

# John 18

*“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 \_\_\_\_\_.”

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## SPirit EMPOwERED Faith

### Day 2

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

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## SPirit EMPOWERED Faith

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.

## SPirit EMPOWERED 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## SPirit EMPOWERED Faith

Day 5

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

# John 18

## Experience Scripture

*He said this to fulfill the prophecy he had spoken, “Father, not one of those you have given me has been lost.” (John 18:9)*



*Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail.*

**H**e said this to fulfill the prophecy he had spoken, “Father, not one of those you have given me has been lost.” (John 18:9).

As certain as this declaration, so is it with every promise of God. As certain as God’s faithfulness to this remnant of Jesus followers, so is our security in His promised abundance. “As many as are the promises of God, in Him they are ‘yes’...” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Pause now with a partner or in your small group to give thanks for the certainty of His Word; though every man be found a liar, God remains faithful to fulfill His Word. Thank Him for the certainty of His Word and for the John 10:10 promise of life’s abundance as declared by the Son: “I came to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect—life in its fullness until you overflow!” (John 10:10).

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*“Father God, with grateful heart I cling to your promises for direction in life. Hearing Christ’s promise of abundant life gives security and hope. Open the eyes of my heart to see your plans for prospering in whatsoever I do as I walk in the light of your Word.” (Ps 119:105)*

## John 18

## Engage Fellowship

*As he passed inside, the young servant girl guarding the gate took a look at Peter and said to him, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" He denied it, saying, "No! I'm not!" (John 18:17)*

SPIRIT  
EMPOWERED  
*Faith*

W-10

*Implicit, unwavering trust  
that His Word will never fail.*

**W**e might be tempted to judge Peter's denial of Jesus harshly until the Holy Spirit shows us ourselves! As we journey through a world that seems filled with signs of the "latter days" where:

- people will be lovers of self, focusing on their own plans, needs, and desires.
- people will be lovers of money, giving priority to what they can acquire.
- people will be boastful and arrogant.
- people will be unloving, irreconcilable, and prone to gossip.
- people will be lovers of pleasure.
- there will be only a form of godliness.
- people will indulge the flesh.
- people will become self-willed.
- people will speak arrogant words.
- people will be enticed by fleshly lusts and sensuality, and will become entangled in the world's defilements.

(See 2 Timothy 3:1-5) and 2 Peter 2:10-18 for reference to these characteristics).

*Prayerfully and humbly look at this list again:*

- Consider the weakness of human flesh as we see in ourselves dimensions of "denial" reminiscent of Peter. Which of these characteristics might you struggle with? For example, I sometimes struggle with selfishness when faced with the needs and demands of my family and friends). Which of these symptoms of "denial" might be true for you? I sometimes struggle with ...
- Now recall the promised certain outcome of Christ's word to Peter: "I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail, and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren" (Luke 22:32).
- Recall now the personal struggle that you noted earlier. Remember the truth of Hebrews 7:25: We have a Great High Priest who, "always lives to make intercession for [us]."
- Pause with your partner or small group to meditate on how Jesus is interceding for you. *"As I reflect on the certainty of God's Word and that Christ prays for me like he did for Peter, my heart is touched with ..."*

Share your response with a partner and celebrate with one another that His Word never fails. Ask God to continue to bring fresh encounters with His Spirit that would change, restore, and empower you.

John 18

## Encounter Jesus

*“Pilate looked at Jesus and said, “What is truth?” (John 18:38)*

SPirit  
EMPOWERED  
Faith  
W-10

*Implicit, unwavering trust  
that His Word will never fail*

Imagine for a moment that you are in that hall with Pilate and his prisoner. Imagine the words of the governor’s question echoing off the marbled walls of that great hall. Imagine the expression of Pilate’s face as he poses the question, scornful at first, then turning serious when the answer does not quickly come.

Seconds tick by. Still the prisoner and the governor study each other. Imagine the governor’s thoughts: Who is this Man? Why does He gaze at me so? And the prisoner’s thoughts: Have I not just told you? I came to bring truth into the world. Pilate, you are looking at the answer to your own question: I am the truth (John 14:6).

Pilate was not just discussing the truth in his Jerusalem palace the day he met Jesus; he was literally looking at it. Truth was standing before him, clothed in human flesh! Jesus Christ is the very embodiment and essence of absolute moral and spiritual truth itself. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

**Moral and spiritual truth isn’t so much a concept as it is a person.** It isn’t so much something we believe as it is someone we relate to. Moral and spiritual truth has flesh. And, thus, truth is not just conceptual; it is intrinsically relational. **Truth is a person!**

To develop God-honoring convictions is to relate intimately to Jesus, the One who is truth. Each day in our daily walk we have opportunity to reflect the certainty and hope of His Word as we hold tight to our convictions concerning truth; the strength to do so, however comes from holding tightly to Jesus the One who is truth!

Take a few moments to consider in your heart the amazing, incredible, wonderful truth that we have been brought into a relationship with the One of whom all these things are true! How does it make you feel to realize that you have the privilege to know, to love, and to be loved by, such a Savior, such a friend?

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**Complete this prayer in your own words:**

*“Lord Jesus, as I think about the incredible privilege of having a relationship with You – the Holy One, the All-Powerful One, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the One who has loved me so sacrificially—my heart is filled with \_\_\_\_\_.*

*(For Example: gratitude, love, joy, praise, peace, awe, or wonder.) Thank you so very much for loving me and giving me your Word that I might know and follow you. In your name I pray, Amen.”*

