

# **John Chapters 5-11**

## **Bible Study**

**Is Jesus Really God?**

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# **John Chapters 5-11 Bible Study Is Jesus Really God?**

This book has been put together for your use:

- In your personal devotional Bible Study time.  
or
- For your Bible Study Discussion Group.

It is divided into several lessons; each lesson typically covers one chapter of the book of the Bible you are studying.

Each lesson has two (2) parts:

1. Questions for you to Answer.
2. My Comments and Thoughts.

I suggest answering the questions on your own before you read my comments on the passage. If you are studying as a group and not everyone has their own copy of this Bible Study, I suggest making sure each member of your group has a copy of the next week's questions in advance so that they can prepare if they want to. Preparation for a Bible Study is a great way to establish the habit of getting into the Word every day.

An online version of this study is available for free download at:  
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# ***John Chapters 5-11 Bible Study***

## ***Is Jesus Really God?***

### ***Introduction***

Once He created the world, the Lord God took over four thousand years to slowly, lovingly, show the world Who He was. He taught them that He was:

- God, the Healer. (*Exodus 15:22-27*)
- God, the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*Genesis 1:1, 26, Isaiah 9:6*)
- God, the Life-Giver. (*Genesis 2:7*)
- God, the Judge. (*1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:25, Psalm 50:6*)
- God, the One Who feeds us. (*Exodus 16:1-31*)
- God, the One Who quenches our thirst. (*Jeremiah 2:13*)
- God, the Forgiver and Freedom-Giver. (*Psalm 99:8, Psalm 146:7*)
- God, the I AM. (*Exodus 3:14*)
- God, the Light of the World. (*Genesis 1:3, Psalm 118:27*)
- God, the Good Shepherd. (*Psalm 23*)
- God, the One Who gives life after death. (*Psalm 23:6*)

After four thousand years, Jesus came to earth as a baby, then began His three-year ministry on earth. During those three years, on every street corner and grass-covered hill He told people He was:

- The Healer (*John 5:8*)
- The Son of God. (*John 5:17&18*)
- The Life-Giver (*John 5:21*)
- The Judge (*John 5:26&27*)
- The Bread of life. (*John 6:35*)
- The Living Water. (*John 7:37&38*)
- The Forgiver and Freedom-Giver. (*John 8:11*)
- The I AM. (*John 8:58*)
- The Light of the World. (*John 9:5*)
- The Good Shepherd. (*John 10:11*)
- The Resurrection and the Life. (*John 11:25*)

Could there have been any doubt in anyone's mind that Jesus was saying,  
"I AM GOD!"



**Lesson 1**  
**Questions for You to Answer**  
*John 5:1-15 "The Healer"*

1. (:1-3) Where, in Jerusalem, was the crippled man found by Jesus?
  
2. (:4) Why did the sick and lame come there during the day?
  
3. Did this ever actually happen?
  
4. (:5-6) What a funny question for Jesus to ask this man...of course he wanted to get well...right?
  
5. There were many sick people there...why this particular man? Why not all of them?
  
6. (:7-13) Why did Jesus ask him to pick up his bed? Why not just..."walk"?





# **Lesson 1**

## **“The Healer”**

*John 5:1-15*

When the Old Testament Israelites were set free from slavery in Egypt, and began their journey to the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses, they were not a bit prepared for the arduous life they were about to face.

The Lord, knowing how much they had to learn, even about just the every-day stuff of living as free people, showed them, before they got to Mt Sinai and received the Ten Commandments, just how complete His care of them would be, if they only would love and obey Him unswervingly.

In Chapters 15 through 17 of Exodus we see that He showed them He would provide the food and drink they would need, the victory over enemies they would have to have, and, in 15:22-27 He let them know that He would keep sickness away from them, too. *None of the diseases of Egypt* would go into the Promised Land with them...if they only would “*diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes.*” God Himself would provide their health; He would be their Healer.

We’ll never know what life might have been like for the Israelites if they had been able to heed His voice, do what was right in His sight, give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes.

But they didn’t do it. They couldn’t. They were no longer slaves to Egypt, but they were still slaves to sin.

In John 5 we meet, in Jesus’ day, a pathetic group of diseased and crippled Jews who spent their waking hours next to a pool in Jerusalem as they waited for an angel to heal them. They had no other real hope. They were the natural result of generations of failed obedience to God.

No real hope...until one Feast day in Jerusalem...

1. (:1-3) Where, in Jerusalem, was the crippled man found by Jesus?

At the Pool of Bethesda, located near one of the gates leading into the temple complex, which had five different covered porches where the sick and lame could spend the day, lying on their mats. These blemished of mankind waited, hoping to be healed by God.

2. (:4) Why did the sick and lame come there during the day?

According to verse 4, there was a legend that an angel would come down to that pool from Heaven every once in a while. The angel, supposedly invisible to people, would stir up the waters a little, making ripples people could see. The legend was that the first person to step into the pool after the ripples were seen would be healed.

3. Did this ever actually happen?

John doesn't tell us whether or not healings ever actually took place here, only that the people around that pool were waiting for a healing. Hoping for a healing.

4. (:5-6) What a funny question for Jesus to ask this man...of course he wanted to get well...right?

He'd been sick for so long...of course he wanted to be well...but then again, maybe crippled was a way of life for him...he could have been 40-50 years old. This was not going to be an easy life after a miracle. How would he make a living when he had not worked in thirty-eight years? He was used to receiving pity and perhaps monetary help from those around him. Could he learn to be responsible for himself again? Did he really want to get well? Was that what Jesus meant?

5. There were many sick people there...why this particular man? Why not all of them?

Good question, right? If you think about it, Jesus did heal many people in His ministry on earth, but He also must have passed by many, many others who never did receive healing. Why some and not others? Maybe the next question and answer will help us think through this.

6. (:7-13) Why did Jesus ask him to pick up his bed? Why not just...” walk”?

Because this was not about the crippled man. It was about Jesus. There was something He wanted everyone to know about Him.

It was against the Jewish law to carry furniture on the Sabbath. The Rabbis had decreed that this supposedly was work. They had made a few of their own rules to supplement the ones God had given. But the true laws of God, the laws that looked out for the well-being of all, had been hidden away under the rules of men. *Psalms 78:5-8.*

Jesus was using His presence and His healing power to offer His people a choice: trust this man who speaks with love and authority and offers the hope of healing...or keep on following all the “rules” and legends of religion and hope to “earn” your own salvation.

So, again, why did Jesus heal some and not others? Maybe because salvation, not healing, was always the end goal. Salvation of many, not just one. Jesus needed to stir things up a little Himself, much more than a mythical angel could do with the waters, to get people to start remembering their need for the Lord, so that He could offer them real hope.

7. (:14-15) What did the crippled man do when he finally learned Jesus’ name?

He told everyone, an act of faith.

8. When have you seen rules and regulations get in the way of helping people?

9. What religious rules today are not found in scripture?

In the hallways of the Temple the most religious people of that time gathered and talked of God...but they really didn't know Him at all. If they had known God, they would have recognized Jesus, because He was God!

They had smothered real hope by insisting men live by man-made rules. Then, when the One came on the scene who had real hope to offer, they tried to crush Him with the religious rules they had thought up themselves.

Fifteen hundred years before this the Lord had promised the Israelites that none of the diseases of Egypt would be upon them if only they would believe in Him and obey Him.

A Jewish man, lying practically helpless by a Jerusalem pool, crippled for 38 years, was proof that for all those years they had not believed in Him or obeyed Him as He had asked. The promises of health and healing God had offered so long ago had been stopped by sinful and rebellious people

But now God Himself had come into their midst and offered healing again – healing from so much more than sickness and crippling disease.

The Healer was back.

**Lesson 2**  
**Questions for You to Answer**  
*John 5:16-47 “The Son, The Life-Giver, The Judge”*

1. (:16-18) Why were the “Jews” unhappy with Jesus?
  
2. (:19-27) List nine claims Jesus makes about Himself:  
(:19)  
(:20)  
(:20)  
(:21)  
(:22)  
(:23)  
(:24)  
(:25)  
(:27)
  
3. Could there have been any doubt that Jesus was saying He was God?
  
4. (:24 & 25) What is “eternal life”? When does it begin?
  
5. (:28&29) Who are the “dead” in these verses?

6. (:30-31) Why does Jesus say that His own witness about Himself would not be considered “true”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. (:32-47) What are the four “witnesses” of His deity mentioned in this passage?

:32-35

:36

:37-38

:39-47

8. Is today’s problem still one of people not understanding that Jesus is God?

## Lesson 2

# “The Son, the Life-Giver, the Judge”

John 5:16-47

### 1. (:16-18) Why were the “Jews” unhappy with Jesus?

I put the word “Jews” in quotes so we could talk about the fact that quite often when the Bible says “Jews” in the book of John, it’s not referring to all the Jewish people. It’s referring to the Jewish leaders.

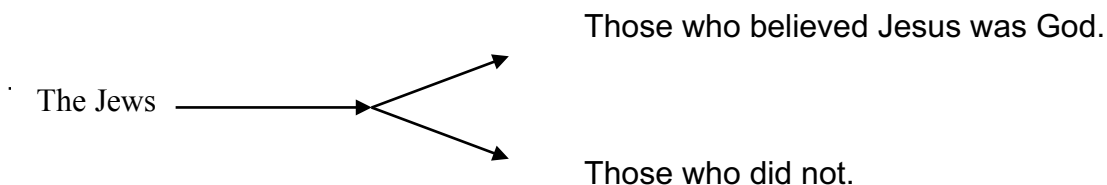
Why were these Jewish leaders so unhappy with Jesus?

- Because He was healing on the Sabbath. Working. Breaking Sabbath rules.
- Because He was calling God His own father.
- Because He was making Himself equal to God.

They understood what He was saying. He was not just saying God was His “Father”, like God is the “Father of everyone”. (*Deuteronomy 32:6, Isaiah 9:6*). They of course understood that God was their “Father” in that sense – but they also knew Jesus meant something different. There was no confusion here, because of verse 17.

- (:17) Because Jesus was giving a reason for why it was all right for Him to work on the Sabbath. Everyone knew that God works on the Sabbath. He was telling them He was God, so it was all right for Him to work on the Sabbath. *Psalm 92*

The coming of Jesus was dividing Jews into two parts:



2. List nine claims Jesus makes about Himself:

- (:19) God is His father.
- (:20) God the father loves Him.
- (:20) God the father shows Him what to do.
- (:21) Jesus can give life just like God does.
- (:22) Jesus has been given authority to judge.
- (:23) Jesus deserves to be honored...and those who don't, are not honoring God, either.
- (:24) If anyone believes the words of Jesus they have eternal life.
- (:25) Jesus can give eternal life to the dead!
- (:27) Jesus is also the Son of Man – therefore the earth belongs to Him.

3. Could there have been any doubt that Jesus was saying He was God?

The only people who were doubting instead of believing that Jesus was, indeed, God, were the people who had so much to lose! Their whole lives had been based on being “good enough” for God. Not perfect, of course, but better than the “insignificant people” who were not as educated or powerful as they were. If Jesus, a nobody, not of the ruling Jewish class, was actually the Messiah, God Himself.... well, it just couldn't be!

He was saying He was the Son of God, equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit! He was saying He was the One Who made the world! (*Genesis 1:1,26*) He was saying He had the authority to judge! (*Psalms 50:6*) He was saying that He could give life! (*Genesis 2:7*) And He was also putting down the rules and laws of the Jewish elite! It just couldn't be! They just could not allow this to go on!

4. (:24 & 25) What is “eternal life”? When does it begin?

Eternal life is life that never ends. From verse 24 it is obvious that it begins not at death but at the moment of belief. In other words, eternal life isn't something we will receive some day. It is something we do receive the moment we receive Jesus as Lord. *John 3:16, John 6:40, John 11:25.*

Who are the “dead” in verse 25? Not people in graves, but rather people walking around in bodies who have never have received eternal life. They are the “Walking Dead”.



5. (:28&29) Who are the “dead” in these verses?

Those who are actually in the grave – whose bodies will someday be resurrected either to eternal life or to eternal death.

6. (:30-31) Why does Jesus say that His own witness about Himself would not be considered “true”?

*Deuteronomy 19:15* states that there have to be two or three witnesses for a testimony to be considered legally valid.

So, Jesus presents four “witnesses” who will agree with His claims of deity:

7. (:32-47) What are the four “witnesses” of His deity mentioned in this passage?

1. John the Baptist testified openly that he, John, was not the Christ, but that Jesus was. (*John 1:34*)
2. The miracles Jesus did are a testimony to Him doing what only God could do. (*John 14:11*)
3. The Father Himself stated that Jesus was His only begotten Son. (*Matthew 3:17*)
4. The Old Testament scriptures, including the well-respected testimony of Moses, all spoke of and pointed to Jesus as the coming Messiah, Son of God. (*Isaiah 9:6, John 5:39, 46-47*)

Remember what the Jews said at the beginning of this lesson’s scripture passage? *“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal to God.” John 5:18*

So, Jesus’ answer to the Jews’ accusation that He was claiming to be equal to God is that, yes, He was.

In review, here are the four statements of His Deity Jesus gave the Jews at this time:

:17 – I am working on the Sabbath because I am God, and God works on the Sabbath.

:29-24 I am the Son of God.

:25-28 I am the judge – I can give eternal life, and you do not have it unless I give it to you.

:33-47 Do you need proof? Here's my proof: I have four witnesses to these claims.

8. Is today's problem still one of people not understanding that Jesus is God?

There probably are many in our world today who don't know Jesus claimed to be God. They might know the stories of Jesus and Christmas and Easter, but do they know He is God? They may not see that if Jesus is God then everything He said is true. They might not have ever considered the fact that belief in Jesus is the difference between life and death.

But, there are also many who do see that Jesus claimed to be God and is God - and their choice is clear. Either they joyfully embrace Him, or they do what the unbelieving Jews of Jesus' day did - refuse to accept the plain truth and try to stamp Him out of their lives.

Jesus was the Son of God...He was the One Who gives life ...and He was the Judge of all who decide not to believe in Him.

He had arrived.

**Lesson 3**  
**Questions for You to Answer**  
*John 6 "The Bread of Life"*

1. (: 1-13) What was the problem, and what three things did Jesus do when He was informed of the problem?
  
2. (:14) What was the crowd's reaction to the feeding of the 5,000?
  
3. (:16-21) This event happens right after the feeding of the 5,000. This passage and Matthew 14:22-34 describe the same event. What things does Matthew tell that John does not?
  
4. (:22-25) How was the crowd reacting the next day?
  
5. (:25-59) Keeping in mind what the crowd wanted, what things did Jesus say which probably burst their bubble?
  
6. (:60-66) Why did some of those who had been closely and curiously following Jesus decide they no longer could?

7. (:66-69) Why did “the twelve” stay with Him?

8. What is in this account for you?

Are you:

- a. The “crowd” – thinking mainly of myself?
- b. The “disciples” – learning, curious, but not committed?
- c. The “twelve” – grown past miracles and popularity – committed to Him no matter what the cost?

# **Lesson 3**

## **“The Bread of Life”**

### *John 6*

Start out with conversation questions:

- What is your favorite kind of bread...favorite kind when you were a kid?
- How long can you go during the day without thinking about food?
- How much of your time is spent planning for it?

Jesus declares in this chapter that He is the “Bread of Life”. It was such an important truth that He was willing to feed 5,000 people miraculously and walk on water, in order to bring home the teaching to people’s hearts. As we begin this chapter, be asking yourself what it means to you that Jesus is the “Bread of Life”.

Leader – as you begin discussion questions, point out that a distinction is about to be made between:

- The “crowd”
- The “disciples”
- And The “twelve”

1. (:1-13) What was the problem, and what three things did Jesus do when He was informed of the problem?
  - a. Organized the people. (calm, security – someone is in charge)
  - b. Gave thanks for what they had. (brought the LORD’s presence into the equation – focused everyone on the source of their help. This was prayer.)
  - c. Began to do what needed to be done. (one step at a time)

2. (:14) What was the crowd's reaction to the feeding of the 5,000?
  - They would have made Him king.
  - What did Jesus do when He knew their reaction? He left.
  - Why? He didn't want to be made king.
  - Why didn't He want to be made king? - wasn't that what He wanted to happen? (*Revelation 19:11-16*) Wrong timing is just as bad as wrong actions.
  
3. (:16-21) This event happens right after the feeding of the 5,000. This passage and *Matthew 14:22-34* describe the same event. What things does Matthew tell that John does not?
  - Note what the twelve's reaction was to the feeding of the 5,000. (*John 6:16* and *Matthew 14:22*)
  - Note what Jesus' reaction was. (*Matthew 14:23*)
  
4. (:22-25) How was the crowd reacting the next day?

Still looking for miracles...self-centered.

5. (:25-59) Keeping in mind what the crowd wanted, what things did Jesus say which probably burst their bubble?
  - You should be working to get that food which will last forever, not just for your next loaf of bread.
  - How do you do that? You believe in the Son of God.
  - And no, you won't be getting a sign to prove to you that I am the bread of God. Wasn't feeding 5,000 people enough?
  - I am the bread of God, the bread of life. You only need to believe in me. Believe that I am the bread you need.
  - You will have everlasting life if you believe in me, but you don't want to believe in me.
  - I'm going to give my own body for you. I'm going to give my blood for you. They are the food and drink you really need – not the loaf of bread you desire.
  - Eat me – take me wholly into your heart – and you will live forever.

6. (:60-66) Why did some of those who had been closely and curiously following Jesus decide they no longer could?

It was getting too hard. He was saying things they didn't want to hear. He was offering "bread" they did not want to eat. He was not what they had envisioned Him to be, and they didn't want anything else.

7. (:66-69) Why did "the twelve" stay with Him?

They had grown past miracles. They needed *Him!* They needed *truth.*

Did they get discouraged, wondering about this man who feeds 5,000 and then runs away from popularity, who was supposed to join them and then didn't come? He was not meeting up to their expectations. So what needed to change?

They did.

Are there times when He doesn't meet up to your expectations? He doesn't do the obvious or logical thing? His truth seems too harsh? Do we get discouraged, angry, disappointed, tired? Look for the unexpected. Look for Him in a storm. We will never be bored.

8. What is in this account for you? Are you:

- a. The "crowd" – thinking mainly of yourself?
- b. The "disciples" – learning, curious, but not committed?
- c. The "twelve" – grown past miracles and popularity – committed to Him no matter what the cost?

Are you hungry? Do you realize Jesus is your Bread of Life? Have you "eaten" Him?





**Lesson 4**  
**Questions for You to Answer**  
*John 7 "The Living Water"*

1. (:1-5) Why did Jesus' brothers want Him to go to Jerusalem?  
Why after all this time did they not believe in Him?
  
2. (:6-10) Why didn't He go with them? And then why did He go after  
all, after they had already gone?
  
3. (:11-36) List several different ideas people had about Jesus once He  
showed Himself at the Feast of Tabernacles:  
  
:11  
  
:12  
  
:12  
  
:14,15  
  
:20  
  
:25-26  
  
:27  
  
:30-31  
  
:32  
  
:35-36

4. (:17) How were the people to know whether to believe in Him or not?
  
5. (:25,26) The Jewish leaders were not arresting Him because they feared the crowds...how was this backfiring on them?
  
6. (:37-44) What did Jesus say which helped many put their trust in Him?
  
7. (:45-52) What arguments did the Pharisees use to convince people Jesus was not someone to believe in?
  
8. Why are the followers of Jesus still with Him? What is keeping them going in the face of trial, suffering, and fear?

# **Lesson 4**

## **“The Living Water”**

### *John 7*

A little background on Jesus' ministry so far, from the book of John:

- Year One:
  - Started with His baptism at the Feast of Tabernacles in the Fall.
  - Changed water into wine at Cana.
  - Drove moneychangers out of temple at Passover in the Spring.
  - Nicodemus sought Him out secretly at Passover.
  - John the Baptist begins to have trouble with Jewish leaders after Passover.
  - Talks with Samaritan woman.
  - Heals Official's son in Cana/Capernaum.
- Year Two:
  - Heals man at the Pool of Bethesda
- Year Three:
  - Shortly before Passover, Jesus feeds the 5,000 up near Capernaum, then walks on water that night in a storm. Many who have been following him begin to fall away...they were attracted to His miracles, but what He is saying is too hard for them.
- Now, in John 7, we are at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles with six months to go before His death and resurrection:

Jesus is well-known throughout most of Galilee for His miracles and teaching, but has stayed away from Jerusalem in order to avoid the trouble the official religious people were going to give Him. He has gone to Jerusalem only on feast occasions, when he was required to go as a Jewish man. He has a lot to do in this final six months...he needs to prepare his followers for His betrayal, death, and resurrection, and for the work they must do when He leaves.

1. (:1-5) Why did Jesus' brothers want Him to go to Jerusalem?  
Why after all this time did they not believe in Him?

2. (:6-10) Why didn't He go with them? And then why did He go after all, after they had already gone?

He didn't go with them so that they could be disappointed in who they thought He was...to open their eyes to Who He really was.

Sometimes a great desire to meet others' needs means stepping back and getting the big picture, disappointing someone in the short term, failing, even....in order to accomplish the larger goal.

If you are a parent, you can probably think of your own illustration for this truth. No doubt there have been times when your children wanted something, but you said no, because you were able to see the bigger picture – because you knew that by waiting they would experience someday more of God's goodness.

3. (:11-36) List several different ideas people had about Jesus once He showed Himself at the Feast of Tabernacles:

:11 He was a man.

:12 He was a good man.

:12 He was a deceiver.

:14,15 He was intelligent, knew a lot.

:20 He was demon-possessed.

:25-26 He was the one the Jews were trying to kill.

:27 He couldn't be the Christ, because we know where he is from.

:30-31 He did many miraculous signs – surely he is the Christ.

:32 He had done things which warranted his arrest.

:35-36 He was hard to understand.

4. (:17) How were the people to know whether to believe in Him or not?

Jesus gave them the key to understand Him and His teachings in this little verse. They would know as they obeyed. Do the “little” things you are sure of, and God reveals the “big” things.

5. (:25,26) The Jewish leaders were not arresting Him because they feared the crowds...how was this backfiring on them?

Some people were assuming the Jewish leaders were themselves beginning to believe in Him. You can imagine their level of frustration at their inability to stop Him. Even the temple guards they sent were hesitant to arrest Him. Jesus had not yet said – “OK, it is time – you can take me now”. Their authority to control Him was granted to them – not by men or governments – but of God Himself.

6. (:37-44) What did Jesus say which helped many put their trust in Him?

On the last day of the feast the Temple Mount was filled with great celebrations. As part of the last day’s festivities the priests made many trips off the temple mount down to the spring of water which fed the city, and back up to the temple mount, pouring this fresh water out up at the temple as a symbol of a cleansed people waiting for their God to dwell with them.

It was a joyous time, a time which was supposed to teach everyone that this marvelous temple they had was only a building of stones, after all, and that they were to look at it and remember that someday they wouldn’t even need a temple. Someday God Himself would dwell with them, and all their troubles would be over.

This temple which represented the presence of God was to remind them that God would someday live with them forever. The water which poured out over the altar of the temple was to remind them of the cleansing and power that God alone could give them. The water was a symbol of newness - a fresh start - when God would come to dwell with them, all would be washed away and they would start with a clean slate.

Then the voice of Jesus rises over the noise of the celebration! *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!!!!”* He was actually saying that the water they were pouring joyously over the altar was a symbol of HIM!!!

7. (:45-52) What arguments did the Pharisees use to convince people Jesus was not someone to believe in?
  1. He was a deceiver. (:47)
  2. None of the Jewish rulers had believed Him. (:48)
  3. Only the mob followed him. (:49)
  
8. Why are the followers of Jesus still with Him? What is keeping them going in the face of trial, suffering, and fear?

This is an opinion question. No right or wrong answer. But if someone answers with scripture, that should carry great weight in your discussion. (For instance, *John 6: 68&69*)

**Application:** So far in His ministry, Jesus has said that He is:

- The Healer (5:8)
- The Son of God. (5:17&18)
- The Life-Giver (5:21)
- The Judge (5:26&27)
- The Bread of life. (6:35)
- The Living Water. (7:37&38)

In the next 6 months He will tell the world that He is:

- The Forgiver and Freedom-Giver. (8:11)
- The I AM. (8:58)
- The Light of the World. (9:5)
- The Good Shepherd. (10:11)
- The Resurrection and the Eternal Life. (11:25)

He was giving them time to think about it, wonder about it, and fully accept the fact: Jesus is God!!

The problem many Jewish people in Jesus' day were having was that they really didn't know God at all, even though they were religious. They couldn't accept what Jesus said about Himself because they had nothing to compare it to in their knowledge of God. However, not all Jewish people were hindered in this way. Name at least two Jews in Jesus' day who very definitely believed in Jesus because they already knew God. (*Luke 2:25-38* – Anna and Simeon)

Was there a time in your life when you realized you were “religious”, but you didn't know God? For me, it was when I was a senior in High School, in 1965.

I had been raised in a religious home. We went to church fairly regularly. I had heard the story of Jesus...but I didn't know God.

When I realized, for the first time in my life, that He had died for me – not just for everyone – but for me...I suddenly knew I was not the “good” Christian girl I had always thought I was. I was simply a sinner who needed a Savior. I bowed my head and thanked Him for dying for me – and I told Him He could have my life – it wasn't much in thanks for what He had done for me...but it was all I had.

I changed that day from a religious girl who didn't know God to a very grateful girl who believed in Jesus, and had a fresh start on a lifetime of drinking deeply from the Living Water, getting to know Jesus, the One, True God.







5. What did He accomplish by doing it that way?
6. What did the disciples learn as they watched?
7. (:9-11) Did Jesus judge her?
8. What is the right way to look at a sinner?
9. (12-58) What are the claims Jesus makes about Himself?
10. (:12-58) What are the accusations Jesus makes about the Jews?
11. (:12-58) What are the accusations the Jews make about Him?
12. (:32) What did Jesus say would set the Jewish people free?
13. (:33-41) Did they want to be set free?
14. Jesus said “outrageously true things” in this passage. What outrageous things do we know are true, but we avoid saying them out loud?

## **Lesson 5**

# **“The Forgiver, The Freedom-Giver, The I AM”**

*John 8*

Opening Question: Were you popular in High School? How did this affect you?

Jesus is trying to be unpopular! He is opening people’s eyes to Who He Is, and He is teaching His disciples what life is going to be like for them in the future once people realize He is saying He is God. He is giving them tools to handle what is coming.

1. (:1) Where did Jesus go before the events of this passage?

He retired to the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem, for the night. This was a place to rest, gain perspective, listen to the Father, and see what He already had planned for tomorrow.

2. (:2-6) What about this was designed to trip Him up?
  - They knew by His reputation that He would not want to stone her – He was a person who had demonstrated loving-kindness and forgiveness, traits which made the rulers of the Jews suspicious of Him, since they had never known of anyone who had those traits and also held to the law.
  - The Romans did not allow Jews to carry out death sentences. So, this was a trick in more than one way. If He would say she should be stoned they could say He was trying to incite people against Rome. They could arrest Him. But if He said she should not be stoned would, that would prove to the crowd that He did not want to uphold the law, and they would stop following Him.
  - Compare this to the question: “Have you stopped beating your wife yet?” If you answer yes, then you are admitting you were beating your wife. If you answer no, then you are saying you are, indeed, beating your wife even now. Trick question.

3. Can you see how the Jewish authorities had actually tripped themselves up?
  - The law required catching two people in the act, and stoning the man, too. Where was the man?
  - The law protected women from being taken advantage of. These men were purposely humiliating this woman in order to get at Jesus. They were going against the very character of the law.
  
4. (:6-8) Jesus could have argued with them, pointing out their stupidity about the law, but He didn't. Instead, He did what?
  - Wrote on the ground.
  - Made a comment.
  - Wrote on the ground again.
  
5. What did He accomplish by doing it that way?

This is an opinion question. There may be many different ideas about what Jesus was accomplishing – and about what He may have been writing on the ground. It is obvious, however, that He was able to turn their agenda upside down simply by saying little, and when He did say something, speaking the truth.

6. What did the disciples learn as they watched?
  - The right way to look at a sinner.
  - Jesus' words in His ministry on earth were the same as, and just as important as, His (God's) words in the Old Testament.
  - Jesus' words were the weapon He had to fight back with when being attacked. The same was going to be true for His disciples. The same is true for us.
  - Sometimes saying little is the best way to teach.
  
7. (:9-11) Did Jesus judge her?
  - Yes. What she was doing was definitely sin, and He said so. Honestly saying that someone is doing something wrong is not "judging". Judging is saying someone is doing something wrong and then punishing them for it.

- No. She deserved punishment.... but the mercy she needed was offered first.
- Jesus was showing that He not only had the right to forgive sin, but also He had the ability to give freedom from sin. People didn't have to go on sinning...Christ could help them – free them.

8. What is the right way to look at a sinner?

- First, there are two truths to honestly wrestle with here, and what Jesus did gives us some wisdom. How do I reconcile the law of God with the love of God? How do I honestly admit that someone is doing something terribly wrong, and still offer them love?
- *Leviticus. 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22...* "You must purge the evil from among you..." The Law, the truth of God, said you had to recognize the sin and purge it. Get rid of it. That meant get rid of the sinner sometimes.
- *John 8:11* "Then neither do I condemn you – go now and leave your life of sin." - The Love of God said the sin could be paid for by Some One else, and then the sinner could be forgiven and did not have to die.
- They both are true. It's a matter of timing. Judgment for sin is coming someday. But Jesus is waiting to execute judgment so that He can offer forgiveness first. Each person can either accept the price Jesus paid for their sin, or pay for that sin themselves with their own life.
- How to look at a sinner?
  - The playing field is level – I am a sinner, too.
  - Sin does not have to be the sinner's master.
  - When a person accepts Jesus as their master they then have the Holy Spirit living within them, and have the ability to turn away from sin – to live God's Way.
  - A sinner is a person with possibilities, potentiality, for doing the will of God.

9. (:12-58) What are the claims Jesus makes about Himself?

- :12 I am the light of the world.
- :14 I know my past and my future.
- :15 I am not passing judgment right now.
- :16 But if I were passing judgment, I would be right, for the Father Himself would approve of what I was saying.

- :17, 18 The Father who sent me is my witness.
- :19 I am the same as the Father.
- :21 I am going away. You can't come there.
- :23 I am from above. I am not from this world.
- :24 You will die if you don't believe in me.
- :25 I am Who I have been claiming to be.
- :26-28 I speak only what the Father tells me to speak.
- :29 The Father is with me. I always please Him.
- :27-47 I am the Son of God...you are the children of the devil.
- :49 I am not possessed by a demon.... I honor God.
- :51 If you keep my word you will not die.
- :54 I do not need to brag on myself...God the Father brags on me.
- :55 I know God and keep His word.
- :56 Abraham knew Me.
- :58 I AM.

10. (:12-58) What are the accusations Jesus makes about the Jews?

- :14 You have no idea what my past is, what my future is.
- :15 You judge by human standards.
- :19 You do not know Me...you do not know God.
- :21 You will die in your sin.
- :23 You are from below. You are of this world.
- :26 I have things to say about you which I won't say right now.
- :27 When you have put me on the cross, then you will realize Who I am.
- :27-47 The devil is your father.
- :49 You dishonor Me.
- :54-55 You claim to know God, but you are liars.

11. (:12-58) What are the accusations the Jews make about Him?

- :13 You are being Your own character witness...we don't have to believe you.
- :48 You are a Samaritan and demon-possessed (name-calling).
- :53-58 You are a braggart, a blasphemer. Who do you think you are?

12. (:32) What did Jesus say would set the Jewish people free? Truth.

How do you share faith in Christ with someone who thinks they believe in Him, but they have never actually placed their faith in Him? You speak truth. The truth untangles lies and confusion and sets the path clearly in sight.

13. (:33-41) Did they want to be set free?

No, they didn't. This whole chapter should give us some pause for thought. Why did the world hate Jesus? How does the world respond to you? Are you well-liked? If you are, maybe you should wonder about your witness for Christ...why isn't it strong enough to win you a few enemies?

14. Jesus said "outrageously true things" in this passage. What outrageous things do we know are true, but we avoid saying them out loud?

- I know I'm going to heaven when I die.
- In God's eyes I am not a sinner. He sees a perfect person when He looks at me.
- I believe everything in the Bible is true.
- I'm God's child...a member of His family.
- I love other Christians...even those who have hurt me.

Get the point? Jesus said outrageously true things in order to shine light on people. We keep them to ourselves in order to avoid problems or criticism or misunderstandings. Do we want to be a light or not? Do we want to be well-liked, popular? It won't work. They hated Jesus - they are going to hate us. (*John 15:19*) Get past it so that you can shine a true and healing light on those who desperately need to be forgiven, to be set free, and to know the I Am.





**Lesson 6**  
**Questions for You to Answer**  
*John 9 “The Light of the World”*

1. (:1-5) Why was the man born blind?
  
2. (:6-7) Why did Jesus heal him in such an unusual way?
  
3. Did the blind man have any idea who Jesus was?
  
4. (:8-34) How did the different people in this event react to Jesus?
  1. Neighbors and others.
  2. Pharisees.
  3. Parents.
  4. The man born blind.
  
5. (:24-34) Why did the Pharisees get so mad?
  
6. (:35-38) Why did Jesus seek out the man again?



## **Lesson 6**

# **“The Light of the World”**

### *John 9*

Start out today’s lesson by showing everyone an object lesson. Any simple object lesson will do, since you are just trying to show them that Jesus, in this chapter, was also using an object lesson.

Here is a suggestion for an object lesson:

Stand behind an ordinary chair and tell your group how great you think that chair is. You like its color. You are sure it was well-made. You know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you can trust that chair to hold you up if you sit on it.

Then sit in the chair, and tell the group that the chair, no matter how great you think it is, isn’t doing you a bit of good unless you sit on it. Just “knowing” about it isn’t the same as sitting on it.

This is an object lesson for understanding what “faith” is. Simply knowing about God, or even believing that God is wonderful is not faith. Faith is actually committing your life to God...believing in Him to the point that you sit down!

Jesus has already told them He is the light of the world...now He has an object lesson for them.

To set the stage, let’s remember the heated argument of Chapter 8:

They brought to him a woman who had been caught in adultery, and he shamed them all into walking away.

He told them they needed to be set free, and they replied...” we are Abraham’s children.... we’re not slaves...why would we need to be set free?

He told them He was the light of the world, and they said “You can’t just say these things about yourself...there has to be proof...witnesses.”

He replies that His father was there when He lit up the world – they come back with “and who is your father?”

He says “If you knew my Father, you would know me.” And then He tells them their Father is the devil!

They respond by saying He is possessed of Demons!

He tells them that unless they believe He is God, they will die in their sins...and if someone does believe in His words, **THEY WILL NEVER DIE!**

They scoff – even Abraham died, you fool!

He says “I have been around since before Abraham!”

And they begin to throw stones. He gets away.

And now, Jesus has an object lesson for them - a man born blind.

I suggest you read through this chapter, out loud, as a drama, if you have enough people in your group to take the parts. Print out the passage, make copies, then give everyone a copy that has their part highlighted in yellow. Here are the parts:

- **Narrator**
- **Disciples**
- **Jesus**
- **Others**
- **Pharisees**
- **Parents**
- **Blind Man**

After reading through the chapter, then answer the questions together:

1. (:1-5) Why was the man born blind?

The disciples automatically assumed that someone had sinned and the man’s blindness was a punishment from God for that sin. They thought that either the blind man or his parents had done something which angered God.

But Jesus, the One Who gave sight to Adam and Eve in the beginning of time, knows better. He knows that, no, He was not angry at this man and his parents when He allowed blindness to be a horrible part of their lives.

He knows that He allowed that blindness so that His own glory could be revealed to the world at this very time and place.

Jesus knows that He is the light of the world, and He wants everyone to “see” that clearly.

What are some other examples of people who have been allowed to suffer, and then were used for God’s glory?

How about someone who lives to a very old age, and then is saved at the end of their life? Why would God allow this person to live their whole life not knowing Him and not enjoying peace and joy in His presence until their dying moments?

The Light of the World always has a perfect time and place for eyes to suddenly be opened.

2. (:6-7) Why did Jesus heal him in such an unusual way?

We probably won’t know that for sure until we can ask Jesus this question in heaven.... but.... just a guess... maybe this was the Creator, creating again. *Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:16,17*. Maybe He used His own DNA to mingle with dust of the earth and make a new eye?

3. Did the blind man have any idea who Jesus was?

None. So...I guess we can assume, then, that in this case the man’s faith was not the reason for the healing.

4. (:8-34) How did the different people in this event react to Jesus?

Have your group summarize the answers to each of these. If you read the passage through as a drama previously, it really helps people “take on” those roles, making this question much easier to answer.

Neighbors and others.

Pharisees.

Parents.

The man born blind

5. (:24-34) Why did the Pharisees get so mad?

The man who used to be blind is threatening everything the Pharisees are trusting in. They are trusting in their own righteousness. They are trusting in their own education. They are trusting in their confidence in their position and power.

But the once-blind man is saying, by his very “seeing” presence in their midst, “This man has to be God – who else could have done this?”

The Pharisees absolutely refuse to believe such a blasphemous thing, and they are willing to humiliate this once blind man, threaten him and his family, and cast him out of the synagogue, just to shut him up.

6. (:35-41) Why did Jesus seek out the man again?

He wanted to give the man the chance now to really “see” the truly important things. He needed to “see” Jesus – and place his faith in Him for eternity, not just for eyesight.

He tells Him Who He is – He is the One Who healed his eyes. He is the light of the world. The blind man “sees” and joyfully throws himself down before the Light of the World.

And the Pharisees who refuse to “see” that they are blind and in need of a miracle themselves so that they can “see” Jesus? They are untouched by the miracle – they are the really blind ones in this event.

## Lesson 7

# Questions for You to Answer

### John 10 “The Good Shepherd”

1. (:1-5) How would Jesus’ audience probably have understood this story? Fill out the following table as you look up the listed verses in order to understand what people who knew the Old Testament would have understood about the symbolism of a shepherd and sheep.

	Who are the Sheep?	Who is the Shepherd?	Who are the thieves and robbers?
<i>Psalm 80:1</i>			
<i>Psalm 23:1</i>			
<i>Isaiah 40:10-11</i>			
<i>Ezekiel 34:11-16</i>			
<i>Ezekiel 34:23,24,31</i>			
<i>Ezekiel 34:1-4</i>			
<i>Isaiah 56:9-12</i>			

2. (:6-15) How did Jesus explain his own analogy?

	Who were the Sheep?	Who was the Shepherd?	Who were the thieves and robbers?
<i>John 10</i>			

3. (:16) Who are the “other” sheep?

4. (:17-21) What does Jesus say here that He has not said clearly before?

5. (:22-30) Find 7 things Jesus says are true about sheep:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



6. What do these seven things tell you about yourself...about your own relationship with God?
  
7. (:22-30) They ask Him to tell them plainly that He is the Christ. Why won't He say those words?
  
8. (:27-30) The Jews were hoping that by open criticism they could lead some away who had believed in Him. Was this possible?
  
9. What does this tell you about your relationship to Him?
  
10. (:31-42) Again they try to stone Him in Jerusalem, and again He escapes them. Then He leaves and goes back to the area in Judea where John had been preaching. Why go there? Why not back up to Galilee again? What happens after his arrival in Judea?



## Lesson 7

# “The Good Shepherd”

### John 10

- Discuss what a “figure of speech” is. A play on words to teach a lesson.
  - Draw a picture of the sheep pen, the gate, and show the fact that there were many groups of sheep in one pen at night as the shepherds slept outside the pen. Then the shepherds would call their sheep out one group at a time. The sheep came when they recognized their shepherd’s voice.
1. (:1-5) How would Jesus’ audience probably have understood this story? Fill out the following table as you look up the listed verses in order to understand what people who knew the Old Testament would have understood about the symbolism of a shepherd and sheep.

	Who are the Sheep?	Who is the Shepherd?	Who are the thieves and robbers?
<i>Psalm 80:1</i>	Joseph (Israel)	God	
<i>Psalm 23:1</i>	David (who wrote the psalm)	God	
<i>Isaiah 40:10-11</i>	The people God is caring for	God	
<i>Ezekiel 34:11-16</i>	Those who have been scattered	God	
<i>Ezekiel 34:23-31</i>	Israel	King David	Other nations
<i>Ezekiel 34:1-4</i>	Israel		The leaders of Israel
<i>Isaiah 56:9-12</i>			Those who are supposed to be watching out for Israel

2. (:6-15) How did Jesus explain His own analogy?

	Who are the Sheep?	Who is the Shepherd?	Who are the thieves and robbers?
<i>John 10</i>	All who would believe in Jesus	Jesus	Anyone who tries to lead the flock of God but doesn't believe in Jesus.

3. (:16) Who are the "other" sheep?

The Gentiles. The future believers. You and me.

4. (:17-21) What does Jesus say here that He has not said this clearly before?

The fact that He must die.

5. (:22-30) Find 7 things Jesus says are true about "sheep":

1. They listen to the shepherd's voice
2. They are known of the shepherd
1. They follow the shepherd
2. They have eternal life
3. They will never perish
4. They cannot be snatched out of the Father's hand
5. The Father has given them to Jesus

6. What do these 7 things tell you about yourself...about your own relationship with God?

7. (:22-30) They ask Him to tell them plainly that He is the Christ. Why won't He say those words?

He is not there to give them information. He wants their hearts to change. Knowing Jesus is not a head thing. It is in the heart – repentance must come before knowledge can change.

8. (:27-30) The Jews were hoping that by open criticism they could lead some away who had believed in Him. Was this possible?

Nope.

9. What does this tell you about your relationship to Him?

I am secure in His mighty hands.

10. (:31-42) Again they try to stone Him in Jerusalem, and again He escapes them. Then He leaves and goes back to the area in Judea where John had been preaching. Why go there? Why not back up to Galilee again? What happens there?

He went far enough away to be out of the Pharisee's grasp...but stayed close enough that people from Jerusalem could still come to Him to get their questions answered – to come to know Him as their Savior and their Good Shepherd. And they did.



## **Lesson 8**

# **Questions for You to Answer**

*John 11 “The Resurrection and the Life”*

1. (:1-3) What do we know about Mary, Martha & Lazarus? And what does their relationship to Jesus seem to be like? *John 12:3*
  
2. (: 4-8) When Jesus didn't rush to Bethany to heal Lazarus, what did the disciples assume?
  
3. (: 7-15) Why didn't Jesus just do another “long-distance” healing?
  
4. (:17-33) Compare the two sisters' reactions to seeing Jesus after their brother's death:

Martha:

Mary:

5. Why were their reactions so different? Was one more spiritual than the other?
  
- 6 (:34-44) What do we learn about Jesus?

- 7 (:41) In this verse Jesus says something in prayer which is really only for the benefit of those listening. What was it? What does this teach us about prayer?
  
6. (:45-57) What are the Jewish leaders afraid of?
  
7. (: 49-53) What did Caiaphas actually mean? What did God do with his words, even though he didn't really mean them that way, and why is it important to know that?
  
10. So, let's talk about praying out loud. What good is "praying out loud?"
  
11. Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead when he was just going to eventually die some day?
  
12. How can I be more courageous to tell people about Jesus? How can I know when the time is right to be bold?



## **Lesson 8**

# **“The Resurrection and The Life”**

### *John 11*

So many of the chapters in this section of John can be read in a drama format. I recommend that you do this as often as you can:

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Disciples
- Thomas
- Martha
- Mary
- The Jews
- Pharisees
- Caiaphas

Background info:

- Bethany was a very, very poor village.
- It was located within seeing distance of Jerusalem.
- Check out on a map: where Jesus is when the chapter starts (Galilee), compared to where Bethany is.
- Timing: It is very close, maybe just days, to Jesus' last Passover.

1. (:1-3) What do we know about Mary, Martha & Lazarus? And what does their relationship to Jesus seem to be like? *John 12:3*

He must have known them well (Lazarus is described as “The one you love”).

2. (:4-8) When Jesus didn't rush to Bethany to heal Lazarus, what did the disciples assume?

That he didn't want to go near Jerusalem for fear of the Jewish authorities. They may have assumed he was afraid...instead of that He was just waiting for the proper time.

Did the disciples want to help Lazarus? Sure, but they may have thought Jesus could just do another long-distance healing.

3. (: 7-15) Why didn't Jesus do another "long-distance" healing?

- The people who would witness this coming miracle were important.
- The disciples needed to learn to trust His timing.
- The disciples needed to look at the present situation in the light of Jesus, not in the darkness of the world's way of thinking.
- Jesus wasn't afraid of trouble, on the contrary, He wanted trouble...when it was time for it.

4. (:17-33) Compare the two sisters' reactions to seeing Jesus after their brother's death:

Martha: She knew Jesus would have healed him had He been there. She knew His power did not end with death. How did she know that? She knew death wasn't the end of life. She wanted something to be done.

Mary: She, too, knew that Jesus could have healed him. Her grief overwhelmed her desire to speak to Jesus. She was emotionally drained.

5. Why were their reactions so different? Was one more spiritual than the other?

They were both natural reactions. They were also both faith reactions. They were both simply dealing with something overwhelming in the best way they could. They trusted Jesus, but were about to learn a whole new definition of "trust".

6. (:33-44) What do we learn about Jesus?

Let's just make a list of the things we notice about Jesus from this passage:

- He had deep and visible emotions.
- He wept. What does that tell us? It tells us He was totally God and totally a human man. Why would He cry when He knew He would see Lazarus again...for eternity? What was sad? The very reality of death was sad. It's the same reason we cry when someone we love dies – even someone we realize we will see again someday in Heaven. The physical departure of death reaches into our beings and screams "No!"

- It was obvious Jesus loved Lazarus.
- He knew the people watching this were being critical of His seeming inability to save his good friend from death.
- Jesus had all the power to raise Lazarus from the dead.
- He was willing to endure grief and humiliation in order to show His glory. To show that He was God.
- Jesus makes sure to take the opportunity to talk to God in the presence of all the onlookers, so that there would be no confusion about Who had done this.
- Look at *John 12:10* to see one more thing about Jesus in this situation. Because He is God, He knew that by raising Lazarus from the dead He was putting Lazarus into a future dangerous position. He knew the ruling Jewish authorities would now want to kill Lazarus, too.

7. (:41) In this verse Jesus says something in prayer which is really only for the benefit of those listening. What was it? What does this teach us about prayer?

Sometimes prayer is not only to talk to God, but also for the benefit of those listening. Compare to *Matthew 6:5&6*.

8. (:45-57) What are the Jewish leaders afraid of?

- a. That they would lose what little they had – their political position and power, their standing in the community, their cherished beliefs (which were wrong.)
- b. They actually had no idea how little they really had...or Who held their lives in His hands.

9. (:49-53) What did Caiaphas actually mean? What did God do with his words, even though he didn't really mean them that way, and why is it important to know that?

What Caiaphas meant was that it was worth it to kill Jesus because then He would stop causing trouble, and they all could go back to life – imperfect, but normal.

But the Lord used Caiaphas's position – high priest that year - to give import and new meaning to his words. What God wanted those words to say was that Jesus must die in order to pay the price for the sins of all the people. Caiaphas

was not a good man and didn't have good intentions.... but God can make even the stones cry out.

10. So, let's talk about praying out loud. What good is "praying out loud?"

- When people hear you pray out loud, they are often encouraged by your faith. Perhaps they are willing to be bolder themselves.
- *Matthew 18:20.* "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them." The Lord tells us that agreement by a group of believers has spiritual power.
- When is "praying out loud" bad? When it is for show. When it is not honest.

11. Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead when Lazarus was just going to eventually die some day? (When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he raised him back to his original life in his human body which would, yes, eventually have a time to die.)

His life on this earth had value. He had more "work" to do. *Ephesians 2:8-10*

12. How can I be more courageous to tell people about Jesus? How can I know when the time is right to be bold? How can I have a "faith" reaction, not a "fear" reaction when persecution comes?

- a. Spend more time with Jesus.
- b. Memorize the Bible, and then review often. Fill your life with His words.
- c. Step out in boldness more often. The more often you "go for it", the more likely you are to be not so afraid when persecution comes. (Singing a solo isn't as hard when you are doing it the 20<sup>th</sup> time.)

This man, Jesus, who could raise a dead person to life again. Was He God?

Is Jesus really God? Yes.

So how should I react to that? I believe Jesus is God. I treasure every single one of His words. I want to do things His way and trust Him for the outcome. I trust Him to raise me to life in Heaven with Him someday. Jesus is God.

***Need a suggestion for your next Bible Study? How about  
John Chapters 12-21  
“What Difference Would It Have Made  
if Jesus had not Risen from the Dead?”***

In Part Three of our John Bible Study trilogy, Jesus is at the end of His earthly life. He has things to tell His disciples. He will get them ready for the rest of their lives.

When He was with them they had learned not to be afraid. They saw His boldness, they saw the crowds' reactions, but they knew that with Him they were safe.

But now, in this last part of the Gospel of John, Jesus will show them that instead of being wholly concerned with their own safety and comfort, they would have a miraculous love for what He would be doing in other people's lives. They would learn to live above their fear and be given a huge desire to spread the truth about Him, even in the face of persecution.

That kind of change which I just mentioned above - when that kind of change happens inside of a believer - they are not as worried about suffering. They walk bravely into the face of it. They become spiritual “first-responders”. The thing they are focused on – people learning about Jesus – is suddenly more important than life itself.

That's what the future was going to be like for these disciples whom Jesus loved so much.

But first, He had to die. And He had to rise from the dead.



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