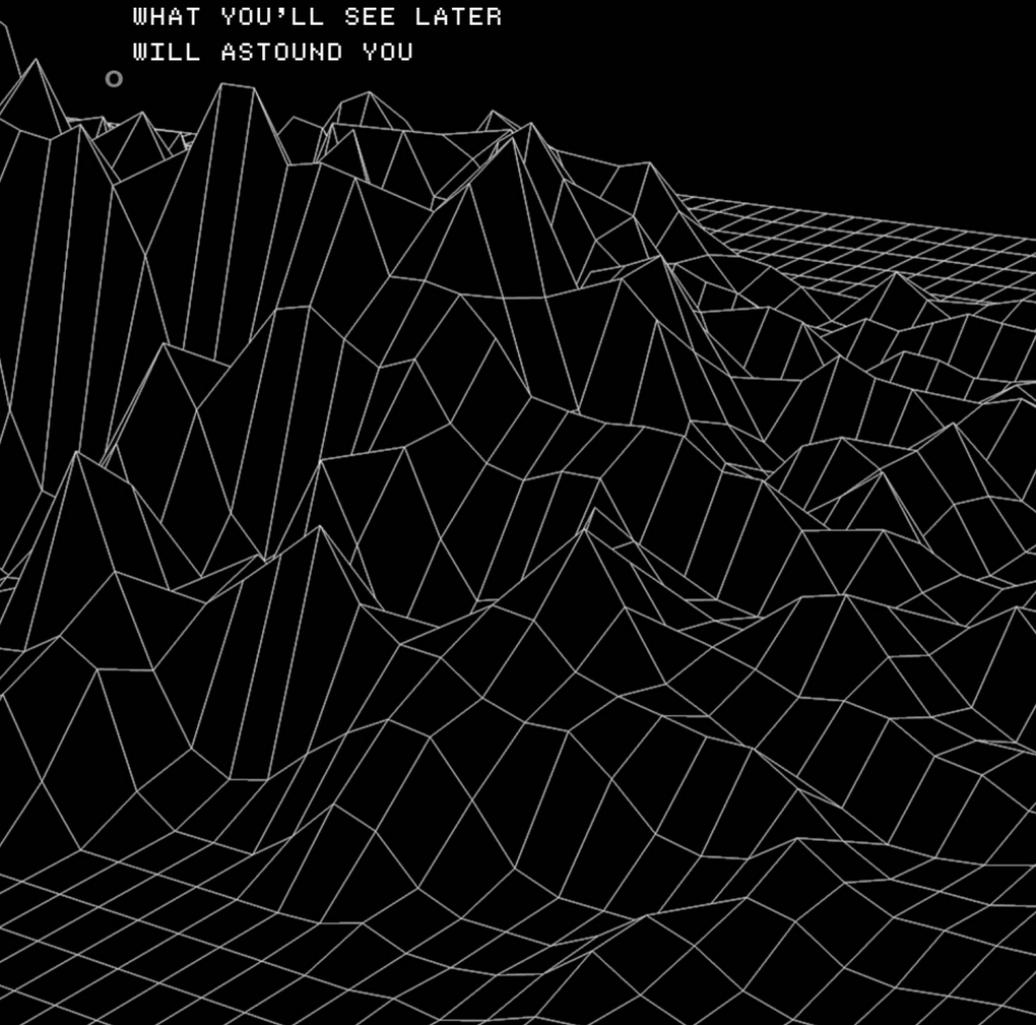




SIGNS

WHAT YOU'LL SEE LATER
WILL ASTOUND YOU



CELEBRATION CHURCH DC

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO: _____

IF FOUND, PLEASE CONTACT: _____

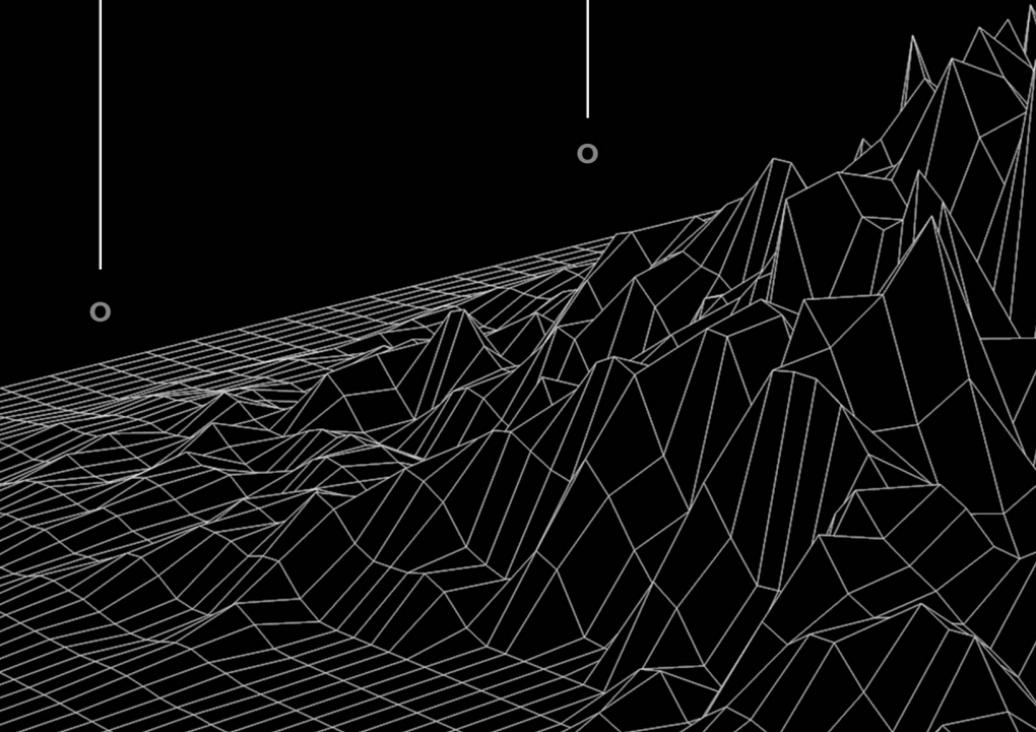
WEEKLY OVERVIEW

WEEK 01

JESUS TURNS WATER
INTO WINE

WEEK 02

JESUS HEALS THE
OFFICIAL'S SON





WEEK 03

JESUS HEALS
AT THE POOL



WEEK 04

JESUS FEEDS
THE 5,000



WEEK 07

JESUS RAISES
LAZARUS

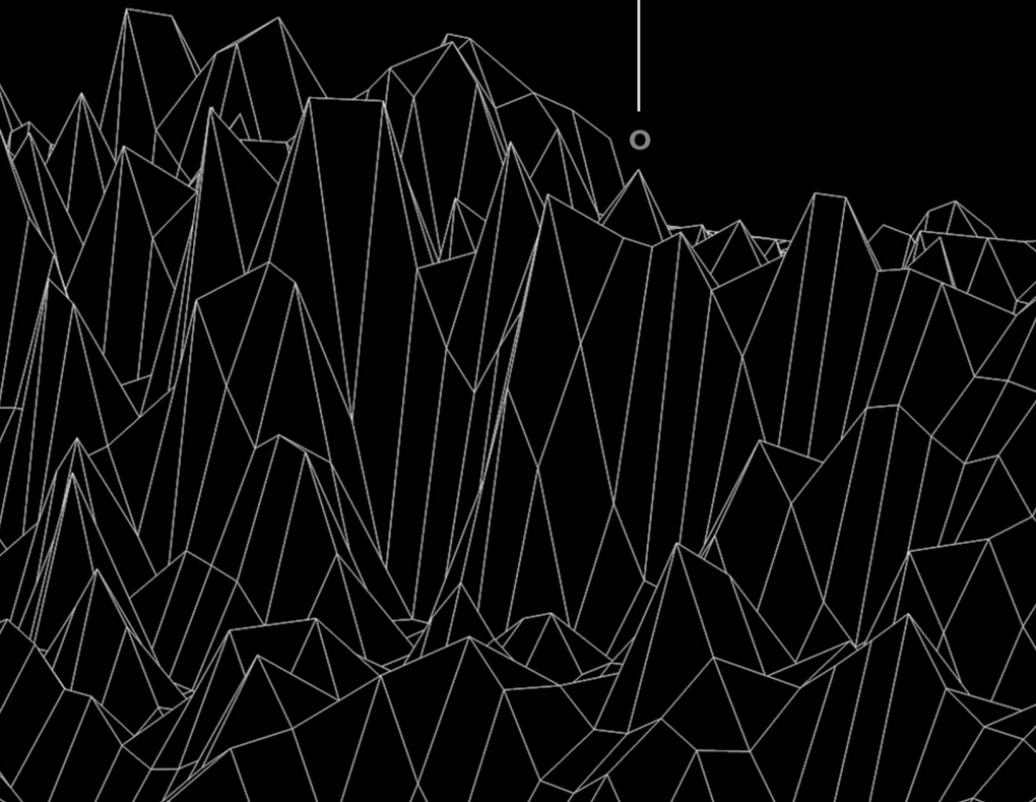


WEEK 06

JESUS HEALS
THE BLIND

WEEK 05

JESUS WALKS
ON WATER



HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL



This Journal will take you through an in-depth exploration of chapters 1-11 of the Gospel of John. Each week is formatted to begin on Monday and culminate with the message on Sunday, highlighting that week's Sign. For tips on how to study the Bible before you begin, scan the QR Code above.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

“LET’S EXPLORE”

Every Monday will be an overview of this week's scriptures that will include important supporting content—key word studies, cultural background, geography, scriptural context and more! Read through the material, highlight, take notes, and do your own research on areas that interest you.

“READ & RESPOND”

On these weekdays you will read the passages specified by either looking them up in your Bible or on the Bible app on your phone. Read with an open heart and Jesus will give you the encouragement and direction you need. As you are reading, go through these steps:

- **My title for this passage:**
If you were going to title this passage for someone else to know what it's about, what would you call it? Write it down.
- **Key Word or Main Verse:**
Write down the word or verse that stood out to you the most.
- **Write down what you see in the passage.**
- **Based on the passage, today I will...**
Write down how you can apply what you just read to your life today.
- **Write out a prayer, asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

“MID-WEEK DIVE”

In the middle of the week, you will be presented again with a portion of Monday's content to take a deeper look and to engage with personally.

“REFLECT & EXPECT”

As we prepare for Sundays together, Saturday's content will provide specific items to pray through and respond in anticipation for what God will do.

“TAKE A LOOK/LISTEN”

Throughout the journal, various days will include a video or song as a supporting resource. To access that material, scan the QR Code provided by opening the camera app on your phone. Follow the unique instructions for that day.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

INTRODUCTION

According to tradition, John was a native of Galilee, more specifically from the town of Bethsaida. His Gospel writings cover a period from the early first century to the early second. As soon as Jesus was made known to him, John became his enthusiastic disciple. His unique intimacy with Jesus is marked by the phrase “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”

The writings ascribed to John are the Gospel, three Epistles, and the Apocalypse or Revelation.

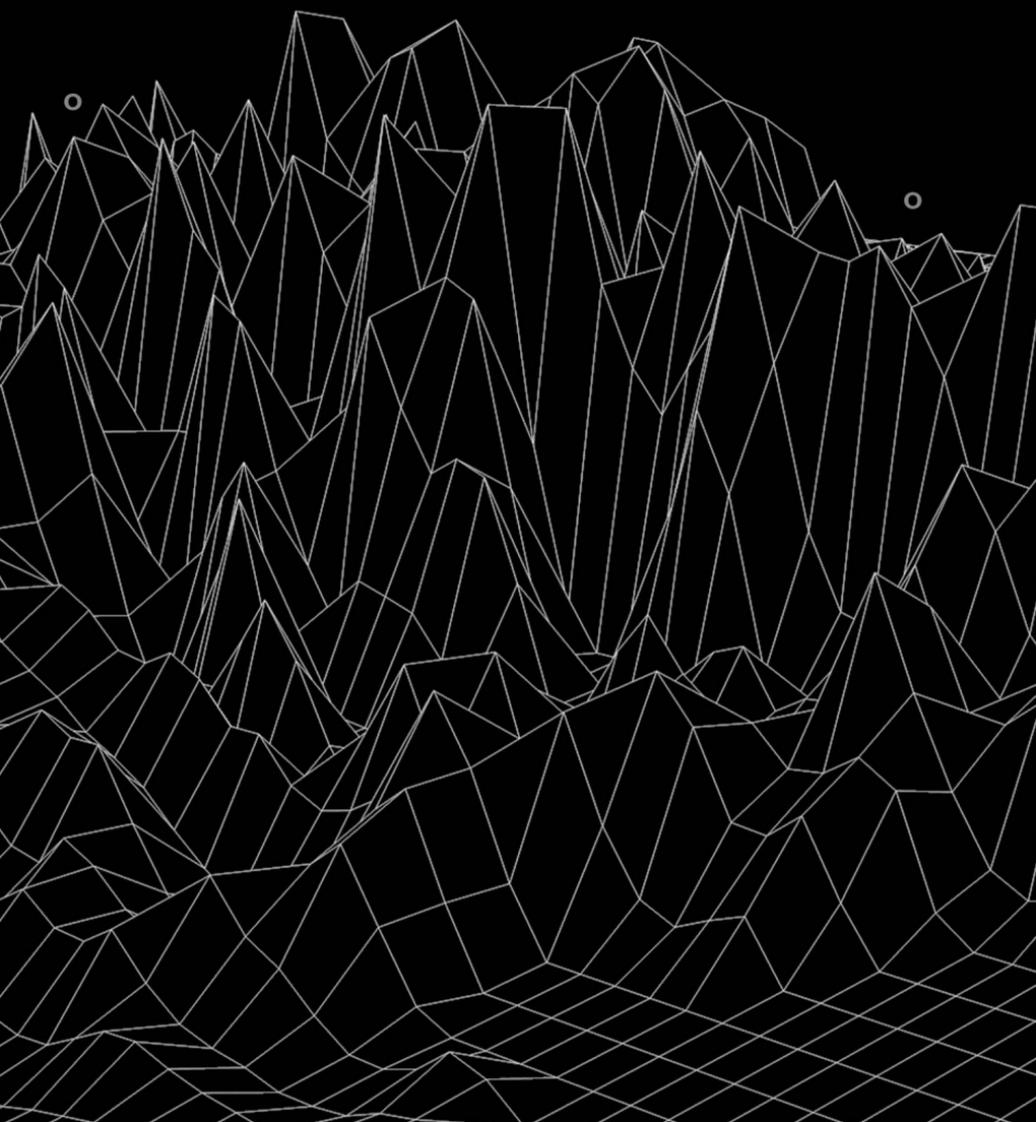
The tradition of the Church assigns the fourth Gospel to John. It was certainly written by a Jew, an eyewitness, and a disciple of Jesus. It was probably written toward the close of the first century, and therefore later than the other three Gospels.

A very important characteristic of this Gospel is that John wrote it as a supplement to the other gospels, in order to supply what was wanting in the synoptic narrative. The writer constantly assumes that certain facts are already known to his readers and adds other facts from his own special information. But the Gospel itself expressly denies all intention to be complete (21:25) and is an original conception both in form and substance, having a distinct plan of its own, and presenting a fresh aspect of the person and teaching of Jesus.

The Gospel is divided into two general sections: the Prologue (1:1–18) and the Narrative (1:19–21:23). It was written to persuade people to believe in Jesus (20:30–31). The book focuses on seven of Jesus’ signs (miracles), to show his divinity. John features Christ’s seven “I AM” statements, his encounters with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman, his Upper Room teachings and washing of the disciples’ feet (chs.13–16), and his high priestly prayer (ch.17). It also includes the most well-known summary of the Gospel (3:16). The book of John is unique in that 92% of all its accounts and teachings are not present in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke).

JESUS TURNS
WATER INTO WINE

WEEK 01



° MONDAY 09/27

LET'S EXPLORE -- JOHN 1:1-51

Highlight the subjects you would like to know more about.

John chooses to start his book in the same way the author of Genesis did. As far back as man can think, in the beginning ... the Word existed. The term "Word" is the common Greek word *logos* (λόγος), which means: word, reason or plan.

He uses a term familiar to his readers to teach a profound revelation. Jesus is the *Logos*: He is the total message - everything that God wants to communicate to man. John used this Greek concept to communicate that Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, is the self-expression of God to the world.

One of the most important prophets is introduced to us as early as chapter one: John the Baptist. He is mentioned at least eighty-nine times. He was the last prophet who announced the coming of the Messiah.

He was the son of an elderly priestly couple, Zacharias and Elizabeth (related to Mary, the mother of Jesus). The term employed in Luke 1:36 to describe this kinship is *suggenes*, meaning "of the same family" or "blood relative." Most scholars believe that Mary and Elizabeth were cousins, so John the Baptist and Jesus were probably second cousins.

John's ministry was to announce that someone greater than him was among them. He baptized those who believed this message on the banks of the Jordan River.

One day, because of the popularity of his ministry, the Levites and Pharisees asked John whether he was the Messiah, Elijah, or a prophet. His answer is inspiring: "I am a voice crying in the wilderness." They wanted to label John, but he teaches us that more than worrying about labels, we should focus on fulfilling our mission.

The next day John met Jesus, called Him "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," and baptized Him.

The first disciples of Jesus, John (who wrote the Gospel) and his friend Andrew, were followers of John the Baptist. There was an expectation in them to know the one about whom John spoke. Jesus invited them to spend the day with Him, and no doubt He told them something of His mission, revealed their own hearts to them, and answered their questions. They were both so impressed that they found their brothers and brought them to Jesus. Andrew found Simon, and John brought James.

Andrew told Simon, "We have found the Messiah!" Messiah is a Hebrew word that means "anointed," and the Greek equivalent is "Christ." To the Jews, it was the same as "Son of God."

Later, Jesus would win Philip personally, and then Philip would witness to Nathanael and bring him to Jesus. Nathanael initially doubted Jesus; he did not believe that anything worthwhile could come out of Nazareth.

When Nathanael came to Jesus, he discovered that the Lord already knew all about him. What a shock! When Jesus revealed His knowledge of Nathanael, where he had been and what he had been doing, this was enough to convince the man that Jesus indeed was “the Son of God, the King of Israel.”

Jesus is presented in various ways in chapter one: *Logos*, Lamb of God, Teacher, Messiah, Son of God, and King of Israel, but He is also presented in verse 4 as Light and Life. Life is a key theme in John’s gospel; it is used thirty-six times.

What are the essentials for human life? There are at least four:

- **Light**
- **Air**
- **Water**
- **Food**

Jesus is all of these! He is the Light of Life and the Light of the World (John 8:12). He is the “Sun of Righteousness” (Mal. 4:2). By His Holy Spirit, He gives us the “breath of life” (John 3:8; 20:22), as well as the water of life (John 4:10, 13–14; 7:37–39). Finally, Jesus is the Living Bread of Life that came down from Heaven (John 6:35). He not only has and gives life, but He is life (John 14:6).

John summarized what John the Baptist had to say about Jesus Christ:

1- He is eternal (John 1:15). John the Baptist was actually born six months before Jesus (Luke 1:36); in this statement he is referring to our Lord’s preexistence, not His birth date. Jesus existed before John the Baptist was ever conceived.

2- Jesus Christ has fullness of grace and truth (John 1:16–17). If God dealt with us only according to truth, none of us would survive, but He deals with us on the basis of grace and truth. Grace without truth would be deceitful, and truth without grace would be condemning.

3- Finally, Jesus Christ reveals God to us (John 1:18). He explains God to us and interprets Him for us. We simply cannot understand God apart from knowing His Son, Jesus Christ.

° TUESDAY 09/28

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 1:1-18

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

° WEDNESDAY 09/29

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 1:19-34

○ ***My title for this passage:*** _____

○ ***Key Word or Main Verse:*** _____

○ ***Write down what you see in the passage.***

○ ***Based on the passage, today I will...***

○ ***Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.***

° THURSDAY 09/30

MID-WEEK DIVE

Jesus is presented in various ways in chapter one: *Logos*, Lamb of God, Teacher, Messiah, Son of God, and King of Israel, but He is also presented in verse four as Light and Life. Life is a key theme in John's gospel; it is used thirty-six times.

What are the essentials for human life?

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Everyone who has had a relationship with Him has defined Him in a very specific and personal way.

- **Who is Jesus to you? How would you define Him?**

- **What are the characteristics of Jesus that you need to see grow in your life?**

° FRIDAY 10/01

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 1:35-51

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

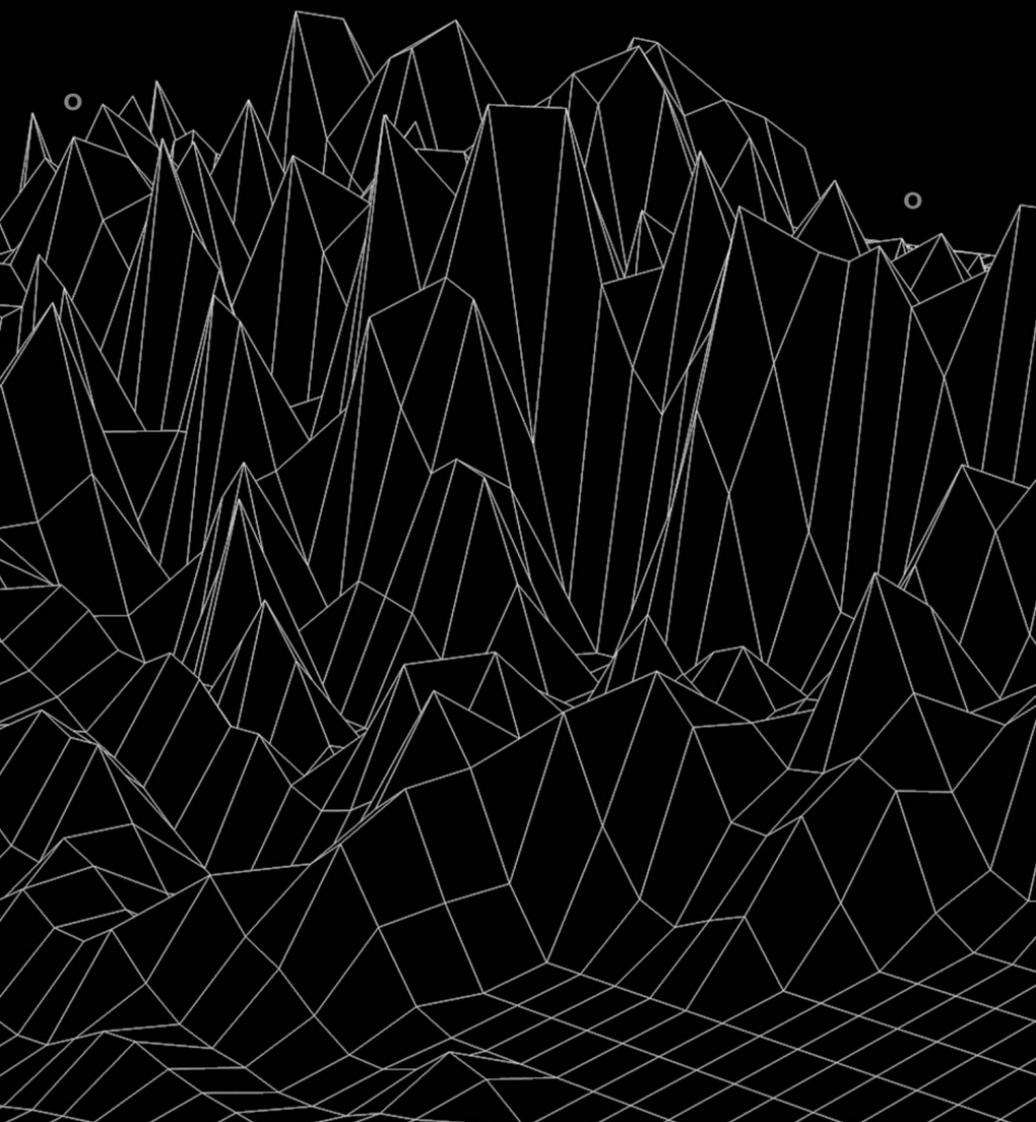
○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

JESUS HEALS
THE OFFICIAL'S SON

WEEK 02



° MONDAY 10/04

LET'S EXPLORE -- JOHN 2:13-4:45

Highlight the subjects you would like to know more about.

After Jesus performed His first miracle, He went to Capernaum (in the region of Galilee not far from Cana) with His family and disciples. They did not stay there long. They went to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Each Jewish man was required to attend three annual feasts in Jerusalem: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

Jesus revealed His zeal for God by cleansing the temple. The priests had established a lucrative business of exchanging foreign money for Jewish currency and selling the animals needed for the sacrifices. This "religious market" began as a convenience for the Jews who came long distances to worship in the temple, but in due time the "convenience" became a business, not a ministry.

While in Jerusalem, Jesus performed miracles that are not described in detail in any of the Gospels. Because of those miracles, many people professed to believe in Him. It must have been these signs that especially attracted Nicodemus.

Nicodemus himself was "the teacher of the Jews," and he was a Pharisee, which meant that he lived by the strictest possible religious rules. Intrigued by the way Jesus taught and worked miracles, he decided to seek Jesus out and talk with Him. That meeting could be very embarrassing for him if the Pharisees knew, so he went looking for Jesus at night. But he could not understand the spiritual truths that Jesus taught. The core of these truths was that God, out of His great love, sent Jesus not to judge the world, but to save it. Everyone who believed and followed Jesus and was baptized would be born again (of water and the Spirit).

Because the Pharisees were trying to incite competition between Jesus and John the Baptist, Jesus left Judea and started north for Galilee. He could have taken one of three possible routes: along the coast, across the Jordan and up through Perea, or straight through Samaria. Jews avoided Samaria because the two peoples had a long-standing, deep-seated hatred between them.

The Samaritans were a mixed race, part Jew and part Gentile, that grew out of the Assyrian captivity. Rejected by the Jews because they could not prove their genealogy, the Samaritans established their own temple and religious services on Mt. Gerizim.

Because He was on a divinely appointed schedule, Jesus had to go through Samaria. Why? Because He would meet a woman there and lead her into saving faith, the kind of true faith that would affect an entire village.

As you read Jesus' interaction with this woman, notice how her knowledge of Him increases until she acknowledges that He is the Christ. There were four stages in this experience.

1- He is "a Jew" (4:7-10) In that day, it was not considered proper for any man, especially a rabbi, to speak in public to a strange woman. But Jesus set social customs aside. It certainly surprised her when He asked for a drink of water, but His request was simply a way to open the conversation and share with her the truth about "living water."

2- "Greater than Jacob" (vv. 11-15) Jesus was speaking about spiritual water, but she interpreted His words to mean literal water. To paraphrase His reply: "Whoever continues to drink of this material water (or anything the world has to offer) will be thirsty again. But whoever takes one drink of the water I give will never be thirsty again!"

3- "A prophet" (vv. 16-24) Because He was able to bring a revelation about her marital status, she recognized Him as a prophet. Instead of listening to Jesus, she tried to detour Him by discussing the differences between the Jewish and the Samaritan religions. It is much more comfortable to discuss religion than to face one's sins!

4- "The Christ" (vv. 25-30) There was one truth this woman did know: the Messiah was coming and would reveal people's hearts. Jesus' response to her statement was literally: "I, the one speaking to you, am He!"

At this point, the woman put her faith in Jesus Christ and was converted. Immediately she wanted to share her faith with others, so she went into the village and told the men that she had met the Christ.

Our Lord continued His journey to Galilee and came again to Cana. In Judea, Jesus had sensed the increasing hostility of the religious leaders, though the real opposition would not yet appear for some months.

Even though Jesus faced opposition in that region, He was prepared to perform His second miracle.

° TUESDAY 10/05

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 2:13-3:36

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

◦ ° WEDNESDAY 10/06

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 4:1-30

◦ *My title for this passage:* _____

◦ *Key Word or Main Verse:* _____

◦ *Write down what you see in the passage.*

◦ *Based on the passage, today I will...*

◦ *Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.*

° THURSDAY 10/07

MID-WEEK DIVE

Because He was on a divinely appointed schedule, Jesus had to go through Samaria. He would meet a woman there and lead her into saving faith, the kind of true faith that would affect an entire village.

Her knowledge of Jesus increases until she acknowledges that He is the Christ. There were four stages in this experience that might seem familiar to us.

1- He is “a Jew” (4:7–10) He is just a wise man.

2- “Greater than Jacob” (vv. 11–15) He is unlike anyone I have ever met. No one, not even the important men and women of our history, can be compared to Him.

3- “A prophet” (vv. 16–24) He knows things that nobody else knows. He reveals things that only a man of God would know.

4- “The Christ” (vv. 25–30) He is the Savior of my soul, exactly what I need.

Through the different seasons in our lives, we have opportunities to get to know a little more of God’s personality.

When we are sick, we get to know the God who heals.

When we are sad, we encounter the God of joy.

When we need something, we can know the God of provision.

When we are alone, we know God as our friend.

- ***In your current season, what are the characteristics of God that you have seen the most?***

- ***When the woman had an encounter with Jesus, she shared her testimony to the whole town. How can you be more effective in sharing what God has done in your life?***

° FRIDAY 10/08

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 4:31-45

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

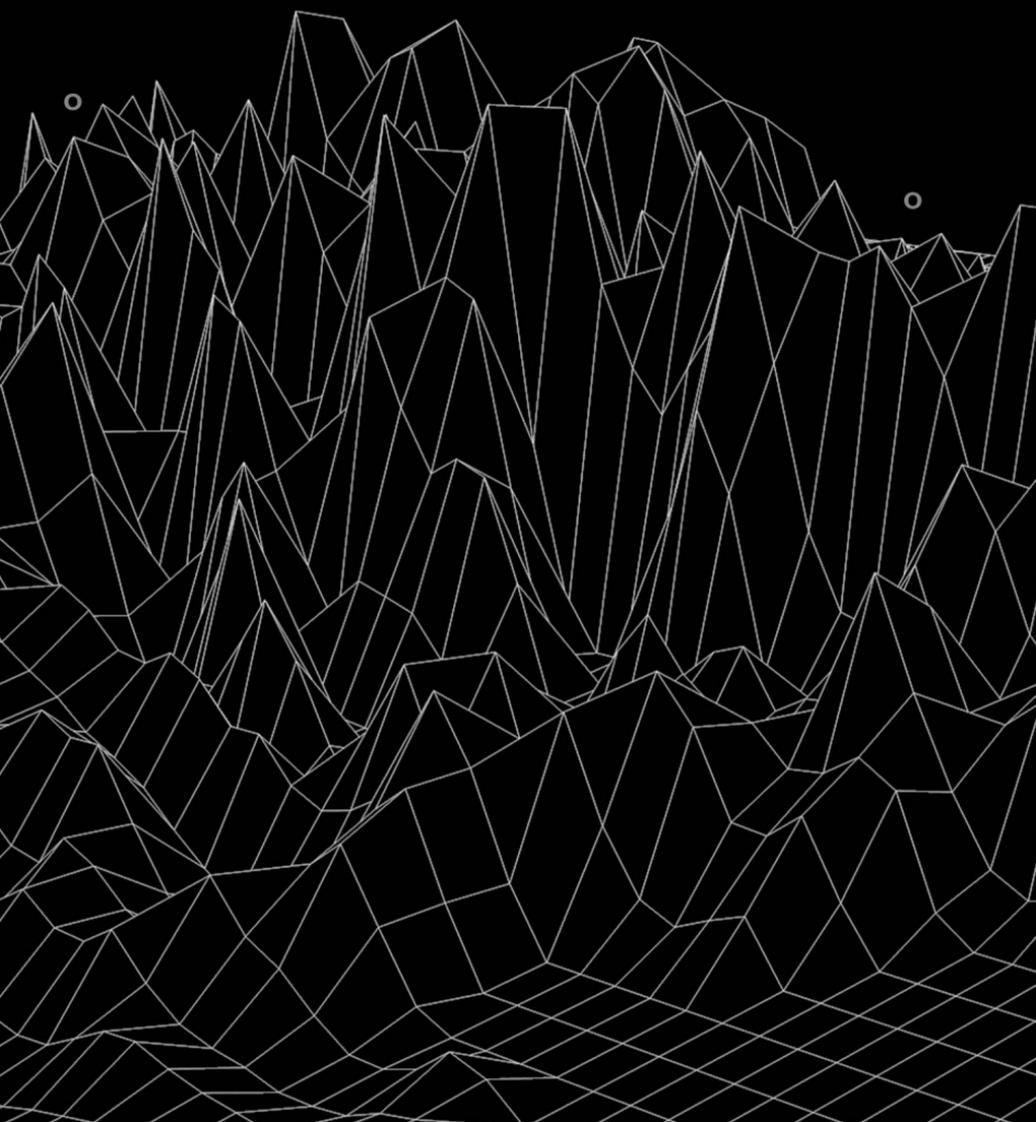
○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

JESUS HEALS
AT THE POOL

WEEK 03



MONDAY 10/11

LET'S EXPLORE -- MIRACLES AND SIGNS

Highlight the subjects you would like to know more about.

This is the first time in John's gospel that two miracles are presented in sequence. The first is the healing of the official's son (4:46-54), and the second is the healing at the pool (5:1-15).

Wherever Jesus went, He performed miracles and displayed supernatural signs. The crowd followed Him wherever He went, not only for His miraculous deeds but also because of His simple but profound teachings.

The Pharisees, members of the strictest sect of Judaism, did not understand how a simple man from Galilee was able to revolutionize His society in such an impactful way. Because His teachings and miracles were viewed as a disruption and a threat, Jesus began to be persecuted.

Throughout the Gospel of John, we see the Jewish people divided over the meaning of these miracles. The same miracles that attracted crowds to Jesus put His life in danger. Some of the religious leaders even asserted that His power came from Satan. Jesus' miracles, though, were testimonies giving evidence of His divine sonship.

It is important to see that Jesus tied His miracles to the truth of His message. The 5,000 people He fed wanted to make Him King—until He preached a sermon on the Bread of Life, and they left Him in droves! "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17) In grace, Jesus fed the hungry; in truth, He taught the Word. His words had begun to penetrate and convict hearts; conviction often leads either to conversion or opposition.

"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." (John 4:48) People who want His works but not His word can never share His life. There is no problem in wanting to see miracles and signs. The supernatural feeds our faith, but "seeing is believing" is not the Christian approach. First, we believe; then, we see. Miracles can only lead us to the Word, and the Word generates saving faith.

Jesus' first two miracles recorded by John were done in private, for very small groups of people. The servants and the disciples knew that He transformed the water into wine, and the servants and the nobleman's family knew that He had healed the sick son. The miracle recorded in John 5 was not only very public, but it was performed on the Sabbath and incited the opposition of the religious leaders (we will study this topic in more depth next week).

Jesus' Timeline

JESUS IS BAPTIZED
JORDAN RIVER (1:29)

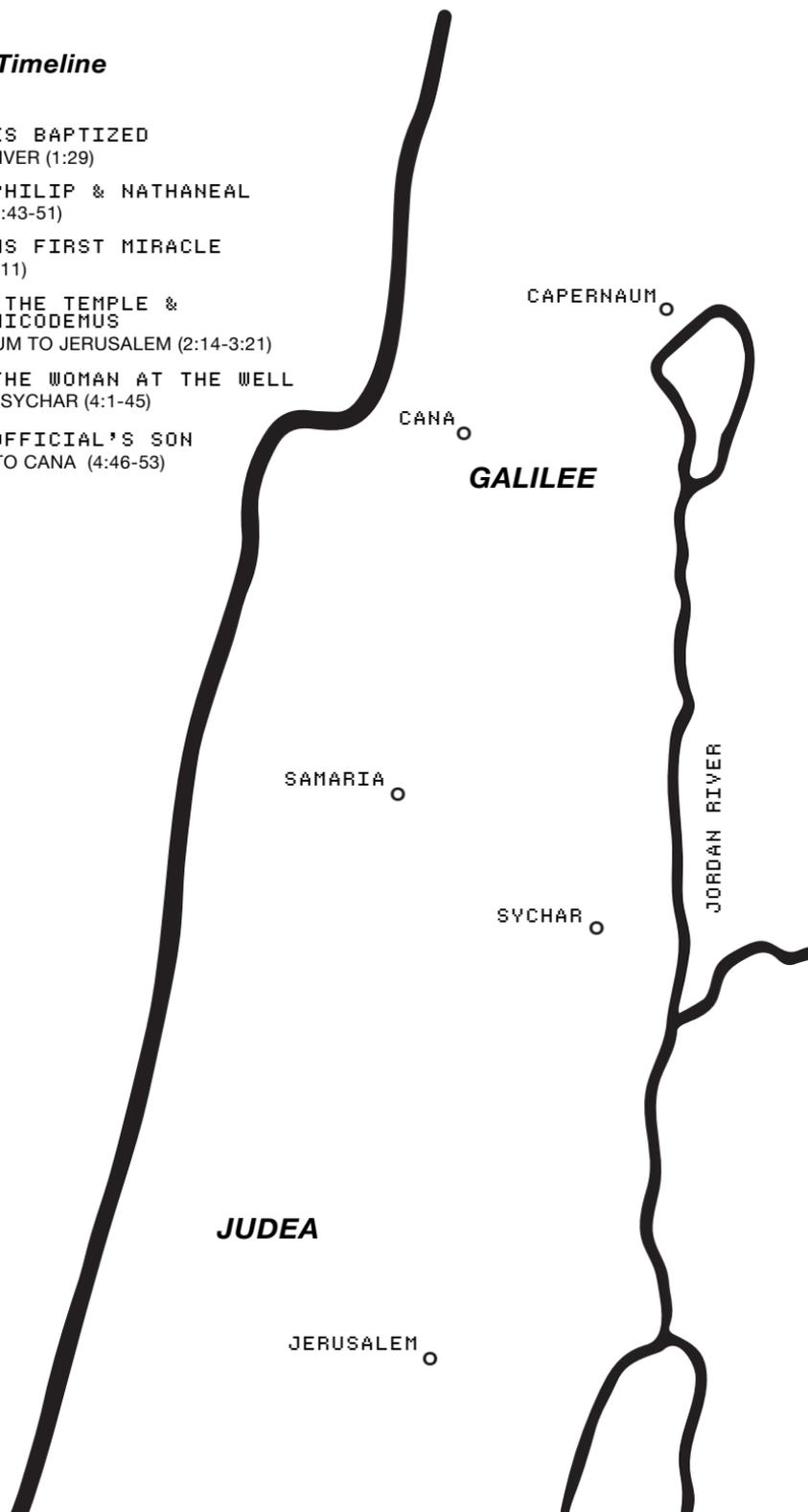
MEETS PHILIP & NATHANEAL
GALILEE (1:43-51)

PERFORMS FIRST MIRACLE
CANA (2:1-11)

CLEARs THE TEMPLE &
MEETS NICODEMUS
CAPERNAUM TO JERUSALEM (2:14-3:21)

MEETS THE WOMAN AT THE WELL
JUDEA TO SYCHAR (4:1-45)

HEALS OFFICIAL'S SON
SAMARIA TO CANA (4:46-53)



° ° TUESDAY 10/12 °

TAKE A LISTEN -- "MILLION LITTLE MIRACLES"

Scan the code and listen to the song. Take time to reflect on God's small miracles in your daily life.



All my life I've been carried by grace
Don't ask me how cause I can't explain
It's nothing short of a miracle I'm here

I've got some blessings that I don't deserve
I've got some scars, but that's how you learn
It's nothing short of a miracle I'm here

I think it over and it doesn't add up
I know it comes from above

I've got miracles on miracles
A million little miracles
Miracles on miracles
Count your miracles
1-2-3-4 I can't even count 'em all
You held me steady so I wouldn't give up
You opened doors that nobody could shut
I hope I never get over what You've done

I wanna live with an open heart
I wanna live like I know who You are
I hope I never get over what You've done

It's not coincidence and it's not luck
I know it comes from above

I can't even, I can't even count 'em all
I can't even, I can't even count 'em all
I can't even, I can't even count 'em all
1-2-3-4 I can't even count 'em all

FRIDAY 10/15

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 4:46-54

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

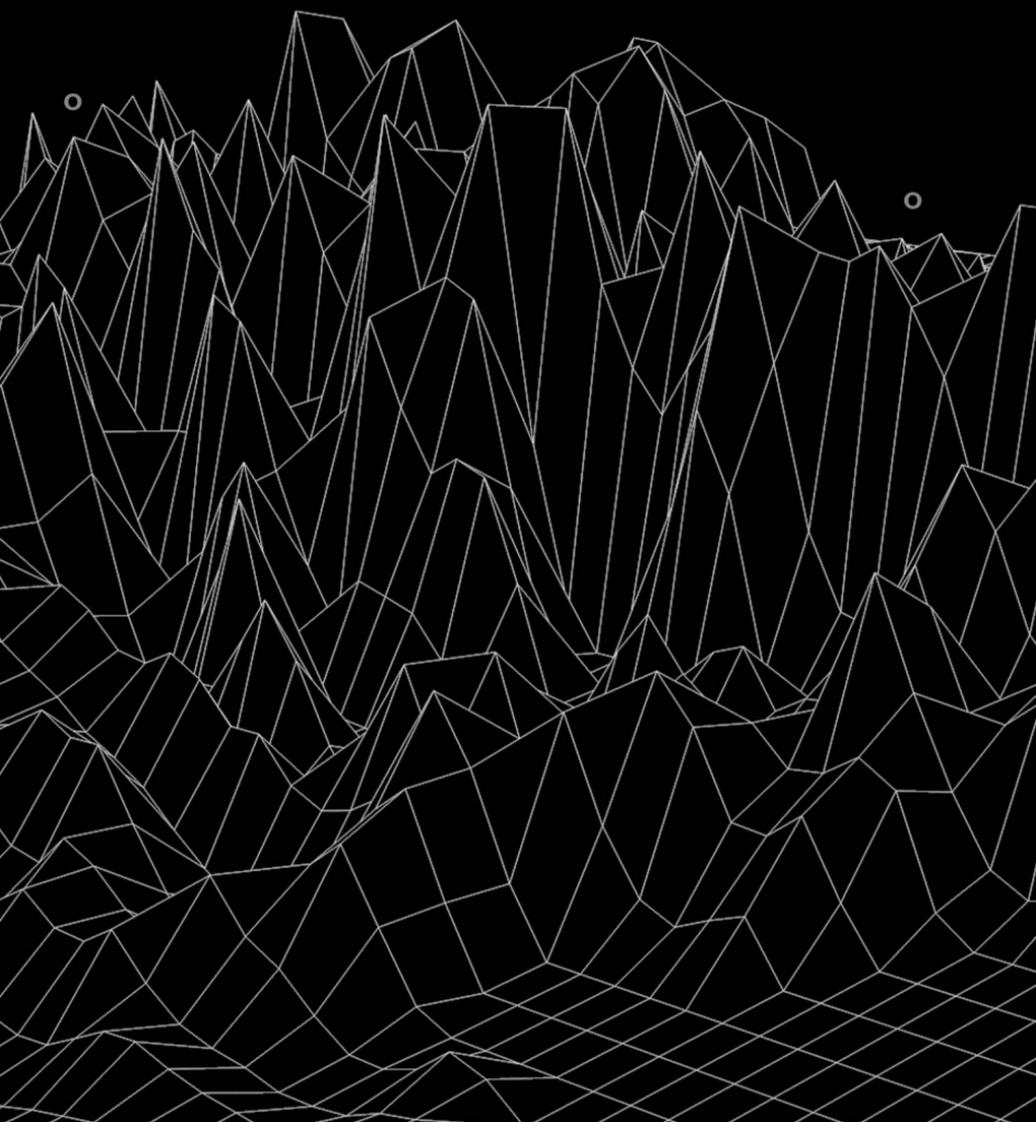
○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

JESUS FEEDS
THE 5,000

WEEK 04



MONDAY 10/18

LET'S EXPLORE -- JOHN 5:1-6:5

Highlight the subjects you would like to know more about.

From Cana, Jesus went back to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Jews. His main purpose for going was not to maintain a religious tradition, but to heal a man and use the miracle as the basis for a message to the people. The miracle illustrated what He said in John 5:24—the power of His Word and the gift of life.

No matter how you look at what happens in John 5:1-15, it is an illustration of the grace of God. It was grace that brought Jesus to the Pool of Bethesda. The fact that Jesus came to the man, spoke to him, healed him, and then met him later in the temple is proof of His wonderful grace and mercy.

The miracle would not have caused any problems except that it occurred on the Sabbath Day. Jesus certainly could have come a day earlier, or even waited a day, but He wanted to get the attention of the religious leaders. The scribes had listed thirty-nine tasks that were prohibited on the Sabbath, and carrying a burden was one of them. They viewed their relationship with God through the lens of religion, not love. While they should have obeyed the commandment of the Sabbath, they did not interpret the law correctly. They understood the commandments as methods to please God rather than principles of godly living. Instead of rejoicing at the wonderful deliverance of the man, the religious leaders condemned him for carrying his bed and thereby breaking the law.

The Jewish leaders did not persecute the man who was healed, but they did begin to target Jesus. As the guardians of the faith, the members of the Jewish Sanhedrin (the religious ruling council) had the responsibility of investigating new preachers and teachers who appeared in the land, in case a false prophet came along and led the people astray. They had looked into the ministry of John the Baptist (John 1:19), and more recently had been investigating the ministry of Jesus.

Jesus had healed a man with a demonic spirit on the Sabbath (Luke 4:31–37), so the Sanhedrin was already suspicious. In the days following the miracle recorded in John 5, Jesus would defend His disciples for picking grain on the Sabbath (Matt. 12:1–8) and would heal a man's withered hand on the Sabbath (Matt. 12:9–14). He deliberately challenged the legalistic traditions of the scribes and Pharisees. They had taken the Sabbath—God's gift to man—and had transformed it into a prison of regulations and restrictions.

When they confronted Jesus with His “unlawful conduct”, He simply replied that He was doing only what His Father was doing; however, when Jesus said “My Father” instead of the usual “our Father”, used by the Jews, He was claiming to be equal with God.

The Jewish leaders instantly understood His claim, and they changed their accusation from that of Sabbath-breaking to blasphemy, because Jesus claimed to be God. Of course, the penalty for such blasphemy was death. It is here that the “official persecution” of Jesus began, culminating in His crucifixion.

In response to their accusations, Jesus made three significant claims that proved His sonship.

1- He claimed to be equal with God (5:19–23). Instead of denying their accusation, He endorsed it. Jesus claimed to be one with His Father in His works. If healing a man on the Sabbath was a sin, then the Father was to blame! Jesus did nothing “of Himself” but only that which the Father was doing. The Father and the Son worked together, doing the same deeds in the same way. “I and the Father are One” (John 10:30).

2- He claimed to have authority to raise the dead (vv. 24–29). For a second time, Jesus introduced His words with the solemn “truly I tell you” (see John 5:19, 24–25). More than twenty times in John’s Gospel you will find Jesus using this solemn form of address. It is as though He was saying, “Pay attention to this! What I am about to say is important!”

How are dead sinners raised from the dead? By hearing God’s Word and believing in God’s Son. Jesus healed the paralyzed man at the pool by His Word (John 5:8). Each time He raised someone from the dead, He spoke the Word (Luke 7:11–17; 8:49–56; John 11:41–44). His Word is “living and powerful” (Heb. 4:12) and can raise sinners from spiritual death.

3- He claimed that there were valid witnesses who supported His claim to deity (vv. 30–47). The word witness is a key word in John’s gospel; it is used forty-seven times. Jesus did bear witness to Himself, but He knew they would not accept it; so, He called in three other witnesses.

The first was John the Baptist (John 5:30–35), whom the religious leaders had interrogated carefully (John 1:15). John knew who Jesus was and faithfully declared what he knew to the people of Israel.

The second witness was the witness of His miracles (John 5:36). You will remember that John selected seven of these “signs” to include in his Gospel as proof that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:30–31).

The third and final witness Jesus summoned was the Word of the Father (John 5:37–47).



TUESDAY 10/19

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 5:16-23

My title for this passage: _____

Key Word or Main Verse: _____

Write down what you see in the passage.

Based on the passage, today I will...

Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.



WEDNESDAY 10/20

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 5:24-36

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

THURSDAY 10/21

MID-WEEK DIVE

The third miracle occurred on the Sabbath Day. Jesus certainly could have come a day earlier, or even waited a day, but He wanted to get the attention of the religious leaders. The scribes had listed thirty-nine tasks that were prohibited on the Sabbath, and carrying a burden was one of them. They viewed their relationship with God through the lens of religion, not love.

There are two very important subjects here: religiosity and the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is biblical and has been instituted by God since Genesis. God, being Almighty, rested after creation. He wanted to teach us a principle that helps us to be more intentional with our time to focus on God, family, and rest.

The religious people, because they could not interpret the law and Jesus' commandments correctly, turned the Sabbath into legalistic tradition.

Anything we do for God without Him being at its center is just religion. Ministry, going to church, and even giving and tithing can become just another religious act.

It is necessary from time to time to evaluate our hearts to make sure that God continues to be the center of everything we do.

- ***How can you be more intentional in taking a day every week to focus on God, family, and rest?***

- ***What areas of your life has religion crept in? How can you bring God back to the center of everything you do for Him?***



FRIDAY 10/22

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 5:37-47

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

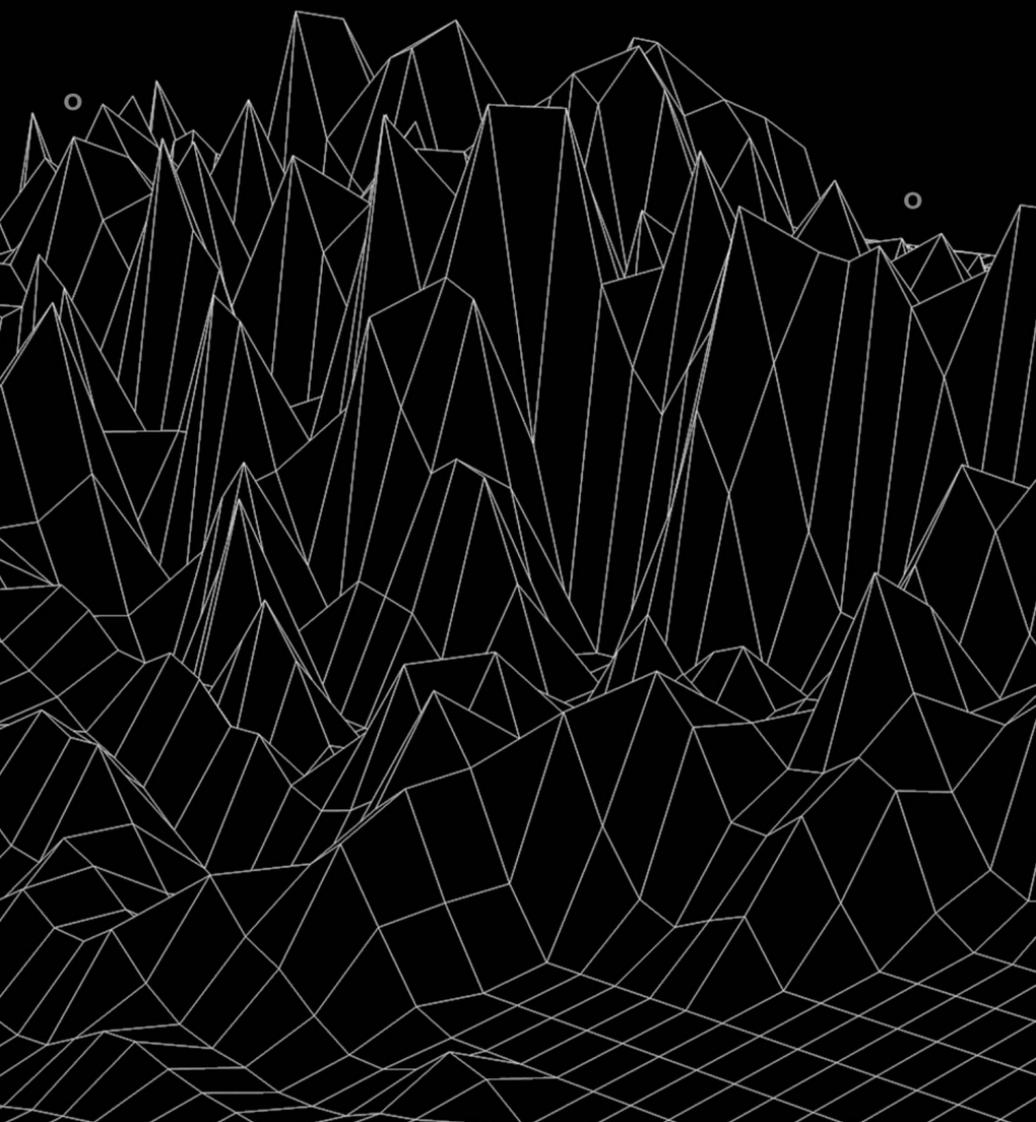
○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

JESUS WALKS
ON WATER

WEEK 05





MONDAY 10/25

LET'S EXPLORE -- PROVISION AND GENEROSITY

Highlight the subjects you would like to know more about.

This is the second time in John's gospel that two miracles are presented in sequence. The first is feeding 5,000 (6:1-15), and the second is walking on water (6:16-21).

The vast crowd of people was hungry. Four solutions were proposed:

First, the disciples suggested that Jesus send the people away (Mark 6:35-36) to eliminate the problem. It was evening, though, and too late to travel.

The second solution came from Philip in response to Jesus' "test question" (John 6:5): raise enough money to buy food for the people. Philip did his best to estimate the cost and decided they would need the equivalent of 200 days' wages! Even that would not provide enough bread to satisfy the hunger of all the men, women, and children.

The third solution came from Andrew, but he was not quite sure how the problem would be solved. He found a little boy who had a small lunch: two little fish and five barley cakes. We do not know how Andrew met this boy. Though Andrew does not have a prominent place in the Gospels, he was referred to as a "people person" who helped to solve problems.

The fourth solution came from Jesus, and it was the true solution. He took the little boy's lunch, blessed it, broke it, handed it out to His disciples, and they fed the whole crowd!

The miracle took place in the hands of the Savior, not in the hands of the disciples. He multiplied the food; they only had the joyful privilege of passing it out. Not only were the people fed and satisfied, but the disciples salvaged twelve baskets of leftovers for future use. The Lord wasted nothing.

The practical lesson is clear: whenever there is a need, give all that you have to Jesus, and let Him do the rest. Begin with what you have in your hands, but be sure you give it all to Him.

Some people believe that Jesus did not perform a miracle in this passage. Perhaps the generosity of the boy only embarrassed the other people so that they brought out their hidden lunches and shared them all around.

However, the Bible tells us that Jesus knows the hearts of men (John 2:24; 6:61, 64, 70), and He declared that the people were hungry. Surely, He would have known of the existence of hidden food. Furthermore, the people themselves declared that this was a miracle and even wanted to crown Him King! (John 6:14–16) Furthermore, John would never have selected this as one of the “signs” if it were not an authentic miracle.

It is significant that twice John mentions the fact that Jesus gave thanks (John 6:11, 23). Matthew, Mark, and Luke all state that Jesus looked up to Heaven when He gave thanks. By that act, He reminded the hungry people that God is the source of all good and needful gifts. This is a good lesson for us: instead of complaining about what we do not have, we should give thanks to God for what we do have, and He will make it go further.



FRIDAY 10/29

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 6:1-15

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

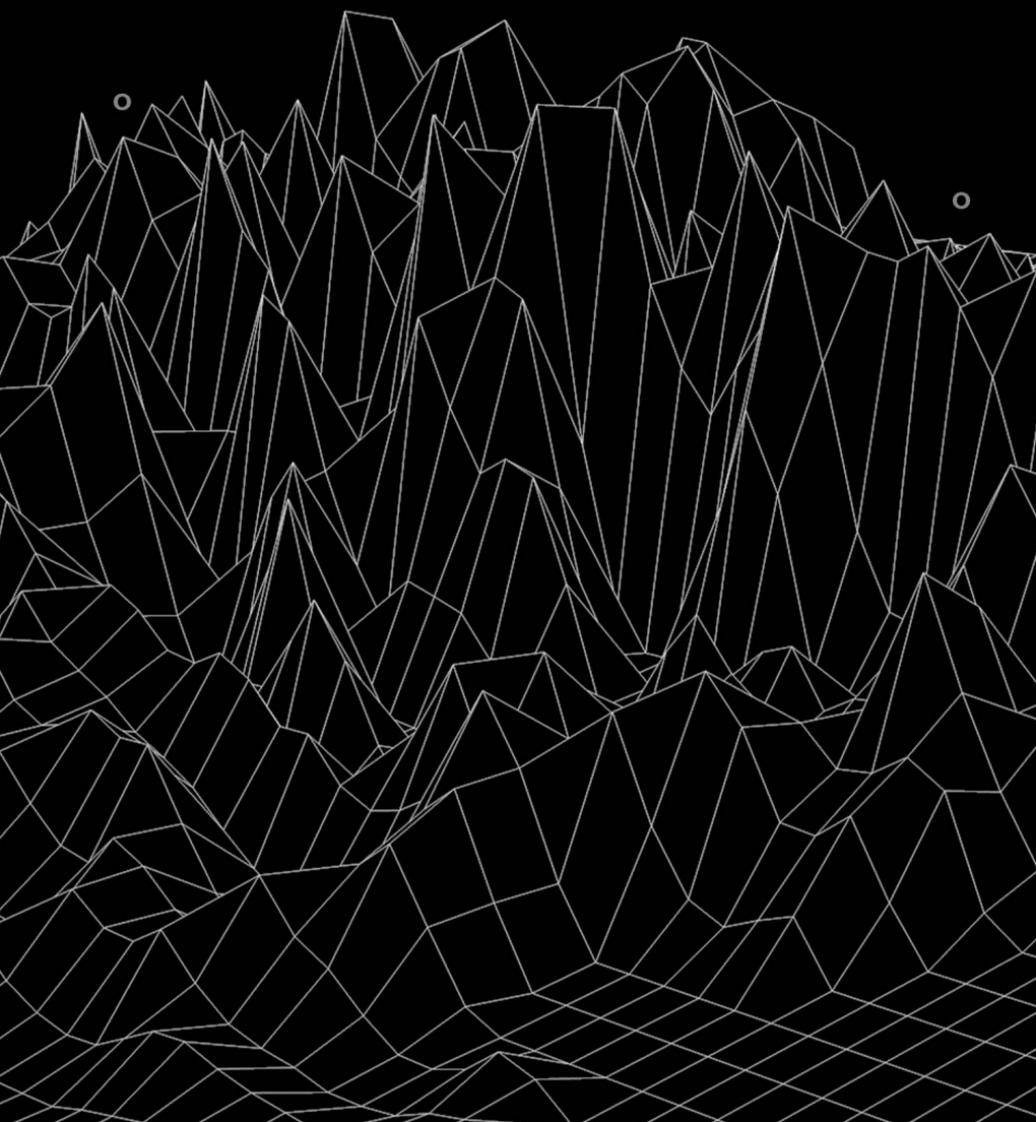
○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

JESUS HEALS
THE BLIND

WEEK 06





MONDAY 11/01

LET'S EXPLORE -- JOHN 6:22-8:59

Highlight the subjects you would like to know more about.

The next day began with a mystery: how did Jesus get to Capernaum? The crowd saw the disciples embark to go across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum and Jesus leave the place to go by Himself to a mountain. But the next morning, here were Jesus and His disciples together in Capernaum. Other boats had arrived, no doubt driven in by the storm, but Jesus was not in any of them. Consider the significance of His supernatural arrival.

The sermon on the "Bread of Life" is a dialogue between Christ and the people, especially the religious leaders. The crowd began by seeking Christ, but then started to seek a sign from Him. The rabbis taught that when the Messiah came, He would duplicate the miracle of the manna (see Exodus 16). If Jesus was truly sent by God, then they wanted Him to prove it by making manna fall from heaven.

In His reply, Jesus sought to deepen the people's understanding of the truth. It was God, not Moses, who gave the manna; also, God gave manna in the past, but the Father is now giving the true bread in the person of Jesus Christ. The past event is finished, but the present spiritual experience goes on!

Jesus' teaching was not hard to understand, but it was challenging to accept. The Jewish religious leaders both misunderstood His words and rejected them. They were offended by what He taught, and they stumbled over His claim of equality with God.

The result of the message He preached that day was the loss of most of His disciples. They went back to the old life, the old religion, and the old hopeless situation. Jesus Christ is "the way" (John 14:6), but they would not walk with Him.

When Jesus asked His twelve apostles if they planned to desert Him too, it was Peter who spoke up and declared their faith. Where else could they go? "You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) The preaching of the Word of God always leads to a sifting of the hearts of listeners. Those who receive the Word will receive the Savior and experience the new birth, eternal life.

John 6:35 contains the first of seven great "I AM" statements recorded by John, statements that are found nowhere else in the Gospels. (For the other six, see John 8:12; 10:7-9, 11-14; 11:25-26; 14:6; 15:1,5.) God revealed Himself to Moses by the name I AM (*YHWH*) (Ex. 3:14). God is the self-existent One who "is, and...was, and...is to come" (Rev. 1:8). When Jesus used the name I AM, He was absolutely claiming to be God.

Jesus decided to go to Jerusalem to attend The Feast of Tabernacles. This looked back to Israel's journey through the wilderness and looked forward to the promised Kingdom of the Messiah.

Following the Feast of Trumpets and the solemn Day of Atonement, Tabernacles was a festive time for the people. The temple area was illuminated by large candlesticks that reminded the people of the guiding pillar of fire, and each day, the priests would carry water from the Pool of Siloam and pour it out from a golden vessel, reminding the Jews of the miraculous provision of water from the rock.

The feast may have been a jubilant time for the people, but it was a difficult time for Jesus, for it marked the beginning of open and militant opposition to Him and His ministry. Ever since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath Day, Jesus had been targeted by the Jewish leaders who wanted to kill Him.

John 7 can be divided into three blocks of time: before the feast (vv. 1–10), in the midst of the feast (vv. 11–36), and on the last day of the feast (vv. 37–52). The responses during each of those periods can be characterized by three words: disbelief, debate, and division.

The Feast of Tabernacles had ended, but Jesus took advantage of the opportunity to minister to the pilgrims in the temple. During the feast, word had quickly spread that Jesus was not only attending but openly teaching in the temple.

Jesus performed miracles in order to meet human needs. But He also used each miracle as a launching pad for a message conveying spiritual truth. Finally, His miracles were His "credentials" to prove that He was indeed the Messiah. The blind receiving their sight was one such messianic miracle, and He used this miracle as the basis for a short sermon on spiritual blindness and a longer sermon on true and false shepherds.



TUESDAY 11/02

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 6:41-71

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**



WEDNESDAY 11/03

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 7:1-52

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

THURSDAY 11/04

MID-WEEK DIVE

Jesus' teaching was not hard to understand, but it was challenging to accept. The Jewish religious leaders both misunderstood His words and rejected them.

The result of the message He preached that day was the loss of most of His disciples. They went back to the old life, the old religion, and the old hopeless situation. Jesus Christ is "the way" (John 14:6), but they would not walk with Him.

When Jesus asked His twelve apostles if they planned to desert Him too, it was Peter who spoke up and declared their faith. Where else could they go? "You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

The preaching of the Word of God always leads to a sifting of the hearts of listeners. God draws sinners to the Savior through the power of truth, His Word.

The Word of God has an incredible power to transform. As we spend more time with the Bible and learn about God's truths and character, our weaknesses are confronted, and we realize how much we need Jesus to help us be the best versions of ourselves. Character change is part of the journey of a true Christian who loves Jesus.

- ***Write down the things in your life that have already been changed by God and by the power of His Word.***

- ***Write down what still needs to be changed.***



FRIDAY 11/05

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 8:1-59

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

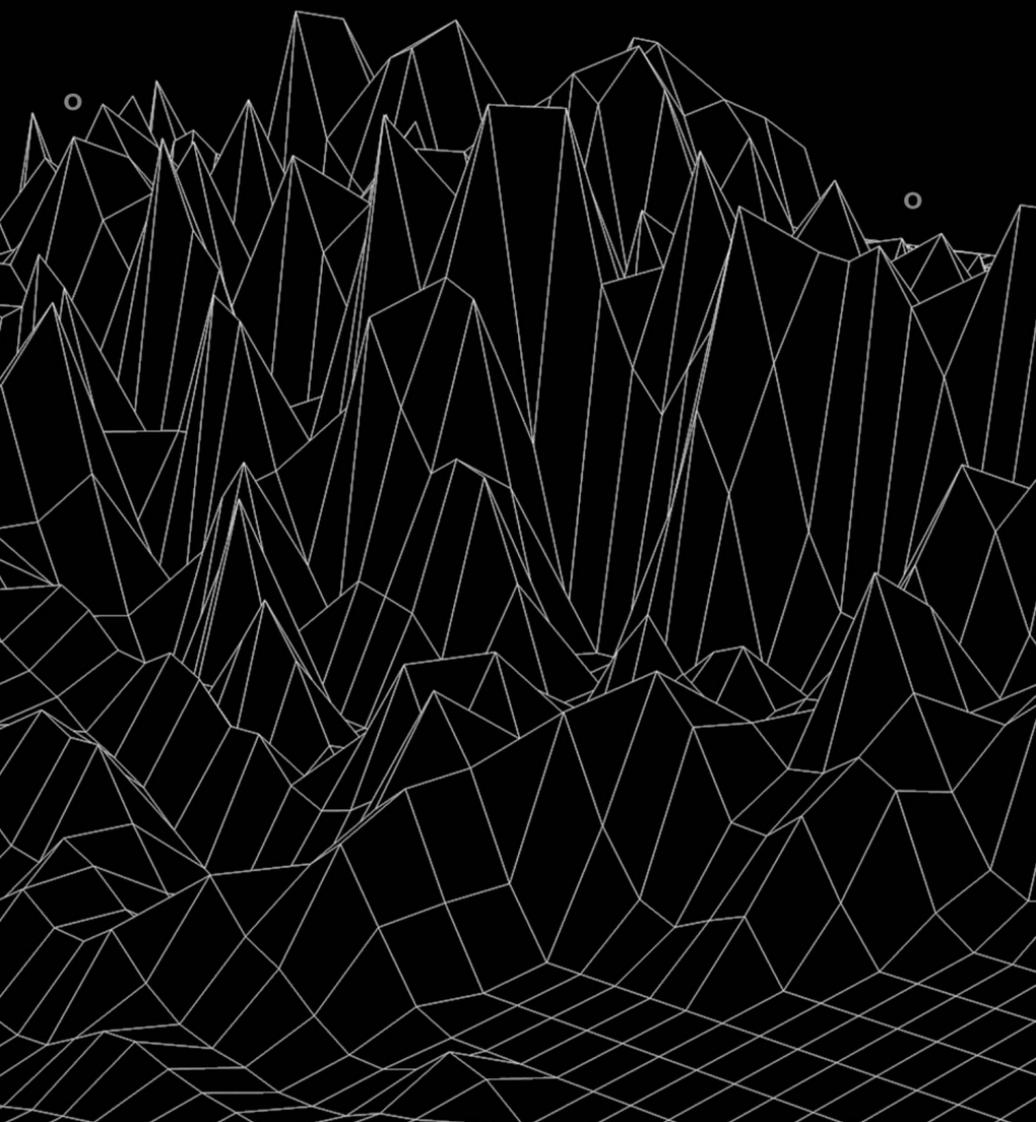
○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

JESUS RAISES
LAZARUS

WEEK 07





MONDAY 11/08

LET'S EXPLORE -- JOHN 9:13-10:42

Highlight the subjects you would like to know more about.

Since the Pharisees were the custodians of the faith, it was right that the healed man be brought to them for investigation. The fact that they studied this miracle in such detail is only further proof that Jesus did indeed heal the man. Since the man was born blind, the miracle was even greater, for blindness caused by sickness or injury might have naturally healed.

Jesus' act of deliberately healing the man on the Sabbath Day caused the Pharisees great concern. It was illegal to work on the Sabbath and by making the clay, applying the clay, and healing the man, Jesus had performed three "unlawful works." The Pharisees should have been praising God for a miracle; instead, they sought evidence to prosecute Jesus. The religious leaders were judging based on one thing: nobody who breaks the Sabbath could possibly be a true prophet of God.

The beggar was not intimidated by the threats of the Pharisees. When asked who he thought Jesus was, the man boldly said, "He is a prophet!" Some of the Old Testament prophets, such as Moses, Elijah, and Elisha, did perform miracles. The Jewish people would look on their prophets as men of God who could do wonderful things by the power of God, but the religious leaders did not want to see Jesus given that kind of high designation. Perhaps they could discredit the miracle. If so, then they could convince the people that Jesus had plotted the whole thing and was really deceiving everyone.

They called the parents of the beggar and asked them two questions: "Is this your son?" and "If he is, how does he now see?" They answered the first question honestly: he was their son and he had been born blind. They answered the second question evasively: they did not know how he was healed or who healed him.

Anxious to settle the case, the Pharisees did call the man in and put him under oath. "Give God the praise" was the phrase used by the Jews in court to swear in witnesses. He did not debate the character of Jesus Christ, because that was beyond his knowledge and experience. But one thing he did know: now he could see.

It seemed incredible to the healed man that the Pharisees would not know this Man who had opened his eyes! How many people were going around Jerusalem, opening the eyes of blind people? Instead of investigating the miracle, these religious leaders should have been investigating the One who did the miracle and learning from Him.

The religious leaders officially excommunicated this man from the local synagogue. This meant that the man was cut off from friends and family

and looked on by the Jews as a “publican and sinner.” Jesus knew that the man had been excommunicated, so He found him and revealed Himself to him. Jesus identified Himself as the Son of God (see John 9:35;), and the beggar believed and was saved.

Wherever Jesus went, some of the Pharisees tried to be present so they could catch Him in something He said or did. Seeing them, Jesus closed this episode by preaching a brief but penetrating sermon on spiritual blindness.

John 10 is a continuation of Jesus’ message to the Pharisees. The healing of the blind beggar is the background. In fact, the word translated as “thrown out” in John 9:35 is translated as “brought out” in John 10:4. The beggar was cast out of the synagogue but then taken by the Good Shepherd and added to His flock! The emphasis in John 10 is on Jesus Christ, the Good and True Shepherd.

Jesus presented Himself in three different ways in chapter 10: I am the door, the good Shepherd, and the son of God.

The sheepfold was usually an enclosure made of rocks, with an opening for the door. The shepherd would guard the flocks at night by lying across the opening. In the morning, the shepherds would come, call their sheep, and assemble their own flocks. Each sheep recognized his own master’s voice.

Since the people did not understand His symbolic language, Jesus followed the illustration with an application (John 10:7–10). Twice He said, “I AM the Door.” He is the Door of the sheepfold and makes it possible for the sheep to leave the fold (the religion of Judaism) and to enter His flock. The Pharisees threw the beggar out of the synagogue, but Jesus led him out of Judaism and into the flock of God!

He presented Himself as the Good Shepherd. The word translated as good means “intrinsically good, beautiful, fair.” It describes that which is the ideal, the model that others may safely imitate. A good shepherd would die for his sheep, knows his sheep, and brings other sheep into the flock.

The common people continued to seek Jesus, and He continued to minister to them. It is worth noting that John the Baptist’s witness was still bearing fruit long after he was dead. His witness to Jesus Christ led many to trust the Savior. John was not a miracle worker, but he was a faithful witness who pointed to Jesus Christ. “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).



TUESDAY 11/09

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 9:13-41

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**



WEDNESDAY 11/10

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 10:1-21

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**



THURSDAY 11/11

MID-WEEK DIVE

Jesus presents Himself in three different ways in chapter 10: I am the door, the good Shepherd, and the son of God.

The sheepfold was usually an enclosure made of rocks, with an opening for the door. The shepherd would guard the flocks at night by lying across the opening. In the morning, the shepherds would come, call their sheep, and assemble their own flocks. Each sheep recognized his own master's voice.

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Have you responded personally to Jesus' three great declarations recorded in this chapter?

He is the Door. Have you "entered in" by faith so that you are saved?

He is the Good Shepherd. Have you heard His voice and trusted Him? After all, He laid down His life for you!

He is the Son of God. Do you believe that? Have you given yourself to Him and received eternal life?

- ***If you would like to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, pray this prayer:***

"Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. I give you my life. Make me the person You want me to be."



FRIDAY 11/12

READ & RESPOND -- JOHN 10:22-41

○ **My title for this passage:** _____

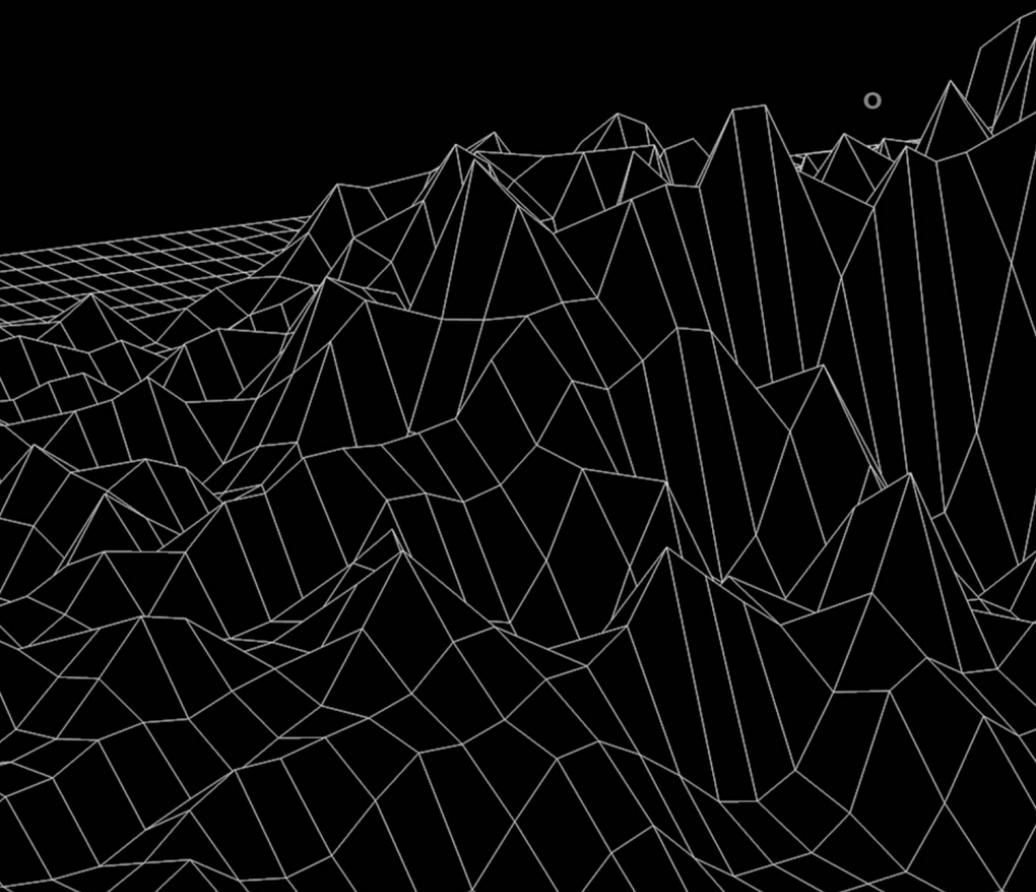
○ **Key Word or Main Verse:** _____

○ **Write down what you see in the passage.**

○ **Based on the passage, today I will...**

○ **Write out a prayer asking God to help you to apply what you have learned.**

FALL 2021 / SIGNS



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