

# John 21

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ This is the first and most important command... And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ... All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

SPirit  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

Day 1

**L-3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him.**

I. Love the Lord Your God... How might this text lead me to better love God? “We love because He first loved us.” (1 Jn 4:19) We can only love with all our “heart, soul, mind, and strength” the REAL God.

A. As you read and reflect on the chapter, how might you describe the “REAL” God as He is seen as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

1. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ He is seen as \_\_\_\_\_

2. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ He is seen as \_\_\_\_\_

3. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus is seen toward \_\_\_\_\_ as He

4. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus is seen toward \_\_\_\_\_ as He

5. How might the above insights challenge some of your misconceptions of God? “Sadly, I sometimes mistakenly see God as \_\_\_\_\_.”

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Faith

Day 2

**W-1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.**

B. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8): The REAL God described above wants to relate to you as you described Him above; pause to let Him love you.

1. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who \_\_\_\_\_, my heart is moved with \_\_\_\_\_

2. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who \_\_\_\_\_, my heart is moved with \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus is available to love you like we read of His love in this chapter. Pause to express your heart to Him as you see Him in this chapter.

1. Describe how Jesus has loved you in some of the same ways that you read of His love in this chapter: “I have experienced the love of Jesus as He has \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus, as you love me like you loved those in this chapter, my heart is touched with \_\_\_\_\_

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Day 3

**P-5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the Church.**

II. Love Your Neighbor... How might this text lead me to better love others, both those who follow Jesus and those who don't know Him? “Love one another even as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

Since we have freely received of His love, we are to freely give this same love to others; consider again how you see love portrayed in this chapter.

A. Who among your family or friends might you better love?

1. I could better love \_\_\_\_\_ especially by \_\_\_\_\_

B. Notice again how Jesus expressed love by accepting, forgiving or sacrificing? How might Jesus have taken initiative, expressed compassion or offered support? How did Jesus share truth and eternal hope?

1. Who in the traffic patterns of your life might benefit from receiving the blessing of Christ's love through you? (*who*) \_\_\_\_\_ could benefit from my sharing the love of Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who in your life could benefit from sharing part of your life story of encountering truth and eternal hope? (*who*) \_\_\_\_\_ could benefit from sharing more about \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pause now to pray from this person and then yourself as you impart both your life and the gospel.

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Faith

Day 4

**M-1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community.**

III. “As you love yourself” your significance, value and worth have been established by your creator through the gift of His Son. How might this text affirm your identity as His “beloved”?

**“This is how God showed his love to us: He sent His only Son into the world to give us life through Him.” (1 John 4:9)**

Celebrate how you have received His love and grace, His forgiveness and new life, His calling and kingdom purpose.

A. Re-read the text as His truth being shared just for you.

1. I'm grateful that I have experienced the blessing of verse \_\_\_\_\_ as I \_\_\_\_\_

B. Since He is the same yesterday, today, and forever meditate on you being “in” the story of this chapter; allow Him to love you as you read of His love in the chapter.

1. My heart is touched with gratitude that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

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Faith

Day 5

**L-4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”**

# John 21

## Encounter Jesus

***“This was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection.” (John 21:14)***

SPIRIT  
EMPOWERED  
*Faith*

M-3

***Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living.***

**J**esus is still making himself known today! He may not be revealing Himself with nets full of fish, but His presence and witness are clearly being made known.

He can reveal Himself through Scripture or He can reveal Himself through a testimony, the beauty of a summer day, or even in still and quiet moments. Think about the moment when you surrendered to Jesus Christ. How did God reveal Jesus to you? Was it through the example of a family member or a friend? Was it in a sermon or through the Scriptures? Was it through a testimony? Did He meet you and reveal Himself directly? How did you “hear” Him and come to know Him?

- God revealed Jesus to me through \_\_\_\_\_.
- My yielding to Christ involved \_\_\_\_\_.

Pause quietly to give Him thanks: Lord Jesus, receive the gladness of my heart as an expression of my love.

The disciples yielded to Christ’s words to “cast the net on the right side” (John 20:6)...and similarly this is the role of each Christ follower: Christ “reveals” and His followers are to “yield.”

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*Now with a partner or small group, reflect on your own yielding to the revelation of Jesus: Holy Spirit, prompt and empower my walk of yieldedness.*

# John 21

## Experience Scripture

*“And then he said, “Peter, follow me.” (John 21:19)*

SPIRIT  
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*Faith*  
M-3

*Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living.*

**T**wo powerful, simple words that change everything: “Follow Me.” To follow Him is to avoid a *broad road* that many travel leading to destruction; choosing instead a *narrow road* leading to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

Consider the blessing that Christ has invited you to follow Him; to “partner” with Him in Kingdom purposes.

Pause to consider that God’s ultimate purpose for your life is to follow Him so that you can express His glory, which...

- allows you to receive of God’s abundant blessings.
- enables you to bless others with His love.
- blesses God and brings Him pleasure.

What do these truths do to your heart? Might you be touched to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God, confident that such an offering honors and glorifies Him?

“He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me” (Psalm 50:23).

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*Share with Him your response to the following:*

*Jesus, as I consider the wonder that my “following” you actually blesses You and others around me, my heart is filled with\_\_\_\_\_.*  
(For example: My heart is filled with praise, awe, wonder, gratitude, love, joy. I cannot get over how much You love me, and I hope I never do!)

Pause to pray with your partner or small group, giving God honor through your praise and thanksgiving that He’s inviting you to follow... you have the privilege of joining Him in an eternal calling.

*“Lord Jesus, from a grateful heart, lead me by your Spirit as I champion You as people’s only hope”*

# John 21

## Engage Fellowship

***“I, John, am that disciple who has written these things to testify of the truth, and we know that what I’ve documented is accurate.”***

***(John 21:24)***

SPIRIT  
EMPOWERED  
*Faith*

M-3

***Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living.***

**T**he apostle John “knows” this gospel story is true because he was there!—for the teaching and miracles, the crucifixion, empty tomb and confirming appearances.

Pause with a partner or small group to consider the impact of the “truth” that John experienced.

Imagine Jesus’ agony on the cross. He was prepared to take upon Himself the sins of the world. Jesus sensed that His own Father had turned His back on Him. He cried out with a voice that conveyed a feeling of utter abandonment: “MY God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mark 15:34). Yet there He hung upon a cross, startling people with His love. He was dying, yet He was thinking of those around Him...the soldier, the thief, His mother. Jesus was giving up His life, yet He was giving life to others—so that they might know His love.

That is the startling love of Christ. We can share in that love and then share that love with others.

For whom did Christ do all of this? For whom did He suffer and die? Listen as the Spirit whispers, “He did it for you!” If He did not need to die for anyone else, He would have done it just for you! Allow this wondrous truth to motivate you to share with others the hope of His love.

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***And now would you join in receiving His startling love through a bold declaration of faith: “He did it for me.”*** Whisper it again. “He did it for me.” Let’s pause, be still and give Him thanks for the startling love of Jesus and the privilege of making Him known to others:

*“Holy Spirit, fill me with your constraining love and with a grateful heart I yield to be a faithful witness of Jesus who I also have experienced as true.”*

