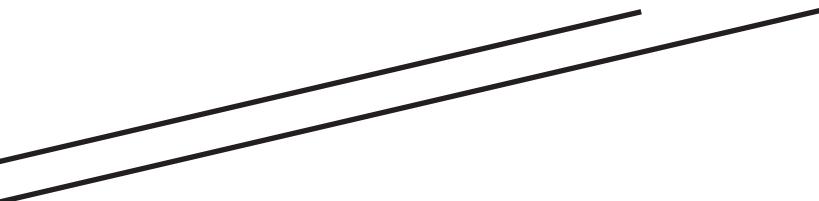


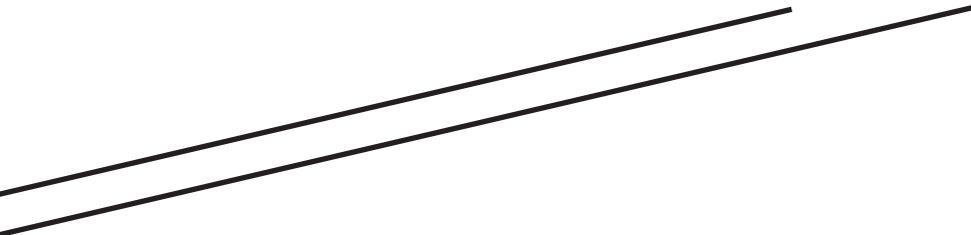


HELP *my*
In BELIEF

STONewater
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THANK YOU for joining others in the StoneWater family as we study the first five chapters of the Book of John. As we walk through these scriptures and devotionals together, we pray it helps you better understand and apply God's truth to your lives.



HEBREWS 4:12 (NLT)

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

As you study the scriptures, you will REAP what you sow (2 Cor 9:6). Below, are a few helpful steps (R.E.A.P. method) to reading and studying scripture.

READ

- Highlight or write down a passage or word that is important to you.

As you're reading, ask these questions:

- What is happening in this passage? What things are emphasized, repeated, related?
- What do you see about God? What is God doing in this passage?
- What do you see about man?

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting. Ask yourself these questions, and write down your thoughts:

- Observation- ASK: What do I see? Look for:
 - Circumstances?
 - Challenges?
 - How does the audience respond?
- Interpretation- ASK: What does this mean? Look for:
 - Purpose
 - Intent

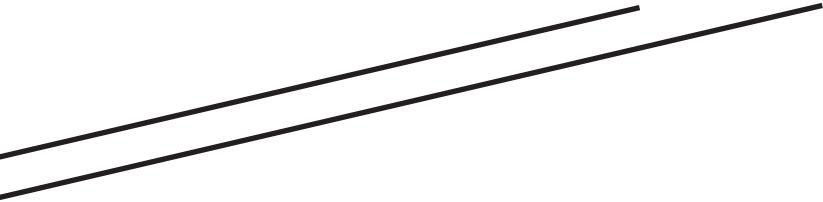
APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- How do I need to repent? What truths do I need to believe? What false beliefs must I turn from? What promise can I claim? What command do I need to follow?
- What can I do – empowered by the Holy Spirit – today to apply this passage?
- How will I live differently now?

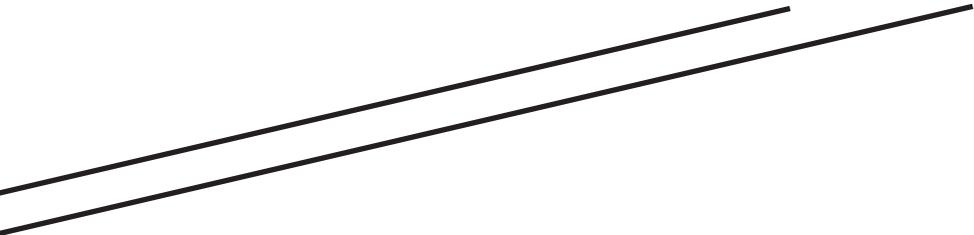
PRAY

Pray through the passage and your application, asking God to change your heart and to change your life, based on the time you've spent in God's Word. Pray for the truth to be vivid and affect my heart.



CAN WE USE THESE DEVOTIONALS IN OUR COMMUNITY GROUP?

Absolutely. These devotionals make a great starting point for discussion within your group. On your own each week, take the time to read the scripture, answer the questions and prepare some thoughts you'd like to share with your group. Each member of your group should be adequately prepared to discuss some portion of the study. Remember, you'll get more out of community when you put more into it. Take time each week to pray, prepare, and put into practice what God is teaching you. When your Community group meets, walk through the questions that were given and discuss what God is teaching you through His word.



STUDY OF JOHN: WEEK ONE

READ: JOHN 1:1-34

Big Idea: Your Faith is worth no more than the object in which you place it.

Introduction:

The book of John is a Gospel that contains narrative history, sermons, parables, and a few prophetic oracles. It was written by the Disciple/Apostle John. The key personalities of this book are Jesus Christ, His twelve disciples, Mary Magdalene, John the Baptist, Lazarus, his sisters Mary and Martha, Jewish religious leaders, and Pilate.

It was written so that all may believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who gives eternal life. John's Gospel uses the word "believe" 98 times and the word "life" 36 times, in an effort to embed the importance that one must believe in order to live eternally. John is not one of the three synoptic (common view) gospels, but instead was written with a more theological substance, yet equally as inspired and important as the first three gospels. John is a simple book to read yet at the same time extremely profound.

- Why did John call Jesus the Word? (John 1:1-14)
- What did the "Word" do? (John 1:14)
- John the Baptist came to set the stage for Jesus. Why? (John 1:6-9, 15-28)
- What was Jesus' mission to all mankind? (John 1:29)
- How do these truths speak to you?

STUDY OF JOHN: WEEK TWO

READ: JOHN 1:35-51

Big Idea: You cannot franchise Jesus.

Introduction:

In this passage, Jesus calls His first disciples to follow Him. Each of His followers has a unique story of how their faith and journey with Jesus began. As disciples of Jesus in the 21st century, all of us have our own unique story of how our journey of faith begins.

1. Describe what it was that brought each of these five men to Jesus. What did God use to bring you to Jesus?
2. How much did these first disciples understand who Jesus was? How much did you know about Jesus when you started following Him?
3. In verse 42, Jesus changes Simon's name to Peter which means Rock. Why did Jesus give Simon a new name? How has your identity changed as you have followed Jesus?
4. To help you understand verses 47-50, read Genesis 28:12-13. Who is the stairway between God (Heaven) and His people (Earth)? How does this truth help your belief in God and give you greater confidence in Jesus?

STUDY OF JOHN: WEEK THREE

READ: JOHN 2:1-12

Big Idea: Jesus can preform a miracle in your life.

Introduction:

1. Jesus is attending a wedding in Cana along with His mother Mary and His disciples. During the ceremony, the wine ran out so Mary let Jesus know. Jesus decided this was the place that He would preform His first miracle of turning the water into wine.

- What does the Bible say was the purpose of the six jars of water? (John 2:6)
2. What is the significance of the wine being the best? (John 2:8-10)
 3. What particular aspect of Jesus glory does this miracle display? (John 2:11)
 4. What is the significance of the Master of the Feast declaring that the best wine was saved until last?
 5. What does this first miracle cause us to see about our lives?

STUDY OF JOHN: WEEK FOUR

READ: JOHN 2:23-3:36

Big Idea: All who believe in Jesus may have eternal life.

Introduction:

Jesus is in Jerusalem during the Passover Feast performing miracles. Many saw Him and believed in Him. But Jesus saw that people believed more in the miracles than in Him. During this time, a Pharisee by the name of Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night. Nicodemus is at his “crisis of belief” and Jesus tells Nicodemus what it means to really believe in Him and receive eternal life.

1. Why did Jesus make the comment about “knowing what was in a man”? (John 2:25)
2. What did Nicodemus miss in assessing Jesus? (John 3:1-2, see Matthew 18:3-4)
3. What did Nicodemus find out about being born again? (John 3:3-8, see Romans 5:1-2)
4. What does being born of the Spirit mean? (John 3:6-8)
5. Whom did Jesus die for? (John 3:15-16)

Bonus

Read: Matthew 27:32---28:8: The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

STUDY OF JOHN: WEEK FIVE

READ:JOHN 4:1-42

Big Idea: God can use each of us regardless of our circumstances.

Introduction:

This section of scripture brings us Jesus interacting with a woman who had a sense of religion, but did not understand true freedom. Jesus was in the region of Samaria, a place where Jesus was not welcomed, because He was a Jew from Judea. For Jesus to be in the region where He was not welcomed and then to engage a conversation with a woman at the well, was not the norm. But Jesus steps out of the norm to show Himself to the woman, so she could be free from religion and the chains of sin that held her. This woman was then used by God to bring a community of people to belief in Jesus.

1. Why do you think that Jesus engaged a conversation with the woman?
2. What surprises you the most about the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman? (John 4:7-10)
3. What did Jesus offer the woman that would change her direction? (John 4:13-14)
4. After reading this passage, what main theme do you see?
5. What is a true worshipper and how does a true worshiper worship? (John 4:23-24)
6. Why do you think this woman's story was so significant in many people coming to belief in Jesus?
7. What's in your past that God could use to bring many people to Himself?

STUDY OF JOHN: WEEK SIX

READ: JOHN 4:43-5-47

Big Idea: Jesus comes to give hope to those seeking life and to those who have given up on life.

Introduction:

In this study of John, we are introduced to two characters that encounter Jesus Christ. The first is a frantic father who, in hope, seeks out Jesus for help because his son is dying. The second is a crippled man who had given up on hope and was sought out by Jesus. Notice the impact in their lives – how their hope shifted from hoping for the possibilities to hoping in the promises and the person of Jesus Christ.

1. When Jesus arrives in Galilee, who summons Him and what is his need? (John 4:46-47)
2. What do you suppose gave the man hope that Jesus could help him? (John 4:48; 2:23-24)
3. Why do you suppose that Jesus spoke so harshly to him? (John 4:49, 2:23-24)
4. What was the basis of hope that Jesus sought to bring out in that man? (John 4:50)
5. Where does the second encounter occur and describe this man and the environment in which Jesus finds him. (John 5:1-6)
6. In what did this man place his hope and who did he blame for his predicament? (John 5:3-4, 7)
7. What did Jesus finally instruct the man to do and with what results: (John 5:8-9)
8. Reflect on your Christian faith. Are you focused on what you hope Jesus can do for you or in who He is and His promises?



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