

Life in Jesus the Messiah

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John 5-10 Studies

Life in Jesus the Messiah

Welcome to part 2 of our study through John's gospel. As with part 1, it is important to begin with the author's purpose for writing the whole gospel:

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:30-31)

Since this is John's purpose, we will keep asking, throughout these studies, what we learn about Jesus' character, purpose, the life that he gives, and what is involved in our belief in him.

Study 1

John 5:1-47 Like Father, Like Son

For starters

1. In what ways are you like your father (or mother)?

Explore

Read John 5:1-47

From verses 1-16

2. What do we learn about the paralysed man?

3. What do we learn about Jesus?

From verses 17-30

4. Why was Jesus' actions so offensive to the Jewish leaders (cf. Exodus 20:8-11)?

5. How does Jesus imitate his Father?

6. How should people respond to Jesus in light of this?

7. What do we learn about the raising of the dead?

From verses 31-47

8. Where does testimony about Jesus come from?

9. How have the Jewish leaders fallen into error?

10. What is key to eternal life?

Apply

11. In what ways are we tempted to seek glory from each other instead of God?

12. How might our view of Scripture need to change from today's study?

13. Spend time honouring Jesus in prayer, praising him for his character, and thanking him for his actions

Study 2

John 6:1-71 Bread of Life

For starters

1. If you could only eat one kind of food for a year, what would you choose?

Explore

2. Due to the length of this chapter, we will focus mainly on verses 22-59. For context, read verses 1-21, and briefly note the details which make the events extraordinary.

Read John 6:22-59

From verses 22-35

3. Why were the crowds following Jesus?

4. What is the work God requires, and why is this significant?

5. What is the true bread that God supplies the crowd?

6. How does this compare to what God had done for their ancestors (God's people who were rescued from slavery in Egypt, and on their way to God's promised land. cf. Exodus 16:1-5)?

From verses 36-46

7. How does Jesus fulfil the will of his Father?

8. If the Jews were devoted to the Father, how should they respond to Jesus?

From verses 47-71

9. How is the Bread of Life superior to the bread that was given in the wilderness?

10. Describe the different responses to Jesus' teaching

Apply

11. What can distract/prevent us today from turning to the Bread of Life?

12. How might we need to change our understanding regarding the works God requires of us?

13. Give thanks for God's work in drawing people to Jesus and keeping them safe in him

Study 3

John 7:1-52 Teaching from God

For starters

1. What have you enjoyed learning recently (e.g. book, documentary, course, project, etc.)?

Explore

Read John 7:1-52

From verses 1-14

* The Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was celebrated annually, coinciding with the gathering in of harvests. It's to be a joyful time of thanksgiving for the harvest, but also a reminder of God's presence with his people during the time of the Exodus wanderings where they lived in tabernacles/booths.

2. Given that many of Jesus' disciples had stopped following him (6:66), what was remaining disciples' advice to Jesus?

3. How did Jesus respond to his disciples?

From verses 15-24

* Whilst God's Sabbath law forbade work, the Jews would make an exception for circumcision because it too was a requirement of God, and they believed it would 'perfect' a child.

4. Jesus' obedience to his Father's teaching is different to the Jews'.
Compare and contrast

From verses 25-36

5. What was preventing Jesus from being seized or killed?

6. Where is Jesus going, and why is it impossible for these Jews to follow?

From verses 37-52

7. How does Jesus quench people's thirst (cf. 3:5-8; 4:23-24; 6:63) ?

8. How were the people divided about Jesus?

Apply

9. How does the world hate Jesus, and his followers, today?

10. How would God view our obedience to his word?

11. Thank God for giving us his Spirit and the life He gives

Study 4

John 8:12-59 Light of the World

For starters

1. What is something about yourself that not many others know about?

Explore

Read John 8:12-59

From verses 12-20

2. How does Jesus describe himself and why it's important (cf. 1:4-5; 3:19-21)?

3. Where does his authenticity come from?

From verses 21-24

4. Where is Jesus going?

5. What are the consequences of not believing Jesus?

From verses 25-36

6. How does Jesus please his Father?

7. What characterises a true disciple of Jesus?

8. What is the freedom which Jesus brings?

From verses 37-59

9. According to verses 37-50, how do the Jews show they are walking in darkness?

10. Considering verses 51-59, what is Jesus claiming about himself (see Exodus 3:11-14)?

Apply

11. Praise the Father for Jesus the Light

12. What makes it difficult to walk in the light today?

13. Thank God for all he gives to true disciples of Jesus

Study 5

John 9:1-41 The Blind Now Sees

For starters

1. What would you have to do differently if you were blind for a week?

Explore

Read John 9:1-41

From verses 1-12

2. What is striking about Jesus' works here (cf. 8:12)?

3. What was his purpose for what he did?

From verses 13-34

4. How does the Pharisees' reaction here remind us of previous events?

5. Who do people think Jesus is at this point, and why?

From verses 35-41

6. How does Jesus describe himself (cf. Daniel 7:13-14)?

7. In what way is the once-blind man truly seeing, and the Pharisees blind?

Apply

8. In what ways can we be blind today?

9. Give thanks to God for what we can now see because of Jesus

10. Pray for those you know who need to 'see' Jesus too

Study 6

John 10:1-42 The Good Shepherd

For starters

Imagine if you inherited a farm. What would you keep or grow?

Explore

Read John 10:1-42

From verses 1-21

1. What characterises an authentic shepherd?

2. In what way is Jesus 'the gate'?

3. How does Jesus show he is 'the good shepherd'?

4. Who might be the 'thieves and robbers', or 'the wolf', to whom Jesus refers?

From verses 22-41

* The Festival of Dedication commemorated the cleansing of the temple, and serves here as a season marker

5. Why do the Jews fail to grasp Jesus' teaching about himself?

6. How does Jesus respond to the charge of blasphemy (v34, Ps 82:6, 'gods' likely refer to human rulers with too high a view of themselves, and who are judged by the true God)

7. How do Jesus' works/signs (see previous chapters) point to him being the Messiah (21:30-31)?

8. What were people's responses to Jesus this time around?

Apply

9. Praise God for Jesus' goodness in being the gate and shepherd

10. How can we be watchful for 'thieves' today who steal, kill and destroy?

11. Reflect on how these past chapters of John's Gospel has helped you in believing in Jesus and having life in his name