

JOHN

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

ANDREW M. DAVIS

WITH JOEL W. HARFORD

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Other Books By Dr. Andrew M. Davis

- An Infinite Journey: Growing Toward Christlikeness, 2014.
- Revitalize: Biblical Keys to Helping Your Church Come Alive Again, 2017.
- Exalting Jesus in Isaiah, 2017.

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Preface to the Reader

One of the most important elements of a healthy Christian life is regular study of God's word. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 19:7-8 that *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."* I yearn for Christians to reap the rich benefits of scripture study, and to grow in the knowledge and love of God's word through directly engaging with the biblical text. This is why I have chosen to publish bible study questions instead of commentaries. There are many valuable commentaries to help aid your study of scripture, and I recommend using them. For guidance on commentaries visit www.bestcommentaries.com.

However, the focus of this book is to engage you, the reader, and to challenge you to answer relevant questions based on the scripture.

I have in mind three types of users for this book: First, group bible studies. Most of these questions were written for my weekly men's bible study. I recommend that the leader use this resource to prepare beforehand, reading all the questions and picking only five to seven for discussion. Twenty questions would certainly be a lot of material to discuss! For the bible study, each participant could have a copy to follow along. Second, sermon preparation. Asking questions of the text can be very helpful for understanding the flow and point of a passage of scripture. Third, personal bible study. Again, you can gain valuable insights by asking questions of the text.

My hope for these bible study questions is that they would encourage and facilitate Christians' gathering together to study God's word. One day, as Habakkuk 2:14 says, *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* Critical to this prophecy in Habakkuk is our *knowing* about the Glory of God, and this is best achieved through the study of the bible. So let's do our part!

I challenge you, reader, to ask some friends, colleagues, classmates, or fellow church members to join you for a bible study. Ask God to open your eyes to understand the scripture (Psalm 119:18), and step out in faith to spread the knowledge of the Glory of God. May this book enrich your study of God's living and active word (Hebrews 4:12), and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless your bible studies!

Summary of John

The gospel of John is a first-hand, eyewitness account of the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It was penned by one of Jesus' chosen disciples for the purpose of leading the reader to eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who was sent from heaven to save those who are perishing in darkness.

John begins his account by describing Jesus Christ as the Word, and this Word has been with God from the beginning, and is God. Through Jesus, all things were made, and nothing in the universe was created or formed apart from Jesus the Word. In Jesus is life, and for all who look to him, Jesus gives his light. The Word took on human flesh, God became a man, and Jesus walked and lived among us. To all who believe in him, he gives the right to become children of God.

There are many themes in the gospel of John, but perhaps the most prominent is that Jesus was sent from heaven. Jesus said, "I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." The Father sent his only Son into the world, so that whoever believes and trusts in the Son will have eternal life. John gives us five weighty attestations which testify that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, sent from heaven. 1) John the Baptist came ahead of Jesus and testified that Jesus was the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. 2) Jesus did signs and wonders that only one with power from God could do, including raising a man from the dead. 3) The Old Testament scriptures testified that Jesus was sent from heaven, as Jesus fulfilled the scriptures written of him. 4) God the Father testified of Jesus his Son, giving him the power to work signs and wonders. 5) The disciples testified to Jesus' divinity, with Thomas' confessing "my Lord and my God" after seeing Jesus in his resurrection body.

Another similar and powerful theme that runs through the gospel is the "I am" statements of Jesus. They serve a twofold purpose. First, God identified himself as "I am" when he spoke with Moses at the burning bush, indicating the eternity of the living God. Jesus adopts this language and applies it to himself telling the Jews, "before Abraham was, I am." Jesus also gives us seven "I am" statements to teach us about his salvific ministry. He says, "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the door," "I am the good shepherd," "I am the resurrection and the life," "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and "I am the vine."

Of paramount importance in John's gospel is that through belief in Jesus, this light of the world, this bread of life, you may have eternal life in his name. Jesus offers all who believe in him eternal life. To know and believe in Jesus Christ is to eat of the bread of heaven, it is to drink living water. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though he die, yet he shall live." Jesus himself was crucified at the hands of wicked men, to pay for the sins of the world, but God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day. He lives forevermore, and he gives eternal life to all who trust in him for their salvation and confess him as Lord. John wrote his gospel so that you would know Jesus Christ and find eternal life in him.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

JOHN 1:1-14

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Who is "the Word," and what is significant about John calling Jesus "the Word"?
2. What is the relationship between the Word and the world?
3. Who was John and what was his mission?
4. Why didn't the world welcome Jesus Christ?
5. How does one become a child of God? Whose will makes this happen?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What three things does John tell you about "the Word"? (1)
2. What is the connection between John 1:1 and Genesis 1:1? How does John (the apostle) use similar language to convey the identity of the Word? (1)
3. Read John 1:14. Who do you think "the Word" is?
4. Does verse 2 say anything new or different about the Word? Why do you think John repeats the same thing he just said in verse 1? (2)
5. What does John say about the Word and his connection to "all things"? What does "all things" mean? (3)
6. Is there anything in this world made without the Word? Compare this with Colossians 1:16-17. (3)
7. What are some differences between living and non-living things? What is the significance of the fact that The Word (Jesus) made all things? (4)
8. What does it mean that "in him was life"? What kind of "life" is found in the Word? What kind of "life" does the human race lack without Christ? (4)
9. John says that the Word was "light." See also John 8:12. What do you think is the spiritual meaning of the contrasting light/darkness in John? (4)
10. How was Jesus the light for men? How are we in darkness without him? (4)
11. If Christ is the light of men, what is the darkness? (5)
12. What does it mean that the light "shines" in the darkness? What does it mean that the darkness did not "overcome" it? Can anything overcome Jesus? (5)
13. Who sent John? What was his role? Note: This is John the Baptist, not the John who wrote this book. (6)

14. What is a "witness"? What did John testify about? Why did he testify about the light? Why do you think God sent this witness ahead of Jesus? (7-8)
15. Who was the "true light"? How does this true light (Jesus Christ) give light to others? Note: "Everyone" means not just to Jews, but to people from all over the world. (9)
16. Who was "in the world"? Why is it ironic and tragic that the world was made through Jesus, yet the world did not know Jesus, but rejected him? (10)
17. Why did the world largely reject Jesus? See also John 3:19-21. (10)
18. Who were "his own"? Is John speaking of Jews? Or could John be speaking mankind in general, because Jesus created all men? What do you think? (11)
19. Would you be surprised if one of your children didn't know you? What is the significance that "his own" did not receive him? (11)
20. What glorious truth is revealed in verse 12? How valuable is the status of being one of God's children? (12)
21. How does verse 12 clarify what "receive him" means? Why is it necessary to believe in Jesus? Note: To "believe in His name" means to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (12)
22. Does verse 12 teach that all men are universally children of God? Why do many people assume that everyone is a child of God? How does verse 12 correct this misunderstanding? (12)
23. What does verse 13 teach you about the ultimate cause of why someone becomes a child of God? What does "blood" represent? In relation to birth, what is the "will of man"? Who causes the new birth into God's family? (13)
24. Based on verse 13, can someone be a child of God based on their physical lineage, or does something spiritual have to happen? How does Galatians 3:7 teach the same thing? (13)
25. What does "the Word became flesh" mean? Is it surprising to you that God became a man? (14)
26. As you read verse 14, do you get the idea that John (the author) can still see Jesus' glory by faith? How should this verse build our faith in Jesus? (14)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus, also called "the word" existed before the world began, He was with God, and He was God. Through Jesus, everything was made. Jesus' life is light in a dark world. Jesus came into the world as a human being, but the majority of the people rejected Jesus, even though He made everything. However, to those who believed in Jesus He gave the right to become adopted children of God.

JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD

JOHN 1:15-34

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does John want people to believe about Jesus?
2. Why were the Jewish leaders so interested in who John the Baptist was?
3. How did John the Baptist "Make straight the way for the Lord"?
4. Why did John baptize people?
5. What does "Lamb of God" mean?
6. How does the Lamb of God "take away the sin of the world"?
7. How did John know who Jesus was?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS: PREPARE THE WAY! (vv. 15-28)

1. What does "testify" mean? Who and what did John testify about? (15)
2. Who did John speak of when he said "He who comes after me..."? What is the significance of him saying that this one "has a higher rank"? (15)
3. Are you surprised that John proclaims that Jesus existed before him? See the birth account of Luke 1-2. Who was born first? What does John mean? (15)
4. What is grace? How does Jesus bring grace upon grace? (16)
5. What is the difference between "law" and "grace"? How is the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ greater than the good law given by Moses? (17)
6. Why has no one ever seen God? Who is the "only God, who is at the Father's side"? How does this text teach the unity of the Godhead (that God is one), yet plurality? Note: The Trinity is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (18)
7. How did Jesus Christ make God known? (18)
8. What did the priests and Levites ask John? What is John's response? (19)
9. What does "deny" mean? Was John "shrinking back" in his answer or was he boldly declaring the truth? What did John confess about himself? (20)
10. Why do the priests and Levites continue to question John? How does John answer them? (21-23)
11. How did John "Make straight the way for the Lord"? Who is the Lord? (23)
12. What did the people from the Pharisees ask John? Why do you think they were so surprised that John was baptizing people? (24-25)

13. What answer did John give them? Why did he baptize? (26-27)
14. What does he say about Jesus in verse 26 and verse 27? How does John feel about his own position in relation to Jesus? How should this be a model for Christian humility? (26-27)

THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD (VV. 29-34)

15. What did John call Jesus? Why is “lamb” significant? How does the “lamb” take away sin? Why do we humans need to have God deal with our sin? (29)

Note: "Lamb of God" refers to Jesus being a sacrifice for sins. In the Old Testament, God gave laws for the Jews to follow. Part of these laws were about animals that were to be killed for sacrifices. Whenever anyone sinned, they were supposed to bring an animal to the priest to offer it as a sacrifice. This was teaching Israel three important lessons:

- 1) The penalty for sin is death (Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23, Genesis 2:17)
- 2) This death penalty can be paid by a substitute (Leviticus 16)
- 3) The substitute could not be an animal (Hebrews 10:1-4)

16. How did John know so much about Jesus before Jesus did anything? (29-34)
17. Why did John remind people about what he had said earlier? (30)
18. What did John mean when he said he didn't know Jesus? Why is this significant? How did John get his information about Jesus? (31-33)
19. Why did John baptize people? How did John's baptism reveal Christ to Israel? (31)
20. Why is John's "witness" important? Talk about the courage it took to stand in the Judean desert and proclaim the coming of the Son of God? (32, 24)
21. Why was John able to make a confident testimony about the person of Jesus? Who taught John about Jesus? What message did John receive? (32-34)
22. What was the significance of the Spirit coming down & resting on Jesus: 1) to John? 2) to Israel? 3) to us? (32-33)

III. SUMMARY:

John the Baptist had a ministry of testifying to the one who was greater than him, Jesus Christ. Jesus was the one coming who would reveal God the Father, who would usher in grace, and who would forgive sins. When John was questioned, he deflected the focus from himself to the one who was coming. In verse 29, John the Baptist reveals Jesus to the world. He proclaimed that Jesus is the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world. John's whole ministry was to herald Jesus of Nazareth, and because of the Holy Spirit's preparation in John's life, John the Baptist boldly testified to the deity of Jesus Christ.

COME AND SEE JESUS

JOHN 1:35-51

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why does John include this section in his Gospel?
2. What role does sight (i.e seeing, looking, etc.) play in this passage?
3. What does this section teach us about the growth of faith in Christ?
4. What new insight into Jesus' power does this section give us?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

JESUS CALLS ANDREW AND PETER (VV. 35-42)

1. What is a "disciple"? What does it show you about John, that he was there "with two of his disciples"? (35)
2. Why do you think Jesus was there the next day? What did John say about Jesus? Who did he say it to? (36)
3. What did John's disciples do? Did John tell them to do this? Do you think John was happy or sad that his disciples left him to follow Jesus? See also John 3:30 for more on John's attitude toward Jesus Christ's ministry. (37)
4. What did Jesus ask John's disciples? What is the spiritual significance of this question? (37)
5. How did the disciples answer Jesus' question? What is the spiritual significance of their question? (38)
6. Why did they call Jesus "Rabbi"? Do you find anything interesting about this? Why do you think they asked Jesus where he was staying? (38)
7. How did Jesus answer their question? What is the significance of the invitation to "come and see"? Why do you think the apostle John recorded this interaction? Perhaps this statement is also an invitation for this gospel's readers to "come and see Jesus" through the reading of this gospel? (39)
8. Why did Andrew tell Simon about Jesus? Why do you think Andrew was so sure Jesus was the Messiah? Does this mean that Andrew was now "born again"? (41)
9. Look at John 6:8 and 12:22. What is common about Andrew in these three accounts? How does this encourage you to bring people to Jesus?
10. In your opinion, who is the more significant person in history, the apostle Peter, or Andrew who first brought him to Christ?
11. What is important about Jesus renaming Simon? What authority does he show? How would you feel if someone did this to you? What if it was Jesus? (42)

JESUS CALLS PHILIP AND NATHANAEAL (VV. 35-42)

12. How did Philip come to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? (43)
13. Read John 6:5-7, 12:21-22, 14:6-10. What was Philip like? Do you consider him to have been an outstanding leader or a significantly faith-filled person?
14. Where was Philip from? Who else was from there? (44)
15. How did Nathaniel come to be a disciple of Jesus? (44-50)
16. What did Philip claim about Jesus in verse 45? How do you think he knew all this? (45)
17. Was Philip right in what he said to Nathaniel about Jesus? Do you think Philip understood the deity of Christ at this point? (45)
18. What was Nathaniel's reaction to what Philip said? Read John 7:40-44. Was the fact that Jesus came from Nazareth a problem for people? (46)
19. How did Philip answer Nathaniel's concern? How could you echo Philip's "come and see" invitation to your friends, colleagues, and family who are skeptical about Jesus Christ? (46)
20. How did Jesus assess Nathaniel? Discuss this assessment. (47)
21. If you had been Nathaniel, how would you have reacted to Jesus' assessment of you? What question did Nathaniel ask Jesus? (48)
22. How did Jesus answer Nathaniel's question? What does Jesus' answer teach you about Jesus? (48)
23. Read John 1:42, Mark 10:21, and Luke 22:61. What do these verses teach you about Jesus? See also John 10:14 and compare it with Psalm 139:1.
24. How did Nathaniel respond to Jesus' statement about the fig tree? Do you think that Nathaniel really believed that Jesus was God when he said that? Why or why not? (49)
25. What promise does Jesus make to Nathaniel? (50)
26. What promise did Jesus make to all the disciples? See Genesis 28:10-19. (51)

III. SUMMARY:

The next day, John the Baptist was in the Jordan River area, and saw Jesus again. For the second time he called Him "The Lamb of God." John's disciples left John and began to follow Jesus. This was the beginning of the Christian church. Jesus continued to add men to his growing list of disciples. Philip and Nathaniel are added, with Philip immediately inviting Nathaniel. Nathaniel was skeptical at first, but Jesus overcame his skepticism by the power of his knowledge. Jesus promised his disciples that they would see heaven opened, and angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

THE WEDDING AND THE TEMPLE

JOHN 2:1-25

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does miracle at the wedding teach you about Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus clear the Temple?
3. What does “Zeal for your house will consume me” mean in Jesus’ case?
4. What did Jesus mean when he said "Destroy this Temple, and I will raise it up in three days"?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

THE FIRST CANA SIGN: WATER INTO WINE (VV. 1-12)

1. Why do you think John informs us that this is the third day? Third day from/of what? What does that tell you about John’s reference for time? (1)
2. Is there significance to signs being performed in Galilee? See John 4:46, 54. (1)
3. Why do you think the wine ran out? Note: in those days, a family hosting a wedding could be held legally responsible for inadequate or insulting wedding gifts. So this family may have been in trouble financially. How does this shed light on this account, on both the family’s needs and Jesus’ mercy? (3)
4. What are some possible motives for Jesus' mother in telling Jesus about this problem with the wine? What did Mary want Jesus to do? What does this teach you about Mary’s view of Jesus? (3)
5. What did Jesus ask His mother? What does this show you about their relationship? See 2 Corinthians 5:16. What does "My hour has not yet come" mean? See John 7:6, 7:8, 7:30, 8:20, 12:23, 12:27, 13:1, 16:32, 17:1. (4)
6. How did Jesus' mother respond to Jesus' statement? How does this give insight into Mary’s faith in Jesus? (5)
7. What was the purpose of the large stone jars? Do you think there is a spiritual significance to the size or purpose of the jars? (6)
8. What did Jesus tell the servants to do? J.C. Ryle said of this verse: “Duties are ours. Events are God’s. It is ours to fill the water pots. It is Christ’s to make the water wine.” Comment on Ryle’s observation. (7)
9. Why did Jesus want the master of the feast to taste the wine? What was his reaction? What does the quality of the wine teach you about Jesus? (8-10)
10. Saint Augustine noted that God regularly turns water into wine through natural processes, as rain falls on the soil of a vineyard and produces juice in grapes. What is the difference between that process and this miracle?

11. What does John tell us in verse 11 about this sign? How did the disciples react to it? What does "manifested his glory" mean? How does this advance John's goal expressed in John 20:30-31? (11)

ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME (VV. 13-25)

12. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem? See Deuteronomy 16:1-6. (13)

13. Why were there animals in the Temple courts? What did Jesus use to drive the animals out of the Temple? What does this show you about Jesus' state of mind before driving them out? (15)

14. What are some different possible motivations for Jesus' actions? What point was Jesus driving home when he said "do not make my Father's house a house of trade"? What was so wrong about what was going on? (15-16)

15. What does verse 17 teach you about Jesus? What does "Zeal for your house will consume me" mean? (17)

16. Knowing that the Temple was only temporary, and that the people of God are the temple, what is now the focus of Jesus' zeal? Is it still true that zeal for the house of God consumes Jesus? (17)

17. Seeing Jesus' zeal for God's house, how should this affect how we feel about God's house, God's people? Should we be characterized by zeal?

18. Why did the Jews ask Jesus for a sign? (18)

19. What did Jesus say to them? What did the Jews think Jesus meant? What did John say it meant? (19-21)

20. What was the fulfillment of verse 19? How is Jesus' body a temple? (19-21)

21. What is the connection in verse 22 between the scriptures and belief? How should this affect our study of the scriptures? How should we commit ourselves to study of the bible in order to foster faith in Jesus? (22)

22. Why did the people at the feast believe in Jesus? Did Jesus accept them as true disciples? Why not? (23-24)

23. What do verses 24-25 teach us about Jesus? (24-25)

III. SUMMARY:

After Jesus had returned to Galilee, he and his disciples went to a wedding. The hosts ran out of wine, so Jesus graciously performed His first sign by changing water into high quality wine. When His disciples saw this sign, they believed in Jesus. Then Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover, and He found men selling animals in the Temple courts. He drove them from the Temple and he overturned the tables of the people exchanging money. The Jews demanded a sign to prove His right to do all these things. Jesus answered "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." This referred to His death and subsequent resurrection on the third day.

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

JOHN 3:1-16

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does "You must be born again" mean?
2. Why is it necessary for a person to be "born again" to go to heaven?
3. What does John 3:16 teach us about God's love, our danger, and the reward?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What does verse 1 tell us about Nicodemus? Why do you think he came to Jesus at night? Why is his visit significant? (1-2)
2. What does Nicodemus think about Jesus? What does his greeting tell you about Nicodemus? What reasons does he give for saying that Jesus is a "Teacher come from God"? How is this short of saving faith? (2)
3. What do you think of Jesus' response to Nicodemus? Does it surprise you in any way? If so, why? (3)
4. What is the "kingdom of God"? What does it mean to "see the kingdom of God"? (3)
5. What do you think Jesus meant by "born again"? What does Jesus' use of this language teach us about salvation? Hint: Remember John 1:13. (3)
6. Do you think Nicodemus was surprised by what Jesus said? Did he understand what Jesus meant? (4)
7. What did Jesus say the second time to Nicodemus? What is different? (5)
8. Why do you think no one can enter the kingdom without being born of water and Spirit? What does this mean? How could verse 6 help explain this? (5-6)
9. Why does Jesus change from "one" to "you" in verse 7? How does this make Jesus' teaching personal? How can you apply this in evangelism? (7)
10. How is the Holy Spirit's work like the wind? How should this give us a heart of gratitude to God for our salvation, and humility toward others? (8)
11. Have you ever seen the wind? Have you ever seen what the wind does? Have you ever seen the Spirit? Have you ever seen what the Spirit does? (8)
12. Why do you think Nicodemus had such trouble understanding Jesus? What do you make of Jesus' comments to Nicodemus in verse 10? (9-10)
13. What kind of testimony is Jesus referring to in verses 11 & 12? Who else's testimony is Jesus including when he says "we" in verse 11? (11-12)

14. What would be the “earthly things” that Jesus testified about? What would be the “heavenly things”? (12)
15. What does Jesus say about Himself in verse 13? How do you understand this? How is Jesus’ ascension into heaven different from Enoch (Hebrews 11:5) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) being taken to heaven, and different from the way a believer’s spirit goes to heaven when he/she dies and awaits resurrection? (13)
16. To understand verses 14-15, you must understand the Old Testament story that goes behind it, found in Numbers 21:4-9.
17. Why did God send the snakes to Israel? What did the people ask Moses to do for them? What did God tell Moses to do? (Numbers 21:4-9)
18. What did the people have to do to be saved if they were bitten by the snake? How is this a picture of salvation in Christ? What is the relationship between Jesus and the bronze snake? (Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-15)
19. How does verse 16 relate to verses 14-15? What does verse 16 tell us God did? How did God show his love for the world? (16)
20. Why did God send His Son into the world? What do you learn about God’s love from this verse? Read 1 John 2:15-17. Do these verses contradict what John 3:16 says about the “world”? How do these verses together show the incredible love of God for sinful humanity? (16)
21. Talk about the significance of God sending his only son. How is it then so wrong to charge God with unfairness in his judgement, when he sent his only son to rescue people from the coming judgement and wrath? (16)
22. What does “perish” mean in this verse? Does it contradict God’s love? (16)
23. Based on John 3:16, who perishes and who receives eternal life? What does it mean to believe in Jesus? (16)
24. Define “believe in him.” What is the reward for believing in Christ? (16)
25. What comes into your mind when you hear the words “eternal life”? (16)
26. How is forgiveness of sins and eternal life the greatest, most precious, valuable thing anyone could have? Why do so many spurn this offer? (16)

III. SUMMARY:

One night a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to speak with Jesus. Jesus informed Nicodemus that he had to be “born again” to enter the kingdom of heaven. Then Jesus told Nicodemus of the salvation offered through Jesus Christ. Just like the Israelites were saved by looking at the bronze serpent, so all who looked to Jesus Christ will be saved. God demonstrated his love for sinful humanity, in that he gave his only Son Jesus, so that all who believe in Jesus will escape punishment in hell, and have eternal life with God.

LIGHT & DARKNESS, HEAVENLY & EARTHLY

JOHN 3:17-36

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the present spiritual situation of people who reject Jesus Christ?
2. Why are some people attracted to the light when others hate it?
3. What can we learn from John the Baptist's attitude about Jesus Christ?
4. What does "He must increase, I must decrease" mean for us?
5. What is the full meaning of verse 36?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

LIGHT AND DARKNESS, SALVATION AND JUDGEMENT (VV. 17-21)

1. Compare verse 17 to Luke 9:51-56. What do you learn about John? (17)
2. What does "condemn" mean? According to these verses, was anyone condemned by God sending His Son into the world? (17)
3. What is the significance of the word "already" in 18? What does 18 teach about those who do not trust in Christ? Are they condemned? Why? (18)
4. Read John 3:36. What do these verses teach us about people apart from Christ? (18, 36)
5. What does "light has come into the world" refer to? (19)
6. What does darkness in verse 19 refer to? Why do some people love darkness? See also Ephesians 5:8-14. What kind of judgement is issued? (19)
7. How does coming to the light reveal evil? Give examples of evil things that people want to keep in darkness? (20)
8. What does it mean to "do what is true"? According to verse 21, what is the motive of those people who come into the light? (21)
9. How can believers in Christ have their deeds "carried out in God? What does that teach you about the comprehensive work of Christ in a believers' life? (21)
10. Are these verses relevant to Nicodemus? If so, how?

JESUS MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE (VV. 22-36)

11. What does John the author tell us that Jesus did in the Judean countryside? (22)
12. What is the significance of the phrase "because water was plentiful there"? How does this show the method of baptism? Why is water necessary? (23)
13. What seems to be the issue that emerges in verses 23-26? Why does John include this story? (23-26)

14. What did John's disciples and the Jewish man argue about? (25)
15. How is the attitude displayed by John's disciples in verse 26 typical and unfortunately expected when there are "competing" ministries? (26)
16. How does John respond to this concern? What does John's answer teach you about him? How could we better emulate this Christ-centered approach to ministry? (27-30)
17. What had John received from heaven? How would it change your life if you took verse 27 and applied it to every good gift you have ever received? (27)
18. Do you think it was hard for John to let Jesus take over his work?
19. What does "The one who has the bride is the bridegroom" mean? How is John using this in reference to himself and Jesus? (29)
20. Who is the "friend of the bridegroom"? How could John say "this joy of mine is now complete" when his ministry and influence was shrinking? What does that tell you about the source of John's joy? (29)
21. What does John mean by "He must increase, I must decrease"? How is this attitude helpful for every aspect of our lives? (30)
22. Who is the one who comes "from above"? Why does John call Him that? Who is the one who is "of the earth"? (31)
23. Why do you think people didn't accept Jesus' words? (32)
24. Many people have a hard time understanding things about God's character. How does the verse 33 "whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that *God is true*" show the core elements of a faith-filled heart? (33)
25. What does it mean that God gives the Spirit "without measure"? (34)
26. When John says that the Father loves the Son and had given everything into his hands, what do you think this includes? (35)
27. What is the difference between people who receive life and those who don't, according to verse 36?
28. What does "The wrath of God remains on him" mean? See John 5:24. (36)

III. SUMMARY:

God sent the Son into the world to save it, but the people who don't believe in Jesus hate Him and reject Him. Those people stand already condemned by God, and they hate Christ because He reveals their sin, which they love. Those who believe come freely to Him, glad to be free of sin and to live for God. Some of John the Baptist's disciples seemed jealous of Jesus, but John told them that Jesus was the rightful Messiah, the Savior who brings people from death to life. His own role was only in preparation for Jesus Christ.

LIVING WATER

JOHN 4:1-26

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why was the Samaritan woman surprised that Jesus talked to her?
2. How did Jesus get the woman interested in spiritual things?
3. What is the "living water" that Jesus gives, and how does it become a spring of water inside us?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN MEETS JESUS (vv. 1-18)

1. Where did Jesus go? Why do you think Jesus left Judea (1-3)?
2. Why do you think John specifies that Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were? (2)
3. Why did John write that Jesus "had to" pass through Samaria? Could Jesus have taken a different route? What compelled him to go through Samaria? Hint: See John 4:34. (4)
4. What town did Jesus stop in? What was in that town? Why did He stop there? Why do you think John gives us the time of the day (noon)? How does verse 6 show the humanity of Jesus? (6)
5. Who came out to the well? Why did she come there? (7)
6. What did Jesus ask her for? Does Jesus really need a drink of water? What is Jesus' goal in engaging the Samaritan woman? (7)
7. Where were Jesus' disciples?
8. What did the Samaritan woman say to Jesus? Why was she so surprised that Jesus talked to her? (9)
9. How significant is it that Jesus crossed racial boundaries to preach the gospel? The text says that Jews have no dealings with Samaritans, but does *Jesus* deal with Samaritans? How should this influence our behavior toward those whom we would not naturally engage with? (9)
10. What is the "gift of God"? See Romans 3:23-24 and Ephesians 2:8 for help on the "gift." (10)
11. According to Jesus, if the woman had known who He was, what would she have done? What is "living water"? What does this expression teach you about life with Jesus? (10)
12. How did Jesus say she could get this "living water"? What does this teach you about Jesus' eagerness to give living water to any who asks? (10)

13. Did the woman believe what Jesus said at this point (11-12)?
14. What does Jesus say is better about the water that He can give (13-14)?
15. What does "never be thirsty again" mean in verse 14? (14)
16. How does Jesus' living water spring up like a well within people? (14)
17. Based on verse 15, how much of Jesus' message do you think the Samaritan woman understood at this point? (15)
18. Why did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman about her husband? Did she tell him the truth, the whole truth? How does Jesus show his omniscience? (16-18)

WORSHIP: NO LONGER IN THE TEMPLE, BUT IN SPIRIT & TRUTH (VV. 19-26)

19. What is the Samaritan woman trying to do in verses 19-20? What objection does she raise? (19-20)
20. How does Jesus respond? What does Jesus teach her about worship? How does Jesus' teaching point to the ending of temple worship? (21)
21. What did Jesus mean by "you worship what you do not know"? How is this also true about every other false religion? How does verse 22 show that true knowledge of God is a necessary component of true worship? (22)
22. Why does God care how people worship? See Hebrews 12:28-29. (22)
23. What does "salvation is from the Jews" mean? (22)
24. What are "true worshipers" in verse 23? Are there false worshipers? How do you understand "for the father is seeking such people to worship him"? (23)
25. What does "God is spirit" mean? What is worship "in spirit and truth"? How should this affect our worship? (24)
26. How does the Samaritan woman try to dismiss Jesus? How does Jesus respond to her? (25-26)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus left Judea and passed through Samaria on his way to Galilee. He came to a well, where He sat down to rest. His disciples had left Him to go get food, and a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus began a conversation with her by asking her for water. He quickly turned the conversation into an invitation for the woman to ask Him for "living water," which is eternal life. Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman about her husbands to make her aware of His special knowledge and her sin. She asked about worship, and Jesus told her of a salvation coming from the Jews that would result in true worshipers worshipping God in spirit and truth. At the end, He openly told her He was the Messiah.

MY FOOD IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME

JOHN 4:27-54

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the Samaritan woman go and tell people in the town about Jesus?
2. What did Jesus mean by "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work"?
3. What is the "harvest" Jesus refers to in verse 35?
4. Why did the Samaritan people believe in Jesus?
5. What made the royal official and his family believe in Jesus?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

THE FIELDS ARE READY FOR HARVEST (VV. 27-42)

1. Who came back to Jesus? Why were they surprised Jesus was talking to her? What aspects of Jesus' ministry often surprise you? (27)
2. Why didn't the disciples ask Him what He was doing? (27)
3. What did the Samaritan woman do then? How significant is it that after she encounters Jesus, she immediately starts telling others? What can we learn from her excitement about Christ? Did any believe because of her? (28-30)
4. What did she tell them about Jesus? What did she remember most about her conversation with Jesus? Did you think that she believed Jesus was the Christ yet? What did the people of the town do? (29-30)
5. What did Jesus' disciples want Jesus to do? (31)
6. What does Jesus mean by "I have food to eat that you do not know about"? How does this show Jesus' passion and zeal for his mission? How can we imitate this attitude, putting the mission of God as our first priority? (32)
7. What did the disciples think Jesus meant when he spoke of food? (32)
8. What is the "food" of Jesus? Why does Jesus call it "food"? What is the "work" that Jesus had to accomplish? (32)
9. What does verse 33 teach you about the disciple's cluelessness to the situation? Contrast this with their zeal to preach in Acts 2-4? What changed? (33)
10. What is Jesus' point in the analogy of the farmer/harvest in verse 35? How do farmers know when it's harvest time? (35)
11. What are the "fields" Jesus refers to? What is the "harvest"? Jesus tells his disciples to "look" at the fields, but is there another implied command? (35)
12. Jesus says the fields are "white for harvest." Put this in your own words. (35)

13. What does rejoicing have to do with the sowing and reaping in verse 36? How should verse 36 promote unity among those who labor in the gospel? (36)
14. What does "one sows and another reaps" mean? How is this helpful to remember when you have good or bad experiences in evangelism? (37)
15. What do you think Jesus meant when He says "Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor"? See also 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. (38)
16. Why did some Samaritans initially believe in Jesus? Does it surprise you that the woman would talk about Jesus knowing everything she ever did? (39)
17. Why did the Samaritans ask Jesus to stay with them two more days? (40)
18. What was the result of Jesus's visit and preaching in Samaria? Why did many more Samaritans become believers? How do you think Jesus' words could convince people that He was the Savior? Hint: Romans 10:17. (41)
19. What did they tell the woman in verse 42? How does knowledge of Jesus' words increase the assurance that Jesus is indeed the savior? How should this affect your own personal study of God's word? (42)

THE SECOND CANA SIGN (VV. 43-54)

20. What does Jesus mean by "A prophet has no honor in his own country"? (44)
21. Why did the Galileans welcome him? See John 2:23. (46)
22. Who came to see Jesus? What did ask of Jesus? Where was the sick boy? (46)
23. What did Jesus mean by "Unless you see miraculous signs and wonders, you will not believe" Why did Jesus say that? (48)
24. How did Jesus heal the boy? How did the royal official show his faith? (50)
25. What happened to convince the man that Jesus was the Son of God? How does this fit into John's purpose in writing the book? See John 20:31. (53)
26. What do you make of the word "sign" in verse 54? What are "signs" used for? Notice that John always uses the word "sign" and not "miracle." What is the purpose of Jesus' "signs"?

III. SUMMARY:

After Jesus' disciples returned from buying food, Samaritan woman went to the town and brought all her neighbors to see Jesus. Jesus' disciples were urging Him to eat, but He told them "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work." He then pointed to the Samaritan people as a field ready for harvest. The Samaritan woman went to the town and brought her neighbors to see Jesus. As a result, many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of His word. Jesus then returned to His home area, and He cured the son of a royal official. The man knew that Jesus had done it, and he and his family believed in Jesus.

THE SON DOES NOTHING WITHOUT THE FATHER

JOHN 5:1-23

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. From all the signs he could have chosen, why did John include this one?
2. What does this story teach us about the Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus?
3. What does this section teach us about the relationship between the God the Father and Jesus the Son?
4. How is the Father constantly at His work?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

THE SON OF GOD HEALS THE SICK ON THE SABBATH (VV. 1-17)

1. Why did Jesus go up to Jerusalem? Why do you think Jesus keeps going to Jerusalem at the time of the feasts? (1)
2. Verse 4 does not appear in most manuscripts, so it may not have been in the original. What does it tell you about the pool? (4)
3. The miracles of Jesus are frequently living parables of human neediness—total inability—because of sin. How does this scene in verses 1-5 give us a picture of the world apart from God in its sin? (1-5)
4. What does John tell us about the man whom Jesus would soon heal? (5)
5. Why did Jesus ask him “Do you want to get well”? That seems like a strange question to ask a paralyzed man. What do you think Jesus is getting at? (6)
6. How did he answer Jesus’ question? What do you make of his answer? (6)
7. One theory of salvation places emphasis on human response over God’s initiative. It says “God provides the pool of cleansing through the blood of Jesus, but you must get up and go into it by faith.” How could this man’s problem in verse 7 answer that theory? How is he helpless without Jesus? (7)
8. What did Jesus use to heal the man? What kind of power is this? (7)
9. Why did John tell us it was the Sabbath? Why do you think Jesus routinely does miracles on the Sabbath? (9)
10. Did the Jewish leaders rejoice in this man’s healing? Why not? What does this story teach us about the Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus? (10-18)
11. What did the Jewish leaders want to know from the man? (12)
12. What do you learn from 14, that Jesus sought this man out to warn him? (14)
13. What did Jesus mean by “Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you”? What could be worse than being paralyzed for 38 years? (14)

14. What does verse 15 tell us about the man? Do you think the man went away to boldly proclaim Jesus' excellence, or was he telling the Jews about Jesus so that he could get on their good side? Verse 16 may help. (15)

15. In what way was the man confronted by two different judges in verses 9-15?

JESUS THE SON IS EQUAL WITH GOD THE FATHER (VV. 16-23)

16. Why were the Jews persecuting Jesus? Why is persecuting someone for showing mercy on the Sabbath so hypocritical? (16)

17. What was Jesus' answer to them? What is Jesus implying? (16)

18. How is the Father constantly at His work? Name some of His works. (16)

19. Why did the Jews get so angry at Jesus? Were they misunderstanding Jesus, or were they correctly understanding Jesus and therefore hated him? (18)

20. It seems that Jesus purposefully fanned their anger into a flame. Why? (17-19)

21. How does verse 19 show the unity of God the Father and God the Son? Why does the Son only do what He sees His Father doing? (19)

22. What does this teach you about your own walk with God? If we are now adopted children of God, who should we imitate and obey? (19)

23. How does the Father show the Son everything He does? Does God show us everything He does? What is the difference? What does God reveal to us? (20)

24. What "greater works" will the Father show the Son? What are people going to marvel at? (20-21)

25. What does it mean that the Father has given all judgment to the Son? Does this surprise you, that Jesus will judge you? How will He judge us? (22)

26. What is the significance of the fact that all will honor the Son in the same way as they honor the Father? What does this teach us about Jesus? (23)

27. The Jews seek to honor God without honoring Jesus. Why is this not possible? (23)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus went to Jerusalem to observe a Jewish feast and he met a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years. Jesus healed him with a command. Rather than celebrate, the Jewish leaders grilled the man about Sabbath rules. Jesus also confronted the man about his soul, and threatened that something worse would happen if he didn't stop sinning. The man reported Jesus to the leaders. The Jews persecuted Jesus because He was working on the Sabbath. Jesus actually fanned the flame by linking His work to the Father's. The Jews sought to kill Jesus because He was claiming to be God. Jesus explained His own tasks (miracles, judgment, raising people to eternal life) as proof that He is to be honored in the same way that God is honored.

THE SCRIPTURES TESTIFY ABOUT JESUS

JOHN 5:24-47

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to “cross over from death to life”?
2. What does this passage teach us about Judgment Day?
3. What are “testimonies about Jesus” and why are they given? (31-36)
4. What is the greatest testimony to Jesus given in this passage?
5. Why must one choose between praise from men and praise from God?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. Verse 24 is one of the greatest in the entire Gospel of John. What does it teach you about salvation? (24)
2. What does it mean to “pass out of death into life”? (24)
3. How does verse 25 connect with 24, if at all? Who are the dead? Hint: See Ephesians 2:1. How do the dead hear his voice? What kind of resurrection is occurring here? What kind of life is this? (25)
4. Is Jesus’ life dependent on the Father’s life? What does verse 26 mean? (26)
5. According to verse 27, why has the Father granted the Son the right to judge? What is significant about Jesus judging the human race as a man? (27)
6. What is Jesus talking about in verses 28-29? Why does he tell them not to marvel? What does this teach you about the final resurrection? What does this teach you about the final judgment? (28-29)
7. How will the dead “hear his voice” this time? Can the dead ignore Jesus? How should this affect how we live, knowing that we will not rot in the grave forever, but that we will be resurrected for judgement day? How could this help you in evangelism? (29)
8. Does verse 29 teach salvation by works? Why or why not? Is there a difference between being “saved” by works and being “assessed” by works? If so, explain this. (29)
9. What does 30 teach you about the way Jesus judges on Judgment Day? (30)
10. Why would Jesus’ testimony about Himself not be valid? Who is the one who testifies in Jesus’ favor in verse 32? (31-32)
11. How did John testify to the truth? (33)
12. What is the “testimony” Jesus has received? Who is it from? What does verse 34 teach you about Jesus and his mission? (34)

13. In what way was John a temporary burning and shining lamp? (35)
14. How are the testimonies given in 36-39 “greater” than that of John? (36-39)
15. What four things does Jesus say about His work in verse 36-39? How do each of these testify to Jesus? (36-39)
16. How did the Father Himself testify concerning Jesus? (37)
17. In verse 37, Jesus is perhaps referring to Deuteronomy 18:15-22 on the role of the prophet in Israel’s relationship with God. How is that relevant here? How else could you understand Jesus’ indictment of them? (37)
18. What does it mean to have God’s word “abiding in you”? How does Jesus know the Jews do *not* have God’s word dwelling in them? (38)
19. The Jews meticulously studied Scripture, yet rejected Jesus. Jesus said the Scriptures testified about Him. How is it possible to study Scripture, yet reject Christ? (38)
20. How do the Old Testament Scriptures testify about Jesus? (38)
21. It seems that the testimonies about Jesus are arranged in the order of increasing weightiness. If this is so, what is the weightiest testimony about Christ in this passage? Why do you think it is the weightiest? (39)
22. What do you think about Jesus statement in verse 40? Do you know people like this, who refuse to come to Jesus, despite all the evidence? (40)
23. What does Jesus mean in this context when He says “I do not receive glory from men”? What does Jesus “know” about them? What is he saying? (41)
24. Jesus’ basic argument is always the same: “If you loved God, you would love me.” Why is this true? (42-43)
25. Read verse 43. Why are many people more willing to follow a self-exalting human deceiver who will die and be judged, than the son of God who sacrificed his life to pay for our sins and now lives forever? (43)
26. What is glory from men, and how does it affect belief in Christ? What is glory from God? Is it possible that God will glorify any man? (44)
27. Why will Moses accuse the Jews? When did Moses write about Jesus? What is the connection between Moses’ words and His own? (46-47)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus offers four testimonies about His deity to the Jews: John, His works, His Father, the Scripture. Yet He knows full well the Jews will reject all these testimonies because they do not truly love or believe God. They are in reality living for praise from men, and don’t care about praise from God.

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

JOHN 6:1-24

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this miracle teach us about Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus involve his disciples in the performance of the miracle?
3. Why do you think Jesus refused to be made king by the people?
4. What are some spiritual applications of this miracle to your life?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

JESUS MULTIPLIES BREAD TO FEED THE HUNGRY (VV. 1-15)

1. What factual information does John give us in verses 1-4?
2. Why did the crowd follow Jesus? (3)
3. Why did Jesus ask Philip the question he did in verse 5? (5-6)
4. How was this a test of Philip? Why did John want us to know that Jesus already had in mind what He would do? (6)
5. How did Philip respond? How is this a measurement of the greatness of Jesus' miracle? (7)
6. What did Andrew's suggestion show about him? Are there other examples of God doing miracles by using things already at hand? (8-9)
7. Why did Jesus involve his disciples in the performance of the miracle?
8. How did Jesus handle the crowd? (10)
9. What procedure did Jesus follow to perform the miracle? Why is the fact that Jesus gave thanks important to John? (11)
10. What does this miracle teach us about Jesus? What does it teach us about the people? What is the symbolism? (1-11)
11. Why do you think Jesus had the disciples gather the leftover pieces? Why do you think John recorded that little detail? (12)
12. What did the people believe about Jesus at that point? Who is "The Prophet"? Remember also John 1:21 and John 7:40. See Deuteronomy 18:15 for the answer. (14)
13. What did they try to do to Jesus? How did Jesus avoid their will? (15)
14. Why did Jesus refuse to be made king by the people? Is he not in the world to build His Kingdom? See also John 18:36-37. (15)

15. What do you think is the relationship between the miracle account and verses 14-15 that follow it? (14-15)
16. What are some differences between John's account of this miracle, and the ones found in Matthew 14:22-33 and Mark 6:45-51? (16-21)
17. Why do you think John's account is so short? What information do you get from John's account that you don't get from Matthew or Mark? (16-21)
18. What information do you get from Matthew alone? And what from Mark alone? Is there anything in the three accounts that is difficult to harmonize?
19. According to John's account, why had Jesus not gone with the disciples? (15)

WALKING ON THE WATER (VV. 16-24)

20. Why do you think Jesus walked on the water to meet His disciples? (19)
21. What was the disciples' reaction to Jesus when they saw Him? What does this teach you? (19)
22. If Jesus was able to walk on water, why did He so frequently use boats? If Jesus can make bread multiply, why did his disciples have to routinely buy food? What does this teach you about miracles? What does this teach you about God's use of ordinary means?
23. Some commentators believe that there may have been a second miracle in John's account. Can you see what it might be? (21)
24. According to John, what did the crowd notice the next day when they saw that Jesus was not there? Why does John mention the boats? (22)
25. In verse 23, what aspect of Jesus' actions does John focus on? Why? (23)
26. What did the crowd do when they saw that neither Jesus nor the disciples was there? (24)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee and found a large crowd waiting for Him. Jesus challenged His disciples to feed the large crowd, and then used their meager provision to feed the people. The crowd responded by seeking to make Jesus king by force, and Jesus, anticipating their actions, withdrew into the mountains alone. While Jesus was in the mountains alone, Jesus' disciples got into boats to cross the Sea of Galilee. During the voyage, the disciples encountered a violent storm and had great difficulty crossing because the waves were so high. Suddenly Jesus appeared to them, walking on the water, and they were terrified. After assuring the disciples, Jesus entered the boat and the journey was finished. The next day the crowd on the other side, puzzled over how Jesus had left, got into the boats and crossed the Sea to Capernaum to search for Jesus.

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

JOHN 6:25-51

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How are we often like the people who sought out Jesus for another meal?
2. How does someone “work for” the eternal food which Jesus gives as a gift?
3. How is Jesus the bread of life?
4. What security comes to the believer in verses 37-40?
5. Why did the Jews grumble about Jesus?
6. Why can no one come to Christ unless the Father draws him? What is this “drawing”?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. Why was it surprising to find Jesus on the other side of the lake? (25)
2. Why didn’t Jesus answer their question? According to Jesus, why were the people looking for Him? What is the problem with seeking Jesus because he filled the stomach? (26)
3. Paul talks of people whose “god is their stomach” in Philippians 3:19. How is that true of these people? How is that sometimes true of us? (26)
4. What two things are contrasted in verse 27? How does one “work for” eternal food which Jesus gives freely? Put Jesus’ statement in your own words. (27)
5. What could these verses teach us about priorities in an inner-city ministry?
6. In what way has God placed his “seal of approval” on the Son of Man? (27)
7. What does the people’s question in verse 28 reveal about their hearts? (28)
8. How is believing in the one God has sent a “work”? Who’s work is it? What is the connection between God’s work and your belief? (29)
9. What do you think of their request for a miraculous sign? Do you find this strange since they just saw him feed the 5,000? What do you make of this? (30)
10. What miracle do they refer to in 31? What do they want from Jesus? (31)
11. Why does Jesus say it was *not* Moses who gave the true bread from heaven? What does this teach you about the nature of the manna in Exodus? (32)
12. How is Jesus the true heavenly bread, better than the manna? See verses 49-50. How was the manna in the wilderness a foreshadowing of Christ? (32)
13. Do you think the people understood what they were asking for in verse 34? See verse 66 to help answer this. (34)

14. What claim does Jesus make about himself in verse 35? How have you found this promise true? What is significant about “bread” for living? (35)
15. How did Jesus know that they still didn’t believe in Him? (36)
16. What does verse 37 teach you about salvation? What does it mean that Jesus says “All that the Father gives me will come to me”? How are they “given” from the Father to the Son? (37)
17. What does verse 38 teach you about the attitude of Jesus? What about the love of the Father? (38)
18. What is the will of the Father? What does Jesus mean by “I shall lose none of all that he has given me”? How does this give you assurance of salvation? (39)
19. Verse 40 is yet another great single verse explaining salvation. What does it say about how one is saved? (40)
20. What do verses 37-40 teach you about the security of the believer? (37-40)
21. Why did the Jews grumble about Jesus’ claim to be the bread from heaven? Why did the Jews mention Jesus’ parents? How did Jesus respond? (41-44)
22. Verse 44 is extremely significant for understanding salvation. Why can no one come to Christ unless the Father draws him? In what ways does the Father “draw” people to Christ? (44)
23. How does verse 45 relate to verse 44? What does it mean to be “taught by God”? See Isaiah 54:13 and Jeremiah 31:31-34, especially verse 34. (45)
24. What does verse 46 add to Jesus’ argument? Is this similar to John 3:13? (46)
25. How do verses 47 & 48 relate to each other? How is Jesus the “bread of life” for those who have everlasting life? (47-48)
26. How is Jesus superior to the manna their forefathers ate? How do verses 47-51 answer the demand for a miraculous sign and for ongoing bread? (47-51)
27. What do verses 50-51 teach you about where Jesus was from? How does Jesus give his flesh for the life of the world? (50-51)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus challenged those He fed with physical bread to seek spiritual bread from Him, bread for eternal life which He alone can give. However, they refuse to believe in Him. Jesus responds in effect by saying that the Father had not given them to Him. Jesus then declared how secure are those who *do* believe in Him, for the will of the Father is their final salvation, and nothing can change that! He dealt with the arguing and angry Jews by declaring Himself to be the “bread of life” which they must eat in order to live. He is the fulfilment of the manna that came from heaven. To believe in Jesus is to eat the bread from heaven.

EAT MY FLESH, DRINK MY BLOOD

JOHN 6:52-71

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does one eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ?
2. Why did Jesus purposely choose such offensive language?
3. Why were Jesus' disciples grumbling about Jesus' teaching?
4. Why did some of them leave Jesus? Why did some of them stay with Jesus?
5. What did Jesus mean by, "Did I not chosen you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil"?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

JESUS IS TRUE BREAD AND TRUE DRINK (VV. 52-59)

1. So far in chapter 6, what has Jesus asserted about himself? How has this been received by the Jews? (22-51)
2. What caused the Jews' argument in verse 52? Do you think they misunderstood Jesus' teaching, or that they understood the teaching and rejected it? (52)
3. Does Jesus calm their concerns in verse 53? Why do you think Jesus used such offensive language? In your own words, what claim is Jesus making? (53)
4. Is eating Jesus' flesh essential or optional? (53)
5. What does it mean to eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus Christ? (53-58)
6. What does Jesus mean by saying, "and I will raise him up on the last day"? (54)
7. Jesus calls his flesh "true food" and his blood "true drink." What does this imply about other foods and drinks? How is Jesus "true" food and drink? (55)
8. What does it mean to "abide in" Christ? We'll see this again in John 15 with the vine and the branches. How does verse 56 teach us what it means to "eat Jesus' flesh"? (56)
9. One of the main ideas here is the issue of life, what it means to be alive, and how that life is nourished and sustained. What does verse 57 teach us about all this? (57)
10. Verse 58 is Jesus' final invitation in promise form to these divisive Jews. Does he say anything new here that He hasn't already said? Explain the contrast between the bread that "the fathers ate and died" and Christ. (58)
11. How does John 6 help you understand God's redemptive purposes in foreshadowing Christ via the ministry of Moses and the manna in the desert?
12. Why do you think John tells us where Jesus was in verse 59? (59)

JESUS HAS THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE (VV. 60-71)

13. How did some of Jesus' disciples react to His teaching that they must "eat his flesh and drink his blood"? What did Jesus do about their grumbling? (60-64)
14. How does Jesus' question "Then what if you were see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before"? fit into the context? (62)
15. The disciples' problem with Jesus' teaching fits a common pattern in John's Gospel: people always thought physically when He was speaking spiritually. Can you think of some other examples of this from earlier chapters? How did Jesus deal with their tendency to think physically? (63)
16. How did Jesus know that there were some of them who did not believe? How does this help prove the deity of Christ? (64)
17. How does verse 65 help explain the disciples' attitude of unbelief? What does this teach you about God's sovereignty and mercy in salvation of humans? (65)
18. Do you think Jesus was surprised that many of His disciples turned their backs on Him at that time? According to the consistent teaching of this chapter, why did they walk away? (66)
19. When Jesus asked the Twelve if they wanted to go away, do you think He knew the answer? If so, why did He ask the question? (67)
20. What does Peter's answer teach you about true saving faith? (68-69)
21. If Christ taught something controversial, which ran completely counter to what you thought you knew about God, what would you do? Have you ever been surprised by something God says in the Bible?
22. What do Peter's statements "The words of eternal life" and "the Holy One of God" mean? (69)
23. According to Jesus' statement in verse 70, why did Peter and the rest of the Twelve stay, even when they didn't understand Jesus' teaching? (70)
24. What does Jesus call Judas Isacriot? Many popular presentations of the life of Christ portray Judas as an unwitting victim or an idealist who was just trying to help. How does Jesus' statement here respond to those ideas? (70)
25. If Judas was a devil, why did Jesus choose him to be one of the Twelve? (70-71)
26. John 6 is one of the greatest chapters on the eternal security of the believer. Why does Jesus teach about Judas here? What problem does He seek to answer?

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus turns to His disciples, who are just as troubled by His words "eat my flesh and drink my blood" as were the Jewish leaders. Some of them refused to follow Him any longer, but the Twelve continued with Him because no one else had the "words of eternal life," but ultimately because Jesus had chosen them.

PREACHING AT THE FEAST OF BOOTHS
JOHN 7:1-24

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why does the world hate Jesus?
2. What is the relationship between a heart of obedience to God and certainty that Jesus' teaching comes from God?
3. What did Jesus mean by "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment"?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS' UNBELIEVING BROTHERS (VV. 1-13)

1. Why did Jesus stay away from Judea? Was He afraid to die? What does this teach you about applying wisdom while resting in God's sovereignty (1, 6-8)
2. Read Deuteronomy 16:16. What problem did the Feast of Tabernacles pose for Jesus?
3. What motivated Jesus' brothers to tell Him to go to Judea in verses 3-4?
4. Verse 5 says "for not even his brothers believed in him." How does the brothers' statement in verses 3-4 reveal the fact that they did not believe in Jesus? (3-5)
5. What insight does verse 5 give into Jesus' family life? See also Acts 1:14, 1 Corinthians 9:5, Galatians 1:19 for the rest of the story about Jesus' brothers. (5)
6. What reason does Jesus give for not going up to Jerusalem? What does He mean by "my time has not yet come"? (6)
7. According to verses 5-7, why can't the world hate Jesus' brothers? Read John 15:18-19. What does it show about Jesus' brothers' spiritual state if the world can't hate them? (5-7)
8. How does verse 7 relate to John 3:19-20? How should this influence our perspective on how we Christians should be viewed by the world? (7)
9. According to verse 8, Jesus said He wasn't going up to the Feast, then in verse 10, He went. Did Jesus deceive His brothers? What changed? (8-10)
10. Why did Jesus go to the Feast secretly? Why were the Jews looking for Him? (10-11)
11. What were the people's opinions about Jesus? Why keep them quiet? See also John 9:22. (13)
12. What do you make of the fact that in the gospel of John, it seems like Jesus keeps intentionally going to Jerusalem to teach during the feasts?

JESUS TEACHES AT THE FEAST OF BOOTHS (VV. 14-24)

13. Does it surprise you that Jesus went to the Feast secretly at first, but then halfway through the Feast began to teach openly? How do you explain this? (14)
14. Why were the Jews so surprised at Jesus' teaching ability? (15)
15. According to Jesus, His doctrine came straight from God. What does this mean? (16)
16. Verse 17 is very important. What does it mean for one's will to be set on doing God's will? And if you choose to do the will of God, what will be the result, according to this verse? (17)
17. How does verse 17 help explain why true Christians always have and always will continue to believe that the bible is God's word? (17)
18. What does verse 18 teach you about Jesus' motives in teaching? How could this same principle be applied to other teachers of God's word? How would it affect a teacher of God's word if all he cared about was the honor he could get from others? (18)
19. What does Jesus mean when He said "none of you keeps the Law?" (19)
20. The Jews called Jesus demon-possessed when He accused them of trying to kill Him. What do you think this shows about them? (20)
21. In verses 21-24, Jesus is talking about "one miracle" He did on the Sabbath. How does He defend this healing by talking about circumcision? (21-24)
22. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "do not judge by appearances"? What about when he says, "but judge with right judgement"? How does this inform ways in which we should *refrain* from judgement, or *engage* in judgement?

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus talked with his unbelieving brothers about why He wasn't going up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. He was on a timetable from God, and followed that timetable. Going to the Feast secretly at first, later He openly taught in the Temple. The people were divided about Jesus—some believed He was a good man, some thought he was a deceiver. Jesus' teaching, like His timetable, also came from God. He declared to His enemies that their refusal to accept His teaching came from their refusal to obey God. He finished by challenging their key supposition: because Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He must be from Satan.

IS THIS MAN THE CHRIST?

JOHN 7:25-52

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage teach us about the various ways people respond to Jesus?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Where I am, you cannot come?” Where was he going? (34)
3. How is the Holy Spirit like streams of living water which flow from within us?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE MIXED REACTION FROM THE CROWD (VV. 25-31)

1. Why were the Jews in the crowd surprised at Jesus in verses 25-26?
2. How do verses 25-26 reveal the clear and open disdain that the Jewish rulers had for Jesus? (25-26)
3. Why did the crowd not believe in Jesus Christ according to verse 27? Do you find it ironic Jesus is rejected 7:27 and 7:41-42 because they thought they knew where he was from, but then he is rejected in 9:29 because they do not know where Jesus is from? What does this teach you about the eagerness of people to find reasons to reject Jesus as Lord?
4. What was Jesus’ attitude, verse 28, “You know me and you know where I come from?” Do you sense a little sarcasm? Did you think they understood where he was from? (28)
5. Where was Jesus actually from? Hint: See John 3:31, 6:38, 8:22. (28-29)
6. What did Jesus mean when he said the Jews did not know the one who sent him? Who sent Jesus? What claim is Jesus making about their knowledge of God? (28)
7. Why did they try to seize Jesus? Why couldn’t they do it? What does this teach you about God’s sovereignty? How does this fit with Psalm 2:1-4? (30)
8. As usual, there is a division among the people because of Jesus. Why did Jesus cause division everywhere He went? See Matthew 10:34-36. Does Jesus still cause division among people? (30-31)
9. Did everyone reject Jesus? How does verse 31 shine light on the fact that Jesus is always saving a remnant? What was the role of the signs in their belief? (31)

PHARISEES TRY TO ARREST JESUS (VV. 32-36)

10. Why did the Pharisees send temple guards to arrest Jesus? What were they afraid of? Hint: See John 11:48 and Matthew 27:18. (32)
11. Do you think Jesus was constantly mindful of the brevity of His life? How did this affect his ministry? (33)

12. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Where I am, you cannot come?” (34)
13. What did the Jews think He meant? (35)

Concerning the Dispersion, the Jewish people were scattered among the Greeks when they were expelled from the Promised Land because of sin. These were the Jews Paul preached to in his missionary journeys.

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER; FURTHER DIVISION (VV. 37-44)

14. Why did Jesus wait to the last day of the Feast for this invitation? (37)
15. Whom was Jesus inviting in verse 37? What does this teach you about how the gospel message should be proclaimed? (37)
16. What does Jesus mean when he asks if anyone thirsts? Thirsty for what? (37)
17. What was Jesus inviting them to do? How does the beginning of verse 38 explain what it means to come and drink of Jesus? (38)
18. What does it mean to have “rivers of living water” flow from within? Have you experienced this in your life? How is this similar to John 4:13-14? (38)
19. Verse 39 says, “Now this he said about the Spirit...” Based on this section of verses, what does the Holy Spirit do in the hearts of believers in Jesus? (39)
20. What is the connection between the giving of the Holy Spirit and the glorification of Jesus? See also John 14:16-17 and John 16:7. (39)
21. How did this invitation further divide the people? What held some of them back from belief? (40-44)

THE REPORT OF THE TEMPLE GUARDS (VV. 45-53)

22. What happened with the Temple guards? What caused them not to arrest Jesus? (45-46)
23. What do verses 47-52 teach you about the Pharisees? What do you learn about Nicodemus? (47-52)
24. What do you think of the Pharisee’s statement in verse 52? Were they correct in asserting that no prophet was to arise out of Galilee? See Isaiah 9:1-7 for the answer. (52)

III. SUMMARY:

The preaching of Jesus continues to create division among His people, the Jews. As the Feast of Tabernacles continued, the people grew more and more divided over Jesus because of the things He was saying. Some looked at His words and His signs and concluded that He must be from God; others relied on simple proof texts centered around the birthplace and origin of the Messiah, and their “knowledge” of Jesus and His origin. Their simple “proofs” blinded their eyes to the obvious: Jesus was truly the Son of God. The Pharisees continued to plot Jesus’ death and to intimidate anyone who spoke up for Jesus.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 7:53-8:30

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Is it significant that the earliest and most reliable manuscripts and other ancient witness do not have John 7:53-8:11?
2. How is Jesus the “light of the world”?
3. What did it mean that the Jews would “die in their sins”?
4. What do you think of Jesus’ claim that he always did what was pleasing the father? How does that inform our understanding of joy in obedience?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY (VV. 7:53-8:11)

1. Read John 7:53-8:11. How does this account show the mercy of Jesus, the call to discipleship and sanctification, and the exposing of self-righteousness? Given the fact that it is not in the earliest manuscripts, why do you think early Christians loved this account and wanted it preserved? (7:53-8:11)

JESUS’ TESTIMONY ABOUT HIMSELF (VV. 12-20)

2. How is Jesus the “light of the world”? See John 1:4, 3:19-21; Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 9:2; and Ephesians 4:17-19, 5:8-14. (12)
3. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 5:14, “You are the light of the world.” How do you reconcile these two statements? (12)

Note: This is the second of seven “I am” statements in John’s Gospel:

1) John 6:35 “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

2) John 8:12 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

3) John 10:7-9 “I am the door of the sheep...I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

4) John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

5) John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

6) John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

7) John 15:1, 5 “I am the true vine...I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

4. What do these “I am” statements tell us about Christ? What do they have in common? What do these statements teach you about salvation? (12)
5. What does it mean to “walk in darkness”? Conversely, what does it mean to “have the light of life”? (12)
6. On what basis do the Pharisees challenge Jesus? (13)
7. How does Jesus defend Himself against their accusations? Why is His testimony valid? (14)
8. How do we reconcile “I judge no one” in verse 15 with John 5:22? See also verse 16 as well as John 3:17-18 to help answer this. (15)
9. In what ways has the Father testified to Jesus? What ways did the Father testify to Jesus *during* the life and ministry of Jesus? What ways did the Father testify to Jesus *before* the incarnation of Jesus? In what ways does the Father *still continue* to testify that Jesus is the only son of God, sent from heaven to save sinners? (18)
10. What does verse 19 teach about modern-day Judaism? (19)
11. What is the relationship between knowing Jesus and knowing the Father in verse 19? How does this affect how you approach knowing God? (19)
12. Why does John include verse 20? What does it teach you? (20)

TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF DYING IN SIN WITHOUT CHRIST (VV. 21-30)

13. What does Jesus mean when He says “You will die in your sin” and “Where I am going, you cannot come”? Did the Jews understand Him properly? (21-22)
14. What does it mean to be “from below”? See also Colossians 3:1-3. (22-23)
15. What is the only way to avoid dying in your sins? What does this teach you about the exclusivity of Christ? Is there any other way of salvation? (24)
16. What is the eternal consequence of dying in your sins? Compare with 3:16. (24)
17. What do 25-26 teach about Jesus’ enemies and about Judgment Day? (25-26)
18. What does Jesus refer to when He says “When you have lifted up the Son of Man...”? Why will they know who He is then? See Matthew 28:11-13 and Philippians 2:9-11 for two possible answers. (28)
19. What do verses 28-29 teach you about Jesus relationship to His Father? How do they challenge you in your own daily walk with God? (28-29)
20. What was the outcome of this discussion? (30)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus claimed to be the light of the world, but the Jews opposed Him. Jesus testified to Himself, and declared that His testimony is valid, but that His enemies would die in their sins because they refused to believe Him when He said “I am.” Jesus claimed to do constantly what pleased the Father, and many put their faith in Him.

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM
JOHN 8:31-59

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to be a “slave to sin,” and how does Jesus set us free?
2. What is the significance of Jesus’ statement, “Whoever is of God hears the words of God”? What does that teach you about God’s people?
3. Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am.” What does this mean?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE TRUE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM ARE TRULY FREE (VV. 31-41)

1. What condition does Jesus put to his disciples in verse 31? How do you recognize a disciple/follower of Jesus? (31)
2. What does it mean to “abide in” Jesus’ word or teaching? (31)
3. What does Jesus say about the truth? How could verse 32 be used to motivate evangelism to those who are enslaved in sin? What truth do they need to hear? What freedom does believing the truth bring? (32)
4. What do you think about the Jews’ statement “We have never been slaves of anyone”? Is this true? Hint: See Exodus 1:87-14.
5. What does it mean to be a “slave to sin”? How does Jesus set us free from this slavery? What is the value of this freedom from bondage? (34-36)
6. Why do the Jews want to kill Jesus? What does that prove about them? (37)
7. The Jews claim Abraham is their father. On what basis does Jesus refute that claim? How does one’s deeds show who their spiritual father is? (38)
8. Jesus obeys His Father, and the Jews obey their father. Is it true that all humans obey some “higher power” or authority? Comment on this. (38)
9. The Jews then claim to have God as their Father. The “universal fatherhood of God” was a main tenet of liberalism. What does Jesus say about this? What are the two fathers listed in this chapter? Does everyone fall under one of these two fathers? What are the implications of this for how we view our world? (39-42)

THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL ARE DEAF TO GOD (VV. 42-47)

10. How do the Jews insult Jesus in verse 41? How does Jesus respond? (41-42)
11. According to verse 42, how does a child of God feel about Jesus? How can we use this verse to assess other religions that claim to know and love God but do not accept Jesus as Son of God, Lord, and Savior? (42)
12. Why can’t the Jews understand Jesus’ teachings? (43)
13. What does it mean to be a child of the devil? What do you think of Christ’s boldness here? Can you imagine calling anyone a child of the devil? See Matthew 13:38 and Acts 13:10. (44)

14. What are the attributes of the devil and his children in verses 42-47?
15. What is the significance of Jesus' question, "Which one of you convicts me of sin?" (46)
16. What is the significance of Jesus' statement, "Whoever is of God hears the words of God"? How should this inform how we read the bible? (47)

THE ASTONISHING CLAIM OF JESUS CHRIST (vv. 48-59)

17. What do the Jews accuse Jesus of in verse 48? What does this show about them? Are you surprised at their blatant disrespect for God's son? (48)
18. How important is it that Jesus did not respond with insults, but let his Father honor him? How is this a pattern for us? See also 1 Peter 2:21-23. (49)
19. Knowing from verse 50 that the Father is zealous for the Son's glory, should we be zealous for Jesus' glory? How should this affect our hearts and actions? (50)
20. What warning does Jesus give the Jews in verse 49-51? What promise does Jesus give? (41-51)
21. How did the Jews react to Jesus promise of victory over death? What was their attitude when they asked him, "Are you greater than our father Abraham?" (53)
22. What is the answer to the Jews' question, "Who do you make yourself out to be?" Why do you think the Jews wouldn't accept Jesus' divinity? (53)
23. How does God the Father glorify Jesus? See Heb. 1:8-13, Phil. 2:9-11. Why should those who denigrate Jesus fear the wrath of God? (54)
24. In what way did Abraham rejoice at seeing Christ's day? How did he "see it"? How does Jesus have such insight on what Abraham thought and felt? (56)
25. In the face of the Jews' disbelief, Jesus says "Before Abraham was, I am." What does this mean? How does it show Jesus' courage? How does this show his truthfulness? (58)
26. What does the Jews' reaction prove about the nature of Jesus' claim? (59)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus has another debate with his Jewish enemies. He claims that they are enslaved to sin, children of the devil, and therefore unable to understand a word He says. Moreover, though they should be worshipping Him as God, they are actually plotting to kill Him. The true children of Abraham rejoice in His teaching, cling to it, and continue in it. The true children of Abraham are truly free from sin, because the Son has made them free. The Jewish enemies continued to press Jesus, asking Him the key question, "Who do you think you are?" To that, Jesus replied in unmistakable language, "Before Abraham was born, I Am." This was an open claim to deity, and leaves us no choice but to worship Christ or utterly reject Him.

THE MAN BORN BLIND
JOHN 9:1-12

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How did Jesus address the problem of the evil and suffering in verse 3?
2. What did Jesus mean by the statement, “Night is coming, when no one can work”?
3. What is the significance of the physical steps Jesus used to heal the man?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

CREATED IN WEAKNESS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (VV. 1-7)

1. What is the time relationship between this healing and the events of the previous chapter?
2. What assumption did the disciples make in their question to Jesus? Do you think that most people today see a connection between suffering and sin? (2)
3. How did Jesus address the problem of the evil and suffering? (3)
4. When Jesus said, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents...” is he denying the connection between sin and suffering? Or is Jesus only rejecting the idea that this man’s affliction must be because of his or his parent’s sin? (3)
5. What is the connection between sin and suffering? Does one’s sin ever result in their suffering? See the result of David’s sin with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 12:10-14 to help answer this. (3)
6. In the case of the blind man in John 9, is anyone’s sin responsible for the man’s blindness, for Jesus clearly denies that it is the man’s or the parent’s sin? Hint: See Romans 5:12 for the answer. (3)
7. How does Jesus’ answer to his disciples in verse 3 affect the attitude we should have toward those we see suffering with disabilities? (3)
8. Does all suffering have a purpose? Jesus said “...but that the works of God might be displayed in him.” That implies that suffering in this case had a purpose. See also “so that” in 1 Peter 1:6-7. (3)
9. If you were undergoing a severe trial, would you find encouragement in John 9:3? (3)
10. How do you feel that “the work of God” has been/is being displayed in your life? How could we use mercy ministry in service of the sick and disabled to do “the work of God” as we serve others? (3-4)
11. In verse 4, who must do the work of him that sent Jesus? When must that work be done? (4)

12. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “Night is coming when no one can work”? Do you think Jesus felt an urgency to get the work done? Does this statement give you any sense of urgency in your own life and ministry? (4)
13. How does Jesus’ claim to be the light of the world fit into the context of working before night comes? (4)
14. What did Jesus use to heal this blind man? Note how Jesus healed other blind people: Matthew 9:27-30, 15:30, 20:34; Mark 8:22-26, 10:51-52; Luke 18:42? What does this show you? (6)
15. What is the connection between Jesus being the “light of the world” and him opening the eyes of a blind man? Do you see any spiritual significance to this? If so, what? (5)
16. Why do you think Jesus had the man wash in the Pool of Siloam when he could have healed the blind man without sending him off? (7)
17. Does John give us any of the man’s emotions at receiving his sight? What do you think about the way John’s account is written? (7)

IS THIS THE ONE WHO USED TO SIT AND BEG? (VV. 8-12)

18. After the man got home, how did the people react to his healing? Why do you think some people said he only looked like the man who used to sit and beg? What does this teach you about the impossibility of the healing? What does this teach you about the one who performed the healing? (9)
19. What do you learn about this man from his answers in verses 9-12? (9-12)
20. According to this man, how did Jesus open his eyes? (11)
21. Was he a believer in Jesus yet?

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus came across a man who was born blind, and his disciples engaged in a theological inquiry with Jesus. Since they believed all suffering came as a direct result of personal sin, a baby entering the world without sight posed a problem. Jesus answered that this man was born blind so that the work of God might be revealed in his life. He also revealed His tremendous sense of urgency to get the work of God done while there was still time. After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud, put it on the man’s eyes and sent him to a pool to wash. The man did so and came home seeing. The neighbors were immediately perplexed by this healing, even to the point of wondering if it was the same man. The man openly said he was the same man who used to sit begging, gave a simple historical account of how Jesus healed him, and said he didn’t know where Jesus was.

THOUGH I WAS BLIND, NOW I SEE
JOHN 9:13-41

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage teach us about spiritual blindness?
2. What can we learn from this formerly blind man about boldness and witnessing?
3. What does this passage show about Jesus' compassion for his own people?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

FIRST QUESTIONING: INITIAL DIVISION, SIMPLE WITNESS (VV. 13-23)

1. Why was this man brought to the Pharisees? Does this seem like some kind of court trial? Comment on this. (13)
2. Why is it significant that the day of the healing was a Sabbath day? (14)
3. How did the man initially answer the question about the healing? (15)
4. In verse 16, what was the underlying assumption of the Pharisees' conclusion that Jesus was not from God? How did some of the Pharisees argue against this? (16)
5. Does it surprise you that they were divided? How does Matthew 10:32-39 address this division and the proper response by believers to it? See also John 6:52, 7:43, 10:19. (16)
6. Why do you think the Pharisees turned to the healed blind man to ask him his opinion? (17)
7. What was the man's opinion? Do you think he believed in Jesus yet? What kind of courage do you think it took for this formerly blind man to proclaim that Jesus was a prophet? (17)
8. Why did the Pharisees send for his parents? Do you think it amazing that they felt he was faking his blindness? What would it entail to fake blindness for twenty or more years? Why were the Pharisees willing to believe that he had never been blind at all? (18)
9. How did the parents respond? Why did they respond this way? Do you think they desired the Pharisees' approval more than God's approval? See John 5:43-44. Notice that this verse shows the incredible courage of the blind man in the second cycle of questioning. (21)
10. What does verse 22 teach you about the religious leaders of the day? In what way is this fear tactic and compulsion a clear abuse of religious authority? (22)

SECOND QUESTIONING: PERSECUTION, COURAGEOUS WITNESS (VV. 24-34)

11. "Give glory to God" is a solemn charge to a witness to tell the truth. See Joshua 7:19. But Jesus also used it in speaking of His own miracles (John 17:4) and of

- Lazarus's miraculous resurrection (John 11:4, 40). Do you think this blind man "gave glory to God" by his witness? How can we do the same? (24)
12. Why do you think the Pharisees call the healed blind man back a second time? What do they hope to accomplish? (24)
 13. The Pharisees said Jesus was a sinner. What did they mean? (24)
 14. How does the healed blind man respond? How does he show incredible wisdom in his answer? (25)
 15. The man stuck to "one thing I know" and refused to speculate. What does this teach about witnessing? (25)
 16. The Pharisees irrationally keep going over the story again and again. What does this teach you about spiritual blindness? How did the man deal with it? What do you think of this man's response to the Pharisees? (27)
 17. The interaction climaxes with a final interchange: Moses vs Jesus. How does the blind man answer their claim to not know where Jesus came from? (28-33)
 18. In verse 30 the formerly blind man says that Jesus opened his eyes. Obviously, the man's physical eyes were opened, but is there a spiritual significance to this? If so, what is it? (30)
 19. Why do you think the Pharisees became so abusive? How did the man handle it?

JESUS CONFIRMS HIS OWN, CONVICTS THE SPIRITUALLY BLIND (VV. 35-41)

20. What did it mean that they "cast him out"? How did Jesus respond? (34-35)
21. What was Jesus' mission in finding the man? Did He accomplish that mission? (38)
22. This blind man said, "And who is he [the Son of Man] sir, that I may believe in him?" Relate this to Romans 10:17. (36)
23. What does Jesus mean in 39 concerning judgment for the spiritually blind? (39)
24. How does the Pharisees' refusal to admit blindness ensure their judgment? (41)
25. As you consider this whole chapter, how was God glorified through this man who was originally born blind? (1-41)

III. SUMMARY:

The man Jesus healed from blindness on the Sabbath was questioned in two cycles by the Pharisees. They were willing to believe anything other than that Jesus might really be from God. In the end, they abused the blind man, and threw him out of the synagogue. Jesus went to him and brought him into the true synagogue, the spiritual temple of those saved through faith in the Son of God. Jesus then accuses the Pharisees of obvious spiritual blindness in willfully rejecting the evidence of Christ's deity.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:1-21

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways can Jesus be called the “Good Shepherd” for His sheep?
2. How does Jesus call His own sheep by name and lead them out?
3. Why is it important for us to understand Jesus’ statement, “I know my own and my own know me”? What did he mean by that?
4. What is the significance of “No one takes it [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord”?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP, THE ROBBER AND HIS WAYS (VV. 1-6)

1. What is the context of this teaching by Jesus? How does John 10 relate to the end of John 9? (1-6)
2. According to verse 6, Jesus used a “figure of speech.” Why did He do this? (6)
3. Who is the thief and robber of verse 1 in Jesus’ context? (1)
4. How can one tell who is a thief or robber? Why don’t they use the door? (1)
5. According to verse 2, how can one tell who the true shepherd is? (2)
6. How does Jesus call His own sheep by name and lead them out? See John 15:16, Luke 5:27, and Acts 16:14. How do each of these verses illustrate different ways that Jesus calls his sheep and leads them out? (3)
7. In John chapter 1, John calls Jesus the Word of God. How does that shed light on verse 4, knowing that the sheep hear Jesus voice? (4)
8. In verse 4, why do the sheep follow the shepherd? Seeing that the sheep follow the shepherd because they hear his voice, what does that teach you about the need for regular bible intake for a healthy Christian walk? (4)
9. Why do sheep run from the stranger? In this metaphor, who is the “stranger”? What does this teach you about the masses who follow false teachers today? (5)
10. Why did they not understand Jesus’ “figure of speech”? (6)

THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP: PATHWAY TO A LIFE OF FREEDOM AND FULLNESS (VV. 7-10)

11. In verse 7, Jesus shifts the image. What does it mean that Jesus is the “door”? Is there any legitimate way into the sheepfold apart from the door? What does this teach you about the exclusivity of Christ as means for human salvation? (7)
12. Who are the “thieves and robbers” who preceded Jesus? What does He mean when He says His sheep did not listen to them? (8)

13. What kind of life is He describing for His sheep in verse 9? How do you experience that life? (9)
 14. How does the thief “steal, kill, destroy?” Steal what? Kill What? Destroy what? Who is this thief? (10)
 15. According to verse 10, what did Jesus come to do? What life does Jesus give? What does it mean that Jesus gives life “abundantly”? (10)
- THE COST OF A FREE, ABUNDANT LIFE FOR THE SHEEP: DEATH FOR THE SHEPHERD (VV. 11-21)***
16. Verse 11 should bring you to immediate praise and thanksgiving to Christ. Does it? (11)
 17. Why does the good shepherd “lay down his life” for the sheep? (11)
 18. Read Ezekiel 34:1-16. How is Jesus different from the shepherds of Israel? What do you think about John chapter 10 in light of Ezekiel 34, and especially 34:15?
 19. What is the difference between the shepherd and the hired hand? (12-13)
 20. From what danger does Jesus protect His sheep? Hint: see verse 10.
 21. How does Jesus “know His sheep”? How is His relationship with the Father a measure of His relationship with the sheep? (14-15)
 22. How many times does Jesus refer to His “laying down His life” in verses 11-18? What does this teach you about the centrality of his sacrificial death in his mission to seek and save his sheep? (11-18)
 23. Who are the “other sheep” that are not of this sheep pen? See Isaiah 49:6. Why is He so confident they will listen to His voice and follow Him? What is the significance of the promise that there will be “one flock” and “one shepherd”? (16)
 24. How is the Father’s love for the Son related to His willingness to die for His sheep? (17)
 25. What is the significance of 18? Is it really true that no one could kill Jesus? How should this cause us to worship Christ for his atoning death on the cross? (18)
 26. What does Jesus refer to when He says He has authority to take His life up again? Does anyone else have this authority? (18)
 27. What was the crowd’s reaction to Jesus’ statement? (20-21)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus explained his commitment to His followers in the figure of speech of the Good Shepherd, teaching of His love for them, knowledge of them, and death for them; also of their loyalty to Him and their abundant life through Him. The enemies of the sheep cannot succeed.

THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE SHEEP

JOHN 10:22-42

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does Jesus mean by, “My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me”?
2. What are the implications of the assurance Jesus gives to His sheep in verse 28-30?
3. What does “Scripture cannot be broken” teach about Jesus’ doctrine of Scripture?
4. What is the connection between proper handling of Scripture and proper recognition of Jesus?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

NOT JESUS’ SHEEP: NEVER BELIEVE; JESUS’ SHEEP: NEVER BE LOST (VV. 22-30)

1. What was the Feast of Dedication? You may have to look in a study bible or on the internet, for it is not one of the feasts found in the Old Testament law. (22)
2. Why did the Jews gather around Jesus? What was their attitude? (24)
3. When they say, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly,” what are they implying about Jesus’ statements about Himself? (24)
4. Did Jesus use difficult language for them, or had He made it plain? Explain.
5. When did Jesus plainly tell them that He was the Christ? Did they believe him?
6. What is Jesus’ basic explanation for why they continued to refuse to believe? (25-30)
7. What does Jesus mean by, “My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me”? How can Christians today hear the voice of Christ? (Hint: The bible). How does verse 27 affect your understanding of the daily life of a Christian? What does it mean to follow Jesus’ voice? (27)
8. What does Jesus promise to give his sheep in verse 28? What does it mean that the sheep will never “perish”? How could meditating on this give you a heart of gratitude and contentment for what Christ has done for you? (28)
9. What assurance does Jesus give His sheep in verse 28-30? How does God’s power and authority guarantee the salvation of Christ’s sheep? (28-30)
10. Why does Christ want His sheep to have total assurance of their final salvation?
11. What does Jesus mean by the statement, “I and the Father are one”?

***JESUS' ENEMIES: RIGHTEOUS DEFENDERS OF GOD TRYING TO KILL GOD
(VV. 31-39)***

12. How did the Jews respond to Jesus? How do you think they saw themselves at the moment they picked up stones to kill Jesus? (31, 33)
13. What do you think about Jesus' response in verse 32? (32)
14. What evidence does Jesus use to prove His truthfulness? (32, 37-38)
15. What reason to the Jews give for stoning Jesus? Were they right that Jesus was claiming to be God? Were they right in stoning Him if He was wrong? See Deuteronomy 13:6-10. (33)
16. How does Jesus use Psalm 82:6 to save His life? (34-35)
17. What does verse 35 teach about Jesus' doctrine of Scripture? How does this give you confidence in the reliability of the scriptures? (35)
18. What is the connection between proper handling of Scripture and proper recognition of Jesus?
19. How did the interaction with the Jews end? (39)

JESUS' SHEEP CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO HIM (VV. 40-42)

20. Why do you think John includes the final three verses at the end of this heated exchange with the Jews? (40-42)
21. How did John's witness to Christ help lead these people to faith? (41-42)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus has yet another conflict with the unbelieving Jews, who accuse Him of speaking in difficult language about His true identity. Jesus says, in effect, the problem is not with His language but with their unbelieving hearts, which make them spiritually deaf. He essentially says "My sheep hear me and follow me everywhere. You don't hear my voice because you are not my sheep!" Jesus then speaks past them to give His own sheep full assurance of final salvation. In doing so, He openly claims to be God, for which the Jews want to stone Him. Jesus defends Himself by an obscure Scripture and by referring to His miracles. The account ends with a story of more people believing in Jesus.

SICKNESS AND DEATH FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

JOHN 11:1-27

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How can severe trials (sickness and death) glorify God?
2. Why was Jesus glad that He was not with Lazarus when he was sick?
3. What did Jesus mean by saying, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die”?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS’ RESPONSE TO LAZARUS’ SICKNESS AND DEATH: ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (VV. 1-16)

1. Who was Lazarus to Jesus? What was the nature of their relationship? (1-3)
2. Mary is identified as the woman who anointed Jesus’ feet with ointment. See John 12:1-3. What does this teach you about Mary? (2)
3. What does Luke 10:38-41 also teach us about Martha and Mary?
4. Mary and Martha identified Lazarus as “he whom you [Jesus] love.” What does this teach you? Remember, John identified himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. (3)
5. What did Jesus mean when He responded, “This illness does not lead to death...”? Does the death of Lazarus prove Jesus wrong? If not, why not? (4)
6. Does any sickness for a Christian truly “end in death”? Explain the ways our sicknesses do end in death, as well as the ways that they do not end in death. (4)
7. How would Lazarus’ sickness glorify God, and how was God’s Son glorified in it? (4)
8. What is the “glory of God”? How does something or someone “glorify God”? (4)
9. How could verse 4 transform our self-centered view of our trials and sicknesses? How could you use your next sickness for the glory of God? (4)
10. Why do you think John keeps emphasizing Jesus’ love for this family in verse 5? Does Jesus’ initial action seem loving? How could we use this passage to better understand why Jesus does not immediately relieve our suffering and trials? (5)
11. Why did Jesus wait two more days? What does this teach you about God and trials? (6)
12. Why were the disciples reluctant to go back to Judea? Why wasn’t Jesus? (7-16)
13. What did Jesus mean by talking about “twelve hours in the day”? (9-10)

14. Why does Jesus speak of death as “falling asleep?” Did the disciples understand this? How did Jesus know that Lazarus was dead? (11)
15. Jesus speaks of raising Lazarus from the dead as waking him from sleep. Is it a difficult thing for Jesus to raise the dead? How does this give you hope of a future resurrection? (11)
16. Why was Jesus glad that He was not with Lazarus when he was sick (15)?

JESUS’ MINISTRY OF COMFORT TO THE GRIEVING (VV. 17-27)

17. Why was it significant that Lazarus had been in the tomb four days? (17)
18. Why do you think John mentions Bethany’s proximity to Jerusalem? How does this end up bringing more glory to God? (18-19)
19. Why do you suppose Mary stayed at home when Martha left to meet Jesus? (20)
20. What does Martha’s greeting show about her faith in Christ? (21)
21. Martha went on to say “But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Did she think Jesus would raise Lazarus from the dead at this point? (22)
22. What did Jesus mean when he said to Martha, “Your brother will rise again.” Was he speaking of the final resurrection or what He was about to do? (23)
23. How do you think Martha knew about the resurrection at the last day? (24)
24. What did Jesus mean by saying, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die”? (25-26)
25. How does Jesus claim in verses 25-26 give you hope? This is one of Jesus’ greatest statements, feed your soul on this truth! (25-26)
26. What was the significance of His question to Martha, “Do you believe this?” What is the significance of her answer? (26-27)
27. What do you think about the fact that the Samaritan woman of chapter 4, the blind man of chapter 9, and now Mary here in Chapter 11 have believed in Jesus, yet the religious leaders still continue to reject him? See also 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus’ friend Lazarus becomes sick, and Lazarus’s sisters send Him word so that He will come and heal their brother. Jesus purposely stays where he is two extra days so that Lazarus will die. His disciples are afraid to go back to Judea, but Jesus is fearless. On arriving in Bethany, he meets Martha and begins to comfort her, promising that He is the resurrection and the life, and that faith in Him defeats the grave.

LAZARUS, COME OUT!
JOHN 11:28-57

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. If Jesus knew He was about to raise Lazarus, why did He weep?
2. What can we learn from Jesus' prayer in front of the tomb?
3. How is the resurrection of Lazarus a picture of salvation?
4. What does Caiaphas unknowing predict about God's redemptive plans?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS CHRIST (VV. 28-37)

1. How did Mary hear about Jesus' visit? How did she respond? (28-29)
2. Why do you think Jesus hadn't entered the village yet, but waited outside? (30)
3. Why did the crowd follow Mary? Why do you think God allowed the crowd to be there? How does this tie back to verse 4? (31)
4. What strikes you about the way Mary greeted Jesus? See also verse 21? (32)
5. The Greek in verse 33 is very strong. Jesus had a deeply emotional reaction, and troubled himself in spirit. What does this teach you about Jesus? What does it teach you about how He feels about death? Why did He react this way at this point in the story? (33)
6. If Jesus knew He was about to raise Lazarus, why did He weep? (35)
7. How did the Jews respond to Jesus' emotional display? (36-37)
8. How did they misunderstand His compassion? (37)

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD (VV. 38-44)

9. Again, note the strong emotion from Jesus in verse 38. What caused emotion here? (38)
10. How did Jesus respond to death in verse 39? Why did Martha hesitate? (39)
11. What is the motive for everything Jesus does as revealed in verse 40? What does this teach you about the driving purpose in Jesus ministry? (40)
12. How is Martha's faith connected to her seeing the glory of God? Is this statement true for us today, that if we believe in Jesus Christ, we will see the glory of God one day? See Romans 8:18, Revelation 22:4, Job 19:25-26. (40)
13. What do you learn about prayer in verses 41-42? What do you learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father through this prayer? (41-42)
14. What did Jesus do to raise Lazarus from the dead? Connect this to John 5:25 and Romans 4:17. (43)
15. How is the resurrection of Lazarus a picture of salvation? See Ephesians 2:1-5.

THE UNBELIEVER’S RESPONSE TO THE POWER OF GOD: THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS (VV. 48-59)

16. The sign of the resurrection produced two different outcomes among the people. What were they? How do you explain this? (45-46)
17. Some people say “Seeing is believing.” How do verses 45-53 explain the origin of faith? (45-53)
18. Why did the chief priests and Pharisees call the Sanhedrin together? (47)
19. What were they most afraid of? Does it seem like they cared about the truth at all? (48)
20. What does Caiaphas’s statement teach you about prophecy? How was it a prophecy about Christ? Did he intend to give a prophecy? (49-52)
21. What do verses 51-52 teach you about the purpose and effects of Jesus’ death? (51-52)
22. Who are the “children of God who are scattered abroad”? How does Christ’s work on the cross gather “into one” the children of God scattered abroad? See also Ephesians 2:13-17. (52)
23. How does the word “So” in verse 53 connect to Caiaphas’s prophecy and demonstrate the sovereignty of God over the death of Christ? See Acts 4:27-28 for help. (53)
24. Why did Jesus withdraw from the Jews at this time? (54)
25. What do verses 55-57 teach you about the expectations around the time of Jesus’ last week on earth? (55-57)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus demonstrated both His compassion and His power in raising Lazarus from the dead. His prayer showed His constant concern both for the glory of God and for the faith of His disciples. Lazarus’s resurrection led immediately to the faith of many who saw it, but also the hatred and fear of those who opposed Jesus. The Jewish leaders, who cared more for their earthly positions of power than for their souls or for the life of a fellow Jew, plotted to kill Jesus. In doing so, Caiaphas opened his hateful mouth and prophesied about Jesus atoning death on the cross as a substitute for the people. Jesus withdrew from the crowds until the right time came for His death.

BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING

JOHN 12:1-19

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What can we learn about worship from Mary's expensive gift?
2. What does this passage teach us about Judas, the betrayer?
3. What does this passage teach about ministry to the poor?
4. What was the significance of Jesus' "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem?
5. Why did the disciples not understand the significance of these events?
6. What was the effect of this dramatic entry on Jesus' enemies?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

PREPARATION FOR JESUS' BURIAL (VV. 1-8)

1. What historical details (time, place, circumstances) does John give us about the dinner? Why do you think Jesus returned to Bethany? (1-2)
2. What were Martha and Lazarus doing? Martha also served in Luke 10:38-42. (2)
3. What did Mary do? What was extraordinary about her action? What do you think motivated Mary to give such a lavish gift to Jesus? (3)
4. How did Judas react? What does his answer teach you about him? What does Judas's statement teach us about Mary's gift? (4-5)
5. What commentary does John give on Judas's statement? What insight does he give into Judas's heart? If Mary had sold the perfume as Judas wanted, and the money had been given into the purse for the poor, where would it really have ended up? (6)
6. Obviously, Jesus knew that Judas would steal. If so, why did He give the job of caring for the money to Judas? Why did Jesus pick a man who would betray him to be among the other eleven disciples? (6)
7. How did Jesus defend Mary's actions? What did He mean when He said that Mary was to keep it for the day of His burial? (7)
8. What significance do you derive from Jesus' statement "For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me"? Note: Jesus was probably quoting Deuteronomy 15:11. The context there is that Israelites should be generous and openhanded to the poor among them. (4)
9. What does this passage teach about ministry to the poor?

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (VV. 9-19)

10. Why does John mention the large crowd at this point? Why were they there? (9)
11. What was the result of the large crowd's desire to see Lazarus? What picture does this paint of the chief priests? (10)

12. What effect was Lazarus having on many of the Jews? (9-11)
13. Who was the “great crowd” in verse 12? Why were they in Jerusalem? See Deuteronomy 16:16. (12)
14. How do you think the crowd knew that Jesus was going to Jerusalem? (12)
15. Why had Jesus been avoiding public display of Himself? See John 11:7-8, 54. Why does He now enter Jerusalem openly and publicly? (12)
16. What did the people do as a result? Why do you think the people were so excited? (13)
17. What is the significance of the statement “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” in Matthew 23:39? See Psalm 118:25-26 for the original reference.
18. What are some similarities and differences between this account and the ones in Matthew 21:4-9, Mark 11:7-10, and Luke 19:35-38?
19. According to Zechariah’s prophecy (Zechariah 9:9), why should the “Daughter of Zion” not be afraid? What does this teach you about Jesus? (15)
20. John says that later, the disciples realized two things: 1) these things (Old Testament prophecies) had been written about Jesus; 2) these things had been done to Him (by the people). Why do you think they didn’t understand these two things at that time? How did this realization come later? (16)
21. What did John mean by “When Jesus was glorified”? See also verse 23. What does this expression teach you about glory? What does it teach you about Jesus’ death? (16)
22. According to verse 17, how did the word continue to spread about Jesus? What effect did this have on Jerusalem? (18)
23. What effect did Jesus’ fame have on the Pharisees? Were the Pharisees right about the “whole world”? See Jesus’ mistrust of the crowd in John 2:23-25. (19)

II. SUMMARY:

Six days before His final Passover, Jesus attends a dinner in his honor at the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus, which Jesus said was preparation for his burial. The betrayer (Judas) among the disciples criticized the gift, for he would have rather had the money for himself. Jesus praised Mary for her worship, for though care for the poor is important, the Incarnate God was reclining at table with them and was about to die for sins. After this, Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly. He rode on a young donkey in direct fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy that the King of Zion would do so. The crowd was incited by those who had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, again demonstrating the incredible impact of that miracle. The Pharisees felt their policy of containing the crowds and keeping them from following Jesus was a total failure as a result of this public adulation. Yet, within five days Jesus would be crucified.

FRUITFULNESS THROUGH DEATH

JOHN 12:20-36

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does the death of Christ glorify both Him and the Father?
2. What principle does Jesus give for the growth of the Kingdom in verse 24?
3. What abiding motive does Jesus give in His prayer, “Father, glorify your name”?
4. How does Jesus “draw all people to himself” by His death?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

GREEK WORSHIPERS ASK TO SEE JESUS (vv. 20-22)

1. How do verses 20-22 relate to verses 12-19, time-wise? (21-22)
2. Who does John introduce in verse 20? What does it mean that they were “Greeks”? See also John 7:35. Why were they in Jerusalem? What does this tell you about them?
3. Why do you think these Greeks went to Philip? Note: Philip is a Greek name, as is Andrew. What does this tell you about the spreading fame of Jesus? (20-21)
4. What did the Greeks want from Philip? If all they wanted was to “see” Jesus, why didn’t they simply stand in the crowd as he passed by? (21)
5. What did Philip do with their request? (22)

The Glory and Cost of the Salvation of All Nations (vv. 23-33)

6. What do you think is the logical connection between the request of the Greeks and Jesus’ teaching in verses 23-33? Is there a connection between the gospel reaching foreigners and Jesus’ declaration that the hour has now come for the Son of Man to be glorified? Explain. (23)
7. What is the significance of Jesus’ statement, “The hour has come...”? In John 2:4, 7:6, 7:8, 7:30, 8:20, what does Jesus say about his “time” or “hour”? In John 12:27, 13:1, 17:1, what does Jesus say about his “time” or “hour”? (23)
8. What do you think Jesus had in mind when He spoke of the Son of Man being “glorified”? What does “glorify” mean? If Jesus was referring to His death (see verse 24, 33), how did that “glorify” Jesus? (23)
9. What parable does Jesus use in verse 24? What does the kernel of wheat do if it dies? What insight does this give you into the function and growth of the Kingdom of God? Do you see this principle of self-sacrificial death at work in your own life? (24)
10. What does it mean to “love your life” in this world? What does it mean to “hate your life in this world”? What warning/rewards does Jesus promise? (25)
11. What does “Whoever serves me must follow me” mean? Follow in what way and to what end? What reward does Jesus give for those who follow Him? (26)

12. Why was Jesus' heart troubled? What would the natural response to self-death be? What would a typical prayer in this situation be? How did Jesus pray? (27)
13. Why does Jesus reject praying for His own deliverance? What does He mean by saying, "But for this purpose I have come to this hour?" (27)
14. Rather than pray for deliverance, what does Jesus ask for? What does He mean by, "Father, glorify your name" Note: This is an important concept for the daily life of a Christian. See 1 Corinthians 10:31. God's glory should be the motive for every action and moment. It was for Jesus, even if it cost Him His life. (28)
15. What happened after Jesus had prayed? How had the Father glorified His name? How would he glorify it again? (28)
16. What did some of the people who heard the voice think it was? According to Jesus, what was the purpose of the voice? Why didn't Jesus need the voice? (29-30)
17. How is Jesus' death the time for the judgment of the world? Who is the "ruler of this world"? How is ruler of this world cast out? See also John 14:30, 16:11, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, 1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:19. (31)
18. What does Jesus mean by, "when I am lifted up from the earth..."? What does John say He means by this? What does Jesus say He will do when He is lifted up from the earth? (32-33)
19. How does Jesus "draw all people to himself"? What does "draw" mean? What does "all people" mean? (32)
20. How did the crowd react to Jesus' statement? Are they right in saying that the scriptures teach the Christ would remain forever? What was their mistake? (34)
21. How does Jesus warn them in verse 35-36? What does it mean that "darkness" would overtake them? What does it mean to walk in the light? What does it mean to put your trust in the light? If someone puts their trust in the light, what will they become? (35-36)
22. After Jesus had finished teaching them, what did He do? Why? (36)

III. SUMMARY:

Some Greek worshipers who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover asked to be able to spend time with Jesus. Jesus used the occasion to speak of the glory and cost of the worldwide salvation He had come into the world to accomplish. He used a word-picture of a kernel of wheat which must die to produce other seeds. They, too, must die in the same way for the multiplication to go to all nations. The cost is high, for Jesus is deeply troubled, and voices (and rejects) the prayer, "Father, save me from this hour." He rejects this vigorously for His entire purpose in entering the world was to die on the Cross. In so doing, He would draw men from every nation to salvation. He ends by warning unbelieving Jews to take advantage of His final days to put their trust in Him.

LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?

JOHN 12:37-50

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What explanation does John give for the Jews refusal to believe in Jesus?
2. What is the significance of Isaiah seeing Christ's glory and speaking of him?
3. What does Jesus teach us about Judgment Day in verses 47-50?
4. What do you learn in this section about Jesus' radical submission to the Father?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JEWISH UNBELIEF: FACT STATED, REASON GIVEN (VV. 37-41)

1. Who is John talking about in verse 37? What does John say about them? (37)
2. What is John's attitude toward the unbelief in that he says "Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him"?
3. Should the miracles have convinced the Jews that Jesus was God's Son? (37)
4. How does their unbelief fulfill Isaiah 53:1? According to Isaiah, how does the revealing of the arm of the Lord relate to believing the message? (38)
5. What does it mean that "They could not believe..."? Do you find this concept easy or difficult to accept? Explain. (39)
6. What explanation is given for the Jews refusal to believe in Jesus? (39-40)
7. Who "blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts?" (39)
8. What is the result of the blinding and hardening? Note John Murray's comment: "It is by God's appointment that if God's word does not quicken, it must deaden." If we hear God's word and refuse to believe, the word has a hardening effect on our hearts. (40)
9. According to John, why did Isaiah make this statement? (41)
10. What is the significance of John's statement: "...he [Isaiah] saw his [Jesus'] glory and spoke of him"? What does it teach you about predictive prophecy, the purpose of prophecy, and the pre-existence of Christ? What does it mean to "see his [Jesus'] glory"? (41)

SOME COWARDLY BELIEVERS AMONG THE LEADERS (VV. 42-43)

11. Who does John talk about in verse 42? How would you understand this kind of belief in light of Matthew 10:32-33? (42)
12. What had the Pharisees done that caused these believers not to confess their faith? See John 9:22. What does it mean to "confess" our faith? (41)
13. What motive does John give for their failure to confess openly their faith in Christ? Why do people love the praise of men rather than the praise of God? See also John 5:44. How can we be sure this never happens to us? (42)

Note: John Calvin's comment here is worth taking to heart: "We must always notice that rulers have less courage and constancy, because ambition always reigns in them, and there is nothing more servile than that. To put it in a word, earthly honors may be called golden shackles binding a man so that he cannot freely do his duty."

14. Verse 43 says, "they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God." The despising of the glory of God and exchange of that glory for something earthly is the essence of sin in Romans 1:23. What does Isaiah 40:6-7 tell us about the glory of men? (43)

JESUS MAKES A FINAL APPEAL AND GIVES A FINAL WARNING (VV. 44-50)

15. The end of John 12 marks the close of Jesus' public ministry in John's gospel. What appeal and warning does Jesus give in verses 44-50? (44-50)
16. What does verse 44 teach you about faith in Christ? (44)
17. What do you learn from verses 44-45 about the relationship between Jesus and the Father? (44-45)
18. What does verse 46 teach you about humanity's natural state and Christ's purpose? What does it mean to be in darkness? What is the only way out? (46)
19. What does it mean to hear Jesus' words and not keep them? (47-48)
20. Why are Jesus' words so important that our eternal destiny hangs on whether or not we accept them? How will Jesus' word condemn people on the last day? (48)
21. Verses 49-50 are extremely important for teaching us about how Jesus conducted His teaching ministry. What is so amazing about Jesus' statement in verses 49-50? How does Jesus show perfect and radical submission to the Father? (49-50)
22. How does this command lead to eternal life? (50)

III. SUMMARY:

John summarizes Jesus' public ministry by marveling over the amazing refusal of the Jews to believe in Jesus despite all the evidence of His supernatural nature and power. According to John, the Jews' unbelief fulfilled prophecy which said it would happen, and that God would actually blind eyes and harden hearts to make it happen. This does not mean the Jews are not responsible for their sinful rejection of Christ. Rather, that God "gave them up in the lust of their hearts" (Romans 1:24) to rejection of Christ. However, some Jewish leaders did believe in Christ. Yet their love for praise from men and their fear of losing earthly privileges caused them to be silent and not confess their faith in Christ. Jesus finishes His public ministry with a final appeal for faith and obedience, and a final warning concerning condemnation for those who reject Him and His words, which are the very words God told Him to say.

JESUS WASHES FEET JOHN 13:1-17

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of Jesus' action in washing His disciples' feet?
2. What did Jesus mean by his statement, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean"?
3. How should we follow Jesus' example, and what blessing comes from doing it?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS' TIMING, MOTIVE, AND ACTION (VV. 1-5)

1. When did these events occur? Why do you think it was important that this was just before the Passover? (1)
2. What language does John use instead of saying "it was time for Jesus to die"? What does this teach us about the nature of Jesus' death? (1)
3. How did Jesus know it was time for Him to die? How does this knowledge prompt Him to wash His disciples' feet? (1-4)
4. John writes, "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." In what ways did Jesus love his own who were in the world? In what ways did he love them "to the end"? (1)
5. What were the immediate circumstances of the foot washing given in verse 2? Why do you think John inserted the statement about Judas? Why did the devil want to kill Jesus? (2)
6. How did Jesus' knowledge of the power God had given Him as well as His own imminent return to the Father enable Him to wash their feet? How could meditation on our eternal inheritance (1 Peter 1:4) motivate us to sacrificial service of others? (3)
7. What were Jesus' actions? Would you have been surprised if you had been there? (4-5)

PETER'S OPPOSITION AND JESUS' POWERFUL RESPONSE (VV. 6-11)

8. How did Peter oppose Jesus' actions? What do you think were Peter's reasons? (6, 8)
9. How did Jesus answer Peter? Why did they not understand what Jesus was doing? If they didn't understand the symbolic act, then why did He do it? (7)
10. Peter's response was extremely strong, saying, "You shall never wash my feet." Why was he so passionate about this? What was Peter's problem? (8)
11. What was Jesus' answer to Peter? Why did He give Peter such a strong answer, replying, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." How is this atonement language? What is Jesus actually saying to his disciples (and us)? (8)

12. Peter gives one of his typical extremist responses, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” What did this show about Peter’s heart? (9)
13. What does “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean” mean? What is the spiritual significance of this statement? (10)
14. What did Jesus mean by “And you are clean...”? See John 15:3. What does this teach you about the soul-healing ministry of Jesus Christ? (10)
15. What was Jesus referring to by “... but not every one of you”? Who was the unclean one? (10-11)

JESUS ATTACHES SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ACTION (VV. 12-17)

16. Some ancient commentators put a great deal of significance on Jesus laying aside His garments in verse 4, and taking them back up in verse 12, saying they refer to the glory He left behind in coming to the earth (see John 17:5). What do you think of this concept? (12)
17. Why does He ask about their understanding in verse 12 when He already said Peter didn’t understand in verse 7? Why is it so important that they understand the foot washing? (12)
18. How does verse 13 keep Jesus’ actions in perspective? (13)
19. What kind of declaration does Jesus make in verse 13? (13)
20. What is Jesus’ goal in this symbolic action? How does He drive His point home in verses 14-17? (17)
21. How can we Christians today take seriously and obey Jesus command of verse 15? How can we humbly and sacrificially serve others for the glory of God? (15)
22. What kind of person is “blessed” according to verse 17?
23. What is the relationship between knowledge and action according to verse 17?

III. SUMMARY:

By washing His disciples’ dirty feet, Jesus gave us a powerful example of servanthood in order to enable us to defeat our own tendency toward selfishness and pride. True blessing in the Christian life comes from following His example. The spiritual significance of the washing goes to our salvation in Christ, such that, unless Jesus washes us we have no part with Him.

PREDICTIONS: BETRAYAL AND DENIAL
JOHN 13:18-38

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the “Judas principle” (see note on question 7) and how does it explain churches comprising believers and secret unbelievers?
2. What is the significance of the fact that Satan entered into Judas?
3. How does loving one another the way Jesus loved us prove to the world that we are His disciples?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS PREDICTS JUDAS’S BETRAYAL (VV. 18-30)

1. When Jesus said, “I am not speaking of all of you,” He was reflecting back on the foot washing lesson, saying that blessing would come through obedience (verse 17). Why didn’t that apply to all of those listening to Jesus? (18)
2. What does “I know those I have chosen” mean in this context? (18)
3. How is Psalm 41:9 which says, “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me” fulfilled in verses 26-30? What is significant about sharing someone’s bread? (18, 26-30)
4. Why did Jesus predict the betrayal ahead of time in front of them all? What was the effect of this? (19)
5. How does verse 20 fit into the train of Jesus’ thought from verse 19? Completely out of this context, how does verse 20 relate to someone who thinks highly of Jesus but poorly of the Apostle Paul (who has many controversial teachings!)? (20)
6. Why was Jesus “troubled in spirit” in verse 21? What insight does this give you into Jesus’ emotional life and his relationship to those He has not chosen, like Judas? (21)
7. Did the disciples know right away that Jesus was talking about Judas? Did they know it once Judas had taken the piece of bread and gone out? What does this teach you about Judas’s outward appearance up to that point? (21)

Note: It is not always easy to tell the difference between true believers and false hypocrites who make a claim of faith. This is the “Judas principle” and it hinders churches greatly! See also Matthew 13:24-30, in which the master forbid the servants from rooting up the weeds because they might make a mistake and root up true wheat. The two are sometimes hard to tell apart!

8. What does the whole interchange with Peter and John tell you about Jesus’ relationship with them in particular? See also John 21:20. (23-24)
9. Why did Judas take the bread? What happened when he took the bread? (27)
10. What is the significance of the fact that Satan entered into Judas? (27)

11. Did Satan want Jesus to be killed? This is a hard question since in Matthew 16:23, Jesus ascribes to Satan a temptation that Jesus not die on the cross! So which is it?
12. What command does Jesus give Judas? Note: this is after Satan had entered into Judas! Satan is still under the authority of Jesus' word! (27)
13. Is there a spiritual significance to John's statement, "And it was night." What is it? (30)?

JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL (VV. 31-38)

14. How was Jesus glorified by Judas leaving? What was Judas going to do, and how would Jesus be glorified? (31)
15. What does verse 32 mean? How does the glory of the Son relate to the glory of the Father? There are many ways the Father and the Son are glorified through the cross, see Romans 3:25-26 for one of them. (32)
16. Notice Jesus' tenderness in calling them his "children." Jesus was only 33 years old at this point! What does this teach you? Why does He warn them that He's about to leave? Why can't they also go where He's going? (33)
17. Is the command to love one another a new one? See 1 John 2:7-8. What is the measure and model of our love for one another according to verse 34? (34)
18. What is the effect of our love for one another in verse 35? How do you exhibit this love in your life? Would it be obvious to others that you are a Christian because of your demonstrated love for other believers? If not, how can you grow in this area? (35)
19. What does the interchange with Peter teach us about Peter's future and ours? (36)
20. Why was Peter so confident that He could follow Jesus? Do you ever struggle with over-confidence? (37)
21. Why did Jesus predict Peter's denial ahead of time? (38)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus openly warned His disciples about two shattering events that were about to happen: Judas, one of the Twelve, was going to betray Jesus to His death; Peter, the leader of the Twelve, was going to deny three times that he even knew Jesus. Yet through it all, Jesus' sovereign power even over Satan himself, and His supernatural love for the chosen disciples shines forth. On the basis of these things, He commands us to love one another as He has loved us. By our obedience in this matter, the world will know that we are Jesus' disciples. This is the true effect of learning from Jesus: hearts transformed from selfishness in sin to self-sacrificial love!

HE WHO HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE FATHER

JOHN 14:1-14

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does contemplation of heaven ease troubled hearts?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, “He who has seen me has seen the Father”?
3. What did Jesus mean by, “He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father”?
4. How does this passage teach the exclusivity of Christ as a means of salvation?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

COMFORT COMES FROM CONTEMPLATING HEAVEN & TRUSTING CHRIST TO TAKE YOU THERE (VV. 1-4)

1. What is the connection between the end of chapter 13 and John 14:1? Why would the disciple’s hearts be troubled? (1)
2. Is it possible for us to control whether or not our hearts are troubled? If so, how does trust in God and in Christ dispel troubled hearts? (1)
3. What is Jesus referring to when He speaks of His “Father’s house” in verse 2? How could contemplating heaven quiet a troubled Christian’s heart? See also Colossians 3:1-4. (2)
4. How does Jesus describe His Father’s house? (2)
5. When Jesus says, “If it were not so, I would have told you,” what does this teach you about His openness in communicating with His disciples? See also John 15:15, 12:49, 17:8. (2)
6. Why is Jesus leaving them, according to verse 2? How does He “prepare a place” for them? See also Hebrews 11:16, 11:40, Ephesians 2:21, and 1 Peter 2:4-5. (2)
7. What’s the relation between Jesus’ purpose in going and the certainty of His return to earth? (3)
8. What is Jesus’ ultimate purpose in verse 3? See also John 17:24. (3)
9. Is heaven a “place”? Is there a journey to be traveled to heaven? (4)

JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER (VV. 5-7)

10. Based on Thomas’s question, do you think the disciples understood what Jesus was talking about? (5)
11. Verse 6 is a very famous verse. What is it primarily used by Christians to teach? Why are there no other ways to the Father except through Christ? (6)
12. How is Jesus the “way”? Note: Christianity was called the “Way” early in its history: Acts 8:39, 9:2, 19:9, 19:23, 22:4, 24:14, 24:22. (6)

13. The age we live in is very relativistic; there is no absolute truth. How is Jesus the “Truth”? (6)
14. How is Jesus also “the life”? Note that life is a person! See John 1:4, and John 11:25. (6)
15. How is it true that truly to know Jesus is the same as truly knowing the Father? (7)
16. How have the disciples known and seen the Father? See also John 1:18 and John 17:3. (7)

***THE ASTONISHING CLAIM OF JESUS CHRIST: SEEING HIM IS SEEING GOD
(VV. 8-14)***

17. Did Philip understand what Jesus was talking about? What did he want Jesus to do? What was Jesus’ whole purpose in coming to the earth, according to John 1:18? (8)
 18. How do verses 9-10 prove the deity of Christ? (9-10)
 19. How is the Father in Jesus and Jesus in the Father? (10)
 20. Jesus extends the unity between the Father and the Son to the very words He speaks. How does this explain John’s use of the word “Word” to describe Jesus in John 1:1? See also Hebrews 1:1-3. (10)
- Note: Jesus’ word-speaking is part of the work the Father has for Jesus to do. See John 17:4, 17:6-8, 12:49-50.
21. Verses 10-11 give the two forms of evidence for Jesus’ deity from Jesus’ public ministry as recorded in John’s gospel. What are they? (10-11)
 22. Does verse 12 surprise you? How will we do “greater works” than Jesus? What does Jesus’ going to the Father have to do with these “greater works”? (12)
 23. What is verse 13 an incentive for us to do? How does Jesus’ answers to our prayers bring the Father glory? (13)
 24. Verse 14 is a clear invitation for us to pray. Do you take Him up on it? What does it mean to “ask in His name”? Does it mean more than just saying, “in Jesus’ name, Amen” at the end of our prayers? Explain. (14)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus sought to calm His disciples after their deep pain at the predictions of Judas’s betrayal and Peter’s denial. He focused their minds on heaven and on His own power and purpose in taking them there. Yet, there would be a journey to be traveled in Him, though they all knew the Way to the final destination. The disciples did not understand Him, so He explained that he was the only way to heaven and that seeing Him was the same as seeing the Father. He finished with a repeated invitation for them to pray in faith, boldly, for great things

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AS ORPHANS

JOHN 14:15-31

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What is the relationship between our love for God and our obedience to Him?
2. How does the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, minister to Christ's disciples in His absence?
3. What does this section teach us about the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity?
4. What do we learn here about our daily relationship with the Triune God?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS PROMISES TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT (VV. 15-17)

1. What is the relationship between our love for Christ and our obedience to Him? Is it possible to love Christ and disobey His commands? Explain. (15)
2. The word "Helper" is *parakletos*, meaning one who stands alongside someone to help them is a courtroom (like an advocate). How does the Holy Spirit function that way for believers? See also 1 John 2:1. (16-17)
3. What is the significance of the word "forever" in verse 16? Note: See King Saul's experience with the Holy Spirit in 1 Samuel 16:14, and David's fear in Psalm 51:11. How does verse 16 give comfort to Christians? (16)
4. What other name does Jesus give the Counselor in verse 17? How does "truth" relate to the Father (John 4:23-24) and to Jesus (John 14:6)? (17)
5. How does the world relate to the Holy Spirit? What about Christians? What does Jesus mean by saying, "He abides with you and will be in you"? (17)

THE MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST TO HIS DISCIPLES (VV. 18-24)

6. In what way might the disciples feel "orphaned"? How does Jesus promise to deal with this? See that Jesus calls them "Little children" in John 13:33. (18)
7. When Jesus says "I will come to you," is He referring to His post-resurrection appearances, the coming of the Holy Spirit, or His Second Coming? (18)
8. When will the disciples see Him but the world no longer see Him? (19)
9. What did Jesus mean, "Because I live, you also will live"? (19)
10. What does "in" mean when Jesus says, "I am in my Father, you in me, I in you"? Why will they realize that these things are true "on that day"? (20)
11. What two conditions does Jesus set for loving Him? What does it mean to "have" His commands? What two outcomes result from meeting the two conditions? What does Jesus mean by, "I will ... disclose myself to Him." (21)
12. Judas (not Iscariot) probably is concerned with Jesus' open Kingdom on earth. This is why he's confused as to why Jesus plans to show Himself only to the

disciples. See Acts 1:6. Why do you think Jesus did not openly show Himself to the world after His resurrection? (22)

13. What does verse 23 teach us about the results of obedience to Christ? What does it mean that the Father and Jesus will make their home/abode with someone? Hint: remember verses 16-17! See also 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 2:21-22, and 1 Peter 2:4-5. (23)
14. How do verses 23-24 affect your feeling concerning daily habits of sin? (23-24)
15. For the fourth time, Jesus links love for God and obedience to His word. What does this teach you about people who are “cultural Christians”? (24)
16. Why do you think Jesus stresses that His words come from the Father? (24)

JESUS PREPARES THE DISCIPLES BEFORE GOING TO THE FATHER (VV. 25-31)

17. There’s a sense of urgency in verse 25. Why does He underscore the fact that He is speaking while he was still with the disciples? (25)
18. What ministries will the Holy Spirit perform for the disciples in Jesus’s absence? Why is He called the “Holy” Spirit? Why do you think this became His most common title, rather than the “Spirit of Truth,” or “Counselor/Helper”? (26)
19. Why is the promise in verse 26 the key to the writing of the New Testament, especially the Gospel accounts of Christ’s life? (26)
20. Why does Christ mention peace at this point? What is Christ’s peace? How is it different from the world’s peace? Why does Isaiah 57:20-21 say “There is no peace for the wicked?” How does John 14:27 relate to Romans 5:1? (27)
21. Why should the disciples be glad that Jesus is going away? (28)
22. Does Jesus’ statement “The Father is greater than I” undermine the doctrine of the Trinity? Why or why not? (28)
23. Some false teachers deny that God knows the future. How does John 13:19 and 14:29 link Jesus’ foreknowledge of events to our faith in His own deity? (29)
24. Who is the “prince of this world”? Why is he coming? What does Jesus mean when He says he has “nothing” in Jesus?
25. Why does Jesus mention His own love for the Father in the context of the coming “prince of this world” who has “nothing” in Jesus? How does Jesus’ willingness to die prove His love for the Father? How does verse 31 show that Jesus has modeled the Love=Obedience paradigm that he demands of us? (31)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus prepares His disciples for their imminent separation from Him by promising the Holy Spirit, and the indwelling presence of the Trinity. But this is only given to those who love God and obey His commands. The entire section highlights the key connection between love for God and obedience to His commands.

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES
JOHN 15:1-17

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to “abide in Christ?”
2. What does it mean to bear fruit for Christ? What kind of fruit do we bear?
3. What does this passage teach us about prayer?
4. What commandment does Jesus leave his disciples?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE VINE AND BRANCHES (VV. 1-8)

1. This is yet another “word picture” that Christ uses. Can you think of some other ones in John’s gospel, like the “good shepherd,” ect? (1)
2. In what way is Jesus a “vine” while we are the “branches?” (1, 5)
3. What role does the Father play in this? (1-2)
4. What does the Father do to fruitless branches? Why? What does this teach you about the necessity of fruitbearing in the Christian life? Do you think this verse teaches that you can lose your salvation? If not, what is it teaching? (2)
5. What does the Father do to fruitful branches? What does it mean to be “pruned” in the Christian life? See Hebrews 12:4-11. (2)
6. In what way are we already clean by the word? See also John 13:10-11. (3)
7. What does it mean to “remain” or “abide” in Christ? How do we do this practically? See Galatians 5:16-26, especially 5:25; also Romans 6, and 8:5-14. (4)
8. According to verse 4, what’s at stake, depending on our abiding or not abiding in Christ? What will happen to us if we forsake Christ? (4)
9. Jesus restates the principle in verse 5. why do you think He does so? (5)
10. What does Jesus mean by, “apart from me you can do nothing”? It seems like non-Christians, who are clearly apart from Christ, do a great many things. How is this blanket statement true? (5)
11. What does verse 6 threaten? How could you use this warning in your own life? How could you use this as an exhortation to other Christians? How could you use this in evangelism with unbelievers? (6)
12. What does Jesus promise in verse 7? What conditions does Jesus attach to the promise? (7)
13. What does Jesus mean with the phrase, “...and my words abide in you”? How do we meet this condition? Note: Not just “my word,” but “my words,” plural. See also Matthew 7:24, 26. (7)

14. How does our fulfillment of verse 7 glorify God in verse 8? How does our bearing of abundant fruit glorify the Father? How does it relate to our discipleship? (8)

ABIDING IN CHRIST'S LOVE; LOVING ONE ANOTHER (VV. 9-17)

15. How is the Father's love for Christ the measure of Christ's love for us? Are you surprised by Jesus' statement in verse 9? What kind of love is this? (9)
16. How do we "abide in His love"? Is it possible to sin our way out of His love? (9-10)
17. What is the relationship between our obedience and our love for Christ? (10)
18. What is the relationship between fruitbearing, obedience, and our joy? (11)
19. What kind of joy does Christ offer us in verse 11? Do you experience that joy? What does this teach us about Christ as a master, that he actually gives us commands so that we can be exceedingly filled with joy? (11)
20. What is the measure of the love we should have for each other? What is the measure of Christ's love for us? (12-13)
21. According to verse 13, what is the greatest love that one can offer another? How does Christ offer this love for us? How can we follow Christ's example by laying down our lives for the sake of the elect who have yet to come to Christ? (13)
22. Who are Christ's friends? Is it possible to be Christ's friend and consistently disobey Him? (14)
23. According to verse 15, what is the difference between the way a master treats a servant and a friend? How do we qualify as "friends" of Christ according to this verse? (15)
24. Are we done being Christ's servants, or are we now both servants and friends? Hint: see Romans 1:1, Revelation 7:15. (15)
25. How do you interpret "You did not choose me, but I chose you"? Don't we make a "decision" to follow Christ? According to this verse, what is the ultimate reason people follow Christ? Why did He choose and appoint His disciples? (16)
26. What is the relationship between our abundant, eternal fruitbearing and our prayer life? (16)
27. Verse 17 is a simple statement. Why is it so hard to carry out?

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus commanded His disciples to remain close to Him in order to bear abundant eternal fruit. If they did, they would have a fertile prayer life and would glorify the Father. Central to the command is that we obey His command to love one another.

THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL PERSECUTE YOU
JOHN 15:18-27

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of treatment can a fruitful disciple of Christ expect from the world?
2. How can such a disciple prepare for this treatment?
3. What reasons does Jesus give for the world's hatred?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE HATRED OF THE WORLD (VV. 18-25)

1. What is the relationship between verse 17 and verse 18? (18)
2. What is the relationship between the world's treatment of Christ and the world's treatment of His disciples? (18)
3. What does Jesus want them to keep in mind when they are persecuted? How is that comforting, to know that you are suffering in the steps of Jesus Christ? (18)
4. How is it that disciples are not "of the world"? What does that mean? (19)
5. In what ways does the world show love for "its own"? (19)
6. How does one escape from belonging to the world, according to verse 19? How does it result in the world's hatred? (19)
7. Read Matthew 10:24, John 13:16, along with John 15:20. How does the "servant/master" argument work concerning persecution? Everything seems to come down to the hearer's attitude toward Christ! How does verse 20 state this? (20)
8. Why, according to verse 21, does the world treat Christ's disciples this way? The NASB translates the phrase "on account of my name" as "for my name's sake." Typically, this means that honor and glory are brought to God. How would the suffering of Jesus disciples bring honor and glory to Jesus? See also Philippians 1:29. (21)
9. Verse 22 seems difficult. Is it literally true that the world would not be guilty of sin if Christ had not come and spoken? How do you understand this? (22)
10. Can you think of another place in Scripture where people are said to be "without excuse" for sin? (22)
11. Is it possible to love the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and yet to hate Jesus Christ? If not, where does this leave modern Jews who reject Christ? (23)
12. How do Christ's miracles shed light on their guilt? (24)
13. Do you think it's too strong to say that Jews who reject Christ hate God? What is Jesus teaching here? (24)

14. What does verse 25 teach you about rejecting Christ? Why do you think Jesus says it was written in “their Law” not just “the law”? What kind of indictment is this? (25)

THE TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (VV. 26-27)

15. How does verse 26 relate to verse 25? (26)
16. Who is the “Helper”? What does it mean that He “proceeds” from the Father? (26)
17. What does Jesus teach is the Helper’s role here? (26)
18. What is the role of the disciples in verse 27?
19. What does it mean to “bear witness” to Christ? Does it excite you to work in harmony with the Spirit in this task? (27)
20. How are we different from the original disciples that heard Christ in verse 27?
21. Why is it important that they had been “with Him from the beginning?”

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus prepares His disciples for a life of persecution at the hands of the world, and shows them the context of that persecution: their on-going, Spirit-led testimony to Christ in a world that hates both Christ and the Father.

WARNINGS OF PERSECUTION
JOHN 16:1-15

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Jesus warn His disciples so clearly about the coming persecution?
2. Why is it better for the church that Jesus left the world?
3. What are the various aspects of the work of the Spirit in the world and the church?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE WARNING COMPLETED: PERSECUTION WILL COME (VV. 1-4)

1. Why did Jesus warn His disciples about the coming persecution? How could being ignorant of the coming persecution be the cause for “stumbling”? (1)
2. What specific attacks does He predict will come to them? (2)
3. How do you think it would affect the life of a Jew in the 1st century to be “put out of the synagogue”?
4. How is it possible that people who kill Christians will think they are serving God by doing it? What does this teach you about religion? Have you seen this happen in history? Where? (2)
5. What reason does Jesus give for their evil behavior? (3)
6. How will it help the disciples while they are persecuted to remember that Jesus predicted it long before it happened? How can you use this text to prepare your heart for potential persecution? (4)
7. Why did He wait until now to tell them? (4)

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD AND IN THE CHURCH (VV. 5-15)

8. Where does Jesus say He is going? Why don't the disciples ask Him where He's going? See John 13:36, 14:5. (5)
9. How are the disciples reacting to Jesus' words? Why? (6)
10. Do you find verse 7 a surprise? Many people say “It would be better to have lived in the days of Jesus Christ, when He walked the earth.” Jesus says it's better now for believers. Why? (7)
11. Who is the “Helper”? See John 14:16, 14:26, 15:26. Why can't He come unless Jesus goes away? (7)
12. What work does the Helper do in the world? (8)
13. What does “convict” mean in this context? (8)
14. How does Jesus explain this convicting ministry in verses 9-11?

15. What is the connection between the world's sin and the fact they don't believe in Christ? (9)
16. What is the relationship between righteousness and the fact that Jesus will be in the world no longer and no one will be able to see Him? (10)
17. What is the relationship between the world's judgment and the fact that "the ruler of this world is judges"? Who is the ruler of this world? (11)
18. What does verse 12 teach you about Christ? What does it teach you about the disciples? Why do you think the disciples were not ready to bear more? (11)
19. What is the relationship between verse 12 and verse 13? How does the Spirit guide disciples into "all truth?" (13)
20. How did the Holy Spirit guide the disciples/apostles into truth as they wrote the New Testament? How does the Holy Spirit continue to guide believers in the truth as we read the Scriptures? See also 1 Corinthians 2:10-14. (13)
21. Why does Jesus stress that the Spirit says nothing on His own? See John 12:49. (13)
22. How does the Spirit tell "things that are to come"? What are examples of this in the New Testament, where we have knowledge of the future because of the writings inspired by the Holy Spirit? (13)
23. How does the Spirit's teaching ministry bring glory to Christ? (14)
24. Verse 15 is an amazing statement!! How does it help prove the deity of Christ? (15)
25. How verses 8-15 show the deity of the Holy Spirit? (8-15)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure by warning them about coming persecutions and promising them about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He also laid out key aspects of the Spirit's work: convicting the world of sin, righteousness, judgment, and revealing to the church the word of Christ.

GRIEF, THEN JOY!
JOHN 16:17-33

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What do these verses teach us about Christ's special communication with His own?
2. How is prayer spoken of as a source of joy and comfort here?
3. What is the coming grief that Jesus speaks of, and what is the Joy?
4. What does it mean that Jesus has "overcome the world"?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE DISCIPLES' CONFUSION, JESUS' INSTRUCTION (VV. 17-24)

1. What does Jesus speak of when he says, "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me"? (16)
2. Why didn't the disciples ask Jesus the questions on their hearts? (17)
3. What were the disciple's questions in 17-18? Try answering each of them. Why do you think it was so hard for them to understand at the time? (17-18)
4. Why do you think the disciples so frequently did not understand Jesus?
5. What does verse 19 teach you about Jesus and His knowledge of and love for His disciples? (19)

Note: Remember John 14:2, "If it were not so I would have told you," and John 15:15, "all that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you." Also His explanation of the parables: Matthew 13:11, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."

6. What image/figure of speech does Jesus use to answer their questions? (20-22)
7. What does the image of the delivery of a child teach about the disciples' journey through the world? (20-22)
8. Why does there need to be a time of "grief" for us in this world? (22)
9. What causes us to forget the time of grief? (21-22)
10. Do non-Christians also suffer grief in this world? What are the differences between the worldly sufferings of Christians and the worldly sufferings of non-Christians? What are we waiting for?
11. What do verses 23-24 teach about our future relationship with the Father?
12. How do these verses of prayer ("Ask and you will receive") fit into the context of verse 17-19? (24)
13. What is the relationship between our prayers and our joy in verse 24? Do you think that the reason many Christians don't experience joy is that they don't ask

God for specific things? How are you also guilty of, “Until now you have not asked...”? (24)

ON FIGURES OF SPEECH AND PLAIN LANGUAGE (VV. 25-31)

14. How had Jesus been speaking figuratively? Why does He use this language? (25)

15. How does Jesus characterize the disciples’ future conversations/relationship with Him and with the Father in verses 25-26?

A WEAK FAITH, A SOLITARY SAVIOR, A CONQUERED WORLD (VV. 31-33)

16. Why does the Father love followers of Christ? (27)

17. Why is it so important to believe that Jesus came from the father? (27-28)

18. How does verse 28 answer the initial question of verse 17-18?

19. Verse 31 can be translated two ways: “You believe at last!” or “Do you now believe?” What is the difference? Which of the two do you think is more likely? Why? (31)

20. Whether they believe at last or not, what will soon happen to them? How is their faith related to this scattering? (32)

21. Do you think Jesus has any emotions when He says, “You will...leave me alone”? (32)

22. Is Jesus alone? How does Jesus answer this? Are we alone during trials? See 2 Timothy 4:16-18 for Paul’s experience. (32)

23. How does verse 33 sum up this whole section on persecution? (33)

24. How has Jesus overcome the world? How does that encourage us in persecution and worldly trials? (33)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus answers His disciples questions about His return to God, and prepares them for suffering. He concludes by telling his disciples to have courage, for Jesus has overcome the world.

JESUS' HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER: PART 1

JOHN 17:1-12

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Jesus pray for His own glory?
2. How does verse 5 prove the deity of Christ?
3. Why does Jesus pray for His disciples?
4. Why doesn't Jesus pray for the world?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS OWN GLORY (VV. 1-5)

1. How does John connect the prayer of chapter 17 with the sayings of the previous chapter? What happened at the end of Chapter 16?
2. What does it mean that Jesus "looked toward heaven"? Why do you think He did this? (1)
3. What do you think we can learn simply from the fact that Jesus prayed? What is the "hour" that Jesus is referring to? (1)
4. What does "glorify" mean? What is Jesus' stated reason for asking that he be glorified? How would the Father glorify Jesus, and vice versa? (1)
5. What is the connection (the "since") between verse 1 and verse 2? How does Jesus authority over all people connect to the prayer for God to glorify Him? (2)
6. What authority does Jesus speak of? There are many verses which speak of the Father's granting authority to the Son: Matthew 28:18, Daniel 7:14, 1 Corinthians 15:27, Matthew 11:27, Luke 10:22, Ephesians 1:20-22, Philippians 2:8-9. What does this teach you about Jesus? (2)
7. For what purpose did God give this authority to Jesus, according to verse 2? Who benefits from Jesus' authority? What does Jesus' authority have to do with this giving of eternal life? (2)
8. What does verse 3 teach us about eternal life? What does it mean to "know God"? What does it mean to know Jesus Christ? Are both essential to eternal life? (3)
9. What does Jesus call God in verse 3? What relationship does Jesus set between God and Jesus Christ in verse 3? (3)
10. How did Jesus bring glory to the Father while on earth? What work had the Father given Him? What does this teach us about how we glorify God? (4)
11. Read Isaiah 42:8, 48:11. What do these verses teach you about God's glory? Based on that knowledge, what does Jesus' request in verse 5 teach you about Jesus? How and when did Jesus share the Father's glory, according to this verse? Does this verse teach the deity of Christ? If so, how? (5)

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES (VV. 6-12)

12. What does Jesus mean when says He's revealed God's name to the disciples? (6)
13. Why do you think Jesus calls the disciples "the people whom you gave me out of the world?" In what sense had the Father given the disciples to the Son? (6)
14. Why do you think Jesus mentions the disciples' obedience in verse 6? (6)
15. What is the significance of the statement that everything the Son has received has come from the Father? (7)
16. Why is it important that the disciples know that what was given to Jesus came from the Father, and that the Father sent the Son? What does it mean to "receive" the words Jesus teaches? (7-8)
17. What does verse 8 teach you about Jesus' words? Do we have access to the very words of Jesus today? (8)
18. Why does Jesus stress that He is not praying for the world? Doesn't Jesus love the world? How do you reconcile John 3:16 with John 17:9?
19. One of the recurring themes of these verse is that the disciples truly belong to the Father. How does Jesus state that in verses 6-10? How does it affect your relationship with God? (6-10)
20. How does verse 10 prove the deity of Christ? Could you say these words to God? (10)
21. How had the disciples brought glory to the Son? (10)
22. What does Jesus ask for from the Father? What is the significance of being kept in the Father's name? Will the Father answer Jesus request? How does this make you feel? (11)
23. What does the protection have to do with "that they may be one"? (11)
24. What is the measurement of Christian unity given in verse 11 and verse 21? Do we see that level of unity among Christians now? Has Jesus' prayer failed? (11)
25. What does it mean to "perish"? Had any of the disciples perished? Will any of Jesus' followers perish or be lost? Hint: See John 10:27-30. (12)
26. Does Judas's destruction prove that one can lose their salvation? Why/why not? What does "that the Scripture may be fulfilled" show in this matter? (12)

III. SUMMARY:

In anticipation of the crucifixion and ascension into heaven, Jesus prays in front of His disciples that God would glorify Him in order that He might glorify the Father. To have eternal life is to know the Father and the Son. Jesus prays that they may be kept safe in the world and may be one, as perfectly united as the Father and the Son. He mentions Judas, the one who was lost that the Scripture might be fulfilled. The net result of the prayer for protection is that no disciple may lose their salvation.

JESUS' HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER: PART 2

JOHN 17:13-26

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does the Father protect us from the evil one?
2. What did Jesus mean by "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth"?
3. Who does Jesus pray for in these verses? Who does he not pray for?
4. What is Jesus' ultimate goal in His prayer?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS PRAYS FOR THE DISCIPLES SAFETY IN THE WORLD (VV. 13-19)

1. What does Jesus mean by, "but now I am coming to you?" How did Jesus understand death? How should it affect your view of death? See also Philippians 1:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:6-9. (13)
2. Why does Jesus pray these things while still in the world? Hint: See John 11:42. Will He pray things while he is no longer in the world? See Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34. What is different about prayer He prays while still in the world and those He will pray when no longer in the world? (13)
3. What does it mean to have Christ's joy fulfilled in us? What is Christ's joy, and is this possible? Do you experience that in your life? (13)
4. How had Jesus given the disciples God's word? Why does the world hate them as a result? (14)
5. Jesus makes an incredible statement about His disciples when He says "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." What does this mean? Why is it an amazing statement? (14)
6. How should a Christian should feel about living in the world? See also 1 John 2:15-17. A common Christian slogan is "In the world, but not of it." Is that a good statement of the Christian's situation based on to Christ's prayer? (14)
7. Why does Jesus not pray for His disciples to be taken out of the world? What does he pray for instead? What does it mean for the Father to protect us from the evil one? How should this influence our prayer life? (14)
8. What does "sanctify" mean? Does God sanctify us, or are we supposed to sanctify ourselves? How does truth sanctify us? (17)
9. Do you think the sanctification in verse 17 is the "once for all" sanctification mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 6:11, or the "progressive" sanctification in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Romans 6:22? How are these different? (17)
10. What is the meaning and significance of "Your word is truth"? (17)
11. How does verse 18 help explain verse 15? In what way does Jesus send us out into the world? How is His being sent like us being sent? See John 20:21. (18)

12. How does Jesus sanctify Himself for us? Why does He sanctify Himself? (19)

JESUS PRAYS FOR THE UNITY OF FUTURE BELIEVERS (VV. 20-23)

13. Who does Jesus pray for in verses 20-21? Are these actual people (with names) or just potential people? Are you included in this prayer? (20-21)

14. What kind of unity does Jesus have in mind here? What does it mean to be “in” Jesus as Jesus is “in” the Father? (21)

15. What effect will this have on the world? Is this “world” the same as verse 9&14 or the same as verse 13? Is there a difference in the way the term “world” is used? How do you understand the effect “so that the world may believe”? (21)

16. What is the glory that Christ gives his followers? How is related to the desired unity? (22)

17. What is the measure of Christian unity in verse 22-23? What does it mean to be as one as the Father and the Son are one? How does this help us understand Paul’s desire that the Corinthian church be “united in the same mind and same judgement” (1 Cor. 1:10) with no divisions amongst them? (22-23)

18. Jesus seems to pray for a process in verse 23: “That they may become perfectly one...” What process is Jesus talking about? What is the connection between the unity Jesus prays for here and the daily unity of churches in meetings, in worship, in relationship with other churches and denominations? (23)

19. What is the measure of the love the Father has for believers? How is this manifested if Christ’s disciples display unity with each other? (23)

JESUS’ ULTIMATE GOAL IN PRAYER: ETERNAL PARTICIPATION IN HIS GLORY BY HIS DISCIPLES (VV. 24-36)

20. What does verse 24 teach you about Jesus eternal goals? What effect will seeing Jesus’ glory have on us? See also 1 John 3:1-3. (24)

21. Why does the Father share His glory with Jesus? For how long has the Son Jesus shared in the Father’s glory? (24)

22. What does it mean that the world has not known the Father? Compare this to Matthew 11:27. What is the significance of Jesus’ claim to know the Father? (25)

23. What promise does Jesus make for the future in verse 26? How will He fulfill that promise? What will the effect be of Jesus’ continual revelation of the Father to us? (26)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus prays that His disciples will be kept safe in the world, set apart as holy and protected from the devil, so that they can accomplish their mission. He also prays for future generations of believers, that all of them may be perfectly one in Him and may see His eternal glory. To this end, He will continue to reveal the Father to them until the task is completed.

THE ARREST **JOHN 18:1-18**

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage show us of the character of Christ?
2. How does this passage help demonstrate the deity of Christ?
3. What is the relationship between physical protection of the disciples and their spiritual protection in this passage?
4. What is John's purpose in weaving together the stories of Jesus' trial and Peter's denial?
5. What lessons can we learn from Peter's experience in John 18?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

1. How is this passage related to the previous? Where did Jesus go out from? (1)
2. What is the historical significance of the Kidron Valley? See 2 Samuel 15:23. Also 1 Kings 15:13, 2 Kings 23:4,6, 12. Talk about the parallels between Jesus crossing the Kidron and David fleeing Jerusalem and crossing the Kidron. (1)
3. The "garden" was certainly Gethsemane, a word which means "Olive Press." Why do you think John doesn't mention Jesus' agony in the Garden the way the other gospels all do? (2)
4. Why did Jesus go to Gethsemane where Judas knew exactly where He would be? Was it a mistake on Jesus' part, or was it intentional? Explain. (2)
5. According to the Greek, Judas was guiding a speira, 1/10th of a legion, or about 600 men. Why do you think they brought so many men with weapons? (3)
6. What statement does John make about Jesus in verse 4? What is the significance of Jesus going out to meet this huge detachment of soldiers, even though he knew all the suffering and agony that lay ahead? What does this show of Jesus' steadfastness and his mission? See also Hebrews 12:2. (4)
7. Why does Jesus twice ask the soldiers who they have come to arrest? What is on Jesus' mind in this interchange? Hint: Answer is in verse 9. (5, 7, 9)
8. After the soldiers give their answer, Jesus declares "I am he," but in the Greek it is just "I am." Why is that significant? See John 8:58 and Exodus 3:14. (5)
9. Why do you think John took the time to tell us Judas the traitor was standing with them? Based on John 13:27, what was true of Judas at that moment? (5)
10. What happened to the soldiers (and Judas) when Jesus spoke the words "I am" to them? What does this show you about Christ? (6)
11. After the soldiers gave their reply "Jesus of Nazareth," what did Jesus command them to do? Why did He give this command? What does Jesus' commanding presence here teach you about His character, power, and authority? (8)

12. According to verse 9, what was Jesus' motive in all of this? Why did He want His disciples not to be arrested at that point? What would have happened if his disciples were arrested with Jesus? (9)
13. How did you understand the word "lose/lost" in John 6:39 and 17:12? What about "lost" in this verse 9? Is there a relationship between physical protection and spiritual protection in this passage? Are there some trials that we could go through that would cause us to lose our faith and be "lost" spiritually? (9)
14. What did Peter do at that moment? What does that show about Peter? (10)
15. How did Jesus react to Peter? What does it show about Christ? What is the "cup" that the Father had given Christ? See Matthew 26:39. See also Jeremiah 25:15; Isaiah 51:17, 51:22. (11)
16. Notice how the narrative oscillates between Jesus trials (12-14, 19-24, 29-) and Peter's denials (15-18, 25-27). What is John's purpose in weaving together the stories of Jesus' trial and Peter's denial? See summary for help.
17. Why do you think they brought Jesus to Annas first rather than to the actual high priest, Caiaphas? Why does it say Caiaphas was high priest "that year" if high priest was supposedly a lifetime position? (13)
18. What does John remind us about Caiaphas? Why is that noteworthy? (14)
19. Why do you think Peter was following Jesus, even though Jesus specifically orchestrated his arrest so that only He would be captured, and not the disciples? What does this show you about Peter? Who also followed the trial? (15-18)
20. Peter promised Jesus he would be willing to die for Jesus (John 13:37, Matthew 26:35, Luke 22:33). He also did not bother to pray when he had the chance (Matt. 26:40-41, 43). What would you say of Peter's spiritual demeanor?
21. Read what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 1:9. Do you think Peter was relying on himself the night he denied Christ? Why is this such a tendency for us? What is God's strategy for weaning us off of self-trust to God-trust? (10, 15-18, 25-27)
22. What happened to Peter as he was entering the high priest's house? Who spoke to him? How did he respond? How did Peter's initial lie set up the worst night of his life? What does this show you about the nature of sin? (17-18)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus demonstrated His supernatural courage, knowledge, and control in His arrest in Gethsemane. He boldly went out to meet 600 armed men, took control of the situation, merely spoke His name ("I am") and they fell to the ground. His purpose was to protect His disciples lest they fall away as a result of a trial they were not yet ready to handle. Peter stepped out of that protective net, a precursor of the trial Peter was about to bring on himself. John weaves together the concurrent accounts of Jesus' trial and Peter's denial. The effect shows the unflinching, courage of Jesus contrasted with the cowardice of his chief disciple.

THE TRIAL
JOHN 18:19-40

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage reveal about the Jews who were accusing Jesus?
2. What does Jesus' response teach about the integrity of his ministry?
3. Who is Pontius Pilate, and what does John teach about him?
4. What do verses 33-38 teach about the nature of Christ's kingdom?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE JEWS (VV. 19-27)

1. Who questioned Jesus in verse 19? According to verse 13, Caiaphas was high priest, but here Annas is called high priest. What do you think is going on? (19)
2. What was the topic of Annas's interrogation? (19)
3. Jesus refuted the legality of Annas's questions by demanding witnesses. See Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:1. Annas had no witnesses. What does this interchange show you about Jesus and about Annas? (20-21)
4. Why do you think the official struck Jesus at that point? See Micah 5:1! (22)
5. How did Jesus respond to the official that struck Him? What does the fact that Jesus demands a legal testimony show you about Jesus and the Law? (23)
6. What did Annas do next? Why could Annas not refute Jesus? (24)
7. Meanwhile, what had Simon Peter been doing? The denials now came quickly. What does this teach you about the progressive nature of sin? (25-27)
8. What happened after the third denial? In Luke 22:60-62, what happened the moment the rooster crowed? What does this teach you about the sovereignty of God and His discipline of sinning disciples? How did Peter respond? (27)

PILATE AND THE JEWS, PART 1 (VV. 28-32)

9. What happened to Jesus in His trial before Caiaphas? Why do you think John handled it this way? See Matthew 26:57-68 for the rest of the story. (24, 28)
10. What does John tell us about the Jews in verse 28? How does this illustrate their absolute hypocrisy? See John 11:55, 2 Chronicles 30:17-18, Number 9:6-14. (28)
11. What did Pilate ask in verse 29? This demonstrates the standard approach of Roman justice. (29)
12. How did the Jews answer Pilate's question? What does this interchange show you about their relationship to Pilate? Note: Pilot was the governor, appointed by the Roman Emperor. (29-30)
13. What does Pilate offer them in verse 31? Does this surprise you? Do you think Pilate knew something of this case beforehand? See Matthew 27:18. (31)

14. How did the Jews respond to Pilate's offer? Why would they hold to this issue here, but stone Stephen in Acts 7? What death did they want for Jesus? (31)
15. What does verse 32 teach you about the providence of God in the execution of Jesus? See also Acts 2:23. (32)

JESUS BEFORE PILATE (VV. 33-38)

16. How did Pilate begin his inquisition of Jesus? Do you think Pilate's question relates to Jesus' triumphal entry a week earlier? (33)
17. What do you make of Jesus' answer to Pilate? Why answer this way? (34)
18. Pilate emphasizes that the Jews are the ones accusing Jesus. How does this fit into John's theme of the Jews' rejection of Christ? (35)
19. What statement does Jesus make about the nature of His kingdom in verse 36? What does it mean that Jesus Kingdom is "not of this world"? What proof does Jesus give of the fact? What are some differences between earthly kingdoms and Christ's kingdom? (36)
20. Pilate picks up on what part of Jesus' reply in verse 37? What astonishing thing does Jesus then say about himself? What does this teach about the nature of Christ's kingdom? (37)
21. What reason does Jesus give for His entry into the world? How does this help to prove the deity of Christ, which is John's expressed purpose? Hint: Could anyone else make a conscious decision to come into the world? (37)
22. What invitation does Jesus give Pilate after describing His kingdom? How does Pilate respond? (37-38)
23. Why didn't Pilate wait for an answer to his question? How do we see Pilate's attitude toward truth today? What is the Biblical answer to the question? (38)

PILATE AND THE JEWS, PART 2 (VV. 38-40)

24. What does Pilate tell the Jews in 38? Why is this declaration significant? (38)
25. What attempt does Pilate make in verse 39? If Jesus is truly innocent, why didn't Pilate simply release Him? (39)
26. How does verse 40 show the wicked depravity of the Jews, but also provide a picture of Jesus as the salvific substitute for wretched sinners? (40)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus goes to trial, first before the Jewish religious leaders, then before the secular authority. The Jewish leaders desired to execute Jesus, but Pilate believed Him to be innocent. Yet, under pressure from the Jews, He interrogates Jesus. Jesus tells Pilate of an other-worldly kingdom, the whole basis of which is truth. He invites Pilate to join Him if he is on the side of truth. Pilate's unbelief and cynicism led him to reject the truth, who was standing right in front of him. Pilate tries a weak attempt free Jesus, but it turns on him as the Jews would rather have criminal than Jesus.

THE SENTENCE

JOHN 19:1-16

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does Pontius Pilate's behavior teach us about human nature?
2. What did Jesus mean in saying to Pilate, "You would have no authority over me unless it had been given you from above"?
3. What is significant about the Jews' rejection of Jesus Christ as their King and declaring that they have no king but Caesar?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

PILATE FLOGS JESUS AND TRIES TO RELEASE HIM (VV. 1-7)

1. Why did Pilate have Jesus flogged? Why flog a man whom he declared innocent in John 18:38? (1)
2. What is the significance of the crown of thorns and the purple robe? (2)
3. What does the behavior of the Roman soldiers demonstrate about human nature? What do you think they would have done if Jesus revealed just a little bit of his glory, like in Mark 9:2-3? (3)
4. Why did Jesus refrain from fighting back against those who beat him? (3)
5. Read Isaiah 50:5-9. How does Isaiah 50:6 shed light on John 19:1-3? (1-3)
6. What does verse 4 shows you about the character of Pilate, given that he just ordered Christ flogged? (4)
7. What did Pilate expect the Jews' reaction would be when they saw Jesus beaten and bloodied, wearing a purple robe and a crown of thorns? What was their reaction? Why? (5-6)
8. What was Pilate's next attempt to get rid of this growing problem? Do you think Pilot's attempted dismissal absolved him of guilt in this matter? (6)
9. How many times in chapters 18 and 19 does Pilate testify to Jesus' innocence? Why is this significant, given that Pilate was the official Roman judge on this trial? (6)

PILATE TRIES TO DETERMINE JESUS' ORIGIN, AND IS TERRIFIED OF JESUS (VV. 8-12)

10. How did the Jews respond to Pilate in verse 7? If Jesus' claim to be God were false, would the Jews have been right in executing Him? See Leviticus 24:16, Deuteronomy 13:1-5 for the law the Jews referred to. If the Law did require this, why are the Jews' guilty? (7)
11. How does verse 7 answer liberal scholars and false religions like Islam and Jehovah's Witnesses which say that Jesus never claimed deity, and that this idea only crept in later when the church began to mythologize Jesus? (7)

12. What was Pilate's reaction to the Jews' statement? What does "even more afraid" show about Pilate's mental state up to this point? (8)
13. Why was Pilate so afraid? What does his next question to Jesus, "Where are you from?" show about the nature of his fear? (9)
14. How do you think Jesus' silence at this point hit Pilate, given his fear level? See Isaiah 53:7 on Jesus' silence. (9)
15. How does Pilate react to Jesus' silence? What do you think motivated his statement in verse 10? What do you think was his emotional state at this point? (10)
16. How did Jesus answer Pilate? What does this show you about human government and about Christ? (11)
17. What is the logical relationship between Jesus' first statement and second statement in verse 11? Who "handed Jesus over" to Pilate? Why is he guilty of greater sin than Pilate? (11)
18. What do you think this answer did to Pilate's mental state and fear level? (12)
19. Why did Pilate keep trying to set Jesus free? What stopped him? Why did the Jews mention being a "friend of Caesar" at this point? How did that affect Pilate's decision? (12)

PILATE CAVES IN TO THE JEWS AND CRUCIFIES JESUS (VV. 13-16)

20. What kind of pressure were the Jews putting on Pilate in verse 12? How was this pressure effective? (12-13)
21. At the final judgment scene, Pilate tried one final time to free Jesus. He proclaimed, "Behold your King!" How did the Jews react? (13-15)
22. What is the significance of Pilate's question "Shall I crucify your king?" and their answer "We have no king but Caesar"? (15)
23. What was Pilate's final decision about Jesus? What can you imagine Pilate will feel on Judgment Day when he sees Jesus sitting on His Great White throne to judge the nations? (16)

III. SUMMARY:

The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, was crushed between an intense fear of Jesus (believing that He was probably an incarnation of a god) and of the Jews who seemed to hold Pilate's future as governor in their hands. Under intense pressure, Pilate chose his earthly life rather than his eternal soul and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

THE CRUCIFIXION JOHN 19:16-27

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does John depict the deity of Christ in the crucifixion narrative?
2. How does fulfilled prophecy help John in his task?
3. How is the character of Jesus revealed in His compassion for His mother?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE CRUCIFIXION SIMPLY DECLARED (vv. 16-18)

1. Do you notice anything strange about the crucifixion depiction in 16-18? Why do you think John did not include the horrifying gruesome details of this torturous death? (16-18)
2. In comparison to the other gospel accounts, why do you think John depicts the crucifixion so simply? There are no details about the crowd watching, the march through the streets of Jerusalem, the dialogue with the other men being crucified, the mocking of the Jews, ect. What seems to be John's focus?
3. Why does John stress so much that Jesus carried His own cross? The Greek is intensive: "Carrying the cross for Himself, He went out." Perhaps Genesis 22:6 might help answer the question. In what way is Isaac a "type" of Christ? (17)
4. John says "He went out," namely from Jerusalem. Read Hebrews 13:11-13. Why is it significant that Jesus "went out" from Jerusalem? (17)
5. Why do you think John tells us that Jesus was crucified at a place called "The Skull," including the Aramaic name for it, Golgotha? (17)
6. How does verse 18 fulfill prophecy, both in the fact that Jesus was crucified, and in the fact that He was not crucified alone? Hint: See Isaiah 53:12, and Psalm 22:16. (18)

THE "KING OF THE JEWS" SIGN (vv. 19-22)

7. According to ancient records, the Romans made people who were sentenced to die carry a sign declaring their crime as a warning to the crowd not to commit this same act. What does Pilate's choice of "crime" for Jesus' sign show you about: 1) his feelings about Jesus; 2) his feelings about the Jews? (19)
8. Was the sign speaking the truth? (19)
9. Do you think there could be any relationship between the verbiage of the sign and the salvation of the criminal who said, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come into your kingdom" in Luke 23:42? How could this have brought saving faith to the thief on the cross? (19)
10. Why do you think Pilate wrote this sign in three languages? Note: some scholars have pointed out that Greek was the language of trade, Latin the language of politics and power, and Aramaic the language of religion and of the common

people. I see this sign as a divine indicator of the worldwide evangelistic mission to proclaim Christ as King, as seen in Revelation 7:9, “To every tribe and language and people and nation” (20)

11. Why did the chief priests protest over the sign? How did Pilate respond? What does this show you about both Pilate and the Jews? Why do you think Pilate stood firm on the sign, but yet had an innocent man crucified? (21-22)

THE SOLDIERS GAMBLE FOR JESUS’ CLOTHES (VV. 23-24)

12. Why did John include the account of the soldiers’ gambling for Jesus’ clothes? (23)

Note: Josephus tells us that the high priest wore a seamless undergarment; Ant. iii, 161.

13. What scripture did John quote in verse 24? Why did he quote it verbatim? (24)
14. What is the significance of the word “So” in the sentence, “So the soldiers did these things”? What does this teach you about God’s sovereignty and human decisions, that the soldiers carried out acts that were predicted a thousand years prior? (24)

JESUS PROVIDES FOR HIS MOTHER (VV. 25-27)

15. Do you think it significant that there were four women at the foot of Jesus’ cross, and only one man (John)? What does this teach you about courage? (25)
16. Do you think that Jesus’ mother being there fulfilled Simeon’s prophecy in Luke 2:35, “And a sword will pierce through your own soul also”? (25)
17. The “disciple whom he loved” is the same one who wrote the gospel (John 21:20, 24). Why do you think John identifies himself that way? (26)
18. What arrangements does Jesus make for his mother at that point? Why did He make these arrangements, given first century culture, the status of a widow, and the responsibility of a son toward His parents? What does this teach you about Jesus, especially given that He was suffering intensely at that moment, and our natural tendency is to focus on ourselves when sick or hurt? (26-27)
19. What does this arrangement show you about the status of Joseph, Mary’s husband? What does it show you about Jesus’ brothers? See John 7:5. (26-27)
20. How did John respond to Jesus’ action? What does this teach you about John? See James 1:27. (27)

III. SUMMARY:

John gives us an elegantly simple description of the fact of Jesus’ crucifixion, then focuses on some details: the sign over His head, the soldiers gambling for His clothes (in fulfillment of prophecy), His arrangements for His mother, Mary. The cumulative effect is a powerful presentation of the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ.

IT IS FINISHED JOHN 19:28-42

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does John display the deity of Christ in the account of His death?
2. How does John display the deity of Christ in the account of His burial?
3. What detail does John focus on in this section and why?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

JESUS DIES (VV. 28-30)

1. How does verse 28 help prove the deity of Christ? What does it mean that he knew all was finished? What was finished? How were they “finished”? (28)
2. How did Jesus’ thirst fulfill Scripture? See Psalm 69:21. What does verse 28 teach you about: 1) Jesus’ comprehensive knowledge of scripture; 2) Jesus’ fanatical commitment to fulfill all the scriptures concerning himself? (28)
3. How does verse 29 demonstrate a supernatural providence from God? (29)
4. What is the significance of the hyssop? See Exodus 12:21-23, Psalm 51:7. (29)
5. What did Jesus mean by “It is finished”? What was he referring to? Compare this statement to the ongoing burden Jesus had in John’s Gospel to complete the work the Father gave Him to do: John 4:34, 5:17-20, 5:36, 6:38-40, 9:4, 12:23-27, 12:32, 17:4, etc. (30)
6. How does Jesus’ declaration help us to understand the atonement? Did Jesus die to provide merely a *possible* atonement for sin or an *actual* atonement? Were any sins actually atoned for when Jesus died? How? (30)
7. How does the actual moment of Jesus’ death help prove His earlier statement in John 10:17-18? Note: the Greek says Jesus “pillowed His head and gave up His spirit,” the same word is used of John leaning on Jesus in 13:25, 21:20. (30)

SOME FINAL PROPHECIES FULFILLED (VV. 31-37)

8. Why does John talk about the Day of Preparation in verse 31? (31)
9. What motivated the Jews to ask Pilate to break the bones of the victims? (31)
10. What is the significance of Jesus’ bones not being broken? See Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20. How does this connect to John 1:29? (31-33)
11. Read Mark 15:44. Why was Pilate surprised that Jesus was already dead? What does this show you about John 10:17-18? See question 7 above. How does it relate to the breaking of Jesus’ bones? (33)
12. Why does John spend so much time describing the piercing of Jesus, the flow of blood and water, and the fact of his status as an eye witness? (34-35)
13. What is the Old Testament context of John’s next quote (from Zechariah 12:10)? Why does John cite it here? Has it been completely fulfilled? Have

they *both* “looked” and “pierced”? On “looking,” see Isaiah 22:11 and John 6:40, 12:45. (27)

THE BURIAL OF JESUS IN FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY (VV. 38-24)

14. Who was Joseph of Arimathea? Read Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:43-46, and Luke 23:50-53. These are the only places where this man is mentioned. (38)
 15. What does John tell us about Joseph? Why are Joseph’s actions at this critical moment so amazing? (38)
 16. Matthew 27:57 tells us that Joseph went to Pilate as evening approached. Why was it important for Jesus to be in the tomb before the sun went down on Friday? See Matthew 12:40 and understand that Jews consider any part of a day to be included as a whole “day and a night.”
 17. Who was with Joseph? What did they have in common? (39)
 18. What is the significance of the quantity of myrrh and aloes they brought for Jesus? (39-40)
- Note: myrrh is an aromatic resin scraped from certain trees in Arabia and Africa; it was one of the gifts given to Jesus by the magi, and is mentioned in the messianic Psalm 45:8. Myrrh is sticky and has a pungent odor. It presently sells for \$15/lb. Assuming it was even more expensive in the first century, Nicodemus brought a very expensive gift. He buried Jesus like a King.
19. The amount of costly myrrh tells us quietly about Nicodemus what Matthew 27:57 tells us openly about Joseph: they were rich! Why is this significant? See Isaiah 53:9. (39)
 20. Why does John mention the strips of linen in which Jesus was buried? see John 20:5-6. (40)
 21. What does John tell us about the tomb? Why do you think it was important that the tomb was nearby and that it was Preparation Day? (42)

Note: the women returned to the tomb after the Sabbath was over with spices to complete the burial, which they could not do on the Sabbath. Thus, they were there on the first day of the week to witness evidence of the resurrection! See Mark 16:1-3, Luke 23:55-56, 24:1-3. The account in John gives a sense of a tremendous urgency to get Jesus buried before the day of Preparation was over.

III. SUMMARY:

John brings forth even more evidence of Jesus’ deity: His supernatural knowledge, His total control over the moment of His death, and especially fulfilled prophecies as Jesus dies: a drink of wine vinegar, the timing of His death, His piercing, His bones intact. He also relates the regal burial of Jesus at the hands of two suddenly courageous disciples. The net effect is that, even in His death, Jesus is clearly the Messiah, the Son of God. Everything has been prepared for His resurrection!

RESURRECTION MORNING

JOHN 20:1-18

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What evidence does John seek to marshal to prove the resurrection?
2. What does the interaction with Mary Magdalene show about the character of Christ?
3. What is the significance of Jesus' statement, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God"?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

PETER AND JOHN INVESTIGATE THE EMPTY TOMB (VV. 1-9)

1. What facts does John give us about the resurrection scene in verse 1? (1)
2. What is the theological significance of the fact that Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week? (1)
3. Why do you think the stone was moved if Jesus was already out of the tomb? Matthew 28:1-6 tells us an angel moved the stone and then said to the women "Come, see the place where he lay." What light does that shed on John 20:1-9? (1-9)
4. What did Mary do when she saw the stone? Why do you think she did that? (2)
5. How did Peter and John respond when they heard Mary's news? Why do you think they were running? Why does John tell us that "the disciple Jesus loved" outran Peter? (3-4)
6. What did "the disciple whom Jesus loved" do when he saw the tomb. Why do you think he didn't enter the tomb? (5)
7. What does verse 6 teach you about Peter? Do you think Peter was eager to see his Lord, even after he had denied Him? (6)
8. Why does John make so much of the strips of linen and the burial cloth? What details does he give about them? (6-7)
9. What is the significance of John's statement about the "other disciple," that, "he saw and believed? Believed what? Compare it with John 20:29. (8)
10. What role should the physical evidence for the resurrection have in someone's coming to faith? Is the physical evidence important for faith? (8)
11. How does verse 9 help explain verse 8? Does the modern man have access to the physical evidence of Jesus' resurrection? If not, how then does one come to faith? (9)

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE (VV. 10-18)

12. Why does John spend so much time on this appearance to Mary? (10-18)

13. What does verse 10 teach us about the appearance to Mary? (10)
14. What was Mary doing outside the tomb? Why was she crying? (11)
15. What do you think of the two angels' position? Why does John tell us how they were positioned? Note: Some have noticed a correlation with the cherubim on the cover of the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 25:22 and Leviticus 16:15. What do you think? (12)
16. What did the angels ask Mary? What does her answer show about her faith and love for Jesus? (13)
17. What happened next? What question did Jesus ask her? Who did she think He was? (14-15)
18. What did Mary suggest to the "gardener"? What was she assuming about the "gardener"? How does this show that she still thought Jesus was dead? (15)
19. Why didn't Mary recognize Jesus immediately? See also John 21:1-7, Luke 24:16, 31 for post-resurrection appearances in which disciples did not recognize Him. (25)
20. What did Jesus use to pierce her fog of unbelief? How does this relate to John 10:3? (16)
21. What did Mary do when Jesus spoke her name? Why do you think she did this? (16)
22. Why do you think Jesus tells her not cling to Him? What did He mean by "I have not yet ascended to the Father"? How could John 16:7 help answer these questions? (17)
23. What is the theological significance of Jesus calling the disciples "My brothers" and calling God "my Father and your Father, my God and your God"? (17)
24. How does this account end? (18)

III. SUMMARY:

John lays out the physical and experiential evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The physical evidence is the empty tomb and the grave clothes. The experiential evidence is the testimony of His appearances to disciples like Mary Magdalene. These two types of evidence are combined to give us sufficient grounds for belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. John's extended treatment of the tender appearance to Mary shows Jesus' unbreakable commitment to every one of His sheep, no matter how lowly their station in life.

MY LORD AND MY GOD
JOHN 20:19-31

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways could 20:19-31 be called John's application of His entire message?
2. In what way could Thomas's confession and Jesus' response in 20:28-29 be called the pinnacle of John's Gospel? How is it an invitation to the world?
3. Do you believe what John has written? Would you call Jesus "my Lord and my God"? If so, are you going in obedience to Christ's sending commission?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL: JESUS' RESURRECTION AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
(vv. 19-23)

1. Why does John highlight that it was still the first day when Jesus appeared? (19)
2. How does John describe the disciples? What does this teach you about their mental state and their faith at that point? What were they afraid of? (19)
3. What does John imply by saying the doors were locked, yet Jesus "came and stood among them"? What do we learn about Jesus' resurrection body? (19)
4. What is the significance of Jesus' greeting, "Peace be with you," along with the showing of His hands and side? How does this relate to Romans 5:1? (19-20)
5. Why did Jesus show them His hands and side? Is belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ essential for salvation from sin? How would you answer Bible scholars who teach that it is immaterial whether Jesus truly rose, but what matters is the heart experience you get from thinking about the resurrection as recorded in the Bible? See 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17. (20)
6. Are you able to look at and to touch Jesus' hands and side? Why then do you believe in His bodily resurrection? See also verse 29 and verse 31. (20)
7. What is the relationship between the repeated "Peace be with you" and Jesus commissioning: "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you"? Is this sending only for the apostles, or for all believers? How would you respond to someone who argues (wrongly) that it was only for the apostles? (21)
8. How would you compare the Father's sending of Jesus to Jesus' sending of us? Here are verses in John in which Jesus refers to the Father sending Him: 3:17, 6:29, 6:38-39, 6:57, 10:36, 11:42, 17:8, 17:21. Here are verses in John in which Jesus describes His attitude about His mission: 4:34, 5:19, 6:38, 15:10-11. How do these verses instruct you in the manner of your commissioning? (21)
9. What are the disciples sent to do? Why did Jesus mention the Holy Spirit in conjunction with this commissioning? (22-23)
10. What happened in 22? Did the disciples receive the Holy Spirit then? What is the relationship between John 20:22 and Pentecost described in Acts 2? (22)

11. Does 23 contradict the true statement made by Jesus' enemies in Mark 2:7, "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Do the disciples actually have authority and power to forgive other people's sins, or to refuse to forgive them? (23)

THE PINNACLE OF THE GOSPEL: THOMAS'S CONFESSION OF CHRIST (VV. 24-29)

12. In what way could Thomas's confession and Jesus' response be called the pinnacle of John's Gospel? How is it an invitation to the world? (28-29)
13. Why wasn't Thomas with the disciples the first time? What is Thomas's state of mind? What test does he set for Jesus to meet? Why did he do this? (24-25)
14. When did the appearance to Thomas occur? Where were they? (26)
15. What does the locked doors show about whether the disciples had yet received the Holy Spirit? When the Spirit came, they fearlessly went out into the streets preaching. Here, though they believe that Jesus has risen from the dead, they are still behind locked doors. What is the Spirit's role in overcoming fear? (26)
16. What happened that day? How did Jesus come into the room? How did He greet them? How does the fact that He immediately turned to Thomas and sought to meet the test Thomas set help to prove the deity of Christ? (27)
17. What is significant about Jesus' words, "Do not disbelieve, but believe"? (27)
18. What did Thomas say? How is this statement the central point of John's Gospel? How does it prove the deity of Christ? (28)
19. Is it possible to be saved without believing what Thomas did? (28)
20. How does Jesus' response to Thomas vindicate the content of Thomas's confession? In other words, if Jesus had not been God, what should He have done when Thomas offered Him worship as God? See Revelation 22:8-9.
21. What does Jesus say was the basis of Thomas's faith? How does that relate to John's faith in 20:8-9. On what will the faith of later generations be based? See John 20:9. What is the significance of Jesus' blessing "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed"? See also 1 Peter 1:8-9. (29)

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL: THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE (VV. 30-31)

22. What does John say to summarize Jesus' ministry in verse 30? Why does He focus on the signs? (30)
23. According to verse 31, what is the point of John's Gospel? Is believing the goal or is "life in His name" the goal? Do you believe? Do you have eternal life? (31)

III. SUMMARY:

John recounts the astounding evidence for the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ in two accounts of His physical appearances to His disciples after death. He also commissions them to spread forgiveness of sins in His name through the power of the Spirit and the confession of Thomas to the ends of the earth.

FEED MY SHEEP
JOHN 21:1-25

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why did John include this section after the climax of chapter 20?
2. How do these stories (miraculous catch of fish, Peter's reinstatement) contribute to John's goal of bringing us to eternal life through Christ?
3. What do these stories teach us about Christ?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

A FINAL MIRACLE: THE ASTOUNDING CATCH OF FISH (VV. 1-14)

1. When and where do the events of 1-14 take place? Who was involved? (1-2)
2. What is the significance of the disciples' decision to return to fishing? Does this encounter with Jesus remind you of their original call in Matthew 4:18-22? (4)
3. How did they do in their fishing? What do you make of their failure? How is it similar to Peter's early encounter with Jesus? See Luke 5:1-11. (3)
4. Why did the disciples not recognize Jesus? See also Luke 24:16. (4)
5. How did Jesus begin the encounter with them? Why do you think Jesus so often asked questions when He already knew the answers? Why does he call the disciples "children"? (5)
6. How does this post-resurrection miracle show that this Jesus is the same Jesus who preached and did miracles all over Judea and Galilee?
7. Which disciple responded? How did he know it was the Lord? How does God use our memories and repeated patterns in our lives to teach us? (6-7)
8. How did Simon Peter respond to the statement "It's the Lord!"? What does this show you about Simon's personality? Has he changed since the events of the crucifixion and resurrection? (7)
9. Why did it take so long for the other disciples to get to shore? What happened when they finally did get there? (8-11)
10. Why do you think John told us how many fish there were? Why does he comment on the fact that the net was not torn? (11)
11. What does Jesus invite them to do? How does the idea of a physical breakfast factor into the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus? (10, 12)
12. What was the attitude of the disciples? What were they tempted to ask Jesus? Why didn't they ask it? (12)
13. Why do think some commentators have difficulty with the fact that John calls this the third appearance of Jesus in verse 14. It seems like there have been many appearances, when you put the four Gospels together. What do you make of this?

JESUS REINSTATES PETER (VV. 15-23)

14. What is the significance of verses 15-23? Why is it important in the history of the church? (15-23)
15. What did Jesus mean “do you love me more than these”? More than what? (15)
16. What pattern do the questions and answers follow? Why would Jesus ask Peter three times if he loved Him? What does Jesus connect to Peter’s love for Him? What does it mean to “feed His lambs” or “tend His sheep”? (15-17)
17. What is the relationship between this command to Peter and the statement that Jesus is the Good Shepherd in John 10? See also 1 Peter 5:1-4. (15-17)
18. What is Peter’s emotional response to this series of questions? Why do you think he was hurt? (17)
19. What does Jesus prophesy about Peter in verse 18? How does it relate to this cycle of questions? (18)
20. How does John comment on this prophecy in verse 19? Do you think Peter was already dead when John wrote this Gospel? (19)
21. How does Jesus conclude this interaction in 19? What is the significance of “follow me” when it comes to a revelation that Peter would die violently? (19)
22. What happens in verses 20-23? What is Jesus saying to Peter and to all of us about each other’s callings? (20-23)
23. What misunderstanding does John seek to guard against in verse 23? How does he guard against it? What does it teach you about careful Biblical exegesis? (23)

JOHN CONCLUDES HIS GOSPEL (VV. 24-45)

24. What is the significance of verse 24? Who is the “we” in this verse? What do you think of the theory that someone other than John wrote verses 24-25, or even this whole chapter 21? (24)
25. How does John conclude the Gospel? Do you think this statement is literally true, or merely a figure of speech? Think of how the healing of one simple blind man took up all of chapter 9, or think about the fact that Jesus has been working in the hearts of every single believer for all of history! (25)
26. Does not verse 25 teach us that the Gospels are accurate but incomplete, yet sufficient for God’s purposes? (25)

III. SUMMARY:

Jesus appears to His disciples one final time in John’s Gospel, calling all His disciples to their task of being fishers of men. The miracle shows Christ’s power, but also is designed to remind them of the point of all their training. Jesus also specially calls Peter to the task of shepherding His flock, giving Peter a chance to reaffirm his love for the one he had denied. John then concludes his gospel with the sobering news that Peter would glorify God by dying for the gospel.

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