

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN & 1-3 JOHN



STUDENT GUIDE

PREFACE

The following questions are meant to encourage you to think more deeply about what you have read in the Fast Devotional. Be intentional with the time you have set aside for this. Be honest with yourself and focus on drawing closer to God and developing a better relationship with Him. If you have any questions or want to talk to someone, please reach out to your Student Ministries Pastor.

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DAY 1 // DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

How does Jesus compare to John the Baptist?

What defines who you are?

What do you want your defining characteristics to be when others describe you?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 2 // HOW DID YOU KNOW?

How did you come to know who Jesus is?

Is there anything about Jesus that you struggle to believe? If so, why?

What can you do with that struggle and who can help?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 3 // THINGS YOU DESIRE

Do you have any things that you desire more than God?

What are they?

Do the things you experience through sight, hearing, touch, and feelings seem more real to you than your relationship with God?

How can you grow in your awareness of spiritual things?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 4 // FEELING BROKEN

Do you ever feel broken, weary, or like an outcast?

How does Jesus treat people who feel that way?

Does God think you are too broken or too far gone to be His child? What truths does Psalm 40:2 tell you about how God handles our brokenness?

Take a few minutes to ask Him for help in the hard areas in your life.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 5 // WHY YOU BELIEVE

Why do you believe in Jesus?

What is one personal experience you have had with Jesus?

How have you seen His Spirit work in your life? List some of the ways.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 6 // A BETTER LIFE

What do you think will make your life better?

Is your hope for a better life in an object? A person? A program? A position on a team?

What is one way the hope of Jesus is better than any of those things?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 7 // GETTING TO KNOW GOD

John 5:44 talks about accepting praise/glory from other people but yet not seeking it from God. Do you ever want people's approval more than God's approval?

Who would you say you listen to/know most in your life?

How can you get to know God more than just knowing about Him?

When you read the Bible, are you only reading words, or are you trying to know God better? How can you grow in this area?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 8 // SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Our spirits are different from our physical bodies, and they need different things to thrive. What does your body need to thrive?

What does your spirit need to thrive?

How does God meet your spiritual needs?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 9 // JUDGING

How do you know that Jesus is more than just a good man, teacher, or prophet?

Read John 7:24 again. Do you judge based on outward appearances?

How can we make righteous judgments?

How can God's Spirit help us with that?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 10 // BELIEVING WHEN IT'S HARD

What is the living water that Jesus says he will give in John 7:37 (hint, read 7:38–39)?

Is there anything about Jesus you have a hard time believing like the Pharisees did?

If so, are you willing to ask Jesus to show you the truth?

Are you willing to believe Him, even when it's hard? (When writing your prayer ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this).

Write your prayer here.

DAY 11 // BELIEVING WHAT HE SAID

When you think about the people you trust in your life, what have they done that has helped you to trust them?

What things has Jesus said that help you believe Him?

What, if anything, has made it hard for you to believe the things Jesus has said?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 12 // JESUS IS GOD

What does Jesus mean when He declares that "before Abraham was, I am"?

Do you believe that Jesus existed before the world began?

Do you believe that Jesus is God in the flesh?

How do Jesus' words that He is God change our mindset about spending time with Him?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 13 // HARD TIMES

Have you ever had a struggle, difficulty, or pain in your life that ended up being a good thing?

What is one hard thing you are facing in life right now?

Do you believe God can ultimately use it for good, even if you can't see how right now?

Read Romans 8:28. Can you find comfort for hard times in this verse?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 14 // THE GOOD SHEPHERD

What do you need guidance or protection for today?

Do you truly believe God cares about you like a shepherd cares for his sheep?

Make a list of what your Good Shepherd does for you.

Are you willing to follow God's guidance, even when it isn't what you have wanted for yourself?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 15 // SUFFERING HAS A PURPOSE

How can God use our struggles to draw us closer to Him?

How can our struggles strengthen our faith?

How can He use them to show us His glory?

Can you trust/believe that your suffering has purpose?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 16 // POWER OVER DEATH

Why does death not have the final word over our lives?

If Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead, and He also rose from the dead Himself, do you believe He is more powerful than death?

Do you have any fear of death?

How can John 11:26 give you confidence?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 17 // MATERIAL THINGS

Are there material things you have valued above God?

What are some things you have been selfish with?

Are you willing to surrender those things to God and ask Him to help you have a right heart about them?

How can you use what you have been given for the glory of God?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 18 // JESUS AS THE LIGHT

Jesus says He came into the world as light. What does light symbolize in this context?

We have a choice to respond to the truth Jesus shared. What happens to those who receive the light? What about those who reject the light?

How is the judgment of Jesus different from the ways humans judge one another?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 19 // SHOWING HUMILITY

How did Jesus show humility and service in this passage?

Jesus even served someone whom He knew would betray Him. Who is someone you would have a hard time serving? (Take a minute and pray for God to help you have the right attitude toward them).

What are some ways you can show humility and service to others today?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 20 // I AM THE WAY

What does Jesus mean when He says, "I am the way?"

Jesus is with us today. How is that possible?

How can you prepare for the day we will be rejoined with Jesus?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 21 // GLORIFYING GOD

What are a few ways Jesus glorifies the Father?

What is life's ultimate purpose?

List three ways you can reflect and glorify God in the things you do this week.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 22 // THE UNEXPECTED

What is something you've experienced unexpectedly?

How do we know God cares for us in those moments?

List two or three promises God makes in His word that can comfort and guide you through a difficult time. If none come to mind, use this time to read through a few psalms for words to hold on to. Psalms 23, 130, and 138 are good places to start.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 23 // ABIDE IN CHRIST

What does it mean to abide in Christ?

Why is it important to abide in Christ?

Based on today's reading, what are three things you learned about joy?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 24 // THE HOLY SPIRIT

What is another name for the Holy Spirit whom Jesus gives to us?

What are a few things the Holy Spirit does?

What happens to us as we rely on the Holy Spirit?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 25 // GOD'S CREATION

What was the world like when God created it?

What changed that for the worse and separated us from God?

God wants to restore the relationship with His creation—with you and me. How does God bring us back to Himself?

How does Jesus' coming to Earth reveal God's love for you and all creation?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 26 // GOD'S WILL

How does Jesus respond to God's will?

How does Peter respond to God's will?

When is a time you have responded like Jesus? Or like Peter?

How can we know that following God's will is better for us?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 27 // TRUSTING IN THE TRIALS

Jesus faced an unjust trial and false accusations. What is a situation you or a friend have experienced that was unjust or unfair?

If God sees everything, and we know He is good and in control, what is our role in these types of situations?

What is one area of your life you can trust God more in today?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 28 // WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT?

List the things that are most important to you right now (for example: good grades, having a boyfriend/girlfriend, being on a team, having that new phone, or being online to play that game).

List at least two ways you can make sure those things never take the position of "king" in your life.

What does Christ offer that none of those things can offer?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 29 // SIN, CRUCIFIXION, AND LOVE

Think of at least two ways you have sinned. How does God feel about that sin?

Why did God have Jesus go through the crucifixion? How was Jesus' crucifixion an act of love?

Explain in your own words how/why Jesus was not a victim.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 30 // UNDERSTANDING

No matter how long we are Christians, there will be things we don't understand fully, and that's okay. List at least three things about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, or the Christian faith that you don't fully understand.

Take a few minutes to pray about these topics and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand them better as you grow in faith.

Think of at least one older person, like a parent or leader, whom you can talk to about these things, and bring them up when you have the chance.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 31 // RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Compare God breathing life into Adam to Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit into the disciples.

When do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Why does God give us the Holy Spirit?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 32 // MOMENTS WITH GOD

In your own words, describe what an "obvious and powerful" moment with God is. Describe what a "quiet moment" with God is.

Why are both types of moments important?

Has this fast and devotional time been an obvious and powerful moment or a quiet moment for you? Why?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 33 // GOD'S ACTUAL WORDS

Who are some people you learn from?

How can misunderstandings about Jesus' message happen?

Though it is valuable to learn from teachers and pastors, why is it important to focus the most on God's actual words?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 34 // FILLED WITH LIGHT

Why is it important to know that God is light and there is no darkness in Him?

List the differences between a life filled with darkness and a life filled with light.

How do we get a life filled with light?

What is the result of walking in that light?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 35 // SOMETHING THAT LASTS

What is something you are looking forward to doing or having? How do you think that thing will improve your life?

How will you feel when that thing is over or broken?

What is one thing that lasts forever?

How does it make you feel to know God has something for you that lasts forever?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 36 // GROWING CLOSER

List two people you are closest to.

List two or three ways you can become/grow even closer to Jesus.

In your own words, what does it mean to be "in" Christ?

How would it feel to be "completely covered on all sides by Jesus?"

Write your prayer here.

DAY 37 // LOVE

How do humans tend to describe love?

How does God describe love?

What are some ways you can reflect God's image and love the people around you this week?

Write your prayer here.

DAY 38 // TRUTH

List some people you love.

Can those people count on you to tell them the truth? Even when it's hard to hear? Describe a time that happened.

God loves us and tells us the truth. Based on what we've learned the past two days, we could add it up like this: God=Love=Truth. In your own words, explain why love and truth are inseparable.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 39 // IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

We are all God's children. What would His greatest joy be when He looks at you?

Who would you be most excited for if they became a Christian and really knew Christ?

What are some ways you can display God's love for that person today?

Take a moment to pray for that person and for God to help you behave in a way that draws others to Him.

Write your prayer here.

DAY 40 // CHRIST WAS HUMBLE

Describe a time when you, or someone you know, insisted on being first.

Describe a time when you, or someone you know, acted humbly.

What was one way that Jesus acted in humility?

List two or three ways you can go out and live humbly, as Christ was humble.

Write your prayer here.

SELF REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Reflecting on your experience during this fast, in what ways do you feel you have grown closer to Christ?

What new things have you learned about God, or what has God taught you during this time?

What steps do you plan to take now that the fast is over (e.g., setting limits on social media, considering baptism, serving in church)? We encourage you to share these goals with a parent, mentor, or leader who can support and keep you accountable.

Now that the fast is over, talk to your parents about regularly going through Scripture together. We see in 1 Corinthians 1:18 that God's word "is the power of God to us who are being saved." So when we read God's word with our family, God's power works in those relationships. If you're nervous, pray that God will help both you and your parents be open to reading and talking about the Bible together.

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