



How to Use This Guide with Your Life Group

- Firstly, the recommended resources are great for you as a leader, if you want to know more about the book of John. You might find some stuff that you share with your group or watch all together (like the Bible Project videos).
- Each sermon has a brief outline of some of the key points. Rather than simply read through these, ask people to share their thoughts, what stood out to them, etc. This gets discussion flowing early, and you can always prompt some thoughts with what is written. Alternatively, read the chapter together and then start the discussion from there.
- The discussion questions listed are just a suggestion and just a start. Hopefully they will prompt follow up questions. Use the extra Bible references together when the time is right.
- In the end, you know your group best – so do what works, encourage discussion, find ways to get each person sharing, and dive into God’s Word together.

Recommended Resources

- The Gospel Coalition
 - *HIGHLY RECOMMENDED* - How to Teach the ‘I Am’ Statements in John (PODCAST)
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/help-me-teach-the-bible/teach-statements-john/>
- Random Articles
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - <https://bibleproject.com/blog/john-gospel-eternal-son-reveals-father/>
<https://indycrowe.com/2019/02/13/the-7-i-am-statements-of-jesus-ot-background-nt-meaning/>
<https://gracethrufaith.com/topical-studies/spiritual-life/the-seven-i-am-statements-in-john/>
<https://navigators.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Jesus-I-am-statements.pdf>
the above includes cultural background and discussion questions
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2017/05/31/jesus-seven-i-am-statements/>
- All Desiring God resources on the Gospel of John
<https://www.desiringgod.org/series/the-gospel-of-john>
- Bible Project – Overview (VIDEO)
John 1-12: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8>
John 13-21: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUFh_wOsauk
7 ‘I Am’ Statements explained (4 min mark)

1. John 6 - The Bread of Life – Joel (29th March)

Sermon

- **Key Verse:** John 6:35
- **Key Idea:** theme & purpose of John is to believe in Jesus (vs 29, cf. 20:31). No longer Moses or the other prophets, Jesus is the one who sustains us in the wilderness. We look to Him for life and He carries us through to the Promised Land (heaven).
- **Sign Connection:** Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-15)
- **Old Testament Connection:** Receiving Manna in the Wilderness (Exodus 16; Deut. 8:3). The Jews notice this connection, and Jesus is the one sustaining people in their wilderness journey, on the way to the Promised Land. More than earthly satisfaction, this is a matter of ‘eternal life’.

Discussion

- Did your previous understanding of Jesus being the bread of life change knowing the Old Testament context?
- What does it look like for Jesus to sustain us in the wilderness?
- What does it mean to believe in Jesus? How would you explain this to your kids / friends?

2. John 8 - The Light of the World – Glenn (5th April)

Sermon

- **Key Verse:** John 8:12
- **Key Idea:** Jesus points to Himself, particularly in the upcoming crucifixion, as being the source of light and life. The whole chapter is an argument between those in the light and those in darkness, those following the truth and those following Jesus. Jesus constantly points to His divinity, eventually so clearly that they are ready to stone him (vs 59).
- **Rest of John Connection:** Light & Darkness is a key theme (John 1, John 3). Context of the verse is the opposition of the Pharisees, those blind and in darkness. Jesus points to the cross (vs 28) where the resolution is found.
- **Old Testament Connection:** John 1 is a clear allusion to Genesis 1, where God speaks His Word, and light enters the world.

Discussion

- What is the important of the 'light of the world' statement?
- According to the rest of the chapter and book, and other writings of John, what does 'darkness' look like? (see John 1:5, 3:19, 8:12, 12:35, 12:46 AND 1 John 1 & 2)
- What are the practical implications for us moving forward?

3. John 10 – The Door for the Sheep and the Good Shepherd – Joel (10th April – Good Friday)

Sermon

- **Key Verse:** John 10:9, 11
- **Key Idea:** Amidst all the other voices, including the religious ones who are failing, Jesus is the one who saves. Not just to future life, but to life here and now. We find this because Jesus is the good shepherd, laying down his life for the sheep, fulfilling ancient prophecies.
- **Sign Connection:** Jesus healing the blind man (John 9), including the Pharisees mistreating this man, who Jesus is addressing in this chapter. Hence, the warning in John 10 on the thieves and robbers.
- **Old Testament Connection:** Moses & David, both great leaders of Israel were shepherds. Ezekiel 34 is the clear reference, which attacks the sinful shepherds of Israel, while also prophesying how God will shepherd AND send a shepherd. Hence, Jesus concludes with "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30)

Discussion

- Read through Ezekiel 34 and discuss how what Jesus says in John 10 fits in.
- What does it mean that Jesus is the good shepherd?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the door for the sheep?

4. John 11 - The Resurrection and the Life – Andrew (12th April – Easter Sunday)

Sermon

- **Key Verse:** John 11:25-26
- **Key Idea:** Resurrection isn't just a one-day thing, but it is a Jesus thing. We find life in Him by believing in Him. He isn't in a rush but has total power over life and death.
- **Sign Connection:** The Resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:38-44)
- **Rest of John Connection:** Death of Lazarus and death of Jesus are often connected – even heading to Jerusalem meant death in the mind of the disciples (John 11:16). Chapter 12 is the anointment of Jesus, which links to his burial.
- **Old Testament Connection:** Isaiah 26:19 – Jews knew they would rise at the last day, but Jesus focuses that resurrection on Himself.
- See Revelation 1:18

Discussion

- What does it mean for us today that Jesus has power to raise people from the dead? What does it mean for resurrection not just to be a one-day thing, but to be a Jesus thing?
- How does Jesus 'bring us back to life' here and now? See Ephesians 2.
- What stands out to you in the story of Lazarus? Why are Jesus' actions in this story comforting to us?

5. John 14 - The Way, the Truth, and the Life – *Andrew (19th April or 26th April)*

Sermon

- **Key Verse:** John 14:6
- **Key Idea:** Jesus has shown us the Father and He is the only way.
- **Rest of John Connection:** this is the night before Jesus is arrested. This is all leading up to the cross, where it all comes together.
- See John 1:14; Hebrews 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15ff.

Discussion

- What does it mean that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?
- How is the exclusivity of Christianity comforting? How is it challenging or confronting?
- In the context of John 14-17, with Jesus speaking the night before he is arrested, why is this an important message?

6. John 15 - The True Vine – *Joel (26th April or 3rd May)*

Sermon

- **Key Verse:** John 15:1
- **Key Idea:** We are the chosen people of God, called to abide in Jesus and bear fruit. Apart from Him we can do nothing.
- **Old Testament Connection:** Isaiah 5:1-7, 27:2-6 both refer to Israel as a vineyard, both good and bad.

Discussion

- Look at the Old Testament passages above – the vineyard imagery is not new for Israel. What do these passages show us?
- How does Jesus change the idea? What are the important implications of the passage in John 15?
- What does it look like for us to abide in Jesus?