

Exploring the Seven Signs of

THE BOOK OF JOHN

8-Lesson Bible Study · For Individual or Group Use

The Gospel of John was written with one clear purpose: to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. In this study, you will unpack seven miraculous signs that John hand-selected to make his case. As you study each one, you will find more reasons to trust who Jesus says He is, draw closer to Him, and discern how God is calling you to respond.

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Each lesson includes Context Notes with background information to help leaders prepare, followed by Focus, Study, Apply, and Reflect & Connect sections for group discussion and personal reflection.

LESSON 1 — THE PURPOSE: JOHN 1:1-18

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- The Book of John is one of four gospel books in the New Testament. It was the last gospel written, giving John more time to consider what the people needed to hear.
- Before writing his gospel, John had already penned several letters to churches (1, 2, and 3 John). His gospel was likely influenced by a desire to reinforce foundational truths the early church struggled with.
- John had a personal relationship with Jesus and called himself “the one whom Jesus loved” in his narrative (John 13:23).
- The gospel narrative centers on Jesus’ identity as Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31). “Christ” is used interchangeably with “Messiah” or “Savior” and means “the anointed one” — set apart as God’s only Son to save the world from their sins.
- The seven miracles John records are strategically chosen to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- The first chapter connects Jesus’ deity to God using language consistent with Genesis and Exodus motifs. Seven different titles are given to Jesus in chapter one, keeping in theme with the number seven.
- The John mentioned in John 1:6-8 is not the author, but John the Baptizer, prophesied about from the Old Testament (For further study: Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80, 3:1-21).

FOCUS

- 1. If you could go back in time and see any miracle performed in the Bible, which one would you want to see and why?**
- 2. Why does what you believe about Jesus matter?**

STUDY**Read John 20:30-31**

- 1. John could have written about more signs Jesus had done, but he hand-selected seven specific ones. What is John’s purpose for you as you study the signs?**

Read John 1:1-5

- 2. John purposefully paralleled his beginning statements about Jesus to the creation story. Read Genesis 1:1-5 and discuss the similarities between the passages.**

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.” Genesis 1:1-5

3. What is John teaching us about Jesus by placing him at the beginning of creation? Why are these significant claims to make about someone?

Read John 1:6-13

4. What are the two responses people have toward Jesus' coming (v. 11-12)?

5. In this section, John is making connections for his Jewish audience to the accounts in Exodus. Read Exodus 33:18-23 and answer: What do you learn about God's glory from Moses' experience?

"Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.'" But he said, "You cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." Exodus 33:18-23

Read John 1:14-18

6. What connection is John making about Jesus when he says "we have seen his glory" in verse 14? What does this teach you about who Jesus is?

7. John uses the Father-Son language (v. 14, 18) to describe the relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son. What does it mean for Jesus to be the Son of God (specifically verses 1 and 14)?

8. How does the passage build the case that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? Why do these titles about Jesus matter?

a. How does someone become a child of God (v. 12-13)?

b. In verse 12, "believing in his name" means believing in everything that Jesus is, including Christ, the Son of God. Many people say they believe Jesus existed, but why does it matter what you believe about Jesus?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.

2. What should you pray for based on this passage?

3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

REFLECT & CONNECT

John opens his gospel not with a birth story or a miracle, but with a declaration: Jesus was there in the beginning, was with God, and was God. Every detail John chose to include was intentional. As you begin this study, what do you already believe about who Jesus is? How might studying these seven signs challenge or deepen that belief?

LESSON 2 — WATER INTO WINE: JOHN 2:1-11

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- Turning water into wine is the first recorded sign John writes about to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31). John's gospel is the only one that contains this miracle.
- The phrasing “the first of his signs” (v. 11) implies that Jesus did not perform any miracles before this moment.
- In Jesus' time, Jewish weddings lasted about a week. Running out of food and beverages at the celebration would culturally humiliate the family.
- Jesus calling his mother “woman” (v. 4) was an act of politeness and respect — similar to saying “Madame.” He used this phrase again at the cross (John 19:26).
- In John's gospel, “My hour has not yet come” (v. 4) refers to the culmination of Jesus' ministry at his crucifixion (John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27).
- The purification jugs Jesus used represent a powerful symbol: in the Bible, wine often represented blood, and purification jugs were used to clean people from sin. Jesus transforming water from these jugs into wine foreshadows how his blood replaces religious ritual as the means of purification.
- The sign revealed Jesus' glory — the same glory John spoke about in John 1:14.

FOCUS

- 1. What is your favorite part of a wedding?**
- 2. Describe a time you messed up or were in a bind, and someone helped you.**

STUDY**Read John 2:1-11**

- 1. Summarize the story. Make sure to note the problem, how Jesus helps, and how the disciples respond.**
- 2. Attending a wedding with Jesus was one of the first things his new disciples did with him. What does this teach you about the way Jesus lived and did ministry?**
- 3. Verses 3-4 refers to the hour of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus was in control of the timing of his ministry and was not ready to fully reveal himself. Yet, he chose to discreetly fix the family's problem. What does this teach you about Jesus? How have you experienced Jesus in this way?**
- 4. The jugs Jesus used were purification jugs for cleaning oneself from sin (v. 6-8). In the scriptures, wine often represents blood. What spiritual lesson do you think Jesus is making when he takes a religious purification ritual and transforms it into the best wine? What is he symbolically saying will purify the people?**

- 5. Think about the quantity and quality of wine that Jesus provided. What does this teach you about what Jesus offers and who he is?**

- 6. In Isaiah 25:6, the prophet Isaiah describes the banquet feast the King Messiah will have with his people: “On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine.” How is Jesus giving a “taste” of his future reign?**

- 7. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus’ signs? How does this sign prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?**

- 8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. How did the disciples respond to his first sign (v. 11)?**
 - a. In this passage, believing in Jesus does not mean they did not believe in Him before (see chapter 1). Instead, their belief was confirmed and strengthened. How has your faith in Jesus grown throughout the years? If it hasn’t, why do you think that is?**

APPLY

- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

REFLECT & CONNECT

Jesus’ first miracle was quiet, personal, and performed at a party — not in a temple. He met a practical need with extraordinary abundance. Think about a time when Jesus showed up unexpectedly in the ordinary details of your life. How does knowing that Jesus cares about the small things affect how you approach Him with the big things?

LESSON 3 — A BOY HEALED: JOHN 4:46-54

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- Healing the official's son is the second recorded sign John writes about to prove Jesus' deity as the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- Cana and Capernaum are approximately 25 miles apart.
- The word for "official" in Greek could mean a court official or nobleman.
- When Jesus says "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe" (v. 48), the word "you" is plural in Greek — Jesus is speaking to the people in general, not just the official.
- Asking Jesus to perform a miracle does not alone express faith. The desperate man chose to trust Jesus' words and left without Jesus by his side — demonstrating faith in action.

FOCUS

- 1. When have you felt scared to go to God about something? Explain.**
- 2. When is it most challenging, and when is it easiest to trust Jesus?**

STUDY**Read John 4:46-54**

- 1. Summarize the story. Make sure to note the problem, how Jesus helps, and how the official and others respond to the miracle.**
- 2. Jesus challenged the official and those around him, saying, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." Jesus is setting up a spiritual challenge: are you willing to really trust me, without seeing proof, or not? Why is this a challenge for us still today? Does Jesus expect you to have no good reason to believe and simply rely on blind faith? Explain.**
- 3. How did the official demonstrate genuine belief in Jesus (v. 50)? Why do you think he took Jesus at his word even before seeing the miracle?**
 - a. How did the man's faith strengthen with joy and confidence on his journey home (v. 51-53)?**
- 4. What can this man's experience teach you about how to approach God with your prayers?**
- 5. What is unique about how Jesus healed and transformed the boy from death to life (v. 50)?**
 - a. How has God's Word (the Bible) transformed your life?**
 - b. What is one struggle you have with the scriptures, and what would it look like to take a step toward overcoming it?**

- 6. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does this sign prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?**

- 7. Why do you think the official's whole household, not just the man himself, responded in faith (v. 53)? How do you imagine the conversation between the official and his family went?**

- 8. Do you have a family member who has influenced your faith in Jesus for the better? How are you influencing your family's faith?**

APPLY

- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

REFLECT & CONNECT

The official left Jesus with nothing but a word. No proof, no miracle yet witnessed, no Jesus at his side — only a promise. And he walked. Is there an area of your life right now where God is calling you to simply take Him at His word and walk forward in faith, even before you see the outcome?

LESSON 4 — THE HEALING AT THE POOL: JOHN 5:1-18

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- Healing the man at the pool is the third recorded sign John writes about to prove Jesus' identity as the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- Performing miracles is not the central mission of Jesus' ministry. Many were disabled at the pool, yet he chose only to heal one man who wasn't even looking for his help. He used this miracle as a teaching opportunity.
- The pool of Bethesda was near the Temple in the northeast corner of Jerusalem. The colonnades provided shade and nearness to the Temple for the disabled.
- Verse 4 is omitted from newer Bible translations because it is not in the earliest manuscripts — it was likely added in the margins by a scribe attempting to add context for why the invalid was waiting in the water.
- Since the man had been disabled for 38 years (v. 5), there was no doubt that it was the power of God who immediately made this man well.
- "The Jews" (v. 10) refers to the religious leaders in Jerusalem who added traditions to God's laws. Jesus often healed people on the Sabbath, highlighting the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.
- Jesus withdraws after healing the man (v. 13), protecting the timing of his ministry.
- When Jesus said "My Father is working until now, and I am working," the Jewish leaders understood he was claiming to be God (v. 17-18), which is why his statements outraged them so much.

FOCUS

- 1. How do you handle doubts about your faith?**
- 2. When all seems hopeless, where might people turn for help?**

STUDY**Read John 5:1-18**

- 1. Summarize what is happening in the story. What is the problem? How does Jesus help? How do people respond?**
- 2. What is unusual about the verse numbers between verses 3 and 5? (*Read the footnote to discover what is missing.)**
 - a. Does the absence or inclusion of the verse change the story? Does it change any foundational doctrine of the Christian faith?**
 - b. Does the fact that Bible scholars removed the verse because of questions of its authenticity concern you? Why or why not?**
- 3. How long had the man been paralyzed? Why is this an especially important detail when you consider what Jesus was about to do?**

4. What do you learn about Jesus through his interactions with the paralyzed man?
 - a. Why do you think Jesus told the man to sin no more after he was healed? Give examples of how sin can make things worse.

5. Nothing in the Old Testament laws God gave expressly prohibited the innocent act of carrying a mat on the Sabbath — those traditions were added by people. How did Jesus respond to the Jewish leaders who were angry that he healed someone on the Sabbath (v. 17)?
 - a. The Jewish leaders knew God is always working by sustaining the world, even on Sabbath days. What is Jesus claiming about himself when he says he is working on the Sabbath just like his Father (v. 18)?
 - b. How is Jesus claiming to be the Son of God different from us calling ourselves children of God? How do you know from the context of this passage?

6. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does this sign prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?

7. The passage contains a negative response toward Jesus by the religious leaders. Why do you think they overlooked the incredible miracle Jesus performed and reacted in anger? Give an example of how people ignore the signs of Jesus nowadays.

8. How have you experienced negative reactions from others because of your faith in Jesus? How do you respond — and how should you?"

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

REFLECT & CONNECT

The man at the pool had been waiting 38 years. He had no one to help him and had nearly given up. Jesus walked past many others and chose him — not because the man was seeking Jesus, but because Jesus sought him. Is there an area of your life where you've been waiting so long that hope has nearly faded? How does Jesus' action in this story speak to that place in you?

LESSON 5 — JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000: JOHN 6:1-15, 25-40

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- The feeding of the 5,000 is the fourth recorded sign that proves the deity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels.
- The Greek word for “people” in verse 10 means “human being; literally male and female.” While 5,000 men were recorded, it was likely that 15,000–20,000 people experienced the feeding.
- With the Passover at hand (v. 4), the miracle with bread made an especially profound impression on the Jews. Bread was symbolic of God’s deliverance from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 12; 16).
- John emphasizes that Jesus gave thanks before multiplying the food (v. 11, 23). The disciples focused on human efforts; Jesus teaches that our efforts are valuable to God only when we come to Him first.
- The prophet Elisha performed a similar miracle on a much smaller scale — feeding 100 men with 20 loaves (2 Kings 4:42-44). The Jews would have recognized Jesus’ miracle as far greater and perceived Jesus as the prophet Moses foretold (v. 11).

FOCUS

- 1. What is your favorite food of all time?**
- 2. Where have you seen evidence of God in your life?**

STUDY**Read John 6:1-15**

- 1. Summarize what is happening in the story. What is the problem? How does Jesus help? How do people respond?**
- 2. What does Jesus ask Philip, and why does he ask him this (v. 5–6)?**
 - a. How do the disciples respond (v. 7–9)?**
 - b. What do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to learn from how he handled the situation (v. 11)?**
- 3. What do you learn about Jesus from this sign and how he interacts with his disciples and the people he fed? What do you learn about people from this account?**
- 4. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus’ signs? How does this sign prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?**

Read John 6:25-40

- 5. Jesus uses the miracle of multiplying the food to reveal a deeper spiritual truth. What kind of food does Jesus say to work for (v. 27)? How do you work for that sort of food (v. 29)? Why might this be confusing for anyone hearing?**

- 6. The people seemed to think they needed more proof from Jesus and brought up stories from the Old Testament. What did the people misunderstand about the miracle from the Old Testament (v. 31-32)?**

- 7. Manna sustained the Israelites' lives on earth for a time, but what does Jesus offer that is even better (v. 33-35)? Who is this food for (v. 33)? How do you receive it, and what are the promises given to you when you receive it (v. 35, 37, 39-40)?**

Read John 6:60-71

- 8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. Describe the different responses people had to Jesus after he explained the spiritual implications of the sign.
 - a. Why do you think there are such differing reactions to him?**
 - b. How would you describe to someone what it means to genuinely believe in Jesus?****

APPLY

- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

REFLECT & CONNECT

Jesus fed thousands with five loaves and two fish — after giving thanks. The disciples saw scarcity; Jesus saw an opportunity to demonstrate God's abundance. What "little" have you placed in God's hands lately? How has Jesus surprised you by multiplying what seemed insufficient? And where do you need to offer Him your "five loaves" today and trust Him with the rest?

LESSON 6 — JESUS WALKS ON WATER: JOHN 6:16–21

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- While this sign is not specifically noted as a “sign” by John, it is one of seven miracles John recorded in his gospel narrative.
- The account of Jesus walking on water is recorded in two other gospels: Mark 6:45-52 and Matthew 14:22-33. All authors place the miracle immediately after the feeding of the 5,000.
- John wrote his gospel last and assumes readers have already read the other gospel accounts, so his inclusion of the story is shorter.
- The Sea of Galilee is approximately 7 miles long and is positioned below a series of hills, making it prone to sudden storms and bursts of wind.
- Jesus instructed his disciples to travel across the sea (Mark 6:45). Perhaps he had them travel because the large crowd could become violent, wanting to seize him as king and start a political revival against Rome.
- The men were frightened not necessarily from the storm but because they saw Jesus walking on water (v. 29) and thought he was a ghost (Mark 6:49-50). Sometimes God's intervention can seem scary because we do not fully understand.

FOCUS

- 1. What is your favorite body of water? Why?**
- 2. What can be intimidating about water (i.e., rain, oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds)?**

STUDY**Read John 6:16-21**

- 1. Summarize what is happening in the story. What is the problem? How does Jesus help? How do people respond?**

Read Mark 6:45-52 and Matthew 14:22-33

- 2. What additional details do Mark and Matthew include that John leaves out? What stands out to you?**
- 3. Does having different details in the narratives mean there are contradictions in the Bible? Why or why not?**
- 4. The disciples were frightened not by the storm, but by seeing Jesus walk on the water — they thought he was a ghost (Mark 6:49–50). What does their reaction tell you about how well they understood who Jesus was at this point?**

- 5. The Jews would have been familiar with Psalm 89:9, which says about God: “You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.” Walking on water was not something Jesus did to amaze people. Think about the psalm and the miracle. What is he teaching them about himself?**

- 6. In Mark’s account, the disciples were surprised by Jesus’ miracle on the water because they had not yet understood the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6:51-52). What tips would you give someone wanting to grow spiritually?**

- 7. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus’ signs? How does this sign prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?**

- 8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. Matthew 14:33 says, “And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’” What do they understand about Jesus after this miracle, and how do they behave as a result? Does this seem odd or logical? Why?**

APPLY

- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

REFLECT & CONNECT

The disciples were obeying Jesus when the storm hit. Following Jesus does not guarantee smooth sailing. They were exactly where he told them to be, and the storm came anyway — and then Jesus came walking toward them on the water. Is there a storm in your life right now that came while you were trying to obey God? How does this passage reshape how you see His presence in the middle of it?

LESSON 7 — JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND: JOHN 9:1-41

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- Jesus healing a man born blind is the sixth recorded sign that points to the deity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- The disciples' reaction to the man's blindness was a typical worldview of the time (v. 2). While our own actions can have a huge impact on our lives, there are times when hardships may come through no fault of our own.
- Jesus refers to himself as the light of the world — while he is alive he is “the day,” steadfastly continuing the works God has called him to before his crucifixion, when “night” comes (v. 4-5).
- Light and sight are often used to symbolize spiritual knowledge. The spiritual “sight” we receive when we are saved is something we did not have until Christ chose to give it, just as he gave sight to the blind man.
- Jesus' healing of the blind is prophetic. Isaiah 29:18, 35:5, and 42:7 all speak about a future Prophet who will heal the blind. Jesus is the only one in scripture given credit for healing blindness (v. 32).
- Jesus does not always heal, but when he does, it is to bring glory to God and reveal a deeper spiritual truth. He came to give sight to those who are blind — those with unbelief. Those who think they know it all but have missed the need for a Savior are truly blind.

FOCUS

- 1. Can hardships or trials ever be good? Explain.**
- 2. What do you think it means to be spiritually blind?**

STUDY**Read John 9:1-41**

- 1. Summarize what is happening in the story. What is the problem? How does Jesus help? How do people respond?**
- 2. Not every hardship in our lives results from poor choices — sometimes it is the result of living in a broken world. What does Jesus say the purpose of the man's blindness is (v. 3)? How does the man's suffering bear witness to the works of God?**
- 3. How long was the man blind (v. 2)? After his healing, did the man seem angry that God had allowed him to be blind for most of his life? What does this teach you about how to view your own struggles and hardships?**
- 4. Why is there a division between the people in the story over the healed man (v. 16)? If someone were to confess Jesus as the Christ, what could happen to them (v. 22)? What are some consequences people face nowadays for following Jesus?**

- 5. Re-read the healed man's response to the Pharisees when they questioned him (v. 24-34). Why do you think he had the confidence to speak to the religious rulers as he did?**
- The man only had one interaction with Jesus, yet he made logical conclusions about him. What were those conclusions (v. 30-34)?**
 - Why do you think the Pharisees refused to accept the good reasoning from the man?**
- 6. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does this sign prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?**
- 7. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. How does the healed man respond to Jesus (v. 38)? How do the religious leaders react? Which is the most logical response?**
- 8. Jesus does not always heal people physically, but when he does, it is for the glory of God and to teach a spiritual truth. What is Jesus' point in healing a blind man and pointing out that the Pharisees are still blind (v. 39-41)?**

APPLY

- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

REFLECT & CONNECT

The man born blind had only one encounter with Jesus, and it changed everything — not only his sight, but his courage, his reasoning, and ultimately his worship. He was thrown out of the synagogue for telling the truth about what he experienced. What has Jesus done in your life that you sometimes hesitate to speak about openly? What would it look like to have the simple, bold honesty this man had?

LESSON 8 — THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS: JOHN 11:1-53

The Seven Signs — John Bible Study

CONTEXT NOTES

- Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is the seventh and final sign that John records to point to the deity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- The raising of Lazarus is only recorded in the Book of John and anticipates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- John 11:9 implies that to walk in the day is to walk in the light of God's Will. Even though traveling to Judea is dangerous, God intends for Jesus to go there to perform a miracle and reveal His glory.
- The phrase "deeply moved" (v. 33, 38) means to be in immense sorrow over his friend's death and the grief his other friends suffered. Jesus' sorrow was likely intermixed with anger at the evil of death (1 Corinthians 15:26).
- Jewish mysticism at the time taught that a person's spirit could hover over their body for three days after they die. Jesus rose Lazarus four days after he died (v. 39) — the miracle was clearly an act of God.
- John does not focus on Lazarus' reaction after leaving the tomb. The focus is Jesus, not Lazarus.
- This final miracle triggers the Jewish leaders to put into action the plan to have Jesus arrested, tried for blasphemy, and put to death on a Roman cross (v. 53).

FOCUS

- 1. Are you a person who is usually on time, early, or late? Why is that?**
- 2. Do you think it is okay to question God? Why or why not?**

STUDY**Read John 11:1-53**

- 1. Summarize what is happening in the story. What is the problem? How does Jesus help? How do the people respond?**
- 2. What about Jesus' behavior in verses 5-6 is unusual? Re-read verses 4 and 15. What does Jesus know about the reason for Lazarus' sickness and death that the others do not (v. 4, 11, 14)?**
- 3. Martha shows more faith than criticism — her conversation with Jesus reflects her mourning, not complaining. What does Jesus teach her about trusting him in verses 25-26?**
 - a. How does Martha respond to him (v. 27)?**
 - b. Did she respond this way before or after Lazarus was raised from the dead?**
 - c. What does this teach you about faith?**

4. Jesus knew Lazarus' death would not be final, so why do you think he wept? What does this teach you about the character of God?

a. Read Hebrews 4:15-16 below and discuss how it connects to the situation and how it might comfort someone hurting.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:15-16

5. Think about people who are hurting in your life — maybe even you. What lessons might God teach you through this story that could help you understand suffering, hardships, and grief?

6. As Jesus prays to God, why does he say he is praying and doing the miracle (v. 41-42)?

7. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs?

a. How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God? Is this convincing evidence? Why or why not?

8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. What were people's different responses toward the sign (v. 43, 53)?

a. What do you think is the most logical response to have toward someone claiming to be the Savior of the World who raised someone from the dead four days after his death?

b. How are you responding to who Jesus says he is, and how does your response reflect how you live?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.

2. What should you pray for based on this passage?

3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

REFLECT & CONNECT

Jesus wept. He who knew Lazarus would rise in moments still entered fully into the grief of those He loved. The final and greatest sign was not just about power over death — it was about a God who feels, who mourns with us, and who is never late even when He seems to be. Where in your life do you need to trust that Jesus is not absent, but is already at work in the waiting?