



*The*  
*Gospel of*  
**JOHN**

**LENTEN STUDY 2023**



St. Andrew's Community Church  
A GLOBAL METHODIST CONGREGATION



## 2023 Lenten Study – The Gospel of John

*“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.”* **John 15:9**

Our word for 2023 is **REMAIN**. With all the changes we have experienced the last few years, it is important to remember our call to **REMAIN** in Jesus. One way we do that is by remaining in **PRAYER** and **GOD’S WORD**.

Lent is a season of **REPENTANCE**, **PRAYER** and **PREPARATION**. As we journey towards Easter, we will be praying and reading through the Gospel of John together. As you read through the Gospel of John during the week, we will be taking a closer look at John 15 on Sunday mornings in worship. This is the chapter of John where Jesus calls us to **REMAIN** in Him and in His love. Our hope and prayer is that our faith will be strengthened during this season of Lent as we read through the Gospel of John and focus on **REMAINING** in Him.

This booklet provides a guide for **DAILY READINGS** and a chance to do some **PERSONAL REFLECTION** each day. Perhaps you will want to journal your thoughts in the spaces provided. Or perhaps you will simply want to give it mental, prayerful mediation. Either way you choose can be beneficial to your discipleship.

Blessings,



Rev. Josh Coats

St. Andrew’s Pastor of Discipleship

## Gospel of John Background

John was a fisherman and was fishing on the day he first met Jesus. In that life-changing encounter, John believed something about Jesus that compelled him to leave everything to follow Him. Along with his brother, James, and Simon Peter, John became part of Jesus' **INNER CIRCLE OF DISCIPLES** who witnessed some of the most significant events in the life of Jesus.

The Gospel of John emphasizes Jesus as God incarnate and in the opening chapter states that Jesus was with God at creation and that **JESUS IS GOD**. John spends the rest of his Gospel account emphasizing Jesus' identity as God in human form.

John wrote to strengthen the faith of Christians who were experiencing **DOUBT, DISCOURAGEMENT** and **DISBELIEF**. He states in John 20:31 that *"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."*

For more background information on John and his Gospel, click on the following [link](#) if you are viewing this on your phone or computer or scan the QR code below if you are using the booklet.



**Four prayers for us to lift up  
as we take this journey together**

- **Pray for a clear word from God about Jesus**
  - Invite the Holy Spirit to open our minds, eyes and hearts to understanding the nature of Jesus through His Word. We want to see Jesus.
  
- **Pray for people to be ready to hear**
  - We meet people in John who are not ready to hear, so they miss Jesus who is standing right in front of them and speaking to them. We meet others who are ready to hear and they respond to Him in faith. We want to be those who hear and believe.
  
- **Pray for St. Andrew's to remain in His love**
  - Jesus has saved us and His love for us awakens our love for Him. But we can become distracted, discouraged and distanced from Jesus. Let's ask God to reawaken our hearts. We want to love Jesus.
  
- **Pray for people to make the decision to follow Jesus**
  - We can't assume that everyone who comes to St. Andrew's is a follower of Jesus already. Some possibly have yet to be awakened to the grace of God and to faith in Jesus. The gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit lead people to believe and follow Jesus. We want to see people place their faith in Jesus and follow Him.

# 40-day Reading Plan Through the Gospel of John

## Week 1 (February 22-26)

- Wed, Feb 22 John 1:1-28
- Thu, Feb 23 John 1:29-51
- Fri, Feb 24 John 2:1-25
- Sat, Feb 25 John 3:1-21

## Week 2 (February 27-March 5)

- Mon, Feb 27 John 3:22-36
- Tue, Feb 28 John 4:1-42
- Wed, Mar 1 John 4:43-54
- Thu, Mar 2 John 5:1-30
- Fri, Mar 3 John 5:31-47
- Sat, Mar 4 John 6:1-21

## Week 3 (March 6-12)

- Mon, Mar 6 John 6:22-59
- Tue, Mar 7 John 6:60-71
- Wed, Mar 8 John 7:1-31
- Thu, Mar 9 John 7:32-53
- Fri, Mar 10 John 8:1-30
- Sat, Mar 11 John 8:31-59

## Week 4 (March 13-19)

- Mon, Mar 13 John 9:1-41
- Tue, Mar 14 John 10:1-21
- Wed, Mar 15 John 10:22-42
- Thu, Mar 16 John 11:1-27

- Fri, Mar 17 John 11:28-57
- Sat, Mar 18 John 12:1-26

## Week 5 (March 20-26)

- Mon, Mar 20 John 12:27-50
- Tue, Mar 21 John 13:1-20
- Wed, Mar 22 John 13:21-38
- Thu, Mar 23 John 14:1-14
- Fri, Mar 24 John 14:15-31
- Sat, Mar 25 John 15:1-17

## Week 6 (March 27-April 2)

- Mon, Mar 27 John 15:18-27
- Tue, Mar 28 John 16:1-15
- Wed, Mar 29 John 16:16-33
- Thu, Mar 30 John 17:1-26
- Fri, Mar 31 John 18:1-24
- Sat, Apr 1 John 18:25-40

## Week 7 (April 3-9)

- Mon, Apr 3 John 19:1-27
- Tue, Apr 4 John 19:28-42
- Wed, Apr 5 John 20:1-18
- Thu, Apr 6 John 20:19-30
- Fri, Apr 7 John 21:1-14
- Sat, Apr 8 John 21:15-25

## Wednesday, February 22 / John 1:1-28

- Why do you think John begins his Gospel by talking about how Jesus has always existed?
- Many argue Jesus was a prophet who did good works but wasn't the Son of God. How do John's words argue against this idea?
- John points others to Jesus instead of Himself? What can we learn about being a follower of Jesus from John's words and actions?

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## Thursday, February 23 / John 1:29-51

- Of all the things John could have called Jesus, why did he call Him "the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"?
- Do you have trouble at times recognizing Jesus in your own life? What are some things that might keep you from doing so?
- Have you ignored Jesus' call to be His disciple? If so, what do you believe Jesus wants you to do?

## Friday, February 24 / John 2:1-25

- Do you believe people are generally skeptical of miracles? Why or why not?
- Jesus had just told his mom that it wasn't His hour. Why do you think He performed a miracle anyway?
- What do you feel called to do in response to what you read?

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## Saturday, February 25 / John 3:1-21

- According to Jesus, what was missing in the life of Nicodemus (v3)?
- What did Jesus mean about having to be born again to see the kingdom of God?
- How might knowing you are saved by God's grace and not by works give you confidence in your walk with Jesus and in your relationship with others?



## Monday, February 27 / John 3:22-36

- What does John's example teach you about your responsibility as a follower of Jesus today?
- In what ways can you decrease self this week and allow Jesus to increase in you?
- What ministries or missions within the church are there that you might help with or serve in order to put this into practice?

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## Tuesday, February 28 / John 4:1-42

- Jesus and the Samaritan woman have different ideas about "living water." What were they?
- Why was Jesus' understanding of living water so attractive to the woman?
- Do you struggle with feelings of not being good enough for Jesus? How does this story speak against those feelings?

## Wednesday, March 1 / John 4:43-54

- In your experience, do people generally believe if they see signs and wonders?
- What does this miracle show about Jesus' concern for the individual?
- What lessons are there to learn from this passage?

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## Thursday, March 2 / John 5:1-30

- Why do you think the Jewish leaders in this scripture were more focused on the man's carrying the mat on the Sabbath than they were that someone had healed him?
- What does their focus on the law rather than on God's grace say about their understanding of the character of God?
- Jesus was not content to leave the man healed without a conversation about his sin. What does this reveal about the nature of God the Father?

## Friday, March 3 / John 5:31-47

- From your own experience, what were some of the witnesses that helped you believe in Jesus?
- In these verses, how do you see the difference between knowing things about Jesus and actually knowing, believing in and following Him?
- What things can you put in your life to ensure you aren't just learning more things about Jesus, but actually believing in and following Him?

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## Saturday, March 4 / John 6:1-21

- How might Jesus' identity speak to why Jesus is able to feed the multitudes?
- How does Jesus use the crowd's need for food as an opportunity to teach His disciples about His divine identity (see especially v6)?
- What is the significance of Jesus saying "It is I" or "I am" in verse 20?

- What do we learn about God from this passage?
  
- In verse 35, Jesus says whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. What does Jesus mean by this? What might this mean for you personally?
  
- In verses 47-51, how does Jesus contrast the life He gives with the manna God gave the Israelites in the wilderness?

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**Tuesday, March 7 / John 6:60-71**

- In what ways is Jesus' teaching difficult? What do you find most difficult about what He has said in John 6?
  
- What does Jesus say in verses 63-65 that explains why some people are able to accept His teaching, while others cannot?
  
- In verses 64, 70 and 71, what does John say to indicate Jesus knew some of His followers at the time were not true believers and that Judas would betray Him?

## Wednesday, March 8 / John 7:1-31

- Considering what happened between the time Jesus arrived at the festival and the time He began to teach, what are some reasons Jesus might have kept His presence a secret those few days?
- Jesus said “my time is not here yet.” What did He mean by that?
- Why was there confusion among the people in verses 25-27?

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## Thursday, March 9 / John 7:32-53

- What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
- What does Jesus mean in verse 37?
- Why were people still divided about who Jesus was at this point?

- Jesus offers grace and truth to the woman caught in adultery. In what ways can you offer this to people in your life?
- Jesus provided a template for us to follow Him in verse 12. In what ways can you more closely follow Jesus and keep walking in the light?
- Why is what we believe about Jesus so important? Do you question and struggle with who Jesus is at times?

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**Saturday, March 11 / John 8:31-59**

- What truth has God revealed to you to that has set you free? In what ways are you still not free and need to invite more of His truth into your life?
- Jesus makes a bold statement in verse 47, “Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is you do not belong to God.” Based on how closely you listen to God can you honestly say that you belong to him?

## Monday, March 13 / John 9:1-41

- The blind man dealt with a lot of shame because of his condition, and Jesus healed him from it. Take time to reflect on shame Jesus has healed you from in the past, or shame you know He wants to heal you from today.
- Have you ever had a “I was blind, but now I see” moment where Jesus radically saved or transformed you? Thank God for that moment, or take this opportunity to invite Him to do it for the first time.
- Like the Pharisees, many people deny Jesus no matter what evidence they see. Do you have anyone like that in your life? Take time to pray for an opportunity to share God’s love with them this week so that they might finally see Jesus.

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## Tuesday, March 14 / John 10:1-21

- How has Jesus helped you experience “life to the full” or “a rich and satisfying life (v10)?
- Jesus says, “ I am the good shepherd” and He willingly gave his life for His sheep. What part of the good shepherd description amazes and connects with you the most?
- In what ways do you need to experience and know Jesus as the Good Shepherd today?

## Wednesday, March 15 / John 10:22-42

- Do Jesus' works that we read about in the Gospel of John lead you to believe He is God? Why or why not?
- CS Lewis says, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says in the end, "Thy will be done." Reflecting on your life and actions, which person are you? Do you humble yourself before God and pray for His will to be done in your life or do you take matters into your own hands and command God to surrender to your will?

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## Thursday, March 16 / John 11:1-27

- Have you ever felt like God didn't do something in your timing, but ultimately saw the good of His timing?
- What impact might it have on your life today to know you will live forever with Jesus?
- Jesus says, "I am the life." In what ways are you experiencing the abundant life only available through Jesus?



- What feelings do you experience knowing that Jesus wept with Mary?
  
- Like Lazarus, Jesus has raised us from the dead spiritually. In what ways can your life better reflect this reality?

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**Saturday, March 18 / John 12:1-26**

- Like Judas, we often say things with double motives. Take some time to invite Jesus to do a work in you and to make your heart and words pure like his.
  
- Mary gave a costly gift to Jesus because she believed it was worth it. Is there anything in your life that seems costly, but you know you need to give to Jesus?
  
- What do you think Jesus means in verse 25 when He says, “Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.”?

## Monday, March 20 / John 12:27-50

- The disciples didn't understand why Jesus had to die. Are there things in your life that seem confusing, but you know God has a purpose?
- What dark areas of your life do you want and need Jesus to shine His light? Spend time in prayer inviting His illuminating presence into your life.

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## Tuesday, March 21 / John 13:1-20

- Jesus "loved them to the end." What impact does it have on your life and the way you live it knowing that Jesus loves you forever no matter what?
- In what ways can you radically serve others in your life like Jesus?
- Is there any selfishness in you that desires others to serve you rather than you serve them? Spend time in prayer inviting God to make you a servant like Jesus.

## Wednesday, March 22 / John 13:21-38

- The Glory of God is a theme throughout John. Describe the glory of God in your own words.
- Do people know you are a disciple of Jesus by your love?
- Like Judas and Peter, we betray Jesus. In what ways have you grown in your setbacks that have helped you know and follow Jesus more closely?

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## Thursday, March 23 / John 14:1-14

- How can Jesus' words encourage you during times your heart is troubled?
- People today suggest there are multiple ways to get to God. What does Jesus say about that? Why do you think He says this?
- What does Jesus mean when He says we will do even greater things than Him? What might that look like in your life?

## Friday, March 24 / John 14:15-31

- Jesus promises to give us the Holy Spirit. Are you aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? If so, how does He help you in your daily life?
- If not, in what ways can you become more aware of Him?
- Jesus equated love with obedience. What's one area of your life you can love Jesus more?

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## Saturday, March 25 / John 15:1-17

- Are you staying connected to or remaining in Jesus daily?
- What's one habit or discipline you can implement which would help you be even more connected to Him?
- Spend time in prayer inviting Jesus to help you bear fruit today for Him. Be bold in your prayer and ask Him to cut off any part of your life that's not bearing fruit for Him.

## Monday, March 27 / John 15:18-27

- In the United States we aren't persecuted for our faith like the first disciples. However, we still face opposition to following Jesus. Reflect on a time you faced opposition because of your love for Jesus.
  
- Are you currently avoiding opposition to your faith in order to be liked by people or to avoid difficult circumstances? If so, what steps do you need to take to be bolder in your faith?

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## Tuesday, March 28 / John 16:1-15

- Why does Jesus say it is better for Him to go away than to stay on earth?
  
- The Spirit of Jesus will guide you into all truth. What are some of the most impactful truths the Spirit has guided you to?

## Wednesday, March 29 / John 16:16-33

- The disciples often struggled to understand what Jesus was trying to teach them. Reflect on a time you read scripture and didn't understand what Jesus was trying to teach you.
- Jesus uses childbirth to explain how joy can cover the anguish of our past. Have you experienced this transformational experience a joyous moment can create?
- If so, praise God for that. If not, ask God to either provide something to be joyful for, or for you to experience a peace in Jesus that will redirect your perspective.

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## Thursday, March 30 / John 17:1-26

- Jesus prays for three things: Himself, His friends, and believers. In what ways can you pray for yourself?
- In what ways can you pray for those close to you?

- Upon reading this scripture, It can be easy to declare our ability to act differently than Peter in that situation, but often times people withhold their faith from others. Have you ever not told the whole story to leave Jesus out of it?
  
- Do you act differently with your “church” friends than you do with your “work” friends? Denial can take many forms. Spend time in prayer asking God to increase your awareness and for the boldness to declare and share your faith when the time comes.

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**Saturday, April 1 / John 18:25-40**

- There comes a time when people have the power to do what is right, despite opposition or peer pressure. Who is in your circle of influence? Who relies or looks up to you?
  
- Often times, what God calls us to do will appear opposite to what everyone else thinks. Spend time in prayer asking God for the courage and boldness to do what is right.

## Monday, April 3 / John 19:1-27

- Jesus says in John 19:11 that people have no power over Him unless it is given to them. That means the only reason Jesus was beaten was because He let them. Reread John 19:1-3 and think about how every slap, whip, and attack was taken for you. It doesn't matter what you have done or will do, Jesus still allowed himself to be tortured if it meant bringing you closer to Him and His Father. How much must Jesus love you if He was willing to do that?
  
- Consider the cost your relationship had for Jesus. How might this be an encouragement and motivation for you to help with someone else's relationship with God?

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## Tuesday, April 4 / John 19:28-42

- Sometimes, you will experience things as you follow Jesus that may be hard to believe like the man in John 19:35. Your story will help others believe if you are brave and bold enough to share it. Who is around you that you can share your story with?
  
- Reflect on what parts of your story give glory to God and could help others believe?



## Wednesday, April 5 / John 20:1-18

- When Mary Magdalene realized it was Jesus she was speaking to, she cried out “Teacher!”. What things has Jesus taught you during Lent and our time reading and praying through the Gospel of John?
  
- When you think of Jesus, what is the first thing that comes to mind? (Son, Healer, Creator, Savior, or something else)

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## Thursday, April 6 / John 20:19-30

- Thomas needed to see proof before he would believe. Are you someone that needs to see before believing? Is there anything you feel God still needs to prove to you before you give everything to Him?
  
- Identify your struggles, and ask God to work through those with you. He may give you the answer you have been looking for or He may change your heart or perspective on it.

## Friday, April 7 / John 21:1-14

- God is in the business of abundantly rewarding obedience. The Disciples only caught those fish because they did exactly as Jesus told them. Reflect on your life. What areas can you be more obedient to God's commands?
- If unsure, are there things you can identify that take you farther away from God instead of closer?
- Spend time in prayer asking God for the self-awareness to find areas of growth and for the help to conquer it.

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## Saturday, April 8 / John 21:15-25

- John 21:25 mentions the many other ways Jesus continued to impact people. The living, resurrected Jesus is still impacting people through His church today. How can the Holy Spirit work through you to better impact your church? Your community?
- Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to equip you to contribute to both in a way that brings others closer to Jesus.



*"I have loved you even as the  
Father has loved me.*

**REMAIN**  
*in my love."*

**JOHN 15:9**