Portraits of Jesus in John’s Gospel
John—the beloved disciple of Jesus—writes so that people may believe that Jesus is the Son of God (20:31). John is a Jesus lover. And Jesus loves John too. This mutual love is seen in the way that John writes about Jesus. It’s as if he paints beautiful and endearing portraits of Jesus each able to stand alone for us to marvel at.

As John reflects on Jesus, you are meant to also. Think of yourself at an art gallery. Stand back. Take it in. Get swept up into the scene. Think long and lovingly upon each portrait as John paints it. Jesus will marvel you. He will leave an impression upon you. Each time you look at Jesus you will walk away in awe.

A fellow admirer,

J. Thomas Hutts
The Gospel of John is broken up into different galleries. Each gallery shows you a unique aspect of Jesus’ life and ministry and mission. Within the Gospel of John there are seven galleries.

1—Jesus is God (1:1-28)  
2—Jesus is the God Man (1:29-4:45)  
3—Jesus Serves (4:46-12:50)  
4—Jesus Teaches (13:1-17:26)  
5—Jesus’ Passion (18:1-19:42)  
6—Jesus Lives (20:1-31)  
7—Jesus Gives Assurance (21:1-25)

Desire to Dig Deeper?

Questions are provided after each portrait for personal, family or small group benefit. Also, the footnotes provide additional Scripture for further discovery.

Appendix A: 70 Portraits of Jesus in John’s Gospel  
Appendix B: Jesus Sent by God
**Jesus is the Word (1:1-18).**
The Word has always been. He was there when it was only God and him. The Word was God. He was there when the world began. In fact, he created it all. The Word is the One who spoke it all into existence. He gave it life. He lights the universe. He is the light of men. John came to tell all about him so that all might believe through him (cf. 5:33-36).

John knew his place and his part. John knew who was greater and it wasn’t him (cf. 4:25-30). John was a pointer that pointed to the light that was coming.

John wanted the world to see Jesus clearly and plainly. The world would not know him or receive him (cf. 5:41-46). But those who did believe would become children of God (17:25-26). Who is he? He is Jesus, the Son of God. He is God in the flesh. God with skin on. He is God, the Creator, who lived and dwelled among his creation. Jesus, the visible God, helps us see what God, the invisible God, looks like. Jesus is God’s glory.

*What power do words have? What power does Jesus have being the Word? What proof is there that Jesus has always been? How does this image of Jesus as the Word encourage you?*
Jesus is the Son of God (1:1-14; 20:31).
John used this portrait of Jesus as Son more than any other in his Gospel. Just because Jesus is called the Son doesn’t make him any less than his Father. It’s a familial title. It’s a title that shows the love of God. In it you see God’s heart for Jesus.

Jesus helps you to understand who God is—what God is like. The Son helps you to see the Father. Want to see God? Look at Jesus. The Son is visible, but the Father is invisible. They are cut from the same cloth. They share the Great Throne. They are One.

How could Jesus being known as God’s Son be misunderstood?
How does the Father Son relationship help you understand God and His love?
How does Jesus help you see what God is like?

Jesus is Grace and Truth (1:14; 1:17).
Jesus is full of it. He is full of grace and truth. He speaks it, lives it, and defines it. He shows what the grace of God and the truth of God is (cf. 18:37). What that is is explained throughout the rest of John’s writing.

The revealing of Jesus is God’s plan from the beginning so that the world my experience grace and understand truth. He is the fulfillment of both. Grace and truth came through Jesus.

Why did God give Moses the Law? So that Jesus could show the essence of it. It is all part of God’s master plan. Jesus authored it. Jesus is the centerpiece and focal point of it all. Because God is at the center of it all.

Who do you see grace and truth on display in Jesus’ life and ministry?
How have you been impacted by the grace of God and truth from God?
In what ways are you modeling grace and truth in your life?

1 Also see: 1:34, 49; 3:16-18; 10:36; 11:4, 27; 17:1; 19:7; 20:31
Jesus is the Lamb of God (1:29-36).
Jesus as the Lamb is an image that points backward and forward. It points back in that the people in Jesus day would have remembered the story of Abraham when God provided a sheep to sacrifice in the place of his son (Genesis 22:8) and they would have understood the sacrificial system when the priests yearly sacrificed for the sins of their nation (Exodus 12:3; Isaiah 53:7).

The Lamb also points forward to Jesus’ passion—his earthly mission. Jesus would be the sacrificial Lamb. God would give his only son to atone for the sins of a nation and the world once and for all (Acts 8:32; 1 Peter 1:19). It also points forward to Jesus’ heavenly title (Revelation 5:6). We will forever remember Jesus as the Lamb slain for the sins of the world.

One could think of a lamb as a weak image, but how is it also a strong image for Jesus? How does Jesus being a lamb help us understand the plan of God?

Jesus Ranks Highest Among Men (vs. 1:15, 27, 30).
John the Baptist held some rank among men because he was a prophet, but even he knew that compared to Jesus he held a much lower rank. John said that he was not even worth to untie Jesus’ sandal, which is like saying “I am lower than a slave next to Jesus.”

John humbly acknowledges that he was the one who announces Jesus’ arrival. That’s all. He was the loudspeaker who echoes out, “Jesus is here! Look at him!” Jesus also
pulls rank because was here before John and after him. Jesus has always been. Jesus is. And Jesus is the highest of all men.

How does John express humility?
Why is it important to see yourself compared to Jesus?
In what ways does Jesus hold a higher rank than you?
In what ways do you think or act like you hold a higher rank than Jesus?

Jesus is Rabbi (1:38).²
To be called a Rabbi is a term of respect or endearment or commitment. It means that people—particularly his followers—consider him to be a teacher.

Jesus is known for being a Good Teacher; a master teacher. He taught in synagogues (cf. 6:59; 18:20), but more often his classroom was mobile and in the midst of everyday life. He taught crowds, small groups, and one-on-one. He taught in stories, proverbs, and sermons. Wherever he went he taught. His teachings caused most to wonder.

As John’s Gospel unfolds many of Jesus’ wise teachings are recorded for us to learn from today. His Word still teaches.

What is a memorable teaching of Jesus to you?
What separates Jesus’ teaching for other teachers?
What do you learn about teaching from Jesus?
What is a lesson that Jesus has taught you?
How can you remain teachable to the instructions and lessons of Jesus everyday?

Jesus is the Messiah (1:41).³
Messiah is a term that has a long history. The Jews long believed and were promised that a Messiah would come to deliver them (Is. 61:1). He would come from among Israel.

The word Messiah has roots in the word to “massage” or “anoint”. Jesus is give the name the Anointed One, the Christ, the One who came to deliver the world.

The Old Testament the idea of anointing was mainly for setting apart kings, but in the New Testament the concept is applied to Jesus in a grander sense to include the idea of an anointed prophet, priest and king.

What does “Messiah” mean?
How does the meaning add definition to who Jesus is?

² cf. v.1:49; 3:2, 26; 6:25; 11:8; 14:5; 20:16
³ cf. 4:25-26; 11:27; 12:34; 17:3; 20:31
How would you react if you were Andrew or Peter and you saw the promised Messiah for the first time?
How has Jesus delivered you?

**Jesus from Nazareth** (1:45).
Jesus had a hometown and roots. He was Nazarene (cf. 18:5-7; 19:19). Nazareth was the village where his earthly mother and father lived and where he grew up (Mt. 2:23). Often Jesus’ birth town, Bethlehem, gets more attention. Galilee, the region where Nazareth is located gets a bad rap for being a place where no prophet comes from.

How much do you or others identify you by your hometown?
How does Jesus being from a hometown show his human side?
What do you know about Jesus’ ministry in his hometown?

**Jesus is King of Israel** (1:49).
Israel thought their Messiah would be a king who would come from the line of David and deliver them from the oppression of the Roman Empire. They were right. He did come to restore the line of David, to deliver, to bring freedom from oppression, and to inaugurate his kingdom, but not in the way the Jews imagined.

Israel really wanted Jesus to be their king (6:15). They brought him into Jerusalem on an unspoiled colt, shouted “Hosanna!” (12:13) He accepted the praise and glory, but this was not his mission. An earthly king he is not.

When Jesus was crucified the Romans mocked him by labeling him the King of the Jews. Little did they know he was and is and will be. The emphasis is on ‘will be’.

What was Nathanael thinking when he called Jesus “King”?
What is Jesus king of and where is his kingdom?
If Jesus’ inaugurated the kingdom on earth, when will it be consummated?
What kind of king is Jesus? How is Jesus different than earthly kings?
What is your response to King Jesus?

**Jesus is the Son of Man** (1:51; 2:1-10).
The image of Jesus as King is future tense and so is Jesus as the Son of Man (Dan. 7:13). Jesus used the term “Son of Man” of himself more than 80 times. It speaks of his humanity and suffering and his work as “the ideal Man.”

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4 cf. 12:12-15; 18:33-37; 19:2-22; Zeph. 3:15; Mt. 27:11, 42; Zech. 9:9; Heb. 2:8

On earth, Jesus was humble and unflashy—other than some of his miracles like turning water into wine at a wedding and his transfiguration. However, Jesus said he would come back in divine style. The clouds are his carpet and the sky his stairway. This is an image you have not see any man pull off, but Jesus is not an ordinary man. Think of it as another episode like Jacob saw when angels from heaven ascended and descended to earth, so Nathanael (and the others) would see Jesus do the same (Gen. 28:12).

Jesus is the one mediator between heaven and earth. Heaven is opened for communication with people.

Why is it important to see the human side of Jesus?
How does seeing Jesus as human help you to relate to Jesus?
How is Jesus like no other man? How is Jesus the example human?
What would it be like to see Jesus coming down from heaven?
How does Jesus give you the ability to communicate to heaven?
How does Jesus mediate your prayers?

**Jesus is the Sign of God’s Glory (2:1-11).**

Jesus did many miracles. Turning water into wine at a wedding was his first public sign. Mary’s comments leave one to believe that she knew Jesus could do the miracle (2:3-5).

Interestingly, John records the fewest amount of miracles compared to the other gospels, however John does so to reveal Jesus’ glory.

Jesus’ signs often strengthen and solidified the faith of Jesus’ followers, but it wasn’t a guarantee. Sometimes people would ask Jesus to do signs (2:18), but not everyone believed even though Jesus did signs. In other words, signs don’t equal faith.

Signs are insufficient for faith. Jesus didn’t do signs for the wow-factor just so people would believe, but also to give proof that he was from God (20:30-31).

What are some of Jesus’ most memorable signs and miracles?
What importance did these signs have for Jesus’ ministry and glory?
What connection or remembrance might the Cana miracle have with the Last Supper? (Lk. 22:20)
How do Jesus’ miracles point to a Greater Miracle? (2 Cor. 5:17)
What is the significance of cleansing in the context of this miracle and Jesus’ ministry?
How does Jesus become the fulfillment for cultural and religious cleansing?

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Jesus Knows Man and What’s in Man (2:24-25).
You could say Jesus had X-ray vision. He could see through man’s skin to his heart. He knew all people and he kew what was in man. That makes him different than any man because you cannot see inside a man like that.

Jesus has supernatural knowledge of man. People asked Jesus to do many signs and wonders, but he knew their motivation and level of belief. It is an amazing and fearful thought to know that Jesus sees through you. The next two stories of Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman illustrate Jesus’ X-ray vision (see Ch. 3-4).

What does Jesus know about man that you will never know about another man?
What does Jesus know about you?
How is the truth Jesus knows all about you both amazing and fearful?
In what ways do you ask for a sign from God rather than just believing?
What does Jesus know about your faith?

Jesus is the Great Teacher (3:1-15).10
Jesus loved to teach. It is part of his ministry. The way he taught was through an earthly story or illustration that has a heavenly or spiritual truth (3:31-34). Jesus’ teachings often pointed back to Old Testament teachings and pointed forward to encourage his students to believe in him for eternal life.

Jesus even taught teachers like Nicodemus. What Jesus taught Nicodemus was the difference between physical birth and spiritual birth and Nicodemus’ need for the later. Not everything Jesus taught was caught. Only God could open eyes to understand and believe (9:30).

Are there certain teachings of Jesus that have puzzled you?
How do Jesus’ teachings go deeper than just an earthly truth?
How does God give you understanding of Jesus’ teachings?

Jesus is to be Lifted Up (3:14-15).11
When Jesus referred to being “lifted up” he was talking about his death, particularly his death on the cross. Moses lifted up a bronze snake on a pole as a cure for the Hebrews disobedience (Num. 21:4-9). Moses was a symbol of Jesus who would be lifted up on a cross for the disobedience and sin of mankind. Moses was a conduit of

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8 cf. 4:16-19; 13:26-28; 16:19, 30; 17:6-26; 18:4; 1 Sam. 16:7; Ps. 139; Acts 1:24
9 cf. 1:48; 5:42; 16:30; 6:14-15, 61, 64; Mt. 9:4
10 cf. 11:28; 13:14; 18:20; 20:16
11 cf. 8:28; 12:32-34
God’s provision of life for the Jewish people, but Jesus was God’s ultimate provision of eternal life for all people.

What other OT symbols did Jesus come to fulfill?
Why was it Jesus mission to live to die?
Why is important that he knew this from the beginning of his ministry and that it wasn’t just a last-minute add-on?
How has Jesus’ death provided for your life?

Jesus is the Love of God (3:16-21).
Jesus shows the love of God. You get a good understanding of God’s love by looking at Jesus.12

Even when the world was in the shadow of darkness and loved sin more than the light, God gave Jesus, his Son. Jesus’ love is unconditional and sacrificial (3:16, cf. v.36). It is because of Jesus’ most loving act—his death—that man is able to have eternal life. That is love. John’s main goal is that you would know it.13

When you love someone, what do you often expect in return?
How is it that God loves without strings attached?
What amazes you about the love of God?
How did Jesus demonstrate the love of God?
What do you learn about the love of God through Jesus?
How can you love like Jesus today?

Jesus is the Bridegroom (3:29).
Jesus on a few occasions talked about himself in a wedding metaphor as the Bridegroom who would come for his Bride, the church (cf. Mt. 9:15; 22:1-14; 25:1-13).14 However, here John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Bridegroom. John likens himself to a friend who is filled with joy over Jesus’ growing influence.

Jesus is coming for his Bride. Like the friend of the Bridegroom, John knows his role is limited simply to assisting Jesus. A friend of the Bridegroom is not greater than the Groom, just as a servant is not greater than his master.

How is the wedding and Bridegroom illusion a joyful and celebratory one?
How like John can you be full of joy over the Bridegroom?
How does this portrait of Jesus culminate in Revelation 19:7-8?

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12 cf. Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4; 2 Thes. 2:16; 1 John 3:1; 4:9-10
13 cf. 5:36, 38; 6:29, 57; 7:29; 8:42; 10:36; 11:42; 17:3, 23-26; 20:21;
14 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22–24; Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17
Jesus is from Above and Above All (3:31).
Jesus is in a category or stratosphere all to his own. Jesus is to be distinguished from anyone whose origin is earthly. He cannot be assessed by earthly methods or measurements. Jesus is therefore utterly different than even John the Baptist. Jesus is supreme. He is head and shoulders above all other earthly messengers.

Where was Jesus before he came into the world? (cf. 8:14; 13:3; 16:28)
Why is it important to understand Jesus’ existence before coming to earth?
How is Jesus in a category all to his own compared to all other men?
What do you learn from John’s humility putting himself below Jesus?
Why is it helpful to measure yourself against Jesus rather than another man?

Jesus is Sent from God (3:34). 15
God not only sent mankind the message (his love letter), but also the Messenger (his love in flesh). The image of Jesus being “sent” is a golden thread woven throughout John’s Gospel. Now other image is repeated as often. Being sent from God affirms Jesus’ deity and heavenly origin, as well as God’s sovereignty and love.

Where did the Father send Jesus from?
What does it signify that Jesus was not only sent from God, but the “Sent One”?
What role does Jesus play being sent from God?
How has Jesus sent you into the world as his ambassadors with the same authority? (Mt. 28:19-20)

Jesus is Given Authority (3:35-36).
God the Father has entrusted all things to God the Son. 16 Jesus has been given all authority from heaven to accomplish all the Father’s purposes. The intimate relationship between the Father and Son is sure. All that John asks is that you have faith in Jesus. Accept Jesus and for you is promised eternal life, but reject Jesus and you will face God’s wrath.

Do you believe Jesus has authority from God?
How you demonstrate your faith in Jesus’ authority?
What authority does Jesus have in your life?


16 cf. 5:19, 22, 27, 30; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10; 17:2, 24; 19:11
**Jesus is Living Water (4:10-15).**

Water is life. Without water you die. Not only does water give life but it satisfies thirst.

When Jesus says he will give the Samaritan woman living water he is talking about himself as the source of everlasting life. This statement made the woman think. She didn’t know who Jesus was or what he could give her. Jesus could give the woman eternal life and quench her deepest thirst. Jesus is a well that goes deeper that just physical water.

What cultural and spiritual barriers did Jesus have or break with the woman at the well?  
What kind of water was the woman really seeking and what did Jesus give to her?  
Why didn’t the woman understand what Jesus was saying? (4:15-26)  
How is Jesus your living water everyday and forever?

**Jesus is Prophet (4:19).**

Prophets were sent from God to call the people to repent and turn back to God. Jesus did this and more.

Jesus knew things. He knew things about the future, but he also knew things about the past and present that the ordinary man didn’t know. For example, he knew that the woman at the well had many husbands.

How did Jesus know these details? As a prophet, he had supernatural knowledge from God. He knew the details about man that could cut to the heart.

What does Jesus know about the woman?  
What does Jesus know about you?  
As a prophet, how does Jesus call people to repent and turn back to Jesus?  
How was the woman’s response a common response toward prophets? (4:21-24)  
How has Jesus cut you to the heart?

**Jesus is Lord of the Harvest (4:34-38).**

The time between planting to harvest would take four months. To a human this might seem long. When the harvest came there is no wonder it would be a time of immense joy.

Jesus often used agriculture to illustrate his mission and his Father’s plan. The harvest Jesus talked about was not fruit or vegetable, but people. Jesus came to harvest souls. This was his mission. Jesus is both Sower and Reaper. He would sow seeds that would reap eternal life (Mt.13:37; Mk. 4:14). Now that’s immense joy!

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17 cf. 7:37-38; 6:35-58; Jer. 2:13; 17:13; Is. 49:10; Rev. 7:16  
18 cf. 1:21; 6:14; 7:16, 40; 9:17; 13:1-3; Mt. 21:11
What other teachings did Jesus give that used agriculture or sowing and reaping?
Why is the harvest a happy time?¹⁹
How joyful is the spiritual harvest—salvation?
How does Jesus call you to be apart of the sowing and reaping and harvest? (Mt. 9:37; Lk. 10:2)

**Jesus is Savior of the World (4:42).**²⁰
Just as John the Baptist said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,” so the people of the Samaritan woman’s town believed that Jesus was really who she said Jesus was, “The Savior of the World.” In other words, the Samaritan’s ascribed to Jesus the title Messiah or the Christ.

Jesus brought salvation to the world. His light shines for all (1:9) and is not limited to the nation Israel, but is for “every nation, tribe, people, and language” (Rev. 7:9).

What does it mean that Jesus is Savior?
How is Jesus not only the Savior of the Jews, but the world?
How did Jesus bridge the spiritual gap between the Jews and Samaritans?
What is your part in spreading the light that “Jesus saves” to the ends of the world?
Why is it important to know that Jesus is the Savior for all nations, ethnicities, races, and language groups?

²⁰ cf. 3:17; 12:47; (11:27); 17:6-23 1 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn. 4:14
Jesus is Healer (4:46-54).
Jesus healed people in high places of power and people in low places of poverty. He healed publicly and privately. Some people were thankful and some were unthankful. Some people asked Jesus to be healed and other times Jesus asked people if they wanted healing (cf. 5:1-17). Jesus often healed people with his touch, but in the case of the official’s son, Jesus healed with his words alone. Jesus didn’t even see the boy face-to-face, in fact, he was miles away.

Often people, as in Galilee, came to Jesus as a healer rather than the Savior. Still Jesus healed out of grace and love, but in this particular case he tested the faith of the official. Healing and faith didn’t always go together, but for the official it did.\(^{21}\)

Why is faith that is built on signs and wonders incomplete faith? Why would some who followed Jesus just want healing minus faith? How is Jesus healer and Savior? What does healing tell you about the character of God and the mission of Jesus? Why is faith in Jesus absolutely necessary? How would you describe your faith in Jesus?

Jesus is at Work (5:17).\(^{22}\)
Jesus had just healed a man who hadn’t walk for 38-years. You’d think the Jewish leaders would be amazed and acknowledge Jesus’ healing power coming from God. No, instead they are angered and found fault in Jesus healing on the Sabbath. And John notes this as the reason for Jesus persecution (e.g. crucifixion; v.18).

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\(^{21}\) cf. 2:18; 6:30; 20:29

\(^{22}\) cf. v.36; 14:11-13; 15:24; 17:4
When God rested on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2-3) from his work of Creation it was an example for mankind to rest and remember God. Jesus makes the connection between him and his Father in the continuous work of salvation and for his Sabbath healing.

If God sustains the universe, makes life, heals, and judges, why is it not unlawful for Jesus to do works of grace and mercy on the Sabbath. That's what these leaders fail to understand. God and Jesus have the same mission: Jesus, as the One and Only Son of God, claimed to be sent by God, on mission for God, doing the works of God, obedient to God, and bringing glory to God.

Why were the Jewish leaders so angry with Jesus? 
How did Jesus’ claim of equality with God ultimately lead to his death? 
How does this this John 5:1-17 show you that Jesus is God and the he and God have the same work or mission? 
What does the lame man’s response tell you about his faith or willingness to repent? 
Do you ever find yourself fault-finding like the Jewish leaders or ungrateful like the healed man?

**Jesus Obey**s (5:19-30). 
Jesus obeys the Father without question (cf. 18:11). Everything Jesus does he does because the Father allows. The Father has given all authority and the right to judgement to Jesus. This means that whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life, but whoever rejects Jesus will be judged by him. Honor Jesus and you honor God.

What do you learn about obedience from Jesus?  
What authority does Jesus have?  
What does it mean that Jesus is the judge of life and death?  
How do you mimic Jesus obedience?

**Jesus Bears the Testimony of God** (5:32-46). 
Not only does God bear witness that Jesus is from God (cf. 8:18; Mt. 3:17), but the Scriptures do too. When reading the Scriptures, it is clear that from Genesis to Malachi, Jesus is the Promised One.

Even though there is all this proof that Jesus is who he says he is the people still do not receive him or believe in him (v.43; cf. 1:11; 3:11, 32). That doesn’t make him any less God, it shows the hardness of man’s heart.

How did God bear witness to Jesus being his Son? 
What proof is there in the OT Scriptures that Jesus is who he says he is?

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23 cf. 12:41; 18:37; Num. 21:9; Deut. 18:15; Luke 16:31; 24:27
How did the Jews miss this about Jesus? (vs. 40, 43; ch. 3:19; 7:17; Mt. 23:37; Lk. 13:34)
How do you bear witness to the glory of God through your life and ministry?

**Jesus is the Bread of Life (6:32-58).**
Jesus had just turned a boys lunch into a meal for 5,000 people and had leftovers (6:1-15). In the past, God provided manna from heaven that preserved the life of Israel while in the Wilderness.

The divine correlation is that God the Father provides again by sending Jesus who is the promise of life to all who believe in him. As bread is essential to physical life, so if Jesus to eternal life.

*How does bread provide life for much of the world?*
*How does Jesus provide life for the world?*
*What connects does Jesus make between the bread he offers and the manna of Moses day?*
*Who have you shared this Bread with recently?*

**Jesus is the Holy One (6:69).**
Peter, as a self-proclaimed spokesman for the disciples gave a confession of his faith and called Jesus the Holy One of God.24 He was convinced that Jesus’ words lead to eternal life.

The title “Holy One of God” is unusual since a demon also used the same title of Jesus (Mark 1:24). It refers to Jesus’ transcendence, his representation of the Father (“of God”), and his Messiahsip. In other words, Jesus was set apart from other men and was connected to the Most Holy God. As the Holy One, Jesus was Israel hope and Peter was not about to abandon this hope, at least not yet.

*What is holiness?*
*What did the demons know about Jesus that some people did not acknowledge?*
*What was Jesus’ relationship with the Father? Why is this relationship so important?*
*How is Peter’s story an ebb and flow of faith and doubt?*
*How do you relate to Peter?*

**Jesus Satisfies (7:37-39).**
Jesus calls people to come and drink. The timing was uniquely tied to the festival at hand. During the Feast of Tabernacle there was a water ritual that reminded the people

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24 cf. Mt. 16:16; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20
of the water that God provided from the rock in the desert. Just like the woman at the well (4:10), Jesus on the last and biggest day of the feast offers the crowd water from the spring of eternal life, namely his Spirit (cf. 4:14; 6:53-56).

Have you every been really thirsty?  
How is thirst a fitting picture for our spiritual condition?  
Why is Jesus the only thirst quencher that truly satisfies?  
When did Jesus promise a helper would come?  
How does the Holy Spirit bring new life?

**Jesus is the Defender of the Condemned (8:3-11).**
A women had been caught in the act of adultery and she is brought before Jesus by the religious leaders. They do it to test (or trap) Jesus’ understanding of the law (against Roman law).

What an embarrassing and shameful situation for the women. It is true that her sin condemns her. Yet the religious leaders compound the condemnation by making a public spectacle of the situation.

Jesus, the author and perfecter of the law, flips situation (from legal to moral) upon the religious leaders to cast the first stone (Deut. 17:7). Jesus defends the woman, shows her deep compassion, yet doesn’t condone her sin by telling her to sin no more (cf. 3:17).

*How does the law naturally condemn you?  
Why is there no condemnation when you are in Christ?  
What do you learn from Jesus about judging sin and showing compassion to others?  
What comfort do you have that Jesus came to your defense when you blew it and sinned?*

**Jesus is the Light of the World (8:12; 9:4-5; 11:9).**
Light reveals what is hidden in darkness. Light also makes the way or path to life visible. Jesus is that true light. He both reveals sin and makes the way of eternal life visible.

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26 cf. Mt. 16:1; 19:3; 22:18, 35; Mark 8:11; 10:2; 12:15; Luke 10:25; 11
27 cf. 1:4-5, 9; 3:19-21; 12:35-36, 46; Ps. 36:9; Isa. 42:6; 49:6; Mal. 4:2
28 e.g. Ps 27:1; Isa 58:8; cf. John 1:5; Acts 26:18; 2 Cor 4:4–6; Eph 5:14; 1 John 1:7
Jesus’ claim to be the light of the world was role reserved for God (Gen. 1:3). Interesting, Jesus makes this claim during the feast and the lighting of the temple lamps, which celebrate God’s provision of light in the Wilderness. This celebrates the pillar of light God provided that lead the Israelites out of bondage. And now God sends Jesus as the light that leads the world out of sinful bondage.

What does light do or reveal?
How did God lead the people of Israel by light in the Wilderness and why was that so significant to their history?
How does Jesus light the way to eternal life?
How was Israel to be a light to the nations?
How are you to be a light to the nations?

**Jesus is the Truth that Sets Free** (8:32, 36).
Freedom comes at a cost. In other words, freedom is not necessarily free. Jesus says that sin enslaves.29 What is the cost of being free from sin. Jesus says the only way to be free from sins bondage is through truth. What truth? (cf. 18:37-38) The truth that Jesus is that saving, liberating Truth.

How does the world often define truth, especially in our modern world?
How does Jesus narrow the definition of truth?
Why is sin bondage? How does sin enslave?
How does Jesus set man free from sin?

**Jesus is the I AM** (8:58).
I AM. This is a statement the Israelites would recognize. It is a statement God used of himself when talking to Moses through the burning bush (Ex. 3:14; cf. Is. 41:4; 43:11-13). God as the I AM is a statement of his eternality. He was, is, and will always be.

Now Jesus uses the same words to describe himself. In this short statement, Jesus makes himself one with the Father, the God of Abraham (and Moses). And Jesus makes himself superior to the Prophets and Abraham and equal to God.

Why did the Jewish leaders pick up stones to stone Jesus after he made this statement?
When Jesus said that he was the I AM what was he really saying?
What other “I AM” statements does Jesus make in John’s Gospel?30
Which I AM statement are you most drawn to about Jesus?

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29 17:3; Rom. 6:18, 22; 8:2; 1 Cor. 7:22; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 5:1, 13; James 1:25; 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:16

Jesus is the Eye Opener (9:6, 25, 30-33).

Jesus heals a beggar man who was born blind from birth with spit and dirt. It becomes a case whether Jesus really is sent from God and why he would heal on the Sabbath (9:16). The story reveals that those who are really blind and lack grace are the spiritual leaders of Israel (9:39, 41; cf. 12:37-43; 19:11). The man who received sight believes Jesus is from God (9:38). This is Amazing Grace on display (9:25, 30-33).

What evidence is there that the man in the story was born blind?
What case do the Pharisees have against Jesus?
What is the difference between physical and spiritual blindness?
How do you see amazing grace on display in Jesus' life and ministry?
How is amazing grace on display in your life and ministry?

Jesus is the Door (10:7-9).

Jesus shares a story with cultural relevance about sheep and shepherding which were a common sight in Israel. In the story, Jesus says that those who follow him are like sheep and he says he is the door that protects the sheep from robbers and thieves who’d fillet or fleece the sheep. Often times shepherds would lay down at the entrance of the sheepfold and literally be the door. As the door, Jesus provides protection and provision for the sheep, but also becomes the exclusive gate to finding good pasture and salvation and eternal life (cf. 14:6).

How do thieves and robbers climb into the sheepfold by another way?
What other doors does this world offer?
How is being called a sheep a term of endearment rather than an expletive?
What is the good pasture that Jesus offers? (cf. Ps. 23:2; Ezek. 34)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (10:11, 14).

God often referred to himself as the shepherd of Israel and the people as his sheep. This was a term of endearment and intimacy knowing the type of relationship a shepherd would have with his sheep (cf. Ezek. 34).

Jesus is that shepherd and his sheep are Israel and the sheep he invites from another fold (Gentiles). The sheep know his voice (cf. 18:37). Jesus isn’t an ordinary shepherd. An ordinary shepherd wouldn’t risk his life for one of his sheep. A shepherd’s life is too valuable compared to a sheep, yet Jesus would lay down his life for his sheep (10-17-18 cf. Isa. 53:7, 8, 12; Heb. 2). That sacrifice is extraordinary.

In what ways does God shepherd his own?
How have you benefitted from listening to the voice of the shepherd?
What does it mean that Jesus lays down his life for the sheep?
What do you learn about sacrifice from the life and ministry of Jesus?
Jesus is One with the Father (10:30).\textsuperscript{31}
Jesus and the Father may be two Persons, but they are so closely identified together in their mission that there is no doubt that their is unity between them. Jesus is sent from God, responsible to God, testifies about God, does the works of God, protects the sheep with God, and has the same redemptive purpose as God. And this is what makes Jesus One with God the Father.\textsuperscript{32} Jesus’ words come full circle with John 1:1.

What kind of proof were the Jewish leaders looking for from Jesus? (10:24)
How are Jesus and the Father One?
In what ways did Jesus prove that he and the Father were One?
How are the Father and Son unified in there redemptive purpose?

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life (11:25).
Lazarus is dead. Martha, his brother, comes to Jesus and says to Jesus, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.” (10:21) Jesus assures Mary that Lazarus will rise again. She thought that Jesus meant her brother would resurrect on the last day, but did not know Jesus would do a marvels miracle and raise Lazarus in a few moments from his tomb.

Jesus is not only able to preserve one from death, but resurrect one from the dead.\textsuperscript{33} He is a life giver; both now and forever.\textsuperscript{34}

How long had Lazarus been dead? (10:39)
How does Jesus have the power over life and death?
How is this miracle different from all others the other miracles of Jesus?
If Jesus can resurrect Lazarus to life now and to eternal life, what does that mean for you?

Jesus Loves Deeply (11:33-36).
Jesus wept. This is a short and powerful statement showing the deep emotion Jesus has for people. Lazarus had died and Jesus had planned it that way to show his glory, but when he saw Mary weeping he had great compassion and empathy. So much so

\textsuperscript{31} ch. 17:11, 22; 5:19; 14:9; 17:20-23

\textsuperscript{32} cf. 20:28; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:9

\textsuperscript{33} cf. 5:21; 6:40, 44; 1 Cor. 15:21

\textsuperscript{34} cf. 14:6; 1:4 6:57; Col. 3:4
that the other Jews said, “See how he loved him!” (11:3) Deep love for others is a mark of Jesus and his followers.35

What do you learn about emotions and compassion from Jesus from the story of Lazarus?
How could you say, “See how Jesus loved humanity” because of his life and ministry? (Luke 19:41)
In what ways do you need to have empathy and love like Jesus?

Jesus is King of the Jews (12:12-15; cf. 1:49).
After the miracle of Lazarus Jesus had many people following him. As he went to Jerusalem the crowds were intent on making him king and they welcomed him into town with a kingly procession. Jesus didn’t turn down the moment or the praise for this moment was prophesied about many years before (Psalm 118:35-26; Zech. 9:9). Even though Jesus was King of kings, he was not the king the crowd intended to be.

What kind of king were the people hoping Jesus would be?
Why did Jesus accept the praise of the moment?
How does this image of Jesus find its culmination in Revelation 7:9?
What other time in Jesus’ life was Jesus called King of the Jews? (cf. 18:33ff; 19:2-22)
How do you offer praise worthy to the King of kings?

Jesus is Judge (12:48).
Jesus did not come to earth to fulfill his role as judge. Although judgment is determined by the word of Jesus (cf. 4:18, 36; 5:24; Deut. 18:15, 18-19), yet his mission was not primarily for this purpose. He came to save, not to judge. However, the agent of judgment is said to be the words that Jesus spoke because Jesus is the Word (1:1; cf. Heb.1:1-3). The basis of authority is of great importance in the matter of judgment and eternity.

How is Jesus both Savior and Judge?
Why didn’t Jesus fulfill the role of judge during his incarnation?
When will you see Jesus as judge? (cf. Rev. 20:11-15)
Why is it wise and good to listen to the words of Jesus?
How does the reality of standing before the Judge affect your day?

Before this point John portrays Jesus publicly with the crowds or masses of people, but after this point Jesus circle becomes smaller and more private with his most dear disciples.

Jesus Teaches are also known as the “Upper Room Discourse” (John 13-17). These are the last words of Jesus to his followers the night before he was going to die. Within hours, Jesus would be hanging on the cross. In less than twenty-four hours, he would be dead and buried.

Jesus lays his heart bare before his followers. He imparts to them the very “Secret of Life.” The secret lies in his relationship with the Father. He wants his followers to know that he’s not a helpless victim of circumstance, but his Father is in complete control.

**Jesus is a Humble Servant (13:1-20).**
Jesus often taught by example. One of the great lessons he taught was servanthood and he did this by humbly washing the disciples feet. Peter said what the other disciples were likely thinking. He was appalled that Jesus would do such a lowly thing as a Master Teacher. The truth is, Jesus came to serve not to be served, and he is leaving an example for his followers to follow: the greatest one is the least.

*Why would foot washing be necessary in Jesus’ culture?*
*Who usually wash peoples feet? What is today equivalent to foot washing?*
*Why is Peter’s response the common response?*
*How are you taking up the towel and serving others like Jesus today?*
**Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life (14:6).**
Jesus is inclusive in that he loves the people of the world, but he is exclusive in being the Savior of the world. There is no other way to God than through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the exclusive way. He is the only way because he is the truth and life (eternal). And Jesus’ way of showing that he was the way was through suffering and the humble way.

*How does truth and life define the way of Jesus?*
*How is Jesus’ way unexpected to the world or even his early followers?*
*What do you learn about the way through Jesus’ suffering and humility?*
*How can you walk in Jesus’ way?*

**Jesus Promises the Helper (14:16-18, 26).**
Just as God the Father has sent Jesus into the world, Jesus promise the Spirit of God—Helper—will come to dwell within the believers of Jesus forever. This is a great promise, full of comfort, for up to this point in history the Spirit of God has not had this role. Jesus will not leave his followers alone without help. Jesus says the Spirit will continue his ministry, remind believers of Jesus’ teachings (truth), replace Jesus’ physical presence, and be the one who mediates God to believers.

*Who is the Holy Spirit? What is his role?*
*How is the Holy Spirit a Helper or Counselor?*
*What comfort is there in knowing that the Spirit of God indwells you forever?*

**Jesus is the Prince of Peace (14:27).**
As Jesus prepares his followers for his death he cultivates their hearts. Peace was a way of saying Good-Bye. There is uncertainty in their minds about Jesus’ references to his leaving and that peace will be put to the test. By promising the Helper (14:16, 26) he also promises peace. Jesus is not about chaos or fear, but assurance that his presence and Spirit will be with his followers forever.

*What troubles you the most?*
*What is peace? What is the peace the world offers and peace God offers?*
*Why would this moment in Jesus’ life and ministry be potential not peaceful?*
*How do you have assurance today of the peace of God?*

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36 cf. 1:4, 14, 17-18; 11:25; 1 John 5:20; Heb. 9:8; 10:20; Eph. 2:18; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5

37 cf. 15:26; 16:7, 13; 1 Cor. 2:12-14; 1 John 2:27; 4:6; 5:6

38 cf. 16:33; 20:19, 21, 26; Luke 24:36; Col. 3:15; Eph. 2:14, 17; Phil. 4:7; Rom. 5:1; Is. 9:6

39 cf. 11:33; 13:21; 14:1
**Jesus is the True Vine (15:1-16).**
Life and fruit comes from being branched into a life-giving source. In this case, Jesus is the Vine and those who believe in him are branches that have life and bear fruit.

Fruit is evidence you are in Jesus. You cannot fake it and staple fruit to the vine for the true fruit-giver is Jesus. All unfruitful branches are pruned and burned by the Father. If you want a fruitful life and abundant eternal life, then abiding in Jesus is of utmost importance.

*How is Jesus as the Vine a great illustration of life and fruit that only come through Jesus?*
*How do people try to staple fruit to the branch rather than abide in Christ?*
*Are you a fruitful branch? In what ways are you bearing the fruit of Christ?*

**Jesus is Friend (15:12-17).**
Jesus is the best kind of friend. Most friends wouldn’t die for another friend, but that is how Jesus defines his friendship with others. And to think that Jesus chooses his friends. To be a friend of Jesus is to walk in his command and loves one another. He is a friend because Jesus brought the truth of God to the world, he revealed the knowledge of God’s love, and he exemplifies that love by laying down his life for all (Rom. 5:7, 8; Eph. 5:2). What a friend we have in Jesus!

*In what ways did Jesus demonstrate his love for others?*
*What does it look like to love one another, even when others might be hard to love?*
*How does Jesus define true or real friendship? Who are friends you are willing to die for?*

**Jesus is Hated (15:15, 20).**
Jesus’ teaching on servanthood is opposite what the teachings you will hear from within the world. Jesus elevates the role of a servant over the master. Interestingly, Jesus is both. When coming to earth he chose not to flex his muscles as master but as servant. Jesus position of humility means that many would take advantage of Jesus, hate him, and persecute him (vs.18-25; 16:2-3). Yet this is the ways of a servant and of one who follows Jesus.

*What are is the job of a servant?*
*What are the dynamics of a servant and master relationship?*
*Why would Jesus elevate the role of a servant?*
*How does the world devalue servanthood?*

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40 cf. 13:16; Matt. 10:24
Why does the world hate and persecute Jesus? And his followers?
How can you serve the Father today?

**Jesus Sends the Spirit of Truth (16:1-15).**
Jesus’ teaching is to tell people the truth as he has received it from the Father. As Jesus’ earthly ministry comes to a close he tells his followers he has so much more to tell them, but he will leave that to the Spirit to tell them.

So just as the Jesus teaches the truth from the Father, the Spirit will teach the truth from Jesus. Here we see the Person’s of God collaborating in the same mission: teaching truth so that all would know and believe.  

**How do you see the Trinity at work together in this passage?**
**How does the Holy Spirit continue the work and ministry of Jesus?**
**How does the Holy Spirit still convict the world of sin righteousness and judgment?**
**In what ways in the Holy Spirit your Helper and guide to all truth?**

**Jesus is Man’s Joy (16:16-24).**
Jesus in a moment of honesty says that he will soon be gone “a little while” and that he is “going to the Father.” The reality of Jesus’ words are puzzling to his disciples. He knows their questions, therefore, Jesus cuts with them straight to the heart. He says they will experience sorrow for a while, but it will be turned to joy.

Like a woman in labor who forgets her pain after the baby is born, they will forget because of the abundant joy of knowing Christ. Jesus desires that man’s joy be full. He is man’s joy.

**What brings you joy? What brings you the most joy?**
**Why would the world rejoice in Jesus leaving this world?**
**How does Jesus make your joy full? How can no one take this joy from you?**
**What do you need to ask in Jesus name today?**

**Jesus is the Overcomer (16:33)**
Jesus’ teachings are meant to sustain his followers and give them peace and courage when he is not there with them face to face any longer. Yet as followers of Jesus they now have a two-part existence. They are *in* Christ and they are *in* the world. “In Christ”

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41 cf. 1:17; 14:6; 8:24, 46; Acts 2:36-37; 8:31; 17:31; 1 Cor. 12:3; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; Ps. 25:5

42 15:11; 17:13; Ps. 33:21; Isa. 66:14; Luke 24:52; Acts 2:46; 8:8, 39; 13:52

43 Isa. 26:17; Ps. 48:6; Isa. 13:8; 1 Thess. 5:3; Rev. 12:2

44 Rom. 8:37; 1 John 4:4; 5:4, 5; Rev. 3:21; 12:11
they will have peace and be overcomer, but “in the world” they will face troubles and tribulations because the enemy of God has powerful grip on the world. And the enemy hates Jesus and hate his followers.

Jesus is the overcomer because through the death he will will soon suffer, he will break the power of sin and Satan in the world. Jesus is the the “strong man” and the victory of the cross means ultimate victory for Christ followers. On top of that Jesus promise never to leave them alone. So be strong and courageous!

*Why did Jesus often speak in figures of speech?*
*Why did Jesus take this moment to speak plainly rather than in a figure of speech?*
*Why is Jesus the overcomer? How are followers of Jesus overcomes too?*
*How do Jesus’ words bring your peace and courage?*

**Jesus is High Priest (17:1-26).**
A high priest would go into the Holy of Holies and pray to God for the forgiveness of man’s sin. He was the intercessor or the one who intervenes on behalf of others.

Jesus acts as the High Priest because he has direct access to God the Father and he makes intercession for his followers. As Jesus prays he teaches about prayer and summarizes many of the portraits which describe his life and ministry as the Son of God, glory of God, authority from God, sent by God, truth of God, at work with God, one with God, Savior of the world (Messiah), word of God, joy of man, and love of God.

How precious it is to know that Jesus prays this over his beloved disciples and you too.

*What is the importance and blessing of prayer?*
*How does Jesus gives you access to God in prayer?*
*How does this prayer encourage you?*
*How does this prayer inform you on how to pray?*
Jesus the Model Sufferer (18:11).
Jesus did not resist earthly authority. He is not passive or a fatalist, but compliant. He did not scream injustice. He did not respond with brut force as did Peter. In fact, he told Peter to sheath his sword. Jesus understood his time had come, but also that God’s wrath must be satisfied by his death. So instead of a combat, Jesus readily picks up the cup of God’s wrath.45

Why was Jesus so willing to face his death and the wrath of God?
Why must the wrath of God be satisfied?
How is Jesus’ response so abnormal to most humans?
How does Jesus give you a model for suffering?

Jesus has No Secrets (18:20).
Jesus is on trial. He is being questioned about his teachings. Although many of Jesus’ teachings may have caused a stir among the Jewish leaders that didn’t make them untrue. The leaders had not done their homework in gathering evidence and the reality of an unfair hearing was evident.

When Jesus taught he did so publicly and without reservation (cf. Isa. 45:19; 48:16; 7:4). When he taught in private with his disciples it was known publicly and the same character. When he spoke he spoke one truth. He has no secrets, in fact, he is the secret of ages made plain to man.

How do you respond when under a false accusation?

45 Matt. 20:22; 26:39, 42; Isa. 51:22
Why does Jesus have nothing to hide?
How were Jesus’ teachings in public and private the same?
What do Jesus’ questions tell you about the hearing or Jewish leaders?
What is the secret that has been revealed in Jesus? (cf. Ephesians 3:1-13)

Jesus Mocked and Mistreated (19:1-16).
Railroaded, conspiracy, injustice. These are a few words that come to mind when regarding the trial of Jesus. The Jewish leaders use the Roman law to their advantage and put Pilate in a hard place. All the while the Romans, taunt Jesus with a mock crown and royal robe. Pilate clearly finds no fault in Jesus, but the rabble rousing crowd of Jesus yell “Hang him high, Crucify!” In a twisted diplomatic move Pilate hands Jesus over to be killed and there is no International Justice Mission to stop it.

How was Jesus’ unjust trial predicted centuries before?
What does the Jesus’ trial reveal about peoples hearts?
What marvels you about Jesus’ response to Pilate and the crowd?
How does it make you feel to see Jesus go through such mocker and mistreatment?
Why is the desire for justice deeply ingrained in our human nature?

Jesus Bears His Cross (19:16-27).
Jesus carries a cross to his death as a common criminal. It would be like one putting together their own electric chair. When Jesus bore his cross he fulfill two Old Testament types. Like Isaac carrying his own wood for the sacrifice (Gen. 22:1-6) and the sin offering that was taken outside the camp or city (cf. Heb. 13:11-13), so Jesus carried his wooden cross to the place of sacrifice and was made sin (2 Cor. 5:21).

Why did Jesus have to bear his own cross?
What does it mean that “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after [Jesus] cannot be [his] disciple”? (cf. Luke 14:27)
What is the cross you must bear?

Jesus Fulfills Prophecy and Frees Man from Shame (19:24).
This is just one of dozens of very specific prophecies Jesus fulfills during his lifetime. His life is marked by fulfilling one prophecy after the next, especially during his passion.

The fulfillment of Psalm 22:18 was fulfilled in two acts: the dividing of garments and casting lots for the clothing. That Jesus died naked was part of the shame which he bore for our sins. At the same time he is the last Adam who provides clothes of

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46 Is. 50:6; 53:7; Ps. 22:7-8; 69:4, 19;
47 Luke 14:27; 23:26; Matt. 27:32; Mark 15:21
48 Ps. 22:18; cf.
righteousness for sinners, compared to the clothes that God gave to cover the first Adam’s shame. Jesus frees man from shame through his shame.

What other prophecies did Jesus fulfill during his lifetime? Passion? Why is significant that Jesus fulfilled so many specific prophecies? What shame did Jesus experience in his passion? What shame will you face as a follower of Christ? How does Jesus free you of shame?

**Jesus Provides for His Family (19:25-27).**
One cannot imagine the anguish that Jesus’ earthly mother had as she stood by Jesus at the place where he would soon die. It fulfilled a prophecy of Simeon, “A sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35).

In the midst of the cruelty and lack of concern of the soldiers and the grief Mary and the other women, Jesus shows great compassion and provision. Jesus saw the sorrow of his mother and charged John (his beloved) to care for her in his physical absence. This was in a day when there was no such thing as a welfare system or elderly care facility. John would take Mary into his own home and care for her. Ironically, Jesus shows great compassion when he didn’t get any compassion from the crowd.

What do you learn about the compassion of Christ during his life and ministry? How do Jesus’ actions contrast so sharply with the scene? If Jesus so provides for his mother, how much more does he provide for his spiritual family? In what ways do you need to grow in compassion for others today?

**Jesus is the Finisher (19:28-30).**
*Tetelestai.* It is finished. Paid in full. What words of Jesus could be more significant? In his death, he controls his destiny and he closes a chapter of redemptive history. He accomplished all that he came to do. He lived to die. He lived to be the sacrifice for the sin. He had been made sin for people (2 Cor. 5:21) and had suffered the penalty of God’s justice which sin deserved. Now his mission is finished.

What does it mean to be a finisher? How was Jesus both a creator and finisher? Why did Jesus need to come to earth? How was his mission so specific? How are Jesus’ final words significant for you?

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50 Ex. 12:40-50; Ps. 8:1-9; 22:1-31; Is. 52:13-15; 53:1-12; Jer. 31:31-34; Amos 8:9-10; Zech. 9:9; 11:10-13

51 cf. 17:4l Acts 13:29; Rev. 21:6
Jesus Conquers Death (20:9)
Jesus was no longer in the tomb. He wasn’t confined to a death chamber. Three days after his death he was alive. He conquered the grave and gained victory over death.

It is interesting that when the women and disciples first went to the tomb they did not understand the implications of Jesus’ missing body or it’s mention in Scripture, but only later did they realize this was the most important moment in the history of the world. They still believed.

Why might the women and disciples not have understood the Scripture or significance of Jesus’ resurrection?
What is the significance of the resurrection event?
How does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope beyond death?

Jesus is Alive (20:11-18)
Mary Magdalene was crushed. Jesus was dead and his body was missing. She sat there weeping outside the tomb of Jesus.

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52 cf. Ps. 16:10; Hosea 6:2; Luke 24:46; Acts 2:25-31; 13:34, 35; 17:3; 1 Cor. 15:4
In an incredible moment, after seeing two angels in the tomb, she turns around and sees Jesus standing there. At first she didn’t recognize him, as one can imagine the last image she had of Jesus was grotesque upon Golgotha. It was when Jesus said her name that she realized it was Jesus. He was not dead or missing. He is alive!

Naturally, Mary grabs ahold of Jesus. She lost him once before and doesn’t want to do so again. Yet Jesus makes it clear he cannot stay and his mission has not climaxed, but must go to the Father. Jesus was still her friend, teacher, and brother, but their relationship will now be different.

What marvels you about the way Jesus first reveals himself to Mary?
What would it have been like to be Mary to assume Jesus was dead and missing, then see him alive?
Why would Mary want to continue to “hold on to” Jesus? How did Jesus respond?
What does this say about Jesus’ mission and Mary’s mission?

Jesus Send Out His Followers (20:19-23)
Following Jesus’ appearance to Mary he appeared to his disciples (1 Cor. 15:3-8). They were afraid because of all that happened between the arrest and crucifixion on Jesus, but Jesus’ first words (an ordinary greeting) brought comfort and peace and gladness.

Jesus uses his appearance to commission his followers to go out into all the world. Their mission is to mimic his own. Just as the Father sent Jesus, he is sending the disciples to be his emissaries of forgiveness of sins. Their power to forgive is through the Holy Spirit.

Why would Jesus’ presence offer peace to his followers?
How does he offer you the same peace and presence?
What was the significance of this moment for the disciples, the church, and the world?
How does your mission mimic the mission of Jesus?

Jesus Helps Doubters to be Believer (20:24-29)
All the disciples got to see Jesus alive after his death, except Thomas. He wasn’t so sure it was really Jesus. He wanted to see Jesus’ scars and touch them. After a few days Jesus appeared to Thomas and allowed him to see and touch. Then Jesus had a few words of encouragement for Thomas and his doubts. In essence, Jesus said it is better to believe without seeing because faith believes even when it can’t see.53

What is faith?
What are common doubts Christians or nor Christians have about Jesus?
Is it better to see before you believe or believe before you see? Why?

53 1 Pet. 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:7
How do Thomas’ doubts cause you to have more faith in Jesus?
In what ways do you struggle to believe?

Jesus is Lord and God (20:28)
After Thomas realized he really saw and touched Jesus he made one of the most profound statements about Jesus in all of John. He called Jesus, “My Lord and My God!” To ascribe such a title to Jesus in some circles is blasphemous, but to Thomas and Jesus’ followers it is a reality. Thomas announced that Jesus, the Man of Galilee, is God manifest in the flesh. And the truths in the first chapter were realized personally in this apostle (1:1, 14, 18).

How has Jesus proved he is Lord and God?
Why would these titles for Jesus be blasphemous to followers of other faiths?
What evidence is there that Jesus is your Lord and God?

Jesus’ Name is Life (20:31)
If you were to sum up the purpose of John’s Gospel it would be “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” So faith in Jesus equals life.

Taking all the portraits of Jesus up to this statement, one could say, John’s has made a pretty good argument. Either Jesus is the the name by which one is saved or he is leading millions around the world astray by declaring he is the promised Messiah and the Son of God.

How has John aided in helping his readers know Jesus?
What have you learned about Jesus through John?
How does John sum up what he’s been saying about Jesus from Chapters 1-20?
How do people today ignore, deny or rationalize Jesus’ life and ministry?
How has this encouraged your belief in him?

54 cf. 21:7, 12
Jesus Provides for His Followers (21:1-14)
Jesus’ disciples were ordinary guys. Many were fishermen and made their living by catching fish. On a day when they were catching anything Jesus appears to his disciples on the shore and shouts out them to put their nets in on the other side of the boat. They had an incredible catch so huge that they weren’t able to haul it into the boat. Jesus not only provided fish and breakfast for his followers that day, but he also provided proof that he was risen from the dead and still was able to be their Provider.

How does God provide for man’s every need? How has he provided for your needs? How did this [breakfast] meal make an impression on Peter? (Acts 10:41)
What details about “the big catch” marvel you?

Jesus Restores (21:15-19)
Peter blew it. He had denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed just as Jesus said (13:37-38; 18:17, 25, 27). However, within a series of three questions, all the same question, “Do you love me,” Jesus both restores Peter from debilitating shame and commissions his life for service (i.e. feeding and caring for other followers). Peter did and said some shameful things, but Jesus in a tender moment forgave and restored Peter from inside out.

How can you (and every human) relate to the shame Peter felt? Why is it so important to allow Jesus to restore you from inside out? How can God’s grace and forgiveness restore anyone who blows it? When have you experienced the love, grace, and forgiveness of Christ? How does the restoration that Jesus offers give you hope and strength for life and service?
Jesus is Worth Following (21:19, 22)
Jesus didn’t promise following him would be easy or cushy. In fact, he promised the path of following him would be filled with temptation and persecution. When Jesus asked Peter, “Follow me,” he alluded to Peter’s own crucifixion. In old age Peter would be tied to a cross with his arms stretched out (2 Pt. 1:14).

Peter along with all of Jesus’ disciples would face intense persecution, even death for following Jesus. Yet for a follower of Jesus it is worth it for the sake of the world knowing Jesus saves.

What does it mean to follow Jesus? Why is this a key issue of the Christians life? Why doesn’t Jesus promise an easy path for his followers? Why is it important for all Christians to develop a theology of suffering? What is the cross you must bear to follow Christ? (Mt. 16:24) What makes following Jesus worth it to you?

Jesus to Be Continued (21:20-25)
The world would not have enough room for books that contained what could be written about what Jesus did. Is that be an exaggeration? Sure. The essential doings of Jesus is what John wrote down by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and one will have an eternity to understand more about Jesus. John’s point is that Jesus is much greater than all that has been said of him in his book.

Like a TV episode that isn’t quite finished, Jesus’ life and ministry is “To Be Continued.” In the end of his earthly life, Jesus assures his followers he will return and come for his followers. He will be back. It might be in your lifetime or the next generation. No one knows the date or time, but the promise is sure. Jesus will return. Until then, you must simply follow Jesus (21:19, 22).

What would you like to know about Jesus that is not written about him? Why is it important to commit to what you know about God and not worry about what you do not know about God? (note: Peter’s question and Jesus’ response; 21:20-23) Why is it an encouraging promise to know that Jesus will one day return? How are you to continue on the ministry of Jesus until he returns?

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55 cf. 13:36; 8:12; Mt. 16:24
56 cf. 14:3, 18, 28; Heb. 10:37; Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:3, 11; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 20; Mt. 16:27
57 Mt. 10:23; 16:28; 1 Cor. 4:5; 11:26; James 5:7; Rev. 2:25
APPENDIX A:

This isn’t your ordinary passage-by-passage outline of John rather it is a movement of the ministry, roles, and character of Christ, as seen through the eyes of Jesus’ beloved disciple John. Below you will discover at least 70 different portraits each vividly and wonderfully show Jesus’ unique beauty.

Jesus is God (1:1-28)

1. Jesus is the Word (1:1-18)
2. Jesus is the Son of God (1:1-14; 20:31)
3. Jesus is Grace & Truth (1:14; 1:17)

Jesus is the God Man (1:29-4:45)

4. Jesus is the Lamb of God (1:29-36)
5. Jesus Ranks Highest Among Men (vs. 1:15, 27, 30)
6. Jesus is Rabbi (1:38)
7. Jesus is the Messiah (1:41)
8. Jesus from Nazareth (1:45)
9. Jesus is King of Israel (1:49)
10. Jesus is the Son of Man (1:51; 2:1-10)
11. Jesus is the Sign of God’s Glory (2:1-11)
12. Jesus Knows Man and What’s in Man (2:24-25)
13. Jesus is the Great Teacher (3:1-15)
14. Jesus is to be Lifted Up (3:14-15)
15. Jesus is the Love of God (3:16-21)
16. Jesus is the Bridegroom (3:29)
17. Jesus is from Above and Above All (3:31)
18. Jesus is Sent from God (3:34)
19. Jesus is Given Authority (3:35-36)
20. Jesus is Living Water (4:10-15)
21. Jesus is Prophet (4:19)
22. Jesus is Lord of the Harvest (4:34-38).
23. Jesus is **Savior** of the World (4:42)

**Jesus Serves** (4:46-12:50)

24. Jesus is **Healer** (4:46-54)
25. Jesus is at **Work** (5:17)
26. Jesus **Obeys** (5:19-30)
27. Jesus Bears the **Testimony** of God (5:32-46)
28. Jesus is the **Bread** of Life (6:32-58)
29. Jesus is the **Holy One** (6:69)
30. Jesus **Satisfies** (7:37-39)
31. Jesus is the **Defender** of the Condemned (8:3-11)
32. Jesus is the **Light** of the World (8:12; 9:4-5; 11:9)
33. Jesus is the **Truth** that Sets Free (8:32, 36)
34. Jesus is the I**AM** (8:58)
35. Jesus is the **Eye Opener** (9:6, 25, 30-33)
36. Jesus is the **Door** (10:7-9)
37. Jesus is the Good **Shepherd** (10:11, 14)
38. Jesus is **One** with the Father (10:30)
39. Jesus is the Resurrection & the **Life** (11:25)
40. Jesus **Loves Deeply** (11:33-36)
41. Jesus is **King** of the Jews (12:12-15; cf. 1:49)
42. Jesus is **Judge** (12:48)

**Jesus Teaches** (13:1-17:26)

43. Jesus is a Humble **Servant** (13:1-20)
44. Jesus is the **Way, Truth, & Life** (14:6)
45. Jesus Promises the **Helper** (14:16-18, 26)
46. Jesus is the Prince of **Peace** (14:27)
47. Jesus is the True **Vine** (15:1-16)
48. Jesus is **Friend** (15:12-17)
49. Jesus is **Hated** (15:15, 20)
50. Jesus **Sends** the Spirit of Truth (16:1-15)
51. Jesus is Man’s **Joy** (16:16-24)
52. Jesus is the **Overcomer** (16:33)
53. Jesus is the **High Priest** (17:1-26)

**Jesus’ Passion** (18:1-19:42)

54. Jesus the **Model Sufferer** (18:11)
55. Jesus has **No Secrets** (18:20)
56. Jesus **Mocked** and **Mistreated** (19:1-16)
57. Jesus **Bears His Cross** (19:16-27)
58. Jesus **Fulfills Prophecy** and Frees Man from **Shame** (19:24)
59. Jesus **Provides** for His Family (19:25-27)
60. Jesus is the **Finisher** (19:28-30)

**Jesus Lives** (20:1-31)
61. Jesus **Conquers** Death (20:9)
62. Jesus is **Alive** (20:11-18)
63. Jesus **Sends Out** His Followers (20:19-23)
64. Jesus Helps **Doubters** to be Believer (20:24-29)
65. Jesus is **Lord** and **God** (20:28)
66. Jesus’ **Name** is **Life** (20:31)

**Jesus Gives Assurance** (21:1-25)
67. Jesus **Provides** for His Followers (21:1-14)
68. Jesus **Restores** (21:15-19)
69. Jesus is **Worth Following** (21:19, 22)
70. Jesus to Be **Continued** (21:20-25)
APPENDIX B:

One of the portraits of Jesus that is repeated most often throughout the Gospel of John is that Jesus was sent from God. It is a portrait he likes to paint over and over again. If it is repeated it has much significance to Jesus life and ministry. Read each verse carefully to understand and look into the discussion questions below.

3:17 “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

3:34 “For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.”

4:34 “Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”"

5:22-24 “The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

5:30 “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.”

5:36-38 “But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.”

6:29 “Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”"
6:38-39 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”

6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”

6:57 “As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.”

7:16 “So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.””

7:28-29 “So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.””

8:16-18 “Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”

8:26 “I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”

8:29 “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

8:42 “Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.”

9:4 “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

10:35-36 “If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’”

11:42 “I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent me.”

12:44-45 “And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.”

12:49 “For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.”
13:16 “Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”

13:20 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

14:24 “Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.”

15:21 “But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.”

16:5 “But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'”

17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

17:18-25 “As You sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that You sent me.”

20:21 “Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

For Discussion and Application:
It is important to read the verses around the quoted verses to understand within context what Jesus is saying about him and the one who sent him.

What do you learn about the Father Son relationship through these verses?
What do you learn about obedience, authority, and love from Jesus?
What do you learn about the progression of Jesus’ ministry as you read the verses from the chapter 3 them to chapter 20?
How does Jesus send you out like the Father sent him out?58

58 cf. 4:38; 13:20; 17:18; 20:21; Mt. 10:5; 28:19-20; Acts 1:2