



THE WAY

SEASON 3 - A STUDY THROUGH JOHN



STUDY GUIDE OVERVIEW

We're excited that you've downloaded the study guide for "The Way Season 3 – A Study Through John." Whether you're using this guide on your own, with your family, or leading a small group, our hope is that this companion to the message series helps you as you study God's word.

At the top of each page there is a Bible passage on which the corresponding message on Sunday was based. In the main section of each page, you'll find five questions that will help you process God's Word, listen to His voice, and apply the truth of His word in your life.

You, your family, or your group should read through the entire passage and tackle one of the questions each day. Write down answers, thoughts, questions, and doubts in the space provided, and if you're meeting with a group, discuss what you heard as you listened to God's word, what prayers and conversation it sparked with God, and what it looks like to obey what God is saying to you. Below are the five questions you'll find on each page, along with some additional clarification that should help as you go.

What does this passage tell us about God?

- What does the text tell me about the nature and character of God and specifically His work through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

What does this passage tell me about man?

- What does the text tell me about humanity? Bryan Chappell refers to this as the "fallen condition focus" of the text. What does the text reveal about sin and humankind's need for the gospel?

What does this passage demand of me?

- If I am to be rooted in scripture as the Truth of God's Word, what changes in my life does the text require? How do I apply this in my life?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

- How does the text alter or improve my current relationship with God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

- How do I apply this in my relationships with others? Discuss how the text shapes how I should relate to other believers and how I live on mission in the world.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Feel free to use the questions from the "additional discussion" section to help spark additional thoughts and conversation among your family, your group, or maybe just as you study on your own. There are no right or wrong thoughts or questions to ask, and these may provide a different perspective than what has been discussed. Do your best to avoid these questions until after you've completed the study portion in the main section. These questions are here simply to help, so feel free not to use them; it's totally up to you.*



DEEPER DIVE:

The "Deeper Dive" section contains other passages in the bible which may provide additional light on the week's passage, help provide context, or point to additional support for what the author has written. These should be helpful for you as you work to study and answer the five questions in the main section.



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WEEK 1 | JANUARY 7, 2024 READ JOHN 13:1-35

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



DEEPER DIVE:

John 13:1-17

How can believers apply the principle of humble service in their own lives, considering the cultural context of foot washing in Jesus' time?

John 13:34-35

How does the expression of love among believers serve as a powerful testimony to the world, reflecting the identity and teachings of Jesus?

John 13:18-38

How can believers navigate times of spiritual testing and potential failure, drawing lessons from both Judas' and Peter's experiences in their relationship with Jesus?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *What does Jesus' act of washing the disciples' feet reveal about the nature of true leadership and discipleship in the Christian faith?*
- *Jesus gives a new commandment to his disciples in verse 34. What is the significance of this commandment to love one another as Jesus has loved them?*
- *In this passage, Jesus predicts both Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. How do these events highlight the reality of human weakness and the need for reliance on God's grace?*



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WEEK 2 | JANUARY 14, 2024 READ JOHN 13:36 - 14:14

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus predicts Peter's denial in verse 38. What does this prophecy reveal about the complexity of human nature, even among those who sincerely desire to follow Christ?*
- *Jesus reassures his disciples with the words "Let not your hearts be troubled." How does faith in Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life provide comfort and hope in the face of life's challenges and uncertainties?*
- *In response to Philip's request to see the Father, Jesus emphasizes the unity between himself and the Father. What does this reveal about the nature of the Trinity and the intimacy of the relationship between God the Father and God the Son?*



DEEPER DIVE:

John 13:36-38

Reflecting on Peter's experience, how can the Christian community encourage one another in a watchful and prayerful life, recognizing the importance of mutual support in facing spiritual battles?

John 14:1-7

How does the concept of Jesus preparing a place for believers in heaven impact the way Christians approach life and view their ultimate destination?

John 14:12-14

How can Christians balance the assurance of answered prayer with a recognition of God's sovereignty, and how might this understanding impact their engagement in ministry and service?



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WEEK 3 | JANUARY 21, 2024 READ JOHN 14:15-31

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



DEEPER DIVE:

John 14:15-24

In what ways can believers actively cultivate a life characterized by obedience to Jesus' teachings, relying on the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

John 14:25-27

In what practical ways can Christians experience and maintain the peace that Jesus offers through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives?

John 14:28-31

What strength can Christ followers draw from Jesus' departure?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus emphasizes the connection between love for Him and obedience to His commandments. How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable believers to live obedient lives, and what role does love play in this relationship?*
- *Jesus promises peace to His disciples but also speaks about the coming of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit function as a source of peace in the lives of believers, especially in challenging circumstances?*
- *Jesus says, "If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father". What does this reveal about the difference between worldly perspectives and the understanding granted to followers of Christ?*



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WEEK 4 | JANUARY 28, 2024 READ JOHN 15:1-7

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to illustrate the importance of abiding in Him. What does it mean for believers to abide in Christ?*
- *How does abiding in Christ contribute to bearing fruit in our lives?*
- *Jesus states that apart from Him, believers can do nothing. How does this truth impact the way Christians approach their dependence on Christ for strength and guidance?*



DEEPER DIVE:

John 15:2

It's interesting to note that whether or not a branch is productive, the vinedresser (the Father) uses a sharp knife. What areas in your life have been, are being, or need to be pruned, so that you can bear good fruit?

John 15:5-6

In what ways does staying connected to Jesus, described as abiding in His Word, influence the effectiveness of a believer's prayers and the alignment of their desires with God's will?

John 15:7

Jesus promises that if believers abide in Him and His words abide in them, they can ask whatever they wish, and it will be done for them. How does this promise align with the broader principles of abiding in Christ and seeking God's will?

What are the potential pitfalls or misunderstandings that believers might encounter in interpreting and applying the promise of answered prayer in this passage, and how can they ensure their requests align with God's purposes?



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WEEK 5 | FEBRUARY 4, 2024 READ JOHN 15:18 - 16:33

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus warns his disciples about the world's hatred and persecution. What does the expectation of persecution reveal about the values of the world and the values of the Kingdom of God?*
- *Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit's coming and describes His role as a Helper. What specific functions of the Holy Spirit does Jesus highlight, and how do these functions benefit believers in their daily lives and witness?*
- *Jesus assures the disciples of peace in Him, even in the midst of tribulation. How does the peace of Christ differ from the peace offered by the world, and how can believers experience and maintain this peace in challenging circumstances?*



DEEPER DIVE:

John 15:26-27

Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit testifying about Him. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit's role in testifying, and how does this testimony contribute to the believer's understanding and proclamation of Jesus?

How can Christians actively cooperate with the Holy Spirit in bearing witness to the truth of Jesus, especially in contexts where there may be opposition or hostility?

John 16:5-15

In what ways can Christians deepen their understanding of and reliance on the Holy Spirit, recognizing the Helper's ongoing work in their lives?

John 16:16-24

How can believers navigate seasons of sorrow or difficulty with the assurance that joy is part of the redemptive narrative God is weaving in their lives?



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WEEK 6 | FEBRUARY 11, 2024 READ JOHN 17:1-26

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



DEEPER DIVE:

John 17:20-23

In what ways can Christians actively pursue and maintain unity while respecting diversity within the body of believers?

How does this reflect the character of God as revealed in Jesus' prayer?

John 17:14-16

In what practical ways can Christians maintain a distinct identity as followers of Christ while still being actively engaged in the world?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus specifically prays for the unity of those who will believe in Him. How does the unity among believers contribute to the effectiveness of their witness to the world?*
- *Jesus prays for the sanctification of his disciples through the truth of God's Word. How does the concept of sanctification relate to the believer's ongoing spiritual growth, and why is truth critical to this process?*
- *Jesus acknowledges that believers are in the world but not of the world. How does this tension between believers and the world show up in our current culture?*



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WEEK 7 | FEBRUARY 18, 2024 READ JOHN 18:1-18

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



DEEPER DIVE:

John 18:1-11

How can believers draw inspiration from Jesus' surrender in the face of adversity, and what lessons does this event offer in terms of trusting God's sovereign will in difficult circumstances?

John 18:12-18

It's common to hear people say that they know God has forgiven them, but they haven't yet forgiven themselves. In what ways does this undermine God's grace, and does this mindset place us above God?

John 18:28-38

How does the concept of Jesus' kingship challenge worldly perceptions of power and authority?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *In this passage, Jesus willingly surrenders Himself to the arresting authorities. What does His response reveal about His submission to God's plan and the voluntary nature of His sacrifice?*
- *Peter reacts impulsively by cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant and later denies Jesus three times. In what ways can believers guard against impulsive reactions in challenging situations?*
- *In what ways can believers apply the principles of Jesus' response to Pilate in their interactions with secular authorities?*



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WEEK 8 | FEBRUARY 25, 2024 READ JOHN 18:19-40

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *In this passage, Pilate questions Jesus about His kingship. How does Jesus' response challenge worldly notions of power and authority?*
- *Pilate asks Jesus, "What is truth?". This is relevant today with contemporary discussions about truth and relativism. What insights can Christians glean from Jesus' life and teachings in responding to such inquiries?*
- *Pilate offers to release a known criminal, instead of Jesus. In what ways does this foreshadow Jesus' substitutionary atonement?*



DEEPER DIVE:

John 18:28-32

Jesus' accusers would not enter the governor's headquarters, else they be defiled according to Jewish Law and would not have been able to participate in Passover, yet they were wrongfully accusing the Son of God of doing evil. Are there areas in your life where you are working clean yourself, yet are missing the redeeming work of Jesus?

John 18:37-38

In what ways can believers articulate the concept of truth as embodied in Jesus, in a world that often questions or dismisses absolute truths? In what ways have believers articulated the truth, while not embodying Jesus?

John 18:32

Jesus had not only predicted His death, but the hands of whom would kill Him and the way it would happen. What other prophecies (O.T. or N.T.) does Jesus' death fulfill?



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WEEK 9 | MARCH 3, 2024 READ JOHN 18:29 - 19:19

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



DEEPER DIVE:

John 18:33-38

"What is Truth?". This question which Pilate asked is still being asked today.

- Why is truth important?
- Why is the nature of truth so offensive?
- What does Jesus say about truth?

John 18:33-38

In what ways can believers navigate the tension between their allegiance to Christ and the demands of the world, and how does the truth of Jesus' kingship bring hope and assurance?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Soldiers place a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. Considering who Jesus is and where He came from, what can Christ followers learn from the mockery and rejection Jesus endured?*
- *In verse 15, the chief priests exclaim "We have no king but Caesar!" and display the truth in their heart. It's easy to wonder how they could be so misguided, but are there areas in your life that you have yet to give Jesus lordship over?*
- *How does Pilate's internal struggle and the inscription on the cross stating, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." reflect the clash between earthly powers and the divine nature of Jesus' mission?*



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WEEK 10 | MARCH 10, 2024
READ JOHN 19:20 - 20:18

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *How can Christians relate to Mary's journey from confusion to understanding, and what insights does this offer about the transformative power of encountering the risen Christ in our own lives?*
- *Jesus reveals Himself to Mary Magdalene, calling her by name. How does this illustrate the intimate and relational nature of the risen Christ?*
- *How have you experienced a personal and transformative encounter with Jesus?*



DEEPER DIVE:

John 19:38-42

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were secret believers, afraid to make their allegiance known due to their positions within the Jewish community. They did, however, risk their reputations to provide for the burial of Jesus. Are there areas in your life where you are a secret Christ follower? How does Christ's death impact the way we live out our faith within our own community?

John 20:17-18

How does Mary's role as a witness to the resurrection emphasize the commission given to believers to share the Good News with others?

In what practical ways can Christians follow Mary's example in sharing the message of Christ's resurrection?

What role does personal testimony play in communicating the transformative power of Jesus in their lives?



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WEEK 11 | MARCH 17, 2024 READ JOHN 20:19-29

What does this passage tell us about God?

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How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



DEEPER DIVE:

John 20:24-29

How does Jesus respond to Thomas' doubt, and what does this interaction reveal about the compassionate and understanding nature of Christ?

How can Christ followers navigate moments of doubt or skepticism, and what role does encountering the living Christ play in strengthening our faith and dispelling uncertainties?

John 20:30-31

Chapter 20 concludes with a statement about the purpose of the Gospel of John. Why is this statement important and how should it impact our daily lives?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus appears to the disciples, offering them peace and commissioning them with the Holy Spirit. How does Jesus' gift of peace and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit equip believers for their mission in the world?*
- *In what ways can Christians experience and share the peace of Christ in the midst of fear or uncertainty?*
- *How does the Holy Spirit empower Christ followers for effective witness and ministry?*



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WEEK 12 | MARCH 24, 2024 READ JOHN 21:1-14

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus instructs the disciples to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, resulting in a miraculous catch of fish. What does this event reveal about the disciples' recognition of Jesus and the significance of obedience to His guidance?*
- *How can believers apply the lesson of obedience and trust in Jesus' guidance in their own lives, especially in moments of uncertainty or when facing challenges?*
- *Jesus prepares a breakfast for the disciples. How does this symbolize His care for His followers and the invitation to be in relationship with Him? What role do communal meals play in building and strengthening relationships?*



DEEPER DIVE:

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus appears to the disciples in a familiar way. What does this say about the intentionality of how, when and where Jesus meets us?

John 21:7

Only John recognizes that it is Jesus on the shore. What can we learn from John's awareness and the other's lack of it?

What must Peter have been feeling that caused him to jump into the sea and abandon the catch?

Looking back on your life, have there been times when you felt alone, yet Jesus was there? Did you see him then, or only after the fact?

What has to be true about us to see Jesus in our daily lives?



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WEEK 13 | MARCH 31, 2024 READ JOHN 21:15-25

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to God?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



DEEPER DIVE:

Summary

Over the last three seasons of The Way, as we've walked through the entire book of John:

1. What are the three main takeaways for you?
2. What message have you heard from God, through His word?
3. What do you need / want to change in your life as a result?
4. Who are you taking with you as you introduce people to Jesus and lead them in their next step with Him?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- *Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him, corresponding to Peter's earlier threefold denial. How does this symbolize the theme of redemption, restoration, hope, and renewal associated with the Easter message?*
- *In what ways can Christ followers express their love for Christ through their actions, relationships, and service to others, following the example set by Jesus in restoring Peter?*
- *John states the world couldn't contain the books of all Jesus did while He was here. How much more than what we have been told would be enough for us to believe and to act? What does engaging in the mission of Jesus look like for you?*