of Israel from Egypt. Today, we will see another very significant reference back to Exodus 3, where God revealed his personal name to Moses.

Read Exodus 3:1-15

1. In Exodus 3, God reveals himself to Moses (God revealing himself to someone is known as a 'theophany').* How does Moses respond to this revelation? (See verse 5)
2. By what name does God introduce himself?**(See verses 13-14)
3. Turn to John 6 again, the account of Jesus walking on the waves. When Jesus approaches the boat, the disciples are afraid (verse 19), but Jesus calms them by saying, "It is I, don't be afraid." More literally, he says, "I am; don't be afraid". With these parallels to Exodus 3 in mind, how might the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the sea be understood as a 'theophany'?

Prayer: Praise God that the fearful Lord of the Universe meets us tenderly, relieving us of fear, and invites us to know Him in His Son, Jesus. Ask that you would humbly live before God's Son as the Lord of your life.

* Other theophanies are found in Judges 6:4, Isaiah 6, Revelation 1:17).

** The Hebrew for God's name, 'I am who I am', is translated for us throughout the Old Testament as 'the LORD'. In the New Testament (which was written in Greek), Jesus takes on that title of 'Lord'.

WEEK 4: JOHN 6:1-24

DAY 5

This week we have seen that Jesus' signs in John 6 have many connections back to the miracles God performed in the Exodus events. Today, Psalm 77 will teach us how God's mighty deeds can bring us comfort during dark times.

Read Psalm 77

1. Looking at verses 1-9, how would you describe the Psalmist's situation and how he is feeling toward God?
2. What changes for the Psalmist in verse 10 and in the following verses?
3. The Psalmist recalls how God performed mighty deeds in the Exodus to redeem his people. Why might this be a comfort for him?
4. Just as God worked miraculously for Israel, Jesus performed miraculous signs throughout John's Gospel, climaxing in his death and resurrection. How might remembering these signs be an encouragement to us during dark times?

Prayer: Use the words of Psalm 77 as a prayer, declaring any difficulty you are facing, and recalling to mind God's miraculous signs through Jesus – a revelation of the glory of God in Jesus, and a wonderful demonstration of God's commitment to us.

IT IS I; DON'T BE AFRAID

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5: JOHN 6:25-71

DAY 1

Read John 6:25-29

1. According to Jesus, why were the crowd following him?
2. From verse 27, what does Jesus say a person should and should not* work for?
3. What might this look like for you in your life? Is there anything that needs to change in your priorities?
4. Notice that the 'works' God requires of us are not a work at all, but simply believing in the one he has sent (verse 29). Looking again at verse 27, how does Jesus say we 'get' this eternal life?

Prayer: Praise the Father for gifting you with eternal life through his Son. Pray that God would help you prioritise eternal life over and above all else.

* This is not to deny that we have legitimate earthly needs, like eating, which we need to work for (compare with Ephesians 4:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:10); Jesus is critiquing their misplaced focus on the things of this earthly life.

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

DAY 2

Today's passage is an incredible one!

As you read it, look out for the assurance Christians can have about eternal life.

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117;
1 Corinthians 3-4

Read John 6:30-40

1. Just before this engagement, Jesus performed the sign of feeding the 5,000. What things in this passage indicate that the crowd did not understand Jesus or the point of his sign?
2. What does it mean for Jesus to call himself 'the bread of life'? What does this metaphor help communicate about him?
3. How does this metaphor encourage you?
4. From verses 37-40, what can you learn about how a Christian gains and keeps eternal life?

Prayer: Praise God the Father for his glorious grace towards you – for choosing, calling, and keeping you for eternal life! Thank him for the assurance that whoever comes to Jesus, he will never drive away.

WEEK 5: JOHN 6:25-71

DAY 3

Read John 6:41-51

1. Why did the Jews grumble at Jesus (verses 41-42), and in what way do people today make the same mistake?
2. What does Jesus teach about life and death/ living and dying in these verses?
3. The magnitude of what Jesus gives those who come to him cannot be overstated! What does verse 44 teach us about how we come to receive his gifts?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that he has drawn you to Jesus, the bread of life, and that you therefore can have confidence that Jesus will raise you up on the last day.

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

DAY 4

Read John 6:51-59

1. What is it that Jesus says that confuses some of those listening to him? (See verses 51-52)
2. Rather than accommodating their confusion, Jesus pushes this 'bread of life' metaphor even further! What does Jesus mean by saying that we must eat his flesh and drink his blood?*
3. Jesus is using confronting imagery. It is helpful to remember that this same crowd had just fed on literal bread he miraculously provided them, and that they just wanted more bread from Jesus (6:26)! So...why might this be a helpful way of getting Jesus' point across?
4. Have you put your faith in the one who gives life? If so, what promise does Jesus make to you in verse 58?

Prayer: Spend time praising God for the promise of eternal life through his Son. Pray that you would remain trusting in Jesus, who brought this life by giving up his own (6:51).

* It's worth noting that although Jesus is not here talking about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Lord's Supper is pointing to the same reality that Jesus is talking about here! The words used during the Lord's Supper in the Anglican Common Book of Prayer are helpful: "Take and eat this bread in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by thanksgiving."

WEEK 5: JOHN 6:25-71

DAY 5

Read John 6:60-71

1. This is now the third time we've seen some people react negatively to this teaching of Jesus (verses 41, 52, 60-61). Looking at verses 61-65:
 - a. What does Jesus say about the nature of this teaching?

 - b. What reasons does he give for their lack of belief in his teaching?

2. Verses 66-71 show different responses to Jesus. What can we learn from Simon Peter's response to Jesus? How is his answer helpful and relevant for you today?

3. You may like to take some time reflecting on your own experience of coming to faith in Jesus. As you think about it in view of this passage, can you see that God was at work in you?

Prayer: Praise God for all that you have in Jesus – the giver of eternal life. Praise God that he has enabled you to come to him and receive his words as they truly are, Spirit-and-life words!

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: JOHN 7:1-52

DAY 1

From Chapter 7 onwards, John recounts the last year of Jesus' ministry before his crucifixion. Jesus had spent about a year in the north, Galilee, because the Jewish leaders were trying to kill him (7:1).

Read 7:1-13

1. Verse 5 says that Jesus' brothers did not believe in him – even though they recognised he was a worker of miracles (verse 3). What else from their interactions with Jesus shows that they did not understand him?
2. Jesus believed it was not yet time for him to go up to the feast. Earlier in John 5, we heard that Jesus did nothing outside of his Father's will and command (5:19). When he is ready to go, why does he go in secret?
3. What are the various responses to Jesus at this point in his ministry?
4. Like Jesus' brothers, the crowd's responses reveal that they are 'of the world' (see 1:10). They had not yet had their hearts transformed by God's Spirit to see Jesus for who he is. How would you describe your heart toward Jesus at the moment? What does this say about your spiritual health?

Prayer: If you need to repent of apathy or hostility, confess this to God and ask for his help to see and follow Jesus rightly. If you have reason for thanksgiving and praise, do so, giving all the glory to God!

I AM NOT HERE ON MY OWN AUTHORITY

DAY 2

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10;
1 Corinthians 5-6

In today's passage we see people wrestling with who Jesus is. Jesus teaches them how to make a right evaluation: Not judging by mere appearances, but humbly seeking to submit to God's will.

Read 7:14-24

1. In verse 15, the Jews are amazed at Jesus' ability to teach. What don't they know about who Jesus is? (Hint: see 7:16, but also 1:1)
2. What criteria does Jesus give them for making up their minds about him?
3. A long time has passed since Jesus healed the man by the pool in Jerusalem (5:1-15), but it left many Jews with the impression that he was a lawbreaker. In verses 19-24, how does Jesus confront and challenge their response to him?
4. How is God challenging you to make a right judgement about Jesus? What do you see about Jesus in this passage that encourages you to trust him?

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus' integrity and full submission to the will of his Father. Ask God to help you judge Jesus rightly, humbly submitting yourself to what God is teaching us through John's gospel.

WEEK 6: JOHN 7:1-52

DAY 3

Read John 7:25-36

1. As the people of Jerusalem listen to Jesus, what are the different conclusions drawn about him? What do their conclusions reveal about them? (Hint: verse 28)
2. How do verses 30, 32 show us that God was in control of what was happening in Jesus' ministry?
3. There is a real irony in the Jews' response to Jesus in verses 33-36. They think he is referring to a plan to travel north, doing mission among the Gentiles.
 - a. What is Jesus actually referring to?
 - b. How is this the same time when he will actually carry out his ministry among the Gentiles? (Hint: Luke 24:46-51)

Prayer: After his death and resurrection, Jesus ascended to his Father's side and now carries out his mission to the Gentiles by his Spirit. Give thanks that Jesus has brought the gospel to us here in Australia and has saved you, and pray for the salvation of those you know and love who do not yet trust Jesus as the Messiah.

I AM NOT HERE ON MY OWN AUTHORITY

DAY 4

Today's passage records events that happened "On the last and greatest day of the festival" (7:37). The Festival of Tabernacles was a seven-day festival, which celebrated the beginning of the barley harvest, and included a water-drawing ceremony. In this ceremony, the Jews remembered and celebrated God's provision of water for them in the wilderness.

With this in mind, read John 7:37-44.

1. What promises does Jesus make here?
2. How does Jesus make use of the festival's ceremonies for the sake of his teaching?
3. Would you describe your Christian life as having had your thirst satisfied? What might your answer indicate about your faith?

Prayer: Ask God for spiritual eyes to see the wonder of the salvation we have in Jesus. Give thanks that the Spirit has now been poured out, and works powerfully in our world to reconcile people to God, to renew our hearts and minds, and will one day renew this entire thirsty world.

WEEK 6: JOHN 7:1-52

DAY 5

Read John 7:45-52

1. “No one ever spoke the way this man does” (7:46). What excuses do the Pharisees offer in response to this, in order to deny Jesus’ identity as the Messiah?
2. Recall that Nicodemus had once come to Jesus under the cover of night (3:1). Recall also 7:13 – “No one would say anything [about Jesus] publicly for fear of the leaders.” What is encouraging about Nicodemus here?
3. Are there particular people you are fearful of speaking about Jesus in front of?
4. The place of Jesus’ birth has come up a lot in this chapter; it was a real hot topic for the Jews in assessing Jesus’ trustworthiness (7:26, 41-42, 52). What does this book teach us about where Jesus is from (1:1, 6:38, 7:29), and how might this give you courage to speak to others about him?

Prayer: If you need to, repent of fearing man more than God. Take courage from the example of Nicodemus and ask God to work in you (as He did in Nicodemus) to strengthen your convictions.

I AM NOT HERE ON MY OWN AUTHORITY

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 7: JOHN 8:12-30

DAY 1: IS THIS GOD'S WORD?

You might notice a note in your Bible saying that today's passage is not in the earliest manuscripts. A brief comment on this might be helpful. The New Testament books and letters were written in the first century, shortly after Jesus' earthly life, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. They were written by eyewitnesses of Jesus, like the Apostle John. Copies of these documents were made and shared with the early churches, so that the Word of God might be heard by all of God's people. There are a massive 5,801 handwritten New Testament manuscripts still in existence! This shows how extensive the spreading of God's Word was during those early days of the church. John 7:53-8:11 does not appear in any of the earliest manuscripts, only first appearing in the fifth century. Text scholars conclude that it was most likely not written by the Apostle John, like the rest of this book was. It was added by a later copyist, who thought that the story helpfully illustrated either John 7:24, or 8:15...or both! However, this does not mean that this is simply a made-up story. It is quite possible that this was a real event during Jesus' ministry which had an oral history, and was written down and inserted into John (and Luke in some instances) to preserve this oral tradition. Since it was not written by the original author, we do not take it as Scripture (a divinely-inspired piece of writing). All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16). The human author spoke from God, being carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Even still, although John 7:53-8:11 is not Scripture, what it teaches about Jesus aligns with everything else taught in the New Testament about him. So, how do we read it? Like any other non-Scriptural writings by Christians: as an encouragement from a brother or sister pointing us to faith in Jesus. And we test it for error against the divinely-inspired Scriptures.

I AM FROM ABOVE

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20;
1 Corinthians 7-8

Read John 7:53-8:11

1. How would you summarise what this passage teaches about...

a. The Pharisees?

b. The woman?

c. Jesus?

2. Jesus acts with incredible wisdom and deals gently and graciously with the woman, while still commanding her to leave her sin behind her. Can you think of other parts of John we've read so far that teach these same things? (Hint: 1:16-17, 3:17, 5:14, 7:19, 7:24)

3. What response should this story (and the rest of the Bible's direct teaching!) bring forth in us? What is God doing in you right now?

Prayer: Pray in light of your response to question 3. Are you thankful for Jesus' grace and mercy? Give thanks! Are you feeling rebuked because of self-righteousness? Repent, and ask God to help you leave your life of sin.

WEEK 7: JOHN 8:12-30

DAY 2

Today's passage takes place during the Festival of Tabernacles (7:2). Just like water was an important element in the festival (7:38), so was light. Four large lamps lit up the temple court and the city during the festival. Into this context, Jesus makes another 'I am' claim.

Read John 8:12-20

1. Focusing on verse 12, what does Jesus claim and what does it mean?
2. What are the negative implications of Jesus' claim? What does it imply about people who don't follow him? What does it say about our world?
3. Cast your mind back to Jesus' words to the adulterous woman (8:10-11). How is his instruction to her (if she obeyed him) an example of someone moving out of darkness and having the light of life?
4. Can you think of a moment when following Jesus has been a light to you in a world of darkness? How has following Jesus been true life for you?

Prayer: Praise God for opening your eyes to the light of Jesus. Thank him that to follow Jesus is to come out of darkness. Ask that you would forever have the 'light of life' in his Son.

I AM FROM ABOVE

DAY 3

1. Imagine a non-Christian friend asks you, "Why should I trust Jesus' claims about himself?" How would you respond?

Read John 8:12-20

2. What is the Pharisees issue with Jesus' claims?
3. What two things does Jesus point to to confirm his testimony? How do these things validate his testimony?
4. Look again at verse 19. How does Jesus bring out the importance of believing his testimony?

Prayer: Pray for people you know who do not yet trust Jesus to be the true light of the world. Ask God to enlighten their eyes to the truth of Jesus as the One who came from above to restore us to relationship with the Father.

WEEK 7: JOHN 8:12-30

DAY 4

Read John 8:21-30

1. Reading through the passage again, what does Jesus teach about where he is from and what his future would be?
2. What does he teach about where the Pharisees are from and what their future will be?
3. Jesus references a time when they would come to know who he is (verse 28). How do 3:14 and 12:32 shed light on what this event is?
4. Nicodemus is an example of someone (a Pharisee even!) who, after Jesus' death on the cross, became a believer in Jesus (19:39-42). Looking at 8:24, what does this mean for Nicodemus, and how is that an encouragement to you?

Prayer: Thank God for the forgiveness of sins through the death of Jesus. Thank God for this free gift received through believing in Jesus as the Saviour of the World.

I AM FROM ABOVE

DAY 5

Today we will read some Old Testament passages about 'light' to enhance our understanding of the significance of Jesus' claim in 8:12.

1. Choose some (or all) of the following passages to read. As you read, ask yourself, "What is the significance of light in this passage?"
 - a. Exodus 13:21-22
 - b. Psalm 27:1
 - c. Isaiah 49:6
 - d. Isaiah 60:19-22
 - e. Zechariah 14:5-7
2. Imagine being one of the Jewish leaders at the festival who heard Jesus say, "I am the light of the world." If you knew these Old Testament texts well, what would you hear Jesus claiming about himself?

Prayer: Praise God for Jesus, the light of the world. Thank God for keeping his Old Testament promises in him.

WEEK 8: JOHN 8:31-59

DAY 1

Today we will read the rest of chapter 8 to get the flow of the whole conversation between the Jews and Jesus.

Read 8:31-59

1. The Jews in this passage claim to be children of God. What does Jesus say the children of God do?
2. Jesus says that they are not children of God but children of the devil. What does Jesus say the children of the devil do?
3. How can someone become a child of God? (hint verse 31-36)

Prayer: Thank God that we have adoption into his family through Jesus. Pray that God would give you understanding into Jesus and his word throughout the rest of the week in chapter 8.

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS BORN, I AM!

DAY 2

Read 8:31-36

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96;
Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10

From day 1, we saw that Jesus' audience ended up NOT believing in Jesus. The description of the audience probably means that their belief was only an outward belief that was never genuine (this idea was first introduced in 2:23-25). This is why Jesus clarifies what a disciple is at the start of the interaction.

1. What are some features of a disciple in verses 31-32?
2. Not every act of sin represents slavery to sin. However, those who continue to sin and not repent are slaves to sin (verse 34). What sets you free from slavery to sin?
3. The "truth" and Jesus are strongly connected in John (i.e. 14:6). How does the truth set you free from slavery to sin?

Prayer: Thank God for sending Jesus to rescue you from the implications of sin. Pray for help in putting sin to death in your life.

WEEK 8: JOHN 8:31-59

DAY 3

Read 8:37-42

1. What is being said about Abraham?
2. While Jesus acknowledges that the Jews are biologically descended from Abraham, he insists that they are not inheritors of God's promises. What reasons does Jesus give for this? (Note: we looked at this more in depth last year in Romans 9:6-8).
3. What do the children of God do?
4. How have you gone at loving the works, words and person of Jesus this week?

Prayer: Thank God that we can be adopted into his family through Jesus, regardless of our racial or religious background. Pray that he would help you love, believe and obey Jesus this week.

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS BORN, I AM!

DAY 4

Read 8:43-47

1. Jesus says that the Jews are children of the devil. How is the devil described here?
2. How can the Jews be identified as children of the devil?
3. If the devil is the “father of lies”, what is going to be the big way that we resist the devil?
4. What are some of the lies the devil tells to misconstrue the truth and lead us into sin?

Prayer: Pray that you would resist the lies of the devil that lead into temptation.

WEEK 8: JOHN 8:31-59

DAY 5

Read 8:48-59

1. List all the things that Jesus claims about himself in these verses.
2. Read Exodus 3:13-15. How does Exodus help you understand the significance of who Jesus is claiming to be?
3. The ESV is the most helpful translation of verse 53. "Who do you make yourself out to be?". Is Jesus independently making himself out to be something? If not, on what basis does Jesus make these claims about himself?
4. How can you better live out verse 51?

Prayer: Thank God that he sent Jesus and that we can trust in the massive claims of Jesus. Pray that you would obey his Word.

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS BORN, I AM!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: JOHN 9: 1-41

DAY 1

In Chapter 9, Jesus states again, "I am the light of the world". Now this claim takes on further significance because of the sign it accompanies: the restoring of sight to a blind man.

Read John 9:1-12

Today we will be focusing on verses 1-3

1. The disciples' question likely comes out of God's commandments in Exodus 20:5-6. What is Jesus' answer?
2. Is the blind man and his parents perfectly sinless? How does the passage and/or other parts in the Bible help you answer this?
3. Jesus' answer to the question comes to fruition as we see Jesus restoring the blind man's sight. What hardships have you experienced where God's works have been displayed?

Prayer: Pray that God might use you and your circumstances to display his goodness and holiness. Pray that God might do this even when your circumstances don't improve.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

DAY 2

Read John 9:1-12

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144;
Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12

1. In verses 3 and 4, what are the works that Jesus is referring to? (Also see 5:16-17)
2. If Jesus is the light of the world while he is in the world, what might he mean by “day” and “night”? (See verse 4-5)
3. After Jesus' sixth sign recorded in John's Gospel, we see his neighbours divided over whether they truly believe that Jesus performed this sign. Can you think of a time when you've seen people divided over Jesus like this?
4. How does the book of John (and this sign particularly) assure you that in Jesus you have eternal life?

Prayer: Praise God for revealing himself to the blind man and to you. Pray that you might continue to trust in what Jesus did and said.

WEEK 9: JOHN 9: 1-41

DAY 3

Read John 9:13-34

1. How many interactions did the Pharisees have with people who believed Jesus' sixth sign? (including the neighbours that brought the blind man to them)
2. Why do some of the Pharisees still reject what Jesus did?
3. Verse 34 particularly shows the self-righteousness of the Pharisees as they compare themselves to the man born blind. Are there people in your life whom you easily dismiss because you think they are "more sinful"?
4. How should we view others knowing that Jesus is the one who reveals the truth to people?

Prayer: Praise God that he reveals the truth and the beauty of himself to you. Pray that God would help you to be humble, not thinking of yourself as more worthy or better than others.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

DAY 4

Read John 9:35-41

1. So far in John 9, we've seen people respond to Jesus in two different ways: One – Accepting Jesus as Lord; and Two – Rejecting him. How does this help us understand verse 39?"

2. What is the judgment of the Pharisees who claim to “see” in verse 41?

3. Jesus does not hold the blind man accountable for his sin (verse 3, 37, 41). We see that he is given spiritual sight in the progression of how he refers to Jesus throughout the chapter (i.e. “the man they call Jesus”, “prophet”, “from God”, and finally, “Lord”). Can you think back to times when your view of Jesus significantly changed? What were some of those changes?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus, “the light of the world”, revealed himself to you. Give thanks that in Christ, God doesn't hold you accountable for your sin, and that in him you have eternal life.

WEEK 9: JOHN 9: 1-41

DAY 5

"I am the light of the world". This is first referenced for us at the beginning of John's Gospel (particularly in 1:9).

Read John 1:1-18

1. What do verses 4 and 5 say about "light" and "life"?
2. We saw in John 9 that Jesus gives eternal life. He also gives a second type of "life" in John 1. What could that second type of "life" be? (Hint: verse 3)
3. "Light" is a powerful metaphor. Light enables us to see, know and find salvation in Jesus. How does knowing that all things were created through Jesus bring light?

Prayer: Thank God that he has turned the lights on for you – showing Jesus to be the one in whom you live and breathe! Praise God for his wonderful creation through Jesus, and ask that he would bring a deeper, richer understanding of himself through light of the world.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: JOHN 10:1-42

DAY 1

It's helpful to remember that in the original manuscripts there are no chapter divisions. Chapter 10 naturally flows out of chapter 9, with Jesus continuing to address the Pharisees.

Read John 10:1-10

1. Few of us today have first-hand experience with shepherding. Write down what you learn about the way shepherding worked in Jesus' day (10:1-5).
2. In verse 6, John tells us that Jesus is using figurative language. What is Jesus teaching about himself and the Pharisees by speaking this way?
3. How does the metaphor match with the Pharisees' and Jesus' treatment of the man born blind? (See 9:34-38)
4. Jesus, our "gate" into the Kingdom, has come that we may have life to the full (10:10). What is God doing in you through these words? How is it a comfort, encouragement, or challenge to you?

Prayer: Pray out of your reflection on Jesus as the gate for the sheep – the one who comes to bring life to the full; our protector and Saviour.

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

DAY 2

Read John 10:10-21

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8;
Psalms 119:145-176;
1 Corinthians 13-14

1. What is different about the good shepherd and the hired hand? (See verses 11-13)
2. What do we learn about the plan and purposes of God for Jesus in verses 14-18?
3. In verse 16, how is it that the sheep – far and near – come to be shepherded by Jesus?
4. We are told of two different responses to Jesus' words in verses 19-21. What is your response to his words?

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus, who lays down his life for his sheep, and has authority to take it back up again! Pray that you would have a soft heart to his words. Pray for those sheep of his who are yet to hear his voice – that the good news would go to them soon.

WEEK 10: JOHN 10:1-42

DAY 3

Today's Old Testament passage uses the same figurative language that Jesus uses in John 10, and is very likely in Jesus' mind as he calls himself 'the good shepherd'.

Read Ezekiel 34:1-31

1. What was the failure of the shepherds of Israel? (See verses 1-6)
2. What promises does God make for his sheep?
3. How does prophecy enrich your understanding of Jesus' use of the shepherd metaphor in John 10? What is Jesus saying about himself by calling himself 'the good shepherd' and 'the gate for the sheep'? (Particularly see verses 15-16, 23-24)

Prayer: Praise God for his love for His sheep, and for being our shepherd in His Son, the Lord Jesus.

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

DAY 4

1. In John's Gospel, when 'dark' and 'night' are referenced, they are usually making a theological comment about Jesus' hearers. How might 'winter' (verse 22) be doing the same thing? (Consider verse 24)
2. Why didn't those listening believe Jesus' words and works? (See verses 26-27)
3. What incredible security does this passage offer to all who truly believe in Jesus? Can a Christian ever fully and finally fall away? (See verses 27-30)

"Christ declares that his people 'will never perish'. Weak as they are, they will all be saved. Not one of them shall be lost and cast away: not one of them shall miss heaven. If they err, they shall be brought back; if they fall, they shall be raised. The enemies of their soul may be strong and mighty, but their Saviour is mightier; and none shall pluck them out of their Saviour's hand."

J. C. Ryle

Prayer: Rejoice and pray in light of the wonderful security you have as a believer in Christ. Ask God to help you live in light of this wonderful fact, enjoying and glorifying your wonderful Saviour all your days.

WEEK 10: JOHN 10:1-42

DAY 5

Read John 10:30-41

1. Why did those listening respond so dramatically to Jesus' words?
2. Jesus appeals to Psalm 82:6 in his response. It may help you to read that verse. Considering all you know of Jesus from John, and what Jesus says in verse 36, why might it be appropriate for Jesus to be called God's Son?
3. Once again, Jesus appeals to his works as a valid testimony of his Sonship of the Father. Recall the purpose of John's Gospel (20:30-31). How have you been strengthened in your faith in Jesus this term in John's Gospel?

Prayer: Give thanks for the witness of John to Jesus' words and works. Pray that our church would continue and deepen in their faith in the Son of God, that by believing we may have life in his name.

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

