



rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2022

**FINDING**

*The good  
life*

John's Gospel Story about Jesus





## THE GOOD LIFE

What is the good life? There will be any number of different answers to that question.

Many will centre around similar themes: health, family, fulfilment, recognition, fun, recreation, security.

Just as there are many answers to what the good life entails, there are as many answer for how to get it.

Unfortunately, however, our efforts to pursue and find the good life often leave us feeling exhausted, disappointed and disillusioned.

That's why John's story about Jesus is such good news. Because Jesus came that we might have life, and have it to the full (John 10v10).

LIFE is the topic of John's story more than any other book of the New Testament (only Psalms has more references in the Old Testament).

*"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written 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 20v30-31)*

As we work our way through John's story about Jesus, we're going to see why Jesus is so important — we're going to see why we should believe in him; we're going to see how to become one of his disciples; and, we're going to see what it means to live as one of his disciples.

## JOHN'S THEMES

Here are a couple of big themes to look out for:

1. How the Son reveals himself and the Father — The Son of God, the Messiah, the Christ reveals God in a way we could not otherwise know or understand. So Jesus is aptly called "The Word".

2. Salvation does not come by revelation alone — Salvation comes only through the death of the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep, as the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, so that his life, peace, joy and Spirit might come to those who believe. Therefore, each one of us must carefully consider the way we respond to God's gracious self-disclosure in Jesus.

3. We can find and enjoy the good life now, while we look to the life to come — How? By looking, hearing, seeing and believing in the Son of God, the Messiah, Jesus!

For a world that's desperate to find the good life, there is no better place to look than in John's story about Jesus.

We hope that you'll find and enjoy the good life by putting your trust in the one who came and laid down his life for you.

## IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED:

- **Who was John?**

John was one of Jesus' disciples and one of his closest friends. He was a fisherman, the son of Zebedee and brother of James. Within the story, he refers to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved" (John 13v23, 19v26-27, 20v2-9 & 21v1-25).

- **When did John write his Gospel?**

Most Bible scholars agree that John wrote history about Jesus between 80-85AD. Tradition says that it was written during the reign of Roman Emperor Domitian (81-96AD). This would mean that it was the last of the Gospels to be written.

- **Why is John different from Matthew, Mark and Luke?**

Although John may have had access to Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels, the simplest reason for his difference is that he is recording his own recollections, but also writing with a particular purpose in mind. As noted above, John wrote so that his readers might believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He also uses a lot of Old Testament references and allusions. This suggests he was particularly writing to Jews or people familiar with the Jewish scriptures. It is believed John was in Ephesus when he recorded his Gospel. This means he was probably writing to show Jews how Jesus fulfils their own scriptures.

- **How do we know John wrote his Gospel?**

All of the gospels were originally, and formally anonymous, being circulated as part of one book, The Gospel, before 125AD. After this time, each of the four-fold Gospel books was ascribed to the author — "According to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John".

As far as John's writing is concerned, all ancient evidence outside of the Bible unanimously attributes this work to John. Inside the story itself, John 21 is most helpful (along with John 13v23, 19v26-27 & 20v2-9) — John 21 clearly positions John fishing with Peter when Jesus appears to them after his resurrection. Peter brings John to Jesus' attention in v20-23, then v24-25 records: "This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If everyone of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

## HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

**ON YOUR OWN**—Take your time reading through the passage. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the topic before you arrive.

**WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP**—As you talk through the questions, see how John weaves complex themes together and develops them throughout the book. Think together about who Jesus claims to be through his words and actions. See how we should respond to him.

**ON SUNDAY**—Make sure you bring your series companion along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.





# EVERYTHING GOOD

## JOHN 1v1-18

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

## GROWTH GROUP STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Have you ever met anyone famous? Tell the group about the experience.

### READ JOHN 1v1-5

1. John begins his book about Jesus by reflecting on the opening words of the Bible. Compare with Genesis 1v1-5. What do we learn about the 'Word'?

### READ JOHN 1v6-13

2. What is John's role?
3. How will different people respond to the true light?
4. What does the light give to those who believe in his name?

### READ JOHN 1v14

5. The Word was active in the beginning at creation. But now, something new has happened. What strikes you about the Word here?
6. John is drawing heavily on Old Testament imagery. How do passages like Exodus 29v42-46; 34v4-7; v29-35 and 1 Chronicles 16v7-36 deepen our understanding of this Word, who is the glorious Son?

### JOHN 1v15-18

7. The Word/Light/Son is finally revealed to be Jesus Christ! How is he contrasted with John and Moses?
8. What is Jesus' relationship with his Father like?



## *growing disciples*

At **rockybc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

What is something you've seen today about Jesus that excites/intrigues/comforts you?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

How are you responding to Jesus? Are you recognising him as God's Son, the eternal, Word full of grace and truth, light and life? Or do you still have questions about believing in him? What would be a next step for you?

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Which parts of this passage do you think would be hardest for your friends to believe? How can you speak to them about Jesus in these terms?

### **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God the Father for revealing himself through his Son, Jesus who is full of grace and truth.
- Thank Jesus for speaking the world into being, for shining light into our darkness and for taking on flesh to dwell with us.
- Ask for God's help to recognise and believe in Jesus.
- Thank him that we're born into his family as we believe.
- Continue to pray for friends and family to receive Jesus and give him the glory he is due.

# COME AND SEE

JOHN 1v19-2v12

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

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### GETTING STARTED

What do you think makes for a good wedding? The ceremony? Good food? Dancing? A bar tab?

John 1v1-18 forms the introduction of the book. And we've already heard about John, sent from God, who will witness to the coming light. And today we see him doing just that.

#### READ JOHN 1v19-34

1. How does John see his role as he quotes Isaiah 40v1-11?

2. What does he reveal about Jesus?

#### READ JOHN 1v35-51

3. Describe the different responses to Jesus here.

4. Jesus invites Andrew and another disciple to 'Come and see', then Philip invites Nathanael to 'Come and see' as well. What are they wanting to see from Jesus?

In v51, Jesus is combining two different Old Testament images - a story from the patriarch Jacob in Genesis 28, and a vision from the prophet Daniel, in Ch7 of his book. Daniel sees a majestic human, coming to God's throne to receive authority over all things. God repeatedly calls the prophet, Ezekiel 'Son of Man' as he receives the somber message of judgment to proclaim to God's people (eg Ezekiel 2). Jesus often describes himself as this 'Son of Man' (eg John 5v27; 6v60-66; 13v31), receiving authority, glory and sometimes rejection, as he helps, preaches and suffers death.

#### READ GENESIS 28v10-17

5. What is Jesus claiming about himself by referring to this story?

## READ JOHN 2v1-12

It's difficult to know what to make of the Wedding at Cana story beyond saying, it's a pretty neat party trick! But perhaps seeing an Old Testament backdrop will help us know what's going on.

When God brought the people of Israel to the land he'd promised, fig trees and vines were a common metaphor for God's blessing in this special place. For example, in 1 Kings 4v20-25, in the abundance and peace of King Solomon's reign, the people 'lived in safety, everyone under their own vine and under their own fig tree.'

On the other hand, when the Israelites turned away from God, their exile includes the destruction of these trees, as blessing is removed (eg Jeremiah 5v15-17).

And yet, as God has compassion on his people to restore them after their time of punishment, a sign of blessing will be 'Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid' (Micah 4v1-5).

When Jesus comes, he stands in front of this backdrop with Nathanael under a fig tree and extremely abundant wine (see also Joel 3v17-18)...

6. What do you think Jesus is showing about himself by making 690 litres of wine?
7. Jesus invited his disciples to come and see that he is the promised Messiah as John testified. What abundant blessings does he guarantee for his people?

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#### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Jesus invites us to come and see as well. Have you investigated Jesus, and all he says and does? What is a next step for you to believe in him?

Which description of Jesus stood out to you today - Messiah, Lamb of God, Son of Man, the One who opens heaven, the abundant provider of blessing? How do you need to respond to him today?

#### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

Are you tempted to think God is miserly towards us? How does Jesus challenge your thinking? How could you foster an attitude of gratitude?



**SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Who would you like to invite to come and see Jesus? Is there someone you can pray about inviting to CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER, starting this week?

**PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God for Jesus who is Messiah, Lamb of God, Son of Man, the One who opens heaven, the abundant provider of blessing.
- Thank him that he is not miserly, but that his blessing overflows to us as our sins are taken away and the way to God is opened through his king.
- Pray for friends and family to come and see who Jesus is.
- And pray for those coming to CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER, this week to feel welcome and comfortable to share and to listen, that this might be step for them towards faith in Jesus.

# ETERNAL LIFE

JOHN 2v13-3v36

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

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### GETTING STARTED

What does 'born again' mean in our modern context? What would your friends/family think it's all about?

From 2v13-22, Jesus comes into conflict with those who are making a profit in the temple in Jerusalem. In zeal for his Father's house (Psalm 69), he clears them out. The Jews want to know who Jesus thinks he is, to do such a thing. Cryptically, Jesus says that the sign of his authority will be his death at their hands, and then his resurrection.

### READ JOHN 2v23-3v15

1. Do you think Nicodemus has a genuine question? Why or why not?
2. What do we learn about the new birth that we need?
3. How does Nicodemus misunderstand Jesus and his origins?

### READ NUMBERS 21v4-9

4. How is Jesus, the Son of Man, like the bronze snake? When will he be 'lifted up'?

### READ JOHN 3v16-21

5. These are some of the most famous words from the Bible. What do they teach us about God's love, eternal life/condemnation, believing/rejecting Jesus?
6. What do we need to understand about human evil vs stepping into Jesus' light?

This chapter finishes with John's disciples becoming jealous of the many people flocking to Jesus. John says that he's like the bridegroom's friend who is full of joy at Jesus becoming greater. John reiterates his testimony that Jesus comes from God, knowing his love and full of his Spirit. The author reiterates the benefits of receiving Jesus, and the dangers of rejecting him.

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. John 3v36*

## *growing disciples*

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### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Have you been born again, by God's Spirit into Jesus' kingdom and have you received eternal life in him?

What do you think it means for you to believe in Jesus?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

What would you say to someone who is doubting God's love for them? (either a believer or a not-yet believer)

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How does this passage affect the way you view people you know who reject Jesus? How can you move towards them in love, like Jesus?

### **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Thank God that his love is so great, that he gave his one and only Son for us.
- Praise him for giving us eternal life by his Spirit, and new birth into his kingdom as we believe in Jesus.
- Thank him that we don't need to fear his condemnation, but can know salvation.
- Pray for those you love who are currently rejecting Jesus, that they would come into the light and find good and true life in Jesus.





# LIVING WATER

JOHN 4v1-42

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

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### GETTING STARTED

Spend a few minutes imagining that drinkable water didn't come out of a tap at your house. How different would your life be? Perhaps, you've lived somewhere that you've had to source your own water or there's been a time in your life that you couldn't use tap water.

Solomon was the nation of Israel's third king. But after his death, the kingdom was divided in two (see 1 Kings 12). Solomon's descendants went on to rule over the tribes of Judah and Benjamin in the south, known as Judah (hence the term Jews). Their capital city was Jerusalem, which housed the temple God instructed Solomon to build. The remaining 10 tribes in the north became known as Israel, with the capital city of Samaria. The Samaritans assimilated with other nations around them to a greater extent than the Jews did. And there was animosity between the two nations because of their history and the religious tensions.



### READ JOHN 4v1-15

1. Why is the woman surprised that Jesus is asking her for water?
2. How does Jesus flip the conversation to be talking about a different kind of water?
3. What do you think he means by 'living water'?

### READ JOHN 4v16-26

The conversation seems to take another turn by talking about the woman's marital status and where to worship God because of the differing Jewish/Samaritan beliefs.

### READ JEREMIAH 2v11-19

4. What appalls God in Jeremiah's day, leading to their eventual destruction and exile?
5. Bearing Jeremiah's words in mind, what claim is Jesus making about himself, by telling the woman to come to him for living water?



6. The woman seems to be testing out what kind of prophet Jesus is - he knows her past, but she wants to grill him on where God should be worshiped. How does Jesus answer her?

**READ JOHN 4V39-54**

7. How does this second sign in Cana prove that Jesus can provide living water?

*growing disciples*

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**SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Do you find Jesus' living water satisfying? Why do other things attract us with promises of satisfaction? Do you need to repent of looking to something else for the good life?

**SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

How do we worship God in the Spirit and truth?

**SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Do your not-yet Christian friends and family see you are satisfied in Jesus? How can the way you speak and act display that to them?

**PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God that Jesus offers living water that wells up to eternal life.
- Ask that we'd be satisfied in him alone. Confess ways you've looked for satisfaction and life elsewhere.
- Pray that our friends and family would see just how satisfying Jesus is and that they'd come to him for life too.
- Thank God that we worship through a person, not a particular place and that this is true and Spirit-filled worship.

# HIS FATHER'S SON

JOHN 5v1-47

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

**GETTING STARTED**

In what ways are you like your parents? Looks? Temperament? Career?

**READ JOHN 5v1-18**

1. Why are Jesus' actions contentious? (See also Exodus 20v8-11)

2. How does Jesus defend himself?

**READ JOHN 5v19-30**

3. Describe the relationship between Father and Son in relation to their love, honour, work, judgment and the giving of life.

4. Why does this close relationship mean that Jesus can do more than just heal on a Sabbath — he can give life to the dead?

**READ JOHN 5v31-47**

Jesus is determined to show his authority to bring life. So he points to three testimonies — John the Baptist, his works and his Father's testimony.

5. How has John the Baptist's testimony been treated?

6. What works has Jesus done that testify to his identity?



7. How does the Father testify that he has sent Jesus?

8. How have the Jewish leaders responded to this testimony?

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### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Jesus makes some astounding claims to divinity. What excited you/surprised you/captured your attention today?

What convinces you that Jesus has the power and authority to grant you the life he promises?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

Sometimes we characterise God the Father of the Old Testament as harsh and judgmental, and the Son of the New Testament as kind and loving. How does this passage bust this myth?

How does this passage teach us to read all Scripture? How does it expose our hearts?

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Who can you encourage with these words from Jesus this week? eg someone who is doubting Jesus' divinity and power or someone who has questions about the Bible?

### **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God the Father and the Son, who love and honour one another, working together to give us life.
- Pray that we'd hear Jesus' voice and come to him, believing.
- Ask for God that we'd be convinced that Jesus really does have the authority to grant us the life that will raise us from the grave.
- Give Jesus honour that his judgment is just and his salvation amazing.
- Pray for those we know who have questions and doubts, that they would believe the testimonies about Jesus and know his glory.



# BREAD OF LIFE

JOHN 6v1-71

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

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**GETTING STARTED**

What's one food you can't live without?

**READ JOHN 6v1-15**

1. How do the people interpret Jesus' miracle?

**READ EXODUS 12v11-17 AND PSALM 23**

2. How does Israel's story help us know what Jesus is doing?

**READ JOHN 6v16-24**

3. Why shouldn't the disciples be afraid of Jesus?

**READ JOHN 6v25-59 AND EXODUS 16v1-8**

4. What do we learn about who Jesus is?

5. What do we learn about his relationship with his Father?

6. Is Jesus promoting cannibalism? What do you think he means about eating his flesh and drinking his blood? (Do you think Jesus is referring to the Last Supper at this stage? Why/why not?)

7. Why do we need to believe in Jesus?



## READ JOHN 6v60-71

8. What different responses to Jesus do we see here?

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#### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Can you echo Peter's words, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'? Describe how necessary Jesus is for you personally to have life?

#### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

Are you tempted to grumble against Jesus, as you worry that he is not abundantly giving you good things? How does John 6 reorient you to depend on his goodness and provision?

#### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How can you communicate to others that Jesus is the only one to come to for eternal life? And that he's as good, and as necessary, as food each day?

#### **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God for sending Jesus to us - that Father and Son work together to give us life.
- Thank him that when we believe in Jesus, he will raise us up at the last day.
- Ask his help in trusting his goodness in life now and into eternity.
- Confess where you've grumbled and complained against him.
- Pray for opportunities to speak and the words to say to friends and family to proclaim that only Jesus has the words of eternal life.

# WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

JOHN 8v12-59

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

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### GETTING STARTED

How do different cultures shape how we form our identity? eg career or caste etc. What does this look like in Australian culture?

In Chapter 5, the Jewish leaders began looking for ways to kill Jesus because he was calling God his Father, which was a claim to equality with God (5v16-18). By chapter 7, Jesus continues to teach with the Father's authority and there are further attempts to seize and kill him (7v30, 44). But he evades capture because it's not yet time for his death. In Chapter 8, Jesus' conflict with both the leaders and the rest of the crowd continues.

### READ JOHN 8v12-30

1. Who testifies that Jesus brings the light of life? (we will think more about Jesus being the light of the world next week)
2. Where is Jesus going? (see also John 7v33-34)
3. Is there any way to follow Jesus to the Father?
4. From where does Jesus get his message?

Some people believe what Jesus says. But then he presses them further to see what they really believe about who he is.

### READ JOHN 8v31-47

5. What makes us slaves?
6. How can we be truly free?



7. How do we know of which family we are a part? ( see also John 1v12-13)

**READ JOHN 8v48-59**

8. How has Jesus been explaining his identity throughout this whole chapter? (see also Exodus 3v13-15)

9. How is Jesus honoured or dishonoured?

*growing disciples*

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**SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

To which family do you belong? How do you know?

What has been your experience of finding life, truth and freedom in Jesus?

**SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

What does honouring Jesus, the eternal Son of God, the I AM from above, look like in your life?

**SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How does this passage help you understand why so many of your friends and family reject Jesus? Is there any hope for them?

How can we speak of Jesus' freeing truth to a world that doesn't acknowledge a singular, overarching truth?

**PRAYER IDEAS**

- Honour Jesus who was sent from his Father. Praise him that he is the eternal Son of God, the I AM, who deserves honour and glory.
- Thank Jesus for setting us free from slavery to sin, and bringing us into a new family.
- Praise him that his word is true and it is the way to know life. Ask for his help to believe him and obey.
- Pray for family and friends who believe lies and reject Jesus. That they would be set free by the Son, so they may belong to God.

# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 9v1-41

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

**GETTING STARTED**

Why are so many people afraid of the dark?

**READ JOHN 9v1-12**

1. How is this man healed?

**READ JOHN 1v4-9; 3v19-20; 8v12**

2. What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?
3. Does Jesus teach that physical ailment is a direct consequence of our sin? Explain why you think this.

**READ JOHN 9v13-34**

4. Describe the Pharisees' attitude to Jesus and what their issues are.
5. How does the formerly blind man's attitude differ?

**READ JOHN 9v35-41**

6. Why does Jesus describe himself as the Son of Man this way? (see also Daniel 7v13-14)
7. How does Jesus turn our categories upside down?



## *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

What do you find hard to believe about Jesus? Do you have doubts about his goodness or authority like the Pharisees? Is it something else? How can you depend on Jesus' light and truth in the midst of doubt/uncertainty?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

How has Jesus shone light into your darkness, and given you sight?

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How do we see an attitude similar to the Pharisees in our world? How can we point them to the light of Jesus?

Have you been hurt by those who say our physical ailments are always a result of our sin? How does your life display God's work despite illness/disability?

## **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise Jesus who is the light of the world. He brings truth and life to our darkness.
- Thank him for curing our blindness, so that we can believe and follow him.
- Pray for those you know who have made assumptions about Jesus and don't want to see him. Ask that God would open their eyes by his Spirit.
- Thank God that we don't need to assume that our illness and suffering are a result of our sin. Pray that we'd show compassion and kindness to one another. And that we'd point one another to the ultimate healing of Jesus, where our eyes are opened, and our sin and guilt are wiped away.

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10v1-42

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

What do you know about being a pastoralist/grazier? Have you ever worked with sheep?

Jesus is in an escalating conflict with the Pharisees. They refuse to believe that he has been sent from God, despite being able to do miracles like healing a man of blindness. Jesus says they're blind to the truth, even though they claim to see. Today's section continues on from this confrontation.

### READ JOHN 10v1-21

1. How does Jesus contrast himself with the Pharisees?

### READ EZEKIEL 34v1-16

Ezekiel wrote hundreds of years before Jesus, during the Jewish exile in Babylon. He uses a very common image of Israel's leaders as shepherds (eg 2 Samuel 5v1-2, Isaiah 56v10-11).

2. How does Jesus apply this prophecy to the situation of his day?

3. What kind of shepherd is Jesus? How do we know?

4. What do we learn about what it means to be Jesus' sheep?

5. What does Jesus guarantee for his sheep?

6. Was Jesus' death an accidental tragedy? Why/why not?

### READ JOHN 10v22-42

7. How do Father and Son work together in shepherding their flock?

Jesus quotes Psalm 82 to show that he is not blaspheming by saying he and the Father are one. How does this quotation make his point? This is a confusing little section. We aren't helped by the NIV putting 'gods' in quotation marks. A better translation would be 'I have said you are spiritual beings', both of the Hebrew word, *elohim*, in Psalm 82 and of the Greek word, *theos*, in John 10.

In the Jewish understanding, God has a divine council of spiritual beings to whom he delegates responsibility (eg 1 Kings 22:19-23). These spiritual beings are either assisting him (eg Revelation 4-5) or rebelling against him, as they are in Psalm 82. They seem to stand behind, and to mirror what is happening with humanity (eg Exodus 12:12-13 where God is simultaneously judging Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt). So, as you read Psalm 82, bear in mind that God is showing a similar judgment on spiritual beings in his divine council.

## READ PSALM 82

8. How does this Psalm make Jesus' case that he is not blaspheming, when he claims to be one with God the Father?

9. In what way is Jesus the unique Son of God?

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### SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

How does Jesus' description of shepherding his sheep resonate with you? Do you know his intimate love and care? Do you know his voice, listening to and following him?

### SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT JESUS

We often become concerned about whether we really do belong to Jesus as his sheep. How can this passage help you when you are doubting or concerned for loved ones?

### SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

As you reflect on Jesus, the good shepherd who lays down his life for you, how do you want to respond to him?

## PRAYER IDEAS

- Thank God for sending his good shepherd. Praise him for Jesus' intimate care for us - knowing us, leading us, giving us life to the full. And most of all for laying down his life for us.
- Ask God to grant you confidence that you are safe in his hands.
- Soothe our doubts with the knowledge that he won't abandon us.
- Praise God for his Son, who is one with his Father.



# THE RESURRECTION

JOHN 11v1-12v11

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

**GETTING STARTED**

What do you think helps people grieve well at a funeral?

**READ JOHN 11v1-16**

1. Why is it surprising that Jesus doesn't go to see Lazarus as soon as he hears he's sick?
2. What is Jesus' reason for not going straight away? (see also 9v1-3)
3. Why is Jesus unafraid to go to potential danger in Bethany? (see also 9v4-5)

**READ JOHN 11v17-32**

4. How do Mary and Martha demonstrate faith in Jesus?
5. What bold claims does Jesus make about himself?

**READ JOHN 11v33-44**

6. How does Jesus react to Lazarus' death and the grief of his friends and family? Does this surprise you?
7. How does Jesus demonstrate God's glory?

**READ JOHN 11v45-57**

8. What is ironic about Caiaphas' statement?

9. How can Jesus' death guarantee our resurrection?

**READ JOHN 12v1-11**

10. What is extravagant and beautiful about what Mary does here?

11. Why does this whole section about Lazarus focus on Jesus' impending death rather than his own resurrection? (for example, in comparison with 1 Corinthians 15 where the focus is how Jesus' resurrection makes our resurrection certain)

At first reading, Jesus seems to show a callous disregard for the plight of the poor. But digging a little deeper shows this is not the case. He is alluding to a law given to the Israelite people, just before they were entering the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy 15, God says that the Israelites must cancel the debts their fellow Israelites owe. They are commanded to be open-handed and generous to anyone who is poor. God knows that there will always be poor people in Israel (Deuteronomy 15v11), so there's always reason to be generous.

By quoting Deuteronomy 15, Jesus is commending generosity (which Judas lacks). But his point seems to be that the disciples also need to recognise the unique time they're living in. Jesus' death is impending. He's dying to bring Lazarus life. The burial perfume is used on him, instead of on Lazarus. Mary shows extravagant devotion to Jesus who has rescued her brother.

*growing disciples*

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**SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Can you be certain that you will live, even though you die by believing in Jesus, the resurrection and the life? Is Jesus trustworthy in this?

**SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

Does this picture of Jesus' love, care and compassion fit with what you know about him? Do you think he feels this way about you? How do you know?

Does Jesus' love stir up extravagant devotion in you?

**SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How can you give Jesus the glory that he's due? For this miracle, for his death in our place, for giving us life beyond death?

Who can you share this glorious message with?

**PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise Jesus who is the resurrection and the life. Thank him for giving us life beyond death where crying, mourning and pain are in the past.
- Give God glory for raising Lazarus, as a foretaste of our own resurrection. He is powerful and good.
- Thank him that Jesus is the one man who died rather than allowing us to perish. Ask that we would be certain that Jesus' death guarantees our resurrection. And that we would be extravagantly devoted to Jesus.
- Pray that God would continue to gather the scattered children of God, uniting us with believers from all nations.
- Pray for friends and family to know this glorious message, that they too would believe in Jesus and live.



# FOLLOWING THE KING

JOHN 12v12-50

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

**GETTING STARTED**

What do you think are the top 5 stumbling blocks for someone becoming a disciple of Jesus?

?

**READ JOHN 12v12-19**

1. Describe the reception that Jesus gets as he enters Jerusalem?
2. Given what the people are chanting, what do they expect from Jesus? (see Psalm 118 and also Zechariah 9v9-17)

**READ JOHN 12v20-36**

3. The crowd (and perhaps these God-fearing Greeks) seem to be expecting a glorious conquest from Jesus. How does he answer that expectation? What will his glorious conquest look like?
4. What stands out to you in Jesus' exchange with his Father in v27-32?
5. How does Jesus describe what it's like to follow him?

**READ JOHN 12v37-43**

6. Why shouldn't we be surprised that so many still would not believe in Jesus? (see Isaiah 52v13-53v1 and Isaiah 6v1-10)
7. Why are some leaders reluctant to openly acknowledge Jesus? How are they loving their life? (12v25)

## READ JOHN 12v44-50

8. How do Jesus' words lead to life or condemnation?

9. Why is it so important to know who sent Jesus?

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#### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

What does it mean for you to hate your life, so that you can keep eternal life? What is hard about following Jesus? How is it eternally valuable, like walking in the light?

#### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

How do our hearts both determine and reveal our attitude towards Jesus and his message? Where is your heart at?

#### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

You can't make your friends and family believe in Jesus. But you can pray for their hearts to change and their eyes to open. Pray now for those you are in gospel conversations with to accept Jesus' words and follow him, even though it means losing your life to gain true light and life.

### **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God that Jesus is the king who has been glorified as he was lifted up at the cross. Honour Jesus for placing the prince of this world under judgement and gathering his children to himself.
- Thank Jesus that his words lead to eternal life, they are trustworthy and good.
- Thank him that his death means life for us.
- Pray that we would follow him into death, hating our lives so that we might receive eternal life.
- Confess times we've loved human praise more than praise from God. Ask forgiveness for not openly acknowledging Jesus.
- Pray that we'd follow Jesus as his children, walking in his light, trusting his word.
- Pray for friends and family who are hard-hearted towards Jesus. That God would change their hearts and open their eyes so that they might believe and know life instead of judgment.