



**THE
HOUR
OF
GLORY**
JOHN 18-21

Term 1, 2011

Daily Reading Notes

John 18-21

(The hour of glory)

Week	Passage
1	John 18:1-11
2	John 18:12-27
3	John 18:28-40
4	John 19:1-16
5	John 19:16-30
6	John 19:31-42
7	John 20:1-18
8	John 20:19-31
9	John 21:1-25

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for 3 friends, once a week, for 1 minute (3-1-1).

List the name of your family/friends here.

Begins Wednesday February 9th

Life

to the full

lhf.com.au

looking into

life

with Jesus

5 tuesday nights starting 8th february 7:30pm
@ ev church

John 18-21 guide

How to use this book:

1. Personal Reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Start by reading John 18-21 in one go if you can, then slowly work your way through.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your growth group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.



ev START UP

MOVING INTO THE LIFE OF THIS CHURCH

EVstartUP #1 starts Tuesday 8th February
8 Feb, 15 Feb, 22 Feb, 1 Mar

EvstartUP #2 starts Tuesday 15th March
15 Mar, 22 Mar, 29 Mar & 5 Apr



ev STEP UP
BECOMING PARTNERS IN MINISTRY AND MISSION

2 Mondays starting 7th March
7:30-9:30pm @ EV Church

Introduction to the book of John

John is the last of the four gospels written. History strongly suggests it was written within the last two decades of the first century. Although the book itself does not say who wrote it, external evidence tells us it was written by John, the son of Zebedee, one of the disciples of Jesus. The author was an eyewitness of the things that took place (John 1:14; 19:35) and a close friend of Jesus, describing himself as the disciple Jesus loved (John 21:20-24).

It is unique among the four gospels in its structure, content and style; so much so that the first three gospels are known collectively as the synoptics (because they parallel each other). Most identify four major sections in the structure of John: a prologue (1:1-18) and an epilogue (21:1-25) separated by two major central sections – the Book of Signs from 1:19-12:50 and the Book of Glory from 13:1-20:31. In the first 13 chapters there are a number of miracles (signs) recorded. These are chosen deliberately as pointers to the identity of Jesus. They anticipate the greatest sign of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Much of the content of the synoptic gospels is not found in John. There are no narrative parables, no account of the transfiguration, no record of the institution of the Lord's Supper, no report of Jesus casting out a demon and no account of Jesus' baptism. In addition to this, John contains much that is not in the synoptics. John records very little of Jesus' ministry in the north in Galilee, but rather focuses on the south, particularly around Jerusalem.

John's style is also very different. He seems to draw out more of the significance of the historical events of Jesus ministry. Whereas the other gospels record the miracles of Jesus and only occasionally make clear their significance, John examines the facts in light of their meaning. He calls the miracles of Jesus 'signs'. By this, he weaves into his historical report an interpretation of their significance as pointers to (or signs of) the identity of the One performing them. John also makes more of the spiritual significance or symbolism surrounding events. He makes it obvious that it really

was night when Judas left Jesus in chapter 13 verse 30, highlighting the symbolism of light and dark. By the words “And it was night”, John indicates that to leave Jesus is to go into darkness and become lost, as well as indicating that this is the time when spiritual darkness reigns. The incident with Nicodemus also occurs at night. It is unlikely these are accidental references, given how important the themes of light and dark are in the gospel (John 3:19-20).

Despite these differences, John has the same aim as the other gospels – to present to us the facts about Jesus, so that we might know that Jesus is the Christ and, by believing, have life in His name (20:30-31).

An Introduction to Chapters 18-21 (The hour of glory)

In chapters 18-21, Jesus returns to the glory that awaits Him with the Father – a return that requires Him to go by the way of the cross. This is the moment the whole gospel has been moving towards, the moment that Jesus’ life has been in preparation of. This is the moment of His glorification. Chapters 18-21 detail the passion of the Christ – His unjust trial, His agonizing suffering, His atoning death and His victorious resurrection.

Jesus gives Himself over in obedience to His Father’s will, to fulfill the Old Testament scriptures in their entirety by His death on the cross. This is the hour of His glory, when the King suffers and dies in order to glorify His Father and bring salvation to His people, but beyond the anguish of death there is the great joy of death defeated in Jesus’ resurrection. And finally, we will catch a glimpse of the disciples who are humbled, forgiven, reinstated, commissioned and empowered to bear the testimony that would transform the world and continues to do so.

Studying John 18-21 and prayerfully reflecting on it should deepen your faith and enable you to appreciate more fully the implications of the life, death and resurrection of our Saviour. This promises to bring greater enjoyment of life as part of God’s kingdom now and the assurance of it’s fullness in the coming age.

Week 1: John 18:1-11

Chapters 18-19 of John's gospel record the last day of Jesus' earthly life and cover the events of Jesus' arrest, trial and death. Chapters 20-21 record Jesus' resurrection and the reinstatement and commissioning of His disciples. In this way chapters 18-21 record the climax of both John's gospel and Jesus' earthly ministry. In His sacrificial death He will be glorified (see John 12:23-28).

To fully appreciate the significance of these events we will spend the first two days of this week looking again at John's purpose in writing his gospel.

Day 1

Read John 20:30-31 & 21:24-25.

1. What does John say is his purpose in writing this gospel?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ, and why does believing this matter?
3. What gives you confidence that what John has written is true?

Thank God that He sent Jesus to give life to all who believe in His name, and that He got eyewitnesses, such as John, to record Jesus' life for us so we can believe.

Day 2

John 1:1-18 is what people call the prologue of John's gospel. Most of the big ideas in John's gospel are introduced here.

Read John 1:1-18.

1. Who is "the word" and what is His relationship with God?

2. What are the benefits of Jesus coming into the world (see especially v9, 12, 13, 16-18)?
3. What is so amazing about verse 14 in light of John 1:1-3 & 1:18?
4. Considering who Jesus is revealed to be in this passage, how should we treat Him?

Pray that you would be amazed again that Jesus is God who became flesh, and that He came to reveal God to us and make us God's children.

Day 3

John chapters 13-17 record the last night of Jesus' life which was spent with His closest friends. During this time, Jesus spoke of the death He would die the next day, from one perspective a dark and terrifying reality, but from another the means of glorification and hope. He spent time teaching and encouraging them with the realities of what His death would achieve, and after He had finished praying He left with them for the olive grove (the Garden of Gethsemane) where He knew He would be arrested. This is where the final climactic moments of Jesus' earthly ministry begin.

Read John 18:1-11.

1. What qualities of character does Jesus reveal in verses 4-11?
2. How does He compare with the other characters in this situation?
3. What impresses you most about the character of Jesus here? In what ways would you like to be more like Him?

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Thank God for Jesus' calmness, His determination to do His Father's will and His great concern for His disciples. Pray that you would be determined to do God's will and be concerned for others before yourself just as Jesus was.

Day 4

Read John 18:1-11.

1. In this situation, is Jesus merely a victim of events He could not escape (see verse 4)?
2. Why do you think the mob fell to the ground when Jesus said "I am He", which in the original language says literally "I am" (see Exodus 3:14-15 & John 8:58-59)?
3. In verses 10-11, Peter is courageous but totally misunderstands what is going on. He is contrasted with Jesus' focused determination to "drink the cup, the Father has given me". What is meant by drinking the cup (see Isaiah 51:17-23)?
4. Jesus is in absolute control in this situation. Why is it that He would allow Himself to be arrested like this (see also Matthew 26:52-54 & John 10:18)?

Praise Jesus that He would knowingly, calmly and willingly give Himself over to drink the cup of God's wrath so that we would never have to.

Day 5

Read John 18:1-11.

1. How is Judas described in these verses, and how has he earned these descriptions/titles? How could we potentially become like Judas and how can we avoid this (see also John 13:2, 21-30; Luke 22:1-6; Matthew 27:1-10)?
2. What is Jesus concerned about in verse 8 and what does this show about Him?
3. How do verses 8-9 fulfill the promise of John 17:12 (see also John 6:39)? Is this the complete fulfillment?
4. From the other gospels (see Luke 22:47-53), what else do we learn about what happened to Malchus, and what does this show us?

Thank Jesus for His compassion for all, but especially for His special concern for His people who He will keep safe in Him. Pray that God would enable you to flee whatever temptation is most attractive to you at the moment so that you might not harden your heart to the point of betraying Jesus.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 2: John 18:12-27

Day 1

Read John 18:12-27.

1. John reminds us in verse 14 of what Caiaphas had unwittingly prophesied about Jesus (see John 11:49-53). Why do you think John includes this detail here in the story?
2. Far from being a surprise, the events of this passage have all been clearly outlined by Jesus (see John 12:31-33, 13:37-38 and 18:11). What does this show about the schemes of men within the framework of God's sovereign plan?
3. How does God's sovereign ability to bring about His plans and promises give you comfort and confidence in times when situations or people are opposed to you?

Praise God that He is the sovereign ruler over all things, and that nothing happens outside His control. Pray that God would enable you to trust His promises during times of difficulty or opposition.

Day 2

Read John 18:15-27.

This is the first time that Peter finds himself in a situation where he needs to bear witness to Jesus in the face of a hostile world. Jesus had spent time the night before preparing Peter and His other disciples for this (see John 15:18-16:4).

1. John interweaves the trial of Jesus with Peter's denials. By doing this he compares Jesus to Peter. How are their responses different and why do you think this?

2. What impression do you get of Peter's character from this chapter? He makes some unusual choices (he has an illegal sword, attacks the servant of the high priest, and follows Jesus to the trial). What does this add to the picture?

3. It is a challenge to face the world as a disciple of Jesus. Have you ever behaved like Peter and denied Jesus under pressure? How might you prepare yourself so that you might bear witness to Jesus in the future when you are faced with hostile or pressure situations?

Pray for forgiveness for the times when you have denied Jesus under pressure or failed to speak up for Him when the opportunity arose. Pray that God would enable you to bear witness to Jesus in all circumstances and not be ashamed of Him.

Day 3

Read John 18:19-23.

Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas (verse 13) was a man of great influence. He was deposed as High Priest by the Romans yet many Jews still looked to him as the legitimate authority. In the future five of his sons would occupy the office. John's father Zebedee was a prosperous fisherman (Mark 1:20) who may have had business dealings with some of the large households in Jerusalem including that of the high priest. It is likely that John was the unnamed disciple of verses 15-16.

1. The high priest questions Jesus about two matters in verse 19, His disciples and His teaching. Jesus says nothing about the first. Why do you think this is (see verse 9 and John 6:39)?

2. How would you describe Jesus' manner before the High Priest? People often compare Him with Paul in a similar situation (Acts 23:1-3) and criticise Jesus for His behaviour. Should Jesus have been more submissive?

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3. Jesus makes a point of saying that He “said nothing in secret”, but that His teaching was always open for everyone to hear. By contrast, how are the religious leaders behaving?
4. How is Jesus different from the world and how does this encourage you?

Give thanks for Jesus’ openness and integrity of speech and character, and that He is full of courage, truth and love for His people.

Day 4

Read John 18:19-23.

1. There are a number of irregularities about this trial (there were no witnesses, it was held at the wrong time etc). What can you work out about the difference between Jesus and these religious men? Why do they want to get rid of Him so desperately (see again John 18:14 and 11:49-51)?
2. What else can you find out about the character and priorities of the Jews from the following verses: John 18:28, 38-40; 19:15, 21, 31?
3. In looking at the attitude of the Jews, what warnings are there for us?

Pray that the Lord would protect us from being religious and from going through the motions without a real love for Him and His Son.

Day 5

Read John 18:12-27.

1. Throughout John's gospel, Jesus towers above all other characters. He is unique, impressive, and holy when everyone around Him is clearly not. How is this seen again in this passage?
2. What encouragement is there in seeing the difference between Jesus and us?

Give thanks that Jesus is not like us, but that He was perfect in every way. Give thanks that this qualifies Him to be the perfect sacrifice that can atone for our sins.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 3: John 18:28-40

Day 1

Read John 18:28-40.

We can tell that Pilate knew about the case of Jesus before He arrived by the fact that he had granted the Jews a “detachment of soldiers” (see John 18:3). The Jews and Pilate were working together in the arrest and trial of Jesus, but not happily. Rather, we see some of the tension that exists between these worldly kingdoms in this passage.

1. Political manoeuvring and one-upmanship are a fact of worldly kingdoms. What examples of it do we see here between Pilate and the Jews?
2. From verses 28-29, what is the tragedy of the Jewish leaders?
3. What tragic irony is there in their hypocrisy, considering Jesus is going to be the perfect Passover lamb that truly cleanses people from their uncleanness so they can be right with God?

Pray that God would protect us from trusting in rituals and external activities to be right with God while rejecting, ignoring or disobeying His Son.

Day 2

Read John 18:28-40.

1. There are all sorts of political and religious motivations driving the events of this passage. However, John sees something bigger behind these events. Look at verse 32 and compare it with John 12:32-33 and Acts 2:23. What does John see going on?

2. Why is it important that Jesus suffer crucifixion and not be stoned as a blasphemer (see Deuteronomy 21:23 and Galatians 3:13-14)?
3. Why is it helpful to know that God is sovereign over both good and evil (see Amos 3:6; Isaiah 45:7; Job 42:2)? How does this help you?

Praise God that He is sovereign over all things and all things take place according to His will. Give thanks that the death of Jesus, though done by wicked men, was part of His plan and purpose to save wretches like us for His glory. Pray that God would enable you to trust in His sovereign control over your life regardless of your circumstances.

Day 3

Read John 18:28-40.

Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, the promised King in the line of David that the Jews had long been waiting for. The Jewish authorities used this as an opportunity to get Pilate to see the seriousness of the threat posed by Jesus. If Jesus claimed to be a king, that was treason, serious enough to receive the death penalty.

1. Judging by the following verses, what reason have the religious authorities given Pilate for charging Jesus (see verses 33, 34, 37, 39 and John 19:3)?
2. If Jesus seems reluctant to admit to Pilate that He is a King, it is not reluctance about the *fact* but rather the *nature* of His Kingship. What does Jesus say about the nature of His kingship in verses 36-37?
3. What will it mean to give allegiance to Him? Are you living as someone who has Jesus as their king?

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Pray that you would live with Jesus as your king, listening to His voice and being obedient to Him.

Day 4

Read John 18:28-40.

1. Jesus says “Everyone on the side of truth listens to me”. What do you think it means in practice to be on the side of truth (see John 1:14; 8:31-38; 8:47; 10:3, 16, 27; 14:6)?
2. Pilate says “What is truth?” What attitude do you think lies behind Pilate’s answer? What relationship do Pilate and the Jews show they have to the truth?
3. In His conversation with Pilate, Jesus is seeking to give him an opportunity to respond to the gospel invitation. How is this striking?

Pray that you would be someone who listens to Jesus and is obedient to Him, and someone who seeks to share the gospel with everyone, even those who seem to deserve it the least.

Day 5

Read John 18:28-40.

There is a massive contrast between the human and divine characters in this drama. If Pilate had been a man of any integrity, he would have released Jesus and dismissed the Jewish authorities. Yet for his own self-motivated reasons Pilate does not acquit Him.

1. What choice does Pilate give the crowd and how do they respond?

2. In what way do all people make a similar choice to this when it comes to Jesus?
3. How are we like Barabbas? In what way are we guilty and so deserving of punishment, and how have we been released?
4. What do the actions of the crowd suggest about the nature of humankind?

Give thanks that the Innocent One was handed over to save guilty criminals like us. Pray that God would do a miraculous work in the hearts of people on the Coast to turn them from being in opposition to Jesus to wanting to serve Him.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 4: John 19:1-16

Day 1

Read John 19:1-16.

1. Why do you think Pilate had Jesus flogged (verse 1)?
2. Look at verses 4, 6, 12 & 14-15. What is John trying to make clear in these verses? Why is this important?
3. Why do you think Pilate hands Jesus over to be executed in the end (see verses 12-16)?
4. In what situations are you tempted to go against what you know to be right?

Give thanks that the perfectly innocent one gave Himself over to be executed in our place – the guilty ones. Pray that God would enable you to stand strong under pressure and temptation so that you would not go against what you know to be right.

Day 2

Read John 19:1-16.

1. In verses 1-3, why do you think the Roman soldiers treat Jesus the way they do?
2. As the trial progresses, why do you think Pilate is becoming increasingly uneasy about trying Jesus (see verses 7-9)?

3. The soldiers mock Jesus' kingship, the Jews reject it and Pilate is reasonably confident in His own power. Look at verses 8-11. What does Jesus say about the nature of power?
4. How are we tempted to think about the powerful and important, especially if they are us? How does Jesus' correction to this help us to evaluate any skills, abilities, looks, power, wealth and position that we might have?

Pray that power in itself would not impress you, but that you would recognise all that you are and have comes from God. Pray that you would humbly recognise that all skills, abilities, looks, power, wealth and position are a gift from God.

Day 3

Read John 19:1-16.

1. What can you find out about the Jews and their motives here? What do you learn in the following verses? (John 18:40, 19:7, 12, 15)
2. Who are they treating as their king (see verse 15)? Who should they have been treating as their king?

Jesus' glorification takes place in His crucifixion, but so does the final rejection of the Messiah by Israel. From this point the church replaces Israel as the centre of God's purposes in history.

3. Who is your king? How would someone know?

Give thanks that God has revealed to you that Jesus is the Messiah. Pray that each day you would live with Him as your king, trusting Him, following Him and living in obedience to Him.

Day 4

Read John 19:1-16.

1. What strikes you about Jesus' attitude during this trial? What does He teach here about true kingship?
2. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. In Jesus, two lines of Old Testament prophecy come together: the prophecies about the 'suffering servant' and those about the 'conquering messiah'. How do we see these coming together in Jesus here?
3. If Jesus was a king, when was His coronation (see John 12:27-29)?

Give thanks that God the Son is both the conquering messiah and the suffering servant, and that He conquered sin and death and Satan through His suffering. Pray that the suffering that your King went through for you would so capture your heart that you love to wholeheartedly serve Him.

Day 5

Read John 19:1-16.

1. In verses 13-16 Caesar, Pilate, the Jews and Jesus are all mentioned. How would you put them in order from those who seem most powerful to those who seem least? What is the reality?
2. What do the Jews seem to conclude about who is most powerful?
3. What does this teach us about the true nature of power and kingship?

4. What warnings are there here for us about true power and its appearance?

Give thanks that our King is a servant King, who to all appearances looked weak but by His service displayed mighty power. Pray that we would not make an idol of power, but would exercise any power we might have in humility and service of others.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 5: John 19:16-30

Day 1

Read John 19:16-27.

1. Imagine you are an ordinary resident of Jerusalem who is witnessing these scenes from a distance. Based on your experience of what you would have seen and felt, would you have thought God was at work? Why?
2. What did Jesus say this event was really demonstrating (see John 17:1-5 and 12:27-33)?
3. What is there in the passage that suggests that there is more to the cross than meets the eye?
For example:
 - The sign "The King of the Jews"
 - The Scripture is fulfilled (verses 24, 28, 36, 37)
 - Jesus' announcement that "It is finished!" (verse 30)
4. Jesus' experience on the cross doesn't look very glorious and yet it is. How is the Christian life like this?

Give thanks that Jesus displayed His glory in what appeared to be a weak and shameful death on the cross. Pray that God would enable you to constantly see the glory of the cross (even if it looks weak and foolish to others), and the glory of living in light of the cross (even if others think your life weird or foolish).

Day 2

Read John 19:16-27.

John has chosen carefully what he says about Jesus' crucifixion. His account is short and leaves out many details that the other gospels record, and records many details that are both significant and unique to this gospel.

1. The synoptic gospels (Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26) all teach that the soldiers commandeered Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross after Jesus had collapsed. John tells us only that Jesus carried His own cross. What point do you think he is making for us (see John 4:34; Philippians 2:8; John 8:29)?
2. Read Genesis 22:1-14. Given that the region of Moriah is the hill where Jerusalem stood, how do the events of Jesus' crucifixion mirror the events of Genesis 22?
3. Crucifixion was a degrading and excruciating way to die. John records the act of Jesus' crucifixion with the words "Here they crucified Him." Why do you think John spends so little time describing the horrors of crucifixion? What is John's focus?

Give thanks that Jesus knowingly and willingly carried the wood that would become His altar to the place of sacrifice to achieve for us an incredible salvation in fulfilment of God's prophesied plan.

Day 3

Read John 19:16-27.

1. How are the following details significant?
 - a. Jesus is crucified in the midst of two others (verse 18, see also Isaiah 53:12)
 - b. Pilate worded the charge against Jesus as he did and had it written in the three major languages of Palestine (verses 19-22)

- c. The soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing (verses 23-24, see also Psalm 22:18)
2. At a time when it seems that the Prince of this world (John 14:30) has triumphed through humans, what do these details say about the death of Jesus? How does this give us confidence?

Note that the passages John quotes all have something in common. They all speak of the faithful believer whose suffering brings glory to God. They were prophecies looking forward to their complete fulfillment in the Messiah. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 especially looks forward to a suffering servant who will suffer on behalf of God's people to take their deserved punishment.

3. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. What do we learn in this passage about the suffering of Jesus and the reason for it?

Thank God that the conquering Messiah is also the suffering servant, who conquers sin and death and Satan by suffering in obedience to His Father's will on behalf of His people.

Day 4

Read Psalm 22.

Psalm 22 is a psalm that filled Jesus' thoughts as He hung on the cross.

1. From verses 1-21, what can you find out about the writer of this psalm, and what is there here that suggests the psalm is also prophesying the sufferings of Jesus?
2. In verses 22-31, how does the mood shift from the first half of the psalm? What things is he confident that God will bring about, and how does the conclusion remind you of John 19 (see John 19:30)?

3. What do you think it is that keeps Jesus acting obediently to the end (see John 19:28)?

Give thanks that Jesus was obedient to His Father's will, as it was revealed in the prophecies of the Old Testament Scriptures. Give thanks that He willingly suffered such degradation, mockery, rejection and pain to do what needed to be done for our salvation.

Day 5

Read John 19:25-30.

1. What does Jesus do for His mother? How is this striking considering Jesus' situation?
2. When Jesus says "It is finished" (more literally "it is accomplished"), what is He speaking about? What has He achieved?
3. What does the fact that Jesus "gave up His spirit" show us about Jesus and His death (see also John 10:18)?
4. If your King loves you like this, how will you live in response to your King?

Give thanks that Jesus is the King who has accomplished His work: obedience to His Father, fulfilment of the Scriptures and salvation for His people. Pray that God would enable you to grasp His love for you more and more, and that you would actively love Him more and more in response.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 6: John 19:31-42

Day 1

Read John 19:28-37.

1. What is significant about Jesus saying “I am thirsty” (see Psalm 69:21)?
2. Historically, who was the suffering man in Psalm 69 (see the top of the psalm)? Why is this significant?
3. How is Jesus like a Passover lamb (see John 1:29; 13:1 – which is the night before the events of chapters 18 & 19; 19:33-36; Exodus 12:46 and 1 Peter 1:18-21)?

Give thanks that Jesus, the righteous King and perfect Passover lamb, was slain in your place so that God’s wrath against you as a sinner would pass over you.

Day 2

Read John 19:31-37.

God’s sovereignty and human responsibility exist together. John shows many times that men, by their choices, have unconsciously played their part in the saving sacrifice of the Son of God. For Jesus however, it is different. He alone among all the people present is fully aware that in these moments the Scriptures are being fulfilled.

1. What details does John draw your attention to in verse 31-34? (see Exodus 12:46, Psalm 34:20 & Zechariah 12:10)?
2. According to verses 35-37, why does John do so?

Note that Jesus' finished work in the greatest sense is to fulfil the Scriptures in obedience to the Father. It is not that He fulfils a thousand isolated details but that He completes the entire prophetic Old Testament picture. In this case He is the righteous, suffering King - the one who is greater than David. He is the perfect Passover sacrifice and the ideal Shepherd of God's people.

3. The Son's obedience to the Father is one of the great themes of this gospel. What motivated His obedience (see John 8:29; 15:9-11; 17:4; Hebrews 12:2)?

4. What might motivate us to greater obedience to God?

Pray that God would motivate you to obedience as you grow in your understanding and love for Him.

Day 3

Read Zechariah 12:10-13:9.

This is a difficult part of the Bible but because it is God's word, it's worth us wrestling over it.

1. What events are said to happen "on that day...."?

2. The one pierced in Zechariah 12:10 is the shepherd of Zechariah 13:7. What happens when God's shepherd is struck (see Zechariah 13:7-9 and compare with Matthew 26:31)?

3. It is difficult when reading Zechariah to know which of these events are now fulfilled in the cross and which await Jesus' return. Sometimes it's both! See John 19:34-37 and compare with Matthew 24:30-31 and Revelation 1:7. When will people mourn over the Shepherd who was pierced?

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4. What warning and encouragement do verses 8-9 have for us (see 1 Peter 1:6-7)?

Give thanks that the Shepherd was pierced for us and has brought us cleansing from sin and impurity, to be the Lord's people. Pray that the Lord would continue to refine you to be increasingly holy.

Day 4

Read John 19:38-42.

1. Both Joseph and Nicodemus were members of the Sanhedrin (Luke 23:50-51), and yet also secret disciples of Jesus because they feared the Jews. If you were a secret believer, why would you risk public exposure now? Where are the disciples (see John 16:32)?
2. We met Nicodemus back in chapter 3 and chapter 7. What has been changing for Nicodemus over the course of this gospel (see John 3:1-15; 7:45-52; 19:38-39)?
3. Joseph and Nicodemus, previously secret disciples, take a risky stand by being identified with Jesus. In what situations do you tend to act like a secret disciple of Jesus? How might you go about identifying with Jesus in these situations, and what might help you to do this?

Pray that God would give you such a love for His Son that you would be courageous in identifying with Jesus in all situations.

Day 5

Read John 19:28-42.

1. The resurrection is the issue on which the truth of Jesus stands or falls. Two alternatives sometimes suggested by non-Christian authors have been that:
 - a. Jesus survived in the tomb and escaped.
 - b. The disciples stole the body and made the whole thing up to win fame for themselves.

How might you answer these questions (use John 19:28-42 as a starting point)?

Pray that God would give you confidence in the historic resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the foundation upon which Christianity stands. Pray that God might work in your friends to convict them of the reality that Jesus has risen.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 7: John 20:1-18

Day 1

Read John 20:1-18.

John has written four scenes in chapter 20 describing Jesus' initial resurrection appearances to His disciples, each with a climax and a conclusion.

1. Do any unusual things strike you?
2. What things does John seem to draw your attention to in these two scenes?
3. How does each appearance conclude and what point do you think John is making?

Give thanks that Christ has risen, and that the resurrection is absolute proof that Jesus is who He claimed to be. Give thanks that God has enabled you to see the reality of the resurrection and so put your trust in Jesus.

Day 2

Read John 20:1-9.

1. Having witnessed with great anguish Jesus' death a couple of days before, why would Mary have visited the tomb so early? Why, given her emotional state, would she have reacted as she did to the observation that the body was gone?
2. Though Jesus had told them often, how do these verses show that the disciples were not expecting the resurrection?

3. Consider the eyewitness report in verses 6-7. What is there in this evidence that:
 - a. contradicts the possibility of a grave robbery?
 - b. contrasts Jesus' resurrection with that of Lazarus? (John 11:44)

It appears that Jesus' resurrection body passed through his grave-clothes and the spices they contained (John 19:39-40), just as He later materialised inside a locked room (John 20:19, 26).

4. John (assuming he is the one mentioned in verse 8) says that it was the resurrection that caused Him to believe. It would seem that this was the decisive event that caused Jesus' brothers to believe also (compare John 7:5 with Acts 1:14). What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you?

Pray for the Coast, that they would hear of the resurrection of Jesus and that God would enable them to believe.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-34.

1. According to this passage, what impact did the resurrection have on Paul's life and ministry? What impact should it have on yours?
2. "If only for this life....we are to be pitied more than all men" (verse 19). Why would this be so?
3. How is the importance of the resurrection expressed by :
 - Peter (1 Peter 1:3-5)?

- Paul (Romans 1:3-4)?
- Luke (Acts 17:30-31)?

Give thanks to God for the blessings that will come to the world because of Jesus' resurrection.

Day 4

Read John 20:10-18.

The Gospel accounts vary in their reporting of the angelic beings at the tomb. John and Luke speak of two while Matthew and Mark refer to one. John's point however, is that this empty tomb cannot be explained by grave-robbers.

1. What is suggested about Jesus' resurrection by verses 14-16?
2. In Jesus' encounter with Mary in verses 16-18, what sense do you get of Mary's relationship with Jesus, and what the resurrection means to her?
3. What does the resurrection mean for our relationship with Jesus?

It has long been a matter for debate as to why Jesus, having not yet ascended, would stop Mary from holding Him, while Thomas is invited to touch Him in verse 27. It is possible that His instructions in verse 17 simply mean "Don't cling to me now. I will not leave you yet, but go quickly because my disciples must know."

4. In verse 18, Mary takes the good news of the risen Lord to Jesus' disciples. How can we be like Mary in our world today?

Give thanks that because of the resurrection our relationship with Jesus will never end, and we will never be separated from our Lord. Pray that God would make us bold to speak to those we know about the resurrection of Jesus and what it means.

Day 5

Read John 20:10-18.

1. Because of Jesus' unique Sonship, when speaking to His disciples He never seems to refer to God as "our Father" but always maintains a distinction between the nature of our sonship and the nature of His. Compare verses 17 and 18. In these verses, what is significant about the way Jesus refers to:
 - a. His disciples?
 - b. The Father?

2. What does it mean to you to be a son or daughter of the Father (see Romans 8:15-16 and Hebrews 2:11-12)?

Give thanks that because of Jesus' death and resurrection we can know God as our Father and Jesus as our Brother.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 8: John 20:19-31

Day 1

Read John 20:19-31.

1. Why did the disciples have all the doors locked here (verse 19 & 26), and what change has taken place in them by the time of events of Acts 3 (see Acts 4:18-22 & 5:40-42)? What do you think changes them?
2. In chapter 20, what do you notice about the resurrected Jesus (see John 20:6-8, 14, 19-20, 26-27 and compare also with Luke 24:16, 41-43)? The nature of Jesus' resurrection body seems hard to understand. How does 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 explain this?
3. What is the purpose of Jesus showing "His hands and side" (verses 20, 25 & 27)? How do the disciples respond in verse 20? Is this your response to the resurrection of Jesus?

Pray that as you reflect on Jesus resurrection it might fill you with joy. Pray that the Holy Spirit would cause Jesus' resurrection to fill you with courage and confidence to speak to others about the resurrected Christ.

Day 2

Read John 20:19-23.

1. What is going on in verse 22? How might this event fit together with the events of Pentecost?

For more on "breathed on them", see Genesis 2:7 and Ezekiel 37:3-5. Note also that the word for "breath", "wind" and "spirit" are all the same in both Hebrew and Greek.

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2. What do verses 21-23 tell us about the mission Jesus has given to those who follow Him (notice the connections between these verses)?
3. In what sense has the Holy Spirit equipped you to bring the message of forgiveness to others?

Pray that empowered by the Spirit you might boldly speak the message of forgiveness to others. Pray for three friends, that they might find forgiveness in Jesus as they come to Him in repentance and faith.

Day 3

Read John 20:24-31.

1. It is only when Thomas sees Jesus physically risen that he can say, "My Lord and my God!" What does Jesus say about people who have not seen him physically (verse 29)?
2. Those who are not yet Christians often say "If I could see I'd believe". How do you answer that?
3. From verses 29-31, what is the relationship between our faith and the disciples' faith (see 1 John 1:1-4)?
4. If our faith is dependant on their eyewitness testimony, what issues does this raise for thoughtful believers or those investigating the gospel (see John 14:25-26 & 16:12-15)?

Pray that you would have great confidence in the historical resurrection of Jesus, and that you would always continue to treat Jesus as your Lord and God.

Day 4

Read John 20:19-31.

1. Of all the things that Jesus must have said, why does John record on three occasions (verses 19, 21 & 26) “Peace be with you”? (See John 14:27 & 16:33. Note also that this greeting, along with “grace”, is included in every New Testament letter that Paul wrote.)
2. How does John show that the resurrection of Jesus was historical?
3. Is believing that Jesus rose from the dead as important as believing that He died for our sins? Why/why not?

Give thanks that in Christ we have peace, the blessed life of relationship with God. Pray again that God would give you great confidence in the historical resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Day 5

Read John 20:30-31.

1. Why do you think John calls Jesus’ miracles “miraculous signs”? What is the purpose of a sign?
2. In these verses, John says that he has a clear purpose in writing his gospel and recording the miraculous signs he did. Why does John say he has written his gospel?
3. How is it that people can receive life, and what sort of life is it?

Praise Jesus that you have received life by believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Pray for those you know that they might come to believe too.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 9: John 21:1-25

This last chapter of John's gospel finds the disciples out fishing on the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee), many kilometres from Jerusalem, the scene of the shocking experience of the crucifixion and of the surprising revelation of the resurrection. These were events that may have left Jesus' disciples feeling guilty and ashamed. That they are back fishing might at first seem a surprise, though of course they still needed to eat. That they didn't yet have an overpowering sense of being on Jesus' mission to the world may also appear puzzling. However, being in Galilee doesn't suggest a desire to return to their trade of fishing.

Day 1

Read John 21:1-14.

1. Why have the disciples returned to Galilee (see Mark 14:28, 16:5-7)?
2. Jesus performed a similar miracle to this one in Luke 5:1-11. What was the effect the first time Jesus performed the miracle, and why do you think He repeated it for these men under these circumstances (see also John 20:21)?
3. How conscious are you of the fact that you've been sent on Jesus' mission to bear witness to the world? How much does it compel you?

Pray that you might have an overpowering sense that you are someone who has left everything to follow Jesus and be about His mission of catching men. Pray that you would be effective in this work.

Day 2

Read Acts 1:1-8 & 2:1-47.

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Yesterday we saw that the disciples don't yet appear to be men who are driven by Jesus' mission.

1. According to Acts 1, how much time passed since the resurrection of Jesus?
2. From Acts 1 alone, what was Jesus' purpose in pouring out the Spirit on His disciples?
3. What changes do you see in chapter 2 as a result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit? How does this encourage you?
4. It seems that in John 20, John records an event which symbolises in advance Jesus' giving of the Holy Spirit. Read John 7:37-39 and 16:7. From these verses, what is being emphasised about the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Some people today separate the Son of God and the Spirit of God. The Bible never does this. The Son sends the Spirit (John 16:7), the Spirit can come only because of the atoning work of the Son (John 16:7) and the Spirit's concern is for the truth about Christ (John 16:13). The Spirit's words are words from the Father about Christ (John 16:13) and His desire is to bring glory not to Himself, but to Christ (John 16:14-15) who in this age is also the one whom the Father seeks to glorify (1 Corinthians 15:20-28).

Give thanks to our three-personed God for His generosity: that Father, Son and Spirit have, for all eternity, worked together for the events that occurred in the cross.

Day 3

Read John 21:15-17.

1. How do you imagine Peter felt, seeing Jesus again?

Peter had often asserted his own place among the disciples. He had boasted of his own commitment to Jesus as though he was the one set apart from the rest (John 13:37-38). He had been exposed however, both before Jesus and among the others as the one who disowned his Master. Any future service he may have would depend on the forgiveness of Jesus, but also on his reinstatement amongst the other disciples. This explains the public nature of Jesus' approach to Peter here.

1. What do you think Jesus meant by “do you truly love me more than these” (verse 15; see also Matthew 26:33 and John 13:37-38)?
2. Why do you think Peter replied the way he did? If you were asked how would you reply?
3. In the light of John 10:14-15, what would this shepherd image mean to Peter? Should this have any applications for you, and if so, what will it mean in practice?

Give thanks for Jesus' great grace and forgiveness, that even the worst betrayals can be forgiven. Pray that the Lord would enable you to help shepherd those less mature in the faith, helping to take care of and feed them.

Day 4

Read John 21:15-25.

1. In your own words, what is the commission Jesus gave to Peter?
2. Why was love for Jesus the crucial qualification for this task?

3. According to verses 18-22, what else would this task require of Peter?

According to tradition, Peter lived and served 30 years with Jesus' prophecy ringing in his ears. By the time this fourth gospel was written, it had been fulfilled and Peter had glorified Christ in his martyrdom at Rome.

Pray that the Lord would enable you to follow Him wherever He may lead and whatever it might mean.

Day 5

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16 and John 21:24-25.

1. In this passage, Peter, now an old man, shares his Spirit-inspired reflection on the nature of Christian ministry. How does this challenge you?
2. What important information about this gospel is given in John 21:24-25? Why did John not write down more of what Jesus did?
3. Chapter 20 told us that the Christian life was about trusting the message of the eyewitnesses to Jesus. What can you work out about Christian life and ministry from this chapter?

Pray that you would not be surprised when you suffer trials as a Christian, but would rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ. Pray that you would continue following Christ no matter what.

Prayer Points and Notes



MISSION PARTNERS

EV is committed to the proclamation of the gospel all over the world. For you and your group's prayers, here are SaturdayEV's Mission Partners.

Chris and Sharon Ekins (Coast Evangelical Church, Forster)



Chris and Sharon moved up to Forster to begin a church there in early 2009. They were convicted of the great need up there for more Bible teaching churches, especially ones that are accessible to those with little or no church background.

Praise God that they now have about 30 adults and 10 kids who call Coast EC home, and they are just about to start a second home group. Pray that God would continue to grow His church and save many, as they pray, invest in relationships, share the gospel and teach the Bible. Check out www.coastec.net.au/category/prayer/ for more.

Derek and Anna (Southeast Asia)

Derek and Anna (with baby Liam) have come from Crossroads, one of our sister churches in Canberra, where Anna did MTS. They are in Southeast Asia, and after initial language and culture learning, they will be teaching in a Bible college, training and equipping local believers.

The Geneva Push

Geneva has been set up to provide a means by which we can pool our energies to fuel a whole new generation of church planting that might see thousands of Australians saved to know Jesus. Geneva is seeking to achieve this outcome by communicating the vision and need of planting so more and more young people think to give themselves to planting. It then has set in place a high quality assessment process to find the best guys, and provides ongoing support and training through coaching structures, mentoring and ongoing conferences to best ensure planters have the biggest impact they can as planters.

Investing financially in Geneva will serve to create a whole new generation of vibrant churches across the country.

www.thegenevpush.com



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Matt and Cecily Greenwood

(Western Suburbs Community Bible Church- Perth)



Matt and Cec (along with 4 children) planted WSCBC in the Perth suburb of Mt Claremont during June of 2005. The 2 congregations (9am and 5pm) are enthusiastic but young in the faith with a need for good, solid, mature ministry support. They are not yet financially self sufficient. The Telfers and Dingles (both from EV) are key families in the ministry of WSCBC. Pray for the recruitment of a good MTS apprentice and for the patience and passion to overcome their lack of visible presence in the community.

Jono and Amy Vink (Tanzania)



Jono and Amy, along with their children Lili, Isaac, Brie and Abe, are working in Musoma, Tanzania. Jono helps to train church leaders by grounding them in biblical theology and in practical exegetical skills. The aim is to equip locals to teach the Bible and pastor God's people in Tanzania. Amy home schools and is involved in running various groups and Sunday School at the local church.

Paul and Sandra King (Strasbourg, France)



Paul and Sandra have been working in university ministry in France since the 1990s. They are currently in Strasbourg, working with the University Bible Group (GBU). Their ministry with university students involves evangelism, discipling, and training students. They coordinate a ministry apprenticeship program called RELAY, which gives people the opportunity to be equipped for full time Bible ministry. France is a very

secular country, with less than 1% being Christian. Paul and Sandra long to see French students commit to full time Bible ministry in order to grow Christ's kingdom in France. Pray to this end.

Email: prayerpoints@cms.org.au for more info.

Colin and Jill Bakon (Loja, Ecuador)



Colin and Jill, with their sons Matthew and Nicholas, began ministry in Ecuador in July 1996. Ecuador is a South American country with a strong history of Roman Catholicism. Less than 0.1% of their city, Loja, is Christian, while evangelical groups are viewed with suspicion. Colin and Jill have undertaken teaching English as a second language and involvement in the running of a cafe as strategies to engage people with a view to introducing them to the Lord Jesus. They are also involved in discipleship and supporting local church leaders. Pray for them as they are on home assignment now. They will be staying in Australia for an extended time and are looking at what God would have them do in the future with a possibility of Latin American mission mobilisation. Pray for wisdom.

Email: colin.bakon@sim.org for more info.

Derek and Anna (Southeast Asia)

Derek and Anna (with baby Liam) have come from Crossroads, one of our sister churches in Canberra, where Anna did MTS. They are in Southeast Asia, and after initial language and culture learning, they will be teaching in a Bible college, training and equipping local believers.

Overseas Council Australia (OCA)

OCA is a mission agency that provides funds to theological colleges in developing countries so that more leaders are available for the church in those countries. OCA provides a unique way for Christians in Australia to contribute to the upcoming leaders of the church in the developing world.

These young men and women will lead churches, evangelise, and plant new churches in their own countries. Unlike Western missionaries they already know the language and culture. Your investment in them will last for thirty or forty years as they minister through their work life.

Christian Leaders Training College, Papua New Guinea

Please pray for John (a former principal of CLTC) and Ann Hitchen who are in their final stages of preparations to come to the College. Please pray for John as he comes to teach subjects in the Masters Course, that God will use him to stimulate the students to grow both spiritually and intellectually. Please pray for their travel and in particular for Ann's health as she supports her husband in his ministry.

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Martin & Jen Shadwick (AFES Newcastle Uni)



Martin and Jen are both graduates of our EV MTS program. Martin is now working with AFES as a staff worker at Newcastle Uni, discipling, evangelising and training Christian students. Jen works half the week in the same Uni ministry with women on campus and half the week in children's ministry at the Hunter Bible Church.

Chris and Sharon Ekins (Coast Evangelical Church, Forster)



Chris and Sharon moved up to Forster to begin a church there in early 2009. They were convicted of the great need up there for more Bible teaching churches, especially ones that are accessible to those with little or no church background. Praise God that they now have about 30 adults and 10 kids who call Coast EC home, and they are just about to start a second home group. Pray that God would continue to grow His church and save many, as they pray, invest in relationships, share the gospel, and teach the Bible. Check out www.coastec.net.au/category/prayer/ for more.

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