

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS
Studies in the Gospel of John



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Study 1: An Influential Prophet & The First Disciples
(John 1:1-51)

1. In verses 1-5 what do we learn about the Word? How are the terms "Word," "life," and "light" related?
2. What is the mission of John in verses 6-8?
3. How is the mission of the Word described in verses 9-14?
4. What more does the author say about the Word in verses 15-18?
5. How can we witness to Christ and prepare the way for him to come into someone's life today?
6. In verses 19-28 how does John the Baptist explain his own role? What is the reaction of the Jewish leaders?
7. Describe what happens in verses 29-34. What further witness does John give?
8. What is the difference between the baptism of John and that of Christ (verses 26, 31-33)?

Ask the group to read verses 35-51 silently with this thought question:
What do you notice about the various characters in this passage?

9. Briefly share your impressions, without discussion at this point.
10. Compare the ways John's two disciples and Simon Peter, Philip and Nathaniel come to Christ.
11. Will some of you share the different ways you have come to Christ.
12. How do John, Andrew and Philip identify Jesus?
What would each title/description mean to the disciples?
13. How did Philip answer Nathaniel's objection? What did Jesus say to overcome his prejudice (verses 46-49)?
14. What have you learned from these examples to help you present Christ to your friends?

15. In verses 50-51 what enlarged spiritual vision does Jesus promise his disciples?

Study 2: At a Wedding & In the Temple John 2:1-25

Have two volunteers read the first passage: one, verses 1-5 and the other, verses 6-11.

1. Who are the people involved in this event?
2. What is the occasion, and what does it show about Jesus that he was invited (verses 1-2)?
3. What would the crisis in verse 3 have meant to the bridegroom?
4. What does Mary's immediate reaction in verse 3 show about her relationship to Jesus?
5. How does Jesus respond to his mother's request in verse 4? What does he mean by "my time has not yet come"?
6. What action does Mary take, and what can we learn from it (verse 5)?
7. Put yourself in the place of the servants when they hear Jesus' instructions. How would you have reacted (verses 6-8)?
8. What is the result of their carrying out his instructions (verses 9-10)? From this incident what can we learn about obedience to the Lord?
9. According to verse 11, what is the significance of this event? How does it affect the disciples? What does a sign do?
10. Which of the people in this account do you identify with and why?

Have another two volunteers read the second account: one, verses 12-19 and the other, verses 20-25.

11. When and where does this episode take place (verses 12-13)? Will someone please briefly explain the Passover?

12. What does Jesus see and why does he react in this way in verses 14-15? Does anyone know how this custom started and why it became a problem?
13. In verses 16-17 how does Jesus explain his actions and what is the effect on the disciples?
14. What demands do the Jewish leaders make and how does Jesus answer them in verses 18-19?
15. In verses 20-25 what are the various reactions to Jesus' activities in Jerusalem at this time?
16. From Jesus' cleansing of the temple what can we learn about his concern for sins in our lives?

Study 3: A Religious Leader (John 3:1-17)

Have the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus read aloud as a dialog. Ask for three volunteers to take the parts of narrator, Jesus and Nicodemus.

1. Who came to Jesus and what do we learn about him (verses 1-2)? Who were the Pharisees?
2. Why do you think Nicodemus came at night?
3. How does he open the conversation, and what does this show about his attitude toward Jesus? What do you think he wanted to find out?
4. How does Jesus respond to Nicodemus in verse 3? What connection, if any, do you see between this response and Nicodemus' opening words?
5. To what extent does he understand what Jesus has said (verse 4)?
6. In verses 5-7 what further light does Jesus shed on being "born again"? What do you think he means by "water and the Spirit"?
7. What does the illustration of the wind in verse 8 teach us

about being born of the Spirit? How has your experience of the Spirit been like the wind?

8. In verses 9-10 how does Jesus comment on Nicodemus' reaction to his teaching?
9. What claims does Jesus make for his teaching (verses 11-13)?
10. Can someone briefly describe the Old Testament incident referred to in verses 14-15? How does it illustrate the salvation Jesus came to bring?
11. What do you think Jesus intends Nicodemus to learn from this conversation?
12. What action has God taken and what was his purpose (verses 16-17)?
13. What response is required of us?
14. When you think of your relationship to God, which comes to your mind first: his condemnation or his acceptance of you?
15. Would some of you like to share your experience of being "born again"?

Study 4: A Social Outcast (John 4:1-30; 39-42)

Have verses 1-30 read as a dialog with three roles: narrator, Jesus, the woman.

1. What was happening with Jesus' ministry in Judea (Verses 1-3)?
2. Describe the situation in which we now find Jesus in verses 4-6. What do you know about the Samaritans?
3. What time of day is it, and what might the woman's coming to the well alone at this time reveal?
4. What request does Jesus make, and how does the woman respond (verses 7-9)?
5. In verse 10 what does Jesus offer does Jesus make?

6. What is on the woman's mind as Jesus talks to her about water (verses 11-15)?
7. What is thirsting an indication of? What are people thirsting for today?
8. How does the woman react to Jesus' request involving her marital situation (verses 16-20)? Why does she bring up the question about the right place to worship?
9. Have you ever been in a situation where people prefer to discuss theology or denominational differences rather than Personal needs?
10. In verses 21-24 what does Jesus tell her about God, worship and the future?
11. What claim does Jesus now make for himself (verses 25-26)? What would it mean to the woman?
12. What indicates that she is no longer concerned about physical water? To whom did she go and what testimony does she give (verses 27-30)?
13. How can we learn from Jesus' example when we talk with someone whose lifestyle ethically or morally is different from our own?

Have someone read verses 39-42.

14. What happens in the town as a result of the woman's report? What evidence is there that the people's belief is genuine?
15. Trace the woman's growing faith by what she calls Jesus in this chapter.
16. In your own life how have you been influenced by the witness of others to a personal encounter with Christ?

**Study 5: A Distressed Parent & A Crippled Man
(John 4:46-54; 5:1-18)**

Have two volunteers read John 4:46-54: one, verses 43-50, and the other, verses 51-54.

1. Where does this incident take place and who are the people involved?
2. In verses 46-47, 49 what problem does the official face and what words convey the father's concern?
3. How does Jesus respond in verse 48 and why do you think he answers in this way?
4. In verse 50 what instruction and promise does Jesus give? How does the official respond?
5. On his return journey when does the father learn about his son's condition (verses 51-52)?
6. What is the result of this healing for his family (verse 53)?
7. In this account the official's request is not answered exactly in the way he expected. Have you had a similar experience that you can share?

Have two volunteers read this account: one, verses 1-9, and the other, verses 10- 18. As it is read picture the scene at the pool.

8. As a bystander what impressions would you get?
9. What do we learn about his man in verses 1-7?
10. In verse 6 what is Jesus' opening question and why do you think he starts off this way?
11. What does the man think his problem is and how does he respond to Jesus' command (verses 7-9a)?
12. In verses 9b-13 what opposition does the healed man encounter? What is the basis of this criticism and how does he react?
13. Why does Jesus make further contact with him (verses 14-15)?
14. In verses 16-18 how does Jesus respond to the Jews' criticism; what claim does he make?
15. As you approach the Lord, which are you more like: the

father eagerly seeking help or the man who feels he is beyond help--or somewhere in between?

16. What does this study show you about God's concern for our illness, and how does it help us in prayer for healing?

Study 6: The Demanding Crowd (John 6:1-70)

Ask the group to read verses 1-15 silently with this thought question: What impresses you about the reactions of the crowd to Jesus' miracles?

1. Briefly share, without discussion, your impressions.

Have volunteers take the parts of narrator, Jesus and the crowd to read the dialog in verses 25-40.

2. In verses 25-26 what questions do the people ask, and how does Jesus answer?
3. What further teaching does he give them in verse 27?
4. In verses 28-29 what do they now ask Jesus and what answer do they get?
5. What does the crowd demand in order to believe Jesus' claims (verses 30-31)?
6. What further truth does he declare and how do his hearers respond (verses 32-34)?
7. In verse 35 what claim and promise does Jesus make?
8. AS you think about these statements, what does it mean to you that he is the bread of life?
9. In verses 36-40 what does Jesus tell them about his mission? What encouragement should this be for us?

Have a volunteer read verses 41-51.

10. Why are the Jews so upset about what Jesus has been teaching (verses 41-42)?

11. What more does he say in verses 43-46 about his relationship to the Father?
12. In verses 47-51 what more does he teach about the bread of life? How would you explain this to a friend seeking to know more about Jesus?

Have someone read verses 66-70. Now comes one of the most poignant scenes in the gospels.

13. In verse 66 what is the reaction to Jesus' teaching?
14. What question does he put to the remaining Twelve, and how does Peter answer (verses 67-68)?
15. How would you answer?

Study 7: Belief & Unbelief (John 7:14-52)

Have volunteers take the parts of narrator, Jesus and the crowd to read the dialog in verses 14 -24.

1. In verses 14-16 how do the Jews react to Jesus' teaching, and how does he respond?
2. How can a person know whether or not his teaching comes from God (verse 17)? How would you explain this requirement in your own words?
3. What contrast does Jesus make between speaking for ourselves and speaking for someone else who has sent us (verse 18)?
4. What accusation does he make and how does the crowd respond (verses 19-20)?
5. In verses 21-24 how does Jesus defend his healing the man on the Sabbath?
6. What principle of Judging does Jesus give, and how can we apply it today?

Have the group read silently verses 25-44 with the thought question:

What impresses you about the reactions of the people to Jesus' teaching? Then proceed directly to the next question.

7. At this point (verses 25-27) what difference of opinion do people have about Jesus?
8. What further does he tell them about himself? How do the people and the Pharisees react (verses 28-31)?
9. At this point what action do the Pharisees take (verse 32)?
10. In verses 33-36 what more does Jesus say and what is the crowd's response?
11. What public invitation does Jesus now give in verses 37-39)? The same invitation is given today. What does it mean to you?
12. In verses 40-44 what conflicting opinions about Jesus persist?

Ask a volunteer to read verses 45-52.

13. What do the temple guards report, and how do the Jewish leaders react (verses 45-49)?
14. What impresses you about the contribution Nicodemus makes to the argument in verse 50-52)?
15. What conflicting views of Jesus do we find today? How would you express your own view?

Study 8: An Adulterous Woman & Self-Righteous Pharisees
(John 8:1-11; 25-36)

Have two volunteers read verses 1-6a and 6b-11.

1. In verses 1-3 where do we find Jesus now, and what situation does he encounter?
2. What dilemma do the religious leaders force on him (verses 4-6a)? What do we learn about the motive of the Pharisees?
3. What does Jesus does Jesus do next in verses 6b-8)?

4. How do the Pharisees react (verse 9)?
5. In verses 10-11 what does Jesus say to the woman and how do his words impresses you?
6. What can we learn from Jesus' his attitude toward sin and the sinner?

Have two other volunteers read verses 25-30 and 31-36.

7. In verses 25-26 what question is Jesus asked and how does he answer?
8. Since they still do not understand, what further teaching does Jesus give about his relationship with the Father in verses 27-30? How do the people respond?
9. What does Jesus now teach these new believers about truth and freedom (verses 31-32)?
10. In verse 33 how do they react to his teaching? Considering their history and present situation how can they claim never to have been in bondage?
11. In what ways is it possible for us to be in bondage of some sort and yet not be aware of it?
12. In verses 34-36 what does Jesus teach about the nature of slavery and freedom? What power does he now claim?
13. If you were one of the disciples listening to this conversation, what would impress you most?
14. Looking back at verses 31-32, express in your own words the phrases "hold to my teaching" and "really my disciples."
15. What does this teaching mean for you practically in your Christian life and service?

Study 9: A Blind Man (John 9:1-41)

Have the members read through the chapter silently with the thought question: What impresses you most about the blind man? Then have them share some brief initial impressions in a kind of "popcorn"

session--without discussion at this point.

1. What question do the disciples ask, and what do you think is behind it (verses 1-2)?
2. How does Jesus answer their question in verse 3, and what do you think he means?
2. In what way is Jesus the light of the world in verses 4-5?
4. In verses 6-7 what does Jesus do to the man, and what is his response? How do you suppose he looked going down the street?
5. Can someone tell us your reaction to a situation in which God asked you to do something you didn't understand?
6. Look at the next scene in verses 8-12. Describe the neighbors' reactions. How does the man answer them?
7. Why is he taken to the Pharisees, and what is their reaction (verses 13-17)? Why does he call Jesus a prophet?
8. In verses 18-23 why were the parents brought in and how do they react to the Pharisees' questioning?
9. In verses 14-29 how would you describe the man's comments in his second interview by the Pharisees? What is their attitude now?
10. In view of the contrast between the status of a blind beggar and the Jewish leaders, what impresses you about his response at this point?
11. How does the Pharisees' reaction show their attitude in verses 30-34?
12. Looking back over the whole incident, what development do you see in the beggar's witness? How can we learn from his example to guide and strengthen our Christian witness?
13. As his faith increases what losses does he suffer?
14. In verses 35-38 describe Jesus' action and the man's response.

15. Rephrase in your own words what you think Jesus means in verses 39-41.
16. What do the contrasting examples of the blind beggar and the Pharisees teach us about receiving spiritual sight? In what area in our own lives do we need to receive sight?

Study 10: Sheep and the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-33)

Have two volunteers read verses 1-10 and 11-21.

1. In verses 1-6 who are the people mentioned and what do we learn about the good shepherd? How do the listeners react?
2. What claim does Jesus make in verses 7-9? What does it mean?
3. To whom is Jesus referring as thieves and robbers in verses 8 and 10a?
4. What further do we learn about the purpose of Jesus mission (verse 10b)? What do you think he means by his promise of life "to the full"?
5. Looking at your own life, in what ways have you experienced this kind of life?
6. When the wolf comes how do the shepherd and the hired hand react (verses 11-13)?
7. In verses 14-18 what further do we learn about the relationship of the shepherd to the sheep? Who are the other sheep he is talking about?
7. What does Jesus say about his relationship to the Father in regard to his death?
9. What are the reactions to Jesus' teaching (verses 19-21)?

Have two volunteers read verses 22-30 and 31-33.

10. In verses 22-24 what is the main question on the minds of the hearers, and why is it so important to them?

11. How does Jesus answer in verses 25-26?
12. What more does he say about his relationship to his sheep (verses 27-29)? What does he promise to do?
13. What does Jesus' promise mean to you?
14. In verses 30-31 what claim does he make, and what is the reaction of the Jews?
15. How do the Jews explain their action in verses 32-33?
16. Jesus has told us many things the good shepherd does. Which one is the most meaningful to you?

Study 11: Those in Sorrow (John 11:1-44)

Have three volunteers read verses 1-16, 17-27 and 28-44.

1. In the opening scene who are the people and what crisis do they face (verses 1-3)?
2. Put yourself in the place of the sisters after they have sent for Jesus. What thoughts and expectations do you think you would have?
3. What is Jesus' reaction when he hears of Lazarus' illness (verses 4-6)? In light of Jesus' relationship to the family, how do you account for his decision to remain where he was for two more days?
4. In verses 7-8 what action does Jesus suggest and why do the disciples object?
5. How does Jesus' respond and explain what they are going to find in Judea (verses 9-16)? What does Thomas' statement show about him?
6. What are some of the situations in which we have trouble accepting God's timing?
7. Describe the situation Jesus and his disciples find when they arrive in Bethany (verses 17-19).

8. In verses 20-27 what do we learn about Martha's attitude?
9. Put in your own words the claims Jesus makes.
10. What happens next in verses 27-32? What do we learn about Mary's attitude?
11. Why do you think Jesus weeps when he knows he is going to raise Lazarus (verses 33-35)? Can you share an instance in which his example helped you relate to a person who had been bereaved?
12. In verses 36-37 what are the different responses to Jesus?
13. What command does Jesus give in verses 38-40? What does he teach about the relationship of believing and seeing?
14. If you had been an onlooker how would you have reported what you saw (verses 41-44)?
15. At this point do you identify more with Martha or Mary? In what ways?

Study 12: Some Who Acclaim Jesus (John 12:1-36)

Have volunteers read verses 1-19, each taking a paragraph.

1. Describe the opening scene in verses 1-6. What does Mary do and what is the reaction?
2. What is Jesus' response in verses 7-8?
3. In verses 9-11 who are the characters and what are they doing?
4. Next what does the crowd do and how does Jesus react (verses 12-15)? What is the meaning of Jesus' action?
5. According to the gospel writer, when do the disciples understand the significance of this event (verse 16)?
6. In verses 17-19 what different reactions to Jesus are described?

Have volunteers read verses 20-36, each taking a paragraph.

7. Who now arrive on the scene and what message does Jesus give them in verses 20-24? What gardening illustration does he use and how does he explain it?
8. In verses 25-26 what does it mean to "love" or "hate" your life? How do you think what Jesus is saying speaks to you today?
9. What is troubling Jesus and how does he pray (verses 27-28a)?
10. In verses 28b-30 how do the people react to the voice and what does Jesus say about it?
11. What statements does Jesus make in verses 31-33 about what is to happen?
12. Why does this confuse the people (verse 34)?
13. In verses 35-36 what final words does Jesus have for the crowd? How would you put what he is saying into your own words?
14. How does this teaching apply in your own life?

Study 13: Twelve Disciples at Passover (John 13:1-38)

Ask the members to read silently verses 1-17 with the thought question: What impresses you most about this event? After some brief one-sentence sharing proceed with the discussion.

1. What is the occasion in verses 1-2 and what is on Jesus' mind?
2. At this point what does Jesus know and what action does he take (verses 3-5)?
3. What do you know about footwashing in that culture--why it was done and who usually did it? If you were one of the disciples, how would you feel when Jesus gets up, then takes a towel and a basin?
4. In verses 6-9 why does Peter object and how does Jesus handle his response? How is this conversation consistent with what we know about Peter?

5. What further comments does Jesus make about washing and why (verses 10-11)?
6. Through this object lesson what is Jesus trying to teach his disciples (verses 12-17)?
7. How can we obey the commandment of verses 14-15 in our own lives today?
8. How is the world's view of leadership different from what Jesus is teaching? Ask the group to read silently verses 18-38 with the thought question: What do you notice about the reactions of Judas and Peter to the prospect of Jesus' death?
9. In verses 18-21 Jesus obviously knows that Judas will betray him. What is his purpose in sharing this knowledge with the disciples?
10. How do the disciples react to Jesus' statement about his betrayal (verses 21-25)?
11. In verses 26-30 try to imagine Judas' conflicting thoughts at this development. What does it show about Jesus' attitude toward him that the others never suspect a betrayal?
12. What more does Jesus tell about himself in verses 31-32? Explain in your own words.
13. In verses 33-35 what is the new commandment and why is it so important? In what ways can this be evident in our lives?
14. Now that Judas has gone out and the end is near, notice how tenderly Jesus treats his disciples. For what is he preparing them?
15. In verses 36-38 what are Peter's questions and comments and how does Jesus answer him? How might the memory of this conversation been a comfort to Peter later after his denial of Jesus?
16. What in this chapter has showed you something about your relationship to the Lord?

Study 14: The Holy Spirit (John 14:1-31)

Ask for two volunteers to read verses 1-7 and 8-15.

1. What does Jesus tell the disciples in verses 1-4 about the place he is preparing for them?
2. What is Thomas' reaction to Jesus' statement in verse 5?
3. In verse 6a how does Jesus answer Thomas, and what does he mean?
4. In verse 6b what further claim does Jesus make, and how does it answer the person who says, "There are many ways to God"?
5. What does Jesus now say about knowing the Father, and what is Philip's reaction (verses 7-8)?
6. How does Jesus explain his relationship with his Father and its effect on his own ministry (verses 9-11)?
7. In verses 12-14 what promise does Jesus make, and what are its conditions? What does it mean to ask for something in someone's name?
8. Have any of you ever used this promise as the basis for your prayer request?
9. According to verse 15 what is the true test of our love for Jesus Christ? What is the command he is talking about (Jn 13-34)?

Have two volunteers read verses 16-24 and 25-31.

10. In verses 16-17 what does Jesus now ask of the Father, and what do we learn about this gift?
11. What promises does he make in verses 18-21 as he sums up his teaching?
12. In response to Judas' question what further teaching about the Father does Jesus give in verses 22-24?

13. How does teaching about the role of the Holy Spirit encourage the disciples (verses 25-26)?
14. What promise does Jesus give them in verse 27? What is the difference between the peace he gives and the kind offered by the world? What situations tend to take away our peace, and what can we do about it?
15. In verses 28-31 how does Jesus prepare his disciples for what is going to happen?
16. How does Jesus demonstrate by his own example what he has been teaching about the relationship between love and obedience?

Study 15: Branches on the Vine (John 15:1-27)

Ask for three volunteers to read verses 1-4, 5-8 and 9-17

1. In verses 1-8 what do we learn about the (gardener, the vine and the branches)?
2. How does Jesus use the illustration in verse 5 to teach the disciples?
3. Very practically, what does it mean for us to "abide" in Christ?
4. In verse 8 what is the fruit Jesus is talking about? What is actually seen?
5. So far what in this parable of the vine speaks to you?
6. What fruit is there in our lives that can be seen by others?
7. In verses 9-13 find the things Jesus says about love. How do we abide in Jesus' love?
8. What commands do we obey as evidence of our love?
9. In verse 11 what is the joy that Jesus has? What does he mean by saying "that your joy may be complete"?

10. What is the difference between "joy" and "happiness"?
11. In our world of people hard to love, how can we grow in this love Jesus wants us to have (verses 12-13)?
12. According to verses 14-15 what is the difference between a servant and a friend?
13. In verse 16 how does Jesus describe the mission he has for his disciples?
14. On what basis does the Father answer our prayers?
15. What would the memory of his final command mean to them? What does it mean to us?

Study 16: A Comforting Farewell (John 16:1-33)

Have three volunteers read verses 1-4, 5-11 and 12-15.

1. What is the purpose of Jesus' discourse in verses 1-4?
2. How will his disciples be treated in the future? Why will this happen?
3. In verses 5-7 what appear-- to be the disciples' reaction to Jesus' comments about his leaving them? Yet why does he say it will it be good for them?
4. When he comes what will the Counselor do (verses 8-11)? Put in your own words each part of his mission.
5. In your present experience what attitudes and actions might you expect non-Christians to show toward you?
6. Find the various aspects of the Spirit's work in the Christian (verses 12-15). In which of them do you believe he is has been working in your own life?
7. What do verses 13-15 reveal about the relationship of Father, Son and Spirit?

Have two volunteers read verses 16-24 and 25-33.

8. What is the disciples' problem in verses 16-18?
9. How does Jesus answer them (verses 19-22)? What promise does he repeat?
10. When will the disciples establish a direct relationship with the Father (verses 23-24)?
11. How are asking, receiving and complete joy related?
12. In verses 25-28 what further comment does Jesus make about the disciples' relationship with the Father? His own relationship?
13. How do the disciples respond in verses 29-30?
14. In verses 31-32 what does Jesus say is going to happen to them and to himself?
15. How would you define peace (verse 33)? How can we have peace day by day?

Study 17: Prayer to the Father (John 17:1-26)

Have the members read through the chapter silently with the thought question: What impresses you most about Jesus' prayer to the Father? After brief sharing begin the discussion.

1. In verse 1 how does Jesus open his prayer, and what does it mean?
2. What is Jesus asking for in verses 1 and 5? What does "glorify" mean?
3. In verses 2-5 what do we learn about Jesus and the claims he makes for himself? How does he define eternal life?
4. What claim does Jesus make for his work in verse 4? With so many human needs around him still unmet, how could he say that?
5. What light does this throw on our work for God?

6. From our past discussions, what picture of the disciples do you have? What is Jesus' description of them here in verses 6-8?
7. Find the specific things he prays for the disciples in verses 9-19. What does each of them mean?
8. In verses 12-14 what does Jesus say he has already done for his disciples?
9. What is the "world" he warns against in verses 14-16? what does it mean "to be In the world but not of it"?
10. How does the world of our day pull us?
11. In verse 17 what does Jesus say about the truth? What does the word "sanctify" mean (verses 17, 18)?
12. In what ways are we sent into the world as Jesus was sent by the Father (verse 18)?
13. In verses 20-23 for whom else is Jesus praying? What is his deepest concern for all of his disciples?
14. What is to be the purpose of their oneness?
15. In verse 24 what does Jesus want from the Father?
16. What else does Jesus pray for his disciples in verses 25-26? Of the many prayers in this chapter what one thing would you like to be fulfilled in you?

Study 18: Jewish High Priest & Roman Governor (John 18:1-40)

Have volunteers take the parts of narrator, Jesus, soldiers, girl at the door and a servant to read verses 1-27 in dramatic form.

1. In verses 1-3 where does this scene take place, and who are the people involved? Why was Judas there?
2. What are we told about Judas in verses 2-3?

3. How does Jesus react to the arrival of the soldiers and officials? What is the effect on those who come to arrest him (verses 4-9)?
4. In verses 8-9 how does Jesus show his concern for the disciples?
5. What action does Peter take, and how does Jesus respond in verses 10-11?
6. What do the -soldiers do to Jesus and where do they take him (verses 12-14)?
7. Will someone summarize in your own words what happens in verses 15-18?
8. In verses 19-24 what is Jesus questioned about? How does he describe his teaching?
9. In verses 25-27 what does Peter say when confronted? Why do you think he reacts this way?
10. What memory must come to Peter when the rooster crows? (see Jn 13:37-38.) Have you ever been in a situation where fear kept you from speaking up as a Christian?

Have volunteer take the parts of narrator, Pilate, Jesus and Jewish leaders to read verses 28-40.

11. Describe the change of scene in verses 28-29. Why don't the Jewish leaders go into Pilate's court?
12. How do the Jewish leaders answer Pilate's questions in verses 29-32?
13. In this encounter between Pilate and Jesus (verses 33-38a), what line of questioning does the Roman governor take? What is his main concern?
14. How does Jesus answer Pilate about himself and his kingdom?
15. In verses 38b-40 what does the governor conclude about Jesus at the end of the interview? What compromise does he offer and how is it received?

16. Looking back over the chapter notice the different responses to Jesus by Pilate, soldiers, high priest, Jewish officials, Peter and the crowd. Have you ever realized that Jesus bore this rejection, betrayal, denial, false accusation and injustice for you? Let's end by thanking him for all he endured for our sakes.

Study 19: Death and Burial (John 19:1-42)

Have two volunteers read verses 1-7 and 8-16.

1. In verses 1-3 what is happening to Jesus?
2. Picture the scene in verses 4-6 with Jesus in the middle, the chief priests on one side and Pilate on the other. What does each side want to happen?
3. For what reason do the Jews say they want Jesus killed (verse 7)?
4. In verses 8-9 what do you think prompts Pilate's question?
5. How does Pilate see his own power and what is Jesus' response? In what way does this help us view people in power in the world today?
6. What finally causes Pilate to yield to the Jews' demands (verses 12-13)? (Note on the Jews' theological and Pilate's political concerns up to this point. Here the Jews succeed by making Jesus a political problem.)
7. In verses 14-16a what is so incredible about the Jews' response to Pilate's calling Jesus their king?

Have two volunteers read verses 16b-24 and 25-30.

8. In 16b-22 what is Pilate's inscription on the cross and why do the Jews object?
9. What further details about the crucifixion are we given in verses 23-24?
10. Even in the process of his dying what do we see about

Jesus' love and concern (verses 25-27)? What do we learn about John's obedience?

11. What do you think Jesus means when he says "It is finished" (verses 28-30)? How does this account of Jesus' death indicate that it is voluntary, as he had predicted?

Have two volunteers read verses 31-37 and 38-42.

12. In verses 31-34 what is the Jews' last problem with Jesus and how do they handle it?
13. Why do you think John inserts his own witness in verses 35-37? In this chapter note all the fulfilled Scripture.
14. In verses 38-42 who arrange for the burial of Jesus and what do we learn about them? (See in 7:50-52 on Nicodemus.)
15. What does Jesus' statement "It is finished" mean to us in our lives today?

Study 20: The Risen Lord (John 20:1-31)

Have volunteers take the parts of narrator, Mary, the angels and Jesus for a dramatic reading of verses 1-18.

1. When does Mary arrive at the tomb and what does she discover (verses 1-2)? What does she do next?
2. Describe the actions of Peter and John in verses 3-8a. How are they consistent with what we know of their personalities?
3. In verses 8b-9 what is meant by the statements, "He saw and believed," but "They still did not understand"?
4. Why do you think the disciples go back to their homes (verse 10)?
5. In verses 11-13 how does Mary's action after seeing the empty tomb differ from that of John and Peter? What is her chief concern and the reward for her persistence?
6. Why do you think she mistakes Jesus for the gardener (verses

14-16)? What is it that causes her to recognize him?

7. What does Jesus say about himself and what he wants her to do (verses 17-18)?
8. Imagine you are one of the disciples back in Jerusalem. First you hear the report of Peter and John, then Mary's. What difference would you notice?
9. What do our friends hear from us--facts about Jesus or witness to a personal encounter: "I have seen the Lord"?

Have volunteers take the parts of narrator, Jesus and Thomas to read verses 19-31.

10. As Jesus suddenly appears in the midst of his disciples how does he identify himself (verses 19-20)?
11. In verses 21-23 what does he say and do? How did the Father send Jesus, and in what way does he send us? What does he do to empower his disciples' mission?
12. What is Thomas' reaction when he hears the disciples' report (verses 24-25)?
13. In verses 26-28 a week later what is Jesus' attitude to Thomas, and how does he meet him in his doubt? What brings him to faith?
14. In verse 29 what does Jesus say about seeing and believing? What has been the relationship between seeing and believing in your faith?
15. What does John say about the purpose of his gospel (verses 30-31)?

Study 21: Breakfast by the Sea (John 21:1-25)

Have two volunteers read verses 1-6 and 7-14.

1. Who are the people in the opening scene (verses 1-2)?
2. What is Peter's decision in verse 3 and how do the other disciples respond? Why do you think Peter made this suggestion?

3. In verses 4-6 when does Jesus appear, and what does he tell them to do?
4. What are the various responses of the disciples in verses 7-8?
5. How does Jesus demonstrate his concern for them (verses (9-14)?
6. In what ways has he shown concern for our physical needs?
Have two volunteers read verses 15-19 and 20-25.
- *7. In verses 15-17 how does Jesus start this conversation with Peter?
- *8. Why do you think that Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him?
9. What commands does Jesus give his disciple and what do they mean?
10. Put in your own words what Jesus now tells Peter about his future (verses 18-19).
11. In verses 20-21 what shows us the Peter we have seen throughout the gospel record?
12. How does Jesus answer Peter (verses 22-23)?
13. In verses 24-25 what does John tell us about the gospel he has written?
14. Peter is a wonderful example of the Lord's forgiveness. When we are truly sorry for our failures he is gracious to us as he was to Peter. Let us end our study in silent prayer, thinking over how we want to respond to Jesus' question "Do you love me?"

